



ANC TODAY

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Conversations *with the* President



Together we can manage migration and stay true to our shared humanity

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

IN recent months, many South Africans have raised concern about illegal immigration, asking whether our borders are secure and our laws are being enforced.

It is in this context that I addressed the nation last night on the actions government is taking to manage migration in the country and specifically to address the challenge of illegal immigration.

We are responding to real concerns that communities have about the effects that unchecked illegal immigration has on jobs and economic opportunities. We know that some companies employ – and exploit – undocumented foreign nationals in violation of the law. There is also a perception that spaza shops owned by

foreign nationals are squeezing out local traders in communities.

People are also concerned that illegal immigration puts increased pressure on public services like clinics, hospitals and schools. In reality, when one looks at the statistics, foreign nationals account for a very small proportion of users of these public services. Nevertheless, there is a perception among some people that our public services are being overwhelmed.

Some people associate illegal immigration with crime. While there are organised syndicates that exploit weaknesses in our immigration system to commit crimes like drug trafficking, illegal mining and extortion, we know that the overwhelming majority of foreign

nationals in South Africa have no involvement in crime.

In conditions of unemployment and poverty, crime, violence and service delivery challenges, people often direct their frustrations at those perceived to be competitors for jobs and resources.

As we work to address the causes of our economic challenges – by driving faster and inclusive economic growth, infrastructure development, industrial expansion and the creation of new jobs – we are taking decisive action to tackle illegal immigration.

Through the Comprehensive Approach for Migration Management that was adopted last week by Cabinet, we are cracking down on violations of our immigration,



Managing Migration Together

Our plan to tackle illegal migration

-  Crack down on violations of immigration and labour laws
-  Secure our borders
-  Strengthen our immigration system
-  Close the gaps in our laws and policies
-  Work with other countries in Africa

labour and other laws. We are deploying more resources and technology to secure our borders. Government is also stamping out corruption and improving the efficiency of our immigration system.

Another part of our comprehensive approach is to close the gaps in our citizenship and immigration laws. We are introducing legislation which allows quotas for foreign nationals in different sectors and ensuring that informal businesses are properly registered.

Lastly, we are seeking to work with countries across our region and continent to address the conflict, instability and economic hardship that compel people to leave their homes.

The task of managing migration belongs to all of us. That does not mean that communities should take the law into their own hands – only authorised officials of the state may enforce our immigration laws – but there is a role for

all South Africans in upholding our laws and building social cohesion.

As we undertake all these actions, we are guided by our Constitution, our laws and our international obligations. As a society, we must hold firmly to the rule of law.

We must work to reduce tensions

in our communities. We must stand together against violence, intimidation and intolerance. Importantly, we must not allow anyone to exploit the genuine concerns of South Africans to incite violence, spread misinformation or destabilise our country.

We call on traditional and religious leaders, civil society, business, labour, political parties and every South African to work with government to support the actions we have announced to tackle illegal immigration.

We must actively work against efforts to divide us. We must confront racism, sexism, xenophobia and Afrophobia. Our goal must be to build united and cohesive communities where all laws are respected and upheld.

We are a nation built by migration and we are more diverse, dynamic and stronger for it. By strengthening our laws and enforcing them fairly, we can tackle illegal immigration while remaining true to our Constitution and to our shared humanity.



1 CRACK DOWN ON VIOLATIONS

- Authorities to identify and deport undocumented foreign nationals
- Set up dedicated immigration courts
- Increase inspections of companies employing undocumented workers
- Recruit 10,000 additional labour inspectors
- Increase penalties for employers who breach the Immigration Act



**Vuka! Let's unite
towards a TB-free
world!**

9th SA
TB
Conference
8 - 11 June 2026



Address by **DEPUTY PRESIDENT PAUL MASHATILE** at the
Closing Plenary of the 9th SA TB Conference,
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg, City Of Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province

11 JUNE 2026

Greetings to you all,

In their absence, I would like to express our gratitude to the Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr. Panyaza Lesufi, and the host Mayor, Mr. Nkosindiphile Xhaka-za, for graciously hosting us in this city of Ekurhuleni.

Equally, we thank Deputy Minister, Dr. Joe Phaahla, whose steadfast leadership continues to inspire our collective fight against TB and Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, our Minister of Health, for officially opening this conference on Monday.

I fully agree with the Minister's sentiment that ending tuberculosis (TB) in our lifetime is not impossible and that it requires solidarity, dedication, and commitment from all of us.

In the mid-2000s, specifically between 2006 and 2008, the country experienced a significant TB epidemic, further aggravated by a growing HIV crisis. Subsequently, in the year 2008, Government, researchers, and civil society resolved to end fragmentation and "work as one," recog-



nising that TB could not be tackled in isolation from HIV, poverty, and systemic health challenges.

At that time, a shift began toward a more integrated response, leading to innovations like joint TB/HIV strategies and community-based care models, culminating in the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs.

Now, in 2026, the conference theme, "Vuka! Let's Unite Towards a TB-Free World!" calls us to rekindle that spirit of unity. Our history in the response to HIV and TB reminds us that

disjointed responses prolong epidemics, while collective action bends the curve of history.

The progress since the integration of our TB/HIV strategies, community-driven care, and innovations in diagnostics and treatment proves that unity delivers results. Thus, the 2026 conference serves as a call for renewal and a call to rise together, across nations and sectors, to march towards a TB-free world.

Yet even as we gather in unity, we must confront the stark truth that South Africa consistently

ranks among the top eight countries globally for absolute TB incidence and stands first in the world when adjusted for population size. At the start of the conference on Monday, the Minister of Health, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi comprehensively outlined the magnitude of our country's TB burden, and indeed the picture does not look good.

Nevertheless, as a country, we have gained momentum in our fight against TB by strengthening systems and embracing innovation and technology. As you have heard during the conference, this momentum is real.

Since 2015, South Africa has achieved a 61% reduction in TB incidence, surpassing the World Health Organization's 2025 milestone ahead of time. Cases have declined from over half a million in 2015 to around 249,000 in 2024.

This is proof of strong political commitment, scientific innovation, and the resilience of our communities. However, progress on TB mortality has been slow, with only a 17% drop since 2015, far short of the 50% target. This disparity serves as a harsh reminder that incidence reduction alone is insufficient to achieve triumph.

Lives must be saved, households must be protected, and dignity must be restored.

South Africa's response to TB continues to evolve with purpose and determination, underpinned by a strong multisectoral foundation led by SANAC, which coordinates efforts across Government, civil society, the private sector, and other partners to strengthen prevention, diagno-



sis, treatment, and accountability mechanisms.

The next phase of the response must build on this momentum by leveraging strategic information, innovation, and integrated service delivery to break down barriers to access and ensure that interventions reach the most vulnerable in a timely and effective manner.

This requires a deliberate shift towards a more people-centered approach that prioritises community engagement, strengthens systems resilience, and ensures that leadership at all levels is held accountable for delivering measurable impact in the drive to end TB as a public health threat.

This conference has highlighted the importance of strengthening prevention, closing diagnostic gaps, improving treatment outcomes, and addressing the social and economic drivers of TB. It has also reinforced the need for stronger accountability mechanisms so that commitments made translate into measurable impact at the community level.

South Africa continues to

demonstrate strong leadership in the fight against TB, driven by evidence-based interventions and data-driven responses.

One of the key milestones in our response has been the launch of our TB-data dashboard, which is accessible to the public. This platform enables more targeted interventions, strengthens data-driven decision-making, and fosters transparency by making critical information accessible to all stakeholders.

At the same time, South Africa remains at the forefront globally, among the first countries to adopt new and faster diagnostic technologies. This has significantly improved our ability to detect TB early and respond more effectively.

We have also seen a rapid uptake of new tools and innovations across the TB programme. We have introduced service delivery innovations such as targeted universal TB testing, ensuring that high-risk groups, including TB contacts and people living with HIV, are routinely tested regardless of symptoms.

We therefore also take this op-

portunity to thank and acknowledge all researchers who continue to lead on the innovation front. We welcome and strongly agree with Professor Mosa Moshabela when he said we have to embrace innovation, and that we must collaborate more as the various institutions in the work that we do.

Importantly, our commitment extends beyond treatment and diagnosis. At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, South Africa reaffirmed its pledge to implement TB vaccines as soon as they become available. This commitment is coupled with a recognition that ending TB requires addressing its root causes, including poverty, gender inequality, and the need for greater education on the TB epidemic.

Together, these efforts reflect a comprehensive and forward-looking response, one that not only tackles the disease itself but also the conditions that allow it to persist.

The **“End TB Plan”** by the Department of Health outlines priorities, activities, monitoring frameworks, stakeholder roles, and targets over a defined period. It emphasises integration with HIV programmes, primary health care, and TB in the mines. It builds on the broader **National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs 2023–2028**; the **TB Recovery Plan**; and the **WHO’s global End TB Strategy**.

It further aims to accelerate progress toward ending TB as a public health threat by 2035, with an intensified focus on prevention, early detection, treatment, and addressing social determinants. Minister Motsoaledi

presented the Pillars of the Plan to you during the Opening Plenary and made a clarion call for all stakeholders and individuals to play their part in ending TB.

TB control is indeed everyone’s responsibility:

- Government leadership must provide policy direction and resources.
- Health workers must be equipped with tools, training, and support.
- Researchers must continue advancing scalable innovations.
- Development partners and the private sector must provide support and align with national priorities.
- Communities must remain active partners, not afterthoughts.

Let us ensure that collaboration is not just a word but a working model. Let us make accountability a lived practice. Therefore, as we walk away from here, I call

on all stakeholders to commit to the following:

- Turn recommendations into concrete plans with clear responsibilities and timelines.
- Strengthen TB service delivery at all levels.
- Address barriers to care, including stigma and human resource constraints.
- Improve TB-HIV integration.
- Prioritise prevention through accelerated and non-traditional screening, early treatment, and improved awareness.
- Support implementation research to ensure what works is scaled faster and wider.

At all times, remember that these conferences are valuable in fostering a shared vision. However, the true measure of success is what happens after the sessions end. Even as we acknowledged at the outset the heavy burden of TB in our nation, today we close with a renewed sense of hope and determination.



YES! Tuberculosis preventive treatment can stop progression to TB disease

If you are a close contact of a TB patient or belong to a high-risk group

- ✓ get tested for infection
- ✓ complete your full course of preventive treatment to ensure your TB infection does not turn into TB disease.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Let us leave this conference inspired by our achievements rather than what is left to do. The unity we have fostered across Government, civil society, the private sector, and communities demonstrates that we can shape a future rooted in justice and health.

TB is preventable, curable, and beatable.

Each advancement confirms that the pursuit of a TB-free world is a tangible reality we are actively creating today.

“Vuka! Let’s Unite Towards a TB-Free World!”

Therefore, with unity of purpose and resolve, and in my capacity as the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council,

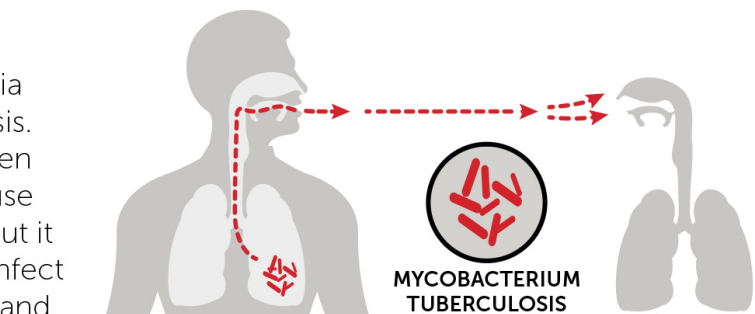
it is my honour to declare the 9th SA TB Conference officially closed!!!

I wish everyone safe travels home. May the unity and determination that guided our discussions this week continue to inspire your future work.

Carry the renewed hope that together we can end TB.

What is TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. People become infected with TB when they breathe in these bacteria. Because of this, TB usually infects the lungs, but it can also spread from the lungs and infect other organs, like the kidneys, spine, and brain. TB of the lungs is known as pulmonary TB, and TB outside the lungs is known as extra-pulmonary or disseminated TB.



MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

90% of TB is pulmonary TB (TB of the lungs)

10% of TB is extra-pulmonary TB (TB that affects another part of the body)

How is TB spread?

TB is spread through the air when a person with active TB of the lungs coughs, sneezes, sings or talks and droplets containing the TB bacteria are released into the air, and another person inhales these.

What is drug-resistant TB?

Drug-resistant TB is when the TB bacteria has developed resistance to one or more of the main anti-TB medicines



If a person with active TB is:

UNTREATED



they can spread the disease to as many as 10–15 people every year

TREATED



They are **NOT** infectious

What are the four main symptoms of TB?



Coughing for more than 2 weeks



Night sweats



Unexplained weight loss



Fever

The African National Congress Welcomes Continued Economic Growth

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) welcomes Statistics South Africa's announcement that the economy grew by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2026, following growth of 0.4% in the previous quarter. The positive performance of sectors such as finance, agriculture, trade and transport demonstrate the resilience of the South African economy and provides encouraging evidence that the economic reforms and interventions implemented by the ANC-led government are contributing to improved economic activity. The strong growth recorded in agriculture and the positive contribution of exports further signal the potential of productive sectors to support growth, investment and employment.

These results are consistent with the objectives of the ANC's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, which prioritises infrastructure development, industrialisation, localisation, export growth, investment attraction and job creation. While the growth rate remains modest, it reflects progress in stabilising key economic fundamentals and creating conditions for sustainable economic expansion. The ANC believes that

continued implementation of structural reforms, infrastructure investment and support for productive sectors will further strengthen economic performance.

The ANC recognises that much more work remains to be done to address unemployment, poverty and inequality. The contraction in manufacturing and fixed investment highlights

the need to accelerate measures that support industrial growth, productive investment and employment creation.

The ANC remains committed to building an inclusive economy that creates opportunities for all and calls on government, business, labour and society to work together to sustain growth and advance South Africa's Economic recovery.





For Justice and World Development Without Fascism, Terrorism and Wars

First Deputy Secretary General and Chairperson of the NEC Subcommittee on International Relations, Comrade **NOMVULA MOKONYANE**, represented the ANC at the recently held **Third International Anti-Fascist Forum** (24-27 May 2026).

Below is the **Appeal (Declaration)** of that Forum

Dear comrades! Friends and like-minders!

We appeal to you from Moscow, the Hero City which brought to a halt the march of Hitler's armies. In the harsh days of 1941 the Soviet people proved to the whole world that fascism was not all-powerful, that it would be defeated if it is confronted by all the peoples united by faith in truth and justice.

The **Third International Anti-Fascist Forum** is being held at a time when humanity is again facing serious dangers. Imperialist reaction is set to unleash an all-out assault. Militarism and neo-colonialism, neo-fascism and anti-communism are its invariable companions. Leaning on the darkest of forces, oligarchic capital is anxious to maintain and strengthen its dominance over nations, their work and talent, the natural resources of our planet, the present and future of humankind.

Against the aggressive essence of capital

The history of the 20th century has convincingly revealed the aggressive essence of Big Capital. Its henchmen fall into a fury when the peoples challenge the bid of the world oligarchy to dominate and oppress them. The capitalists and their ideological servants consider the cohesive working class, the national liberation movement and the striving of the working people for democracy and social justice to be the main threat.

In front of our eyes, capitalism more and more often casts aside the many-colored screen of liberal democracy. It talks less and less about freedom and human rights. Reaction turns more and more frequently to dictatorship, terror, chauvinism and war. In various ways various forms of Fascism are reanimated. Sympathizers of Hitler and Mussolini, Franco and Salazar, Horthy and Antonescu are rearing their heads. Aggressive military blocs

EDITORIAL

are stepping up their activities. To bring pressure to bear on peoples imperialists are making ever more cynical use of political terror, religious extremism, ethnic hatred, the sanctions noose and the military stick.

We declare: the struggle against Fascism is inseparable from the struggle against anti-communism and Russophobia. We resolutely condemn the attempts to equate the Soviet Union to Hitler's Reich. To declare liberators to be "occupiers." To dismantle monuments to Red Army soldiers. To ban communist symbols and justify Nazi accomplices.

All this amounts to political preparation of a Fascist revenge. Reactionaries seek to deprive the peoples of their historical memory, sever the link between generations, belittle the heroic feat of the USSR and the whole anti-Fascist Resistance.

Safeguard Humankind Against Fascism and Terrorism!

We reaffirm our adherence to the ideas and conclusions set forth in the Manifesto for the unity of the peoples of the world "***Safeguard Humankind Against Fascism!***" Adopted on April 2023 at the **First International Anti-Fascist Forum** in Minsk, it has fully proved its relevance. Its spirit of internationalism and solidarity forms the basis of our cohesion and joint actions.

We maintain that Fascism is not an accidental zig-zag of world history. It grows out of the crisis of capitalism, the fear of Big Capital in the face of the working people and its desire to enslave and op-

press. All the manifestations of extreme reaction stem from its determination to preserve its dominance at all costs.

The common opposition to terrorism plays a special role in our struggle. We resolutely condemn terrorism in all its manifestations: individual, group or state; voluntary or mercenary; military, economic or psychological. Terrorism brings death and destruction, ruins people's lives, generates fear and hatred, sows pain and suffering.

It is incumbent on peoples to see the deep roots of terrorism. It cannot be attributed solely to the fanaticism of certain groups or the criminal will of individuals. It thrives in the world of social inequality, rightlessness and poverty, humiliation and joblessness, interventions and genocide, diktat and neo-colonial practices, arbitrary sanctions and cynical blockades.

We stress that capitalism is not only unable to stem terrorism, but constantly reproduces its social, economic and political prerequisites. The struggle against terrorism cannot be confined to police operations and military campaigns. Life dictates elimination of its causes: exploitation, neo-colonial plunder, social inequality, racial and national discrimination, the sway of transnational capital and dissolution of imperialist blocs.

The participants in the **Third International Anti-Fascist forum** voice their support for the anti-fascist and anti-terrorist activity of Russia in the framework of the special military operation in Ukraine. We see this struggle as part of the general opposition to global diktat, state terrorism,



militarism and Neo-Nazism. We resolutely condemn the attempts to use Ukraine's territory as a bridgehead for expanding the influence of imperialist forces.

We stress that our struggle against Neo-Nazism and terrorism is a matter of principle. It allows of no compromises. It is directed against the forces that seek to revise the results of the Second World War, rehabilitate the accomplices of Hitlerism, erase the memory of the heroism of anti-Fascists, spread terror and fear and totally subjugate the world to the diktat of capital. Participation in this struggle means support of the right of nations to security and historical justice, sovereignty and all-round development, social justice and choice of the socialist path.

International solidarity

We resolutely demand that the USA stop its attempts to dictate its will to the Republic of Cuba. For decades it has remained a symbol of dignity and adherence to the chosen path.

An immediate end must be put to the numerous sanctions against the Island of Freedom and Washington's accusations against the leader of the Cuban revolution Raul Casro Rus. The blockade of Cuba is an act of state terrorism against an entire people. The pathological wish to punish countries for their choice of development path is an example of irresponsible and criminal policy.

We voice our solidarity with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We demand an end to political and military pressure on its people and an end to economic sanctions. We insist on immediate release of the country's President Nicolas Maduro and Cilia Flores. The USA's intention to break the will of the people of Venezuela and grab its natural resources is a sign of the same neo-colonial course which spawns Neo-Fascism, terrorism and military operations.

We demand an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people. Israel's military should stop its crimes in the Gaza strip and its aggressive actions against Lebanon.

We insist on the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to create a sovereign state. Washington must stop supporting Israel's aggressive actions and immediately abandon its military operation



against Iran. The world community is called upon to condemn the USA's interventionist ambitions and demand compensation of the damage inflicted on the Iranian people.

We call on all the people of good will to strengthen the united front of progressive, left, communist, patriotic, anti-colonial and anti-fascist forces. We must pool our efforts in our just struggle. Acting as a single front we should expose anti-Sovietism and anti-communism, defend the rights of the working people, and fight for a just and secure world.

We appeal to all the peoples on Earth: do not allow yourselves to be cheated. Do not trust those who spread false slogans about freedom, but bring bondage instead; those who talk about democracy, but cultivate the dictatorship of capital; who expand on democracy, but cultivate the dictatorship of capital; who sound off on security, but kindle wars; who promise to fight terrorism but sow discord and war.

Only a world of equal peoples, social justice, the brotherhood of working people and socialism can safeguard the humanity against Fascism, terrorism and war.

No to imperialism, Neo-Nazism, anti-communism and terrorism!

We will not allow the world to be blown up! No pasarán! They shall not pass!

May the world of labor, socialism and friendship among peoples triumph!

Long live international solidarity of working people!

The future is calling

Speech by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency **NONCEBA MHLAULI**
on the Occasion of the

Mpumalanga Provincial Youth Parliament

Tuesday 09 June 2026



It is a privilege to join you today during Youth Month as we gather for the Mpumalanga Youth Parliament 2026. I would like to begin by congratulating the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature for continuing to provide this platform for young people to engage directly with government, interrogate policy implementation, and contribute meaningfully to the future direction of our democracy.

In a society that seeks to deepen participation and strengthen accountability, forums such as this are not ceremonial events. They are essential democratic instruments that bring government closer to the people it serves.

The significance of this gathering is amplified by the fact that it takes place during June, a month that occupies a special place in the history of our country. We pause to remember the actions of 16 June 1976, when thousands of young people took to the streets to challenge an unjust system and demand a better future. The courage displayed by that generation 50 years ago, transformed our country forever.

Many of those young people were not much older than the participants gathered in this hall today. They did not possess wealth, political office or institutional power.

Yet they understood a truth that continues to resonate across generations: that young people have the capacity to shape history when they organise, participate and refuse to be silent in the face of injustice.

As we reflect on the sacrifices of 1976 on this 50th anniversary, it is important that we do not reduce their contribution to a single day of remembrance. The true legacy of the youth of 1976 lies not only in what they protested against, but in what they stood for.

They stood for dignity. They stood for equality. They stood for access to education. They stood for opportunity. They stood for the belief that young people should have a voice in determining the future of their country.

Today, the responsibility of our generation is different, but it is no less important. The youth of 1976 fought for freedom. The youth of 2026 must use that freedom to build prosperous communities, strengthen democratic institutions, hold leaders accountable and create opportunities for future generations. They fought to secure a democratic South Africa. We must now ensure that our democracy delivers on its promise for a better life for all.

This year's theme challenges



us to move beyond speeches, slogans and aspirations. It challenges us to ask a fundamental question: are we doing enough to ensure that government commitments translate into meaningful improvements in the lives of young people?

This is precisely why Youth Parliament matters.

Youth Parliament exists because democracy cannot be reduced to voting every five years. A healthy democracy requires continuous engagement between citizens and the institutions that serve them. It requires citizens who ask questions. It requires leaders who provide answers. It requires transparency, accountability and active participation.

The concept behind this Youth Parliament recognises that young people continue to face serious challenges, including unemployment, poverty, economic exclusion, unequal access to opportunities and social vulnerability.

At the same time, it recognises that young people are not merely beneficiaries of government programmes. They are partners in development. They are stakeholders in governance. They are

active participants in shaping public policy and monitoring implementation.

For many years, Youth Parliament has provided an important platform through which young people have influenced public discourse and contributed to policy development.

The impact of youth activism and youth engagement can be seen in numerous initiatives that have transformed opportunities for young South Africans.

We have seen the establishment of institutions dedicated to youth development, including the National Youth Development Agency, Youth Directorates at Provincial and Municipal level, and other interventions aimed at expanding opportunities for young people. These achievements remind us that youth voices matter and that organised youth participation can influence the direction of public policy.

As we approach the 2026 Local Government Elections, we must confront a reality that there are many young South Africans who are uncertain about whether participating in elections still makes a difference. Many feel frustrat-

ed by the pace of change in their communities. Others question whether their vote has any real impact on the challenges they face every day.

Some have become disillusioned by instances of poor service delivery, unemployment, inequality and unfulfilled promises. These feelings are real and they should not be dismissed. If we are serious about strengthening our democracy, we must acknowledge these frustrations honestly and engage with them directly.

At the same time, we must be careful not to allow frustration to become disengagement. There is a significant difference between being disappointed and becoming detached from the democratic process.

The greatest mistake that young people can make is to conclude that because change has been slower than expected, participation no longer matters. The truth is that democracy does not stop functioning when citizens choose not to participate.

Decisions continue to be made. Budgets continue to be approved. Development priorities continue to be determined. Councillors

continue to be elected. Municipal projects continue to move forward. The only difference is that those decisions are made without the input of the very people who are most affected by them.

This is why I want to make a direct appeal to every young person gathered here today. Register to vote. Ensure that your name appears on the voters' roll. Verify your details. Make use of the online platforms that have been created to make registration easier and more accessible.

However, registration alone is not enough. Registration is only the first step. Once you have registered, you must also vote. A democracy cannot be strengthened by people who are registered but absent on Election Day. The true power of citizenship lies not only in having the right to vote, but in exercising that right.

We must also challenge the misconception that democracy begins and ends at the ballot box. Elections are important, but elections are only one part of democratic participation. In many respects, the real work begins after the votes have been counted. The quality of our democracy depends not only on who we elect, but also on how actively citizens remain engaged once those leaders assume office.

Too often, communities only become active when election campaigns begin. Political parties arrive. Manifestos are distributed. Meetings are held. Promises are made. Once the election has passed, many citizens withdraw from public life and wait another five years before engaging again.

This approach weakens accountability and limits the abil-

ity of communities to influence development outcomes. Active citizenship requires continuous engagement throughout the electoral cycle.

Young people must therefore participate in the structures that influence decision-making at local level. They must attend ward meetings. They must participate in public consultations. They must engage with municipal planning processes. They must contribute to Integrated Development Plans. They must familiarise themselves with municipal budgets and development priorities. They must understand how decisions are made and how resources are allocated. Most importantly, they must ensure that the voices of young people are represented whenever decisions affecting their communities are being discussed.

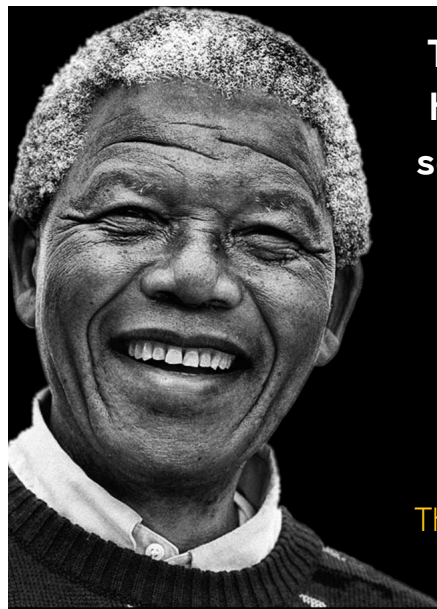
When a municipality announces a housing project, young people should ask what progress has been made six months later. When commitments are made regarding roads, water infrastructure, sports facilities, libraries or community development pro-

grammes, young people should continue asking questions long after the announcement has been made. Accountability does not begin when a project is launched. Accountability begins when citizens demand evidence that implementation is taking place.

More importantly, young people must demand their stake in all development aspects of society. We must demand adequate youth representation in all spheres of government. The notion of "*nothing about us. Without us*" must become our rallying call.

As young people of Mpumalanga, you must demand to see the Office of the Premier improve the Youth Fund, to ensure you have improved access to funding. You must track whether all government departments are successfully setting aside thirty percent of their procurement for companies owned by young people.

You must monitor efforts to lobby the Department of Mineral Resources so that at least 30% of mining rights in the Province are allocated to local mining committees to benefit the youth.



To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: be the scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future.

Nelson Mandela (2011).

"Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations", p.427, Pan Macmillan

And finally, you must ensure the Department of Economic Development and Tourism delivers on conducting at least three workshops per district in the 2026/27 financial year to train youth-owned enterprises.

Commemorations and speeches are no longer enough. To achieve this, government is stepping in decisively. We are shifting from policy discussions to aggressive implementation through the launch of five major, government-backed Catalytic Youth Empowerment Projects. These interventions are designed to physically alter the economic landscape for young South Africans. Let me briefly explain what these interventions entail.

The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI), in partnership with the National Youth Service (NYS), is officially calling on 100,000 young South Africans to step forward.

What is this program?

This is not just a temporary fix; it is a launch-pad. The PYEI and NYS initiative is designed to transition you from unemployment into the active economy. By joining this cohort of 100,000, you are signing up to serve your country, uplift your community, and, most importantly, build your own future.

Here is exactly what the program delivers:

- **Through Meaningful Community Service.** You will be placed in roles that directly improve your local communities from education and public health to infrastructure and social development.
- **By gaining Real-World Skills Development.** You

won't just be working; you will be receiving formal training, mentorship, and practical experience that makes you highly employable once the program ends.

- **And for Financial Support.** You will receive a monthly stipend. You will earn while you learn, giving you the dignity and financial breathing room to plan your next steps.

We also invite you to register on SAYouth.Mobi which is a 100% data-free national online network that connects unemployed South African youth aged 15 to 34 with free job, learning, volunteering, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Since inception, the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative has facilitated access to more than 2.36 million earning opportunities. Importantly, over 70% of the

opportunities accessed through SA Youth have been taken up by young women, helping close historical gender gaps.

Furthermore, to ensure our youth are not left behind in the global digital economy, government is rolling out **iamtheCODE**. This intervention targets 600,000 young people, deliberately prioritizing young women in our most rural and marginalized communities.

Through a 12-week blended STEAMD curriculum, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Design; we are providing direct digital skills training, e-courses, and global mentorship to bridge the digital divide.

Second, as cyber threats grow globally, South Africa currently loses billions annually to cybercrime. We are turning this

A FREE NATIONAL NETWORK TO ACCESS LEARNING AND EARNING OPPORTUNITIES



WHAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITIES CAN I FIND ON SA YOUTH?

Full time or part time jobs

Learning opportunities

Volunteering opportunities

Apprenticeships and learnerships

Hustle opportunities



REGISTER ON SAYOUTH.MOBI
100% free, no data needed!



PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION



nyda
NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.



vulnerability into an employment opportunity through the CSIR Cybersecurity intervention. The government will recruit and train unemployed graduates in Computer Science and Mathematics, with the explicit goal of incubating and launching 2,000 tech-led, youth-owned cybersecurity start-ups. We are empowering the youth to become the digital defenders of our national infrastructure.

Third, we are launching GRIT Lab Africa, a massive push into Artificial Intelligence and future tech. Over the next three years, the government will absorb 10,000 unemployed graduates into this program. This includes deploying an 'AI Instructors Brigade' to teach coding and robotics in under-resourced public schools, and providing AI innovation tools to youth-owned SMMEs so they can scale their businesses and create further employment.

Finally, we must industrialize our agricultural sector. Through the South African National Service Initiative (SANSI), the government is launching a massive skills massification program focused on Goat and Sheep development. This is not just training; it is ownership. We are taking intakes of 5,000 graduates, training them for 18 months, and providing them with a starter pack of 52 animals and state veterinary support. Through local hubs, this intervention will absorb 50,000 youth recruits annually, giving them a direct stake in the agricultural economy.

Combined, Phase 1 of these government interventions will directly



impact over 737,000 young lives. Comrades, the renewal of the national project is the task of this generation.

The future is calling. We must ensure that when we mark 50 years since 1976, we are not just remembering the past, but actively building a working, thriving, and empowered youth.

South Africa needs a new generation of young leaders who understand both the challenges facing our communities and the opportunities available to transform them.

We need young leaders who are committed to ethical leadership, public service and community development. We need young leaders who are prepared to engage difficult issues and work collaboratively to solve problems. We need young leaders who understand that leadership is not about status or titles, but about service and impact.

None of these aspirations will be realised if young people remain isolated from one another. Throughout history, meaningful change has been driven by organised people working together around a common purpose. The

generation of 1976 was organised.

The challenge before young people today is therefore not simply to participate as individuals. The challenge is to organise collectively around the issues that matter most.

Young people must organise around education. They must organise around entrepreneurship. They must organise around community development. They must organise around volunteerism. They must organise around environmental sustainability. They must organise around innovation and technological advancement. Most importantly, they must organise themselves around doing good and creating positive change within their communities.

The youth of 1976 did not have a cellphone, a TikTok, Facebook, Instagram or X account, nor did they have NYDA or SMME funding, they had a conviction and a song. Under those circumstances, they managed to put their country on a course for total liberation for me and you to here today.

The future that we seek to build will not be delivered to us by others. It will be built through the collective efforts of citizens who choose to participate, contribute and lead.

The question before us is therefore not whether young people have the power to shape South Africa's future. The question is whether they are prepared to use that power.

Amandla!!

Honouring the Legacy of 1976

Through Active Citizenship, Hope and Nation Building

■ By **SIFISO SONJICA**

AS South Africa marks Youth Month and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the historic 1976 Student Uprising, the nation is presented with an opportunity not only to reflect on the sacrifices of the youth of yesterday but also to inspire the youth of today to become active participants in shaping the country's future. The events of June 1976 remain one of the defining moments in South Africa's liberation history. Thousands of young people courageously confronted an oppressive system that denied them quality education, dignity, and opportunities for advancement. Their bravery helped accelerate the struggle for freedom and laid the foundation for the democratic South Africa that exists today.

Fifty years later, the conditions under which young South Africans live are fundamentally different from those experienced by the youth of 1976. The democratic government has made significant strides in expanding access to education and opportunities. Millions of young people now have access to free basic education, no-fee schools, school nutrition programmes, student financial aid through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), expanded access to higher education institutions, and various youth development initiatives.



These achievements should not be underestimated. They represent the realization of many aspirations for which the youth of 1976 fought and sacrificed.

However, commemorating the legacy of 1976 also requires an honest and critical reflection on the contemporary challenges confronting young people in democratic South Africa. Although political liberation has been achieved, socio-economic emancipation remains incomplete for many young South Africans. The country continues to

face persistent structural inequalities characterized by high levels of youth unemployment, poverty, income inequality, substance abuse, crime, and gender-based violence.

According to recent labour market statistics, youth unemployment remains among the highest globally, disproportionately affecting young graduates and first-time job seekers. This socio-economic reality has contributed to growing frustration, hopelessness, and social exclusion among sections of the youth population.

From a developmental perspective, youth unemployment presents both economic and social risks. Scholars such as Sen (1999) argue that development should be understood not merely as economic growth but as the expansion of freedoms and opportunities that enable people to live meaningful lives. In contexts where young people are excluded from labour markets and economic participation, their ability to exercise agency and contribute productively to society becomes significantly constrained. Similarly, the National Development Plan (2030) identifies youth unemployment as one of South Africa's most pressing challenges and emphasizes the importance of education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and skills development in creating pathways toward inclusive growth.

Despite these challenges, history demonstrates that difficult circumstances need not determine destiny. The youth of 1976 confronted an oppressive political system with far fewer opportunities than are available today, yet they displayed extraordinary courage, resilience, and determination. Their actions transformed despair into resistance and oppression into possibility. The contemporary generation of young South Africans can draw inspiration from this history. While the struggles of today may differ from those of apartheid, resilience remains equally important. Young people must resist the temptation of hopelessness and instead embrace innovation, entrepreneurship, education, civic participation, and social responsibility as pathways toward meaningful transformation.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that government



has made notable progress in expanding educational opportunities since the advent of democracy. Policies such as free basic education, no-fee schools, the expansion of higher education institutions, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, school nutrition programmes, and financial assistance through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) have significantly improved educational access for historically disadvantaged communities. These interventions represent important democratic gains that would have been unimaginable during the apartheid era. Nevertheless, educational access alone is insufficient if it is not accompanied by meaningful economic participation and employment opportunities.

Equally concerning is the growth of social ills affecting many young people. Substance abuse, gangsterism, cybercrime, school violence, gender-based violence, and mental health challenges continue to undermine social cohesion and human development in many communities. Social disorganization theory suggests that environments characterized by poverty, weak institutions, and social fragmentation often produce higher levels of deviant behaviour (Shaw & McKay, 1942). However, this should not result in the stigmatization of young peo-

ple. Rather, it should encourage greater investment in youth empowerment programmes, mentorship, sports development, arts, culture, entrepreneurship, and community-based interventions that strengthen resilience and social belonging.

Importantly, young people themselves possess agency and responsibility in shaping the future of South Africa. Positive citizenship requires active participation in community development, ethical leadership, volunteerism, environmental sustainability, and democratic engagement. The challenges confronting the country should not lead to disengagement but rather inspire collective action aimed at nation-building. As former President Nelson Mandela famously argued, *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* This statement remains deeply relevant in encouraging young people to pursue knowledge, skills, and leadership as instruments of social change.

Another growing concern within democratic societies is political disengagement and voter apathy, particularly among young people. Across many democracies, declining electoral participation among younger generations has emerged as a significant challenge. In South Africa, many young citizens express frustration

with political institutions and often question whether voting has any meaningful impact on their lives. While such frustrations may stem from genuine socio-economic grievances, political disengagement carries profound dangers for democratic governance.

Political theorists such as Dahl emphasize that democracy depends on active citizen participation and accountability. When citizens withdraw from democratic processes, they unintentionally weaken their ability to influence public policy and leadership outcomes. Voter apathy creates a vacuum where decisions affecting employment, education, health-care, housing, and economic policy are made without meaningful youth representation. Put differently, refusing to participate politically does not remove politics from one's life; rather, it allows others to decide one's future.

The significance of the upcoming **voter registration weekend (20-21 June)** must therefore be understood within this broader democratic context. Voter registration is not merely an administrative process but a civic responsibility and democratic investment in the future of the nation. For young South Africans, registering to vote represents an opportunity to transform frustration into constructive participation and dissatisfaction into democratic influence. The youth of 1976 fought courageously for dignity, freedom, and the right to shape their destiny. Contemporary youth already possess these constitutional rights. The responsibility lies in exercising them meaningfully.

At a symbolic level, voter registration serves as an affirmation of citizenship and patriotism. It re-

flects recognition that democracy thrives when citizens actively participate in governance, hold leaders accountable, and advocate for policies that improve social and economic conditions. Through democratic participation, young people can influence decisions that shape employment opportunities, educational reforms, entrepreneurship support, technological innovation, and economic inclusion.

As South Africa commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Student Uprising, the message to young people should therefore be one of hope, perseverance, and collective responsibility. The road toward social and economic transformation may be difficult, but South Africa's democratic history demonstrates that progress is possible when citizens remain committed to change. The youth of 1976 refused to surrender to hopelessness despite enormous adversity. Similarly, today's generation must refuse despair and instead choose resilience, participation, and optimism.

South Africa remains a country of immense possibility. Its democratic institutions, constitutional protections, youthful population,

and rich history of resistance provide a solid foundation for renewal and development. While unemployment and inequality are real challenges, they are not permanent realities. Through education, entrepreneurship, ethical leadership, innovation, and democratic participation, young people possess the power to shape a more inclusive and prosperous future.

In conclusion, the commemoration of Youth Month should not merely be an occasion of remembrance but a call to action. The sacrifices of 1976 demand that young people actively participate in shaping the future of the country. By rejecting social ills, embracing education, participating in democratic processes, registering to vote, and contributing positively to their communities, young South Africans can honour the legacy of the youth of 1976 while helping to build a nation founded on equality, opportunity, dignity, and hope for all.

#1976#50
#Register2Vote

Sifiso Sonjica is ANC Spokesperson in KwaZulu-Natal.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1976 YOUTH UPRISINGS Commemoration

16 JUNE 2026
10:00 - 17:00

**FNB Stadium Open Field
Nasrec, Johannesburg**

1976 Foundation

VETERANS' *Voices*



Education for Liberation, Dignity and Empowerment:

50 Years After June 16, 1976

■ By **BABY TYAWA and OHARA DISEKO**

THIS year marks several historic milestones that compel us to pause, reflect and assess the journey of our democracy. We commemorate **seventy years** since the historic **Women's March of 1956**, when 20,000 courageous women marched to the Union Buildings in defiance of the apartheid pass laws.

We also mark **fifty years** since the **June 16, 1976 Soweto Uprising**, a defining moment in South Africa's liberation struggle that reverberated throughout Africa and across the world. June 16 has since been recognised by the African Union as the Day of the African Child, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of the

young people who challenged an unjust education system and helped weaken the foundations of apartheid.

These milestones remind us of the interconnected struggles against racial oppression, gender discrimination and economic exclusion. They also coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of our democratic Constitution, a landmark achievement that enshrined the values of equality, dignity and human rights.

Equally significant is the reflection on three decades since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global commitment to women's empowerment and gender equal-

ity, with education identified as a critical instrument for liberation and advancement.

For one of the co-authors, Ohara Diseko, these anniversaries are not merely historical markers. As a former member of the South African Students' Organisation (SASO), she was among the young teachers suspended from the then University of the North (Turfloop) following the historic FRELIMO Rally of 1974. She later became an underground activist of the African National Congress. Her experiences reflect the intimate connection between education, political consciousness and the struggle for freedom that shaped an entire generation of South Africans.

Taken together, these anniversaries represent generations of struggle for freedom, knowledge, equality and social justice. They embody the aspirations of millions who believed that education would be the key to unlocking human potential and building a more equitable society.

Yet thirty years into democracy, South Africa presents a complex and often troubling picture.

According to Statistics South Africa, more than 23 million South Africans, nearly 38 per cent of the population, live below the lower-bound poverty line. Equally concerning is youth unemployment. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2026 reported that approximately 4.7 million young people between the ages of 15 and 34 are unemployed.

This reality cannot be explained simply as individual failure. It is a structural challenge shaped by race, geography, class, gender and unequal access to opportunity. Poverty remains concentrated among those with limited educational attainment, while even provinces such as Gauteng continue to experience growing poverty levels driven by rapid urbanisation and inward migration.

South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world. Our Gini coefficient, estimated at approximately 0.64, reflects an economy in which wealth and opportunity remain unevenly distributed. Despite decades of progressive policies, poverty, inequality, unemployment and exclusion remain deeply entrenched.

This raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: has our



NSFAS is central to government's commitment to higher education.

As of January 2026, **over 609,000 first time students** were approved for funding, with **416,688** continuing students also approved.

education system succeeded in equipping young people with the skills required to participate meaningfully in a rapidly changing economy?

The Education Paradox

For generations, education has been regarded as the most reliable pathway out of poverty. It is a belief deeply embedded in public policy and in the aspirations of millions of South Africans.

Since 1994, democratic governments have consistently prioritised education. A significant proportion of public expenditure has been allocated to schools, colleges and universities.

The Constitution guarantees the right to basic education. The National Development Plan places education at the centre of efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce

inequality. More recently, the Medium-Term Development Plan (2024–2029) reaffirmed education as a cornerstone of inclusive economic growth.

One of the most significant interventions has been the establishment and expansion of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), which has enabled hundreds of thousands of young South Africans from poor and working-class backgrounds to access higher education.

These achievements should not be underestimated. However, despite increased educational access and investment, poverty and unemployment have not declined at the pace many anticipated. In some instances, even graduates struggle to secure meaningful employment.

This presents a fundamental

paradox. If access to education has expanded significantly, why are the returns on that investment not being more widely realised?

Part of the answer lies in recognising that education does not operate in isolation. Educational outcomes are shaped by the broader economy, labour market dynamics and the availability of opportunities. An economy that is unable to generate sufficient employment cannot absorb increasing numbers of graduates and skilled workers.

Equally important is the question of relevance. Are we producing the skills required by a rapidly evolving economy? Are our education institutions sufficiently aligned with the technological, industrial and entrepreneurial demands of the future?

These questions are becoming increasingly urgent.

While access to education has expanded, access to quality education remains unequal. Many schools continue to struggle with inadequate infrastructure, limited resources and uneven teaching standards. The result is that increased spending on education often coexists with persistent inequality in life outcomes.

As we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the June 16 Uprising, it is therefore appropriate to move beyond measuring educational success purely in terms of enrolment and graduation numbers. We must assess whether our investment in education is translating into meaningful economic participation, social mobility and human development.

If our objective is merely to expand access, we may continue to

witness growing enrolment alongside persistent poverty. But if our goal is to expand capabilities and empower young people to participate fully in society and the economy, then we must critically evaluate curriculum content, teaching methods, skills development and the alignment between education and labour market needs.

This requires closer collaboration between government, educational institutions, business, labour and civil society. Together, these sectors must identify the scarce and critical skills required to drive economic growth, industrialisation and innovation.

The Unfinished Journey of June 16

The students of 1976 did not march simply for access to classrooms. They marched for dignity, agency and the right to determine their own future. They understood that education could either be used as an instrument

of oppression or as a vehicle for liberation.

Their struggle was inspired by leaders, educators and activists who recognised that knowledge is power, and that an education system disconnected from the aspirations of the people cannot advance social justice.

Today, the challenges confronting young people are different from those of 1976, but they are no less significant.

We live in a world characterised by technological disruption, artificial intelligence, climate change, shifting geopolitical realities and rapidly evolving labour markets. The question before us is no longer only whether young people have access to education. It is whether they are acquiring the knowledge, creativity, adaptability and skills required to thrive in the future world of work.

This demands a renewed national



conversation about the purpose of education in a democratic society. It requires us to ensure that education remains relevant, transformative and responsive to the demands of a changing world.

The future of South Africa and the African continent depends on how effectively we invest in the intellectual, creative and innovative potential of our young people. Education must nurture critical thinking, scientific inquiry, entrepreneurship, ethical leadership and active citizenship. It must prepare young people not merely to seek employment, but to create opportunities, solve problems and contribute meaningfully to society.

The challenge before us is not simply to spend more on education, but to ensure that every investment yields meaningful social and economic returns.

Fifty years after June 16, the struggle continues.

The call of that generation remains relevant today: education must be a tool for liberation, dignity, empowerment and nation-building.

That is the unfinished journey of 1976. It is now our responsibility to carry it forward.

Baby Tyawa is a founder member of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and the Federation of Transvaal Women (Fedtraw).

Ohara Diseko is a former member of the South African Students Organisation (SASO), suspended from Turfloop University during the 1974 Frelimo Rally. She was a schoolteacher in 1976.



Phakamile Ximiya:

A child of 1976

Siva Naidoo, ANC VL Member, reflects on a piece written by Phakamile Ximiya about his experience of June 16th

THERE are moments in history when ordinary young people are called upon to do extraordinary things. For South Africans of my generation, 1976 was such a moment.

As we mark fifty years since the student uprisings that changed the course of our country's history, I am reminded of one young man from Gqeberha whose life was forever altered by those

events. His story is not unique, yet it is precisely because it reflects the journey of thousands of young South Africans that it deserves to be told.

His name is Phakamile W.W. Ximiya.

When I read his reflections on 1976, I was struck not only by the historical events he describes, but by the resilience, courage and sense of purpose that emerged from those turbulent years. Like many young people of that era, Phakamile did not set out to become an activist. He was simply a teenager with dreams, talents and ambitions.

At nineteen years old he was a matric student at Cowan High School in Port Elizabeth, now Gqeberha. Sport played a central role in his life. He excelled on both the cricket field and rugby pitch. Looking back, he recalls 1976 as a year that began with promise.

“1976 was the year that took away my teenage innocence and catapulted me into adulthood,” he writes. It was a year of achievement. He scored his first cricket century for New Brighton Cricket Club and earned a place in the first team of Springrose Rugby Club. Through sport he encountered the growing non-racial sports movement that challenged apartheid’s segregationist policies.

Yet beyond the playing fields, a storm was gathering. The apartheid system had closed doors to an entire generation of black South Africans. Educational opportunities were limited. Career prospects were restricted. Human dignity was constantly assaulted by laws designed to

maintain racial domination.

Young people were beginning to ask difficult questions. Why should African children be taught in Afrikaans, a language imposed upon them by an oppressive state? Why should talent and hard work count for so little in determining one’s future? Why should a person’s race determine the opportunities available to them?

The answers provided by the apartheid government convinced nobody. When students in Soweto marched peacefully on 16 June 1976 against Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, the regime responded with bullets. Images of schoolchildren facing armed police shocked the world and ignited a wave of resistance throughout South Africa.

In Gqeberha, the anger and frustration felt by young people could no longer be contained. Phakamile remembers that the city did not erupt immediately. There were no cell phones, social media platforms or instant commu-

nication. News travelled slowly. But the outrage spread steadily through schools, sports clubs, churches and communities.

“The events of that day shook the whole world and gave momentum to the struggle of the oppressed masses of South Africa in a manner that could not have been imagined,” he recalls.

By August 1976, students in Port Elizabeth had joined the protests. Phakamile was among them. What began as a march in solidarity with fellow students soon encountered the full force of the apartheid state. Police moved swiftly to stop the demonstration. Students were arrested before reaching their destination.

Phakamile remembers being taken to Algoa Police Station, where punishment was swift and brutal. *“I received eight cuts on the back for being part of an illegal gathering.”*

It was not his first encounter with the feared Special Branch. Earlier that year he had already been



Cricket team of Cowan High around 1973.

Phakamile is seated on the left in front and his late immediate elder brother Zwelidumile Ximiya, who was also in MK.

The two gentlemen were their teachers responsible for the cricket team. On the left is Mzamo Tyibilika and on the extreme right hand is Mveleli Ncula who became one of the top officials in rugby for SARU.

questioned because of his association with young activists linked to student organisations. For many young people such experiences created fear. For others, including Phakamile, they produced determination.

The brutality of the state exposed the true nature of apartheid more clearly than any political speech ever could. The illusion that the system could be reformed disappeared. Young people increasingly understood that meaningful change would require struggle, sacrifice and organisation.

One tragedy remains deeply etched in his memory. During the unrest in Port Elizabeth, school-girl Nomvume Mnyazi was shot and killed by police while still wearing her school uniform.

She posed no threat. She was simply another young South African caught in the machinery of a cruel system. Her death symbolised the price that many families paid during those years. Yet despite the repression, the youth of 1976 refused to retreat.

“The events of 1976 took away the innocence of the black youth of that generation and propelled it into the world of adults,” Phakamile writes. *“Jail, exile, death and whatever else the enemy could imagine, they faced with courage, bravery and valour.”*

Those words capture the spirit of a generation. Many entered exile. Others joined underground political structures. Some became community organisers, trade unionists, teachers, lawyers and civic leaders. Many paid a heavy personal price.

What distinguished them was a commitment to something larger



than themselves.

Reading Phakamile’s reflections, one is reminded that freedom was not won by famous leaders alone. It was won by thousands of ordinary people who made extraordinary choices.

They chose courage over comfort. They chose service over self-interest. They chose hope over despair. For Phakamile, 1976 was not simply a historical event. It became a lifelong calling.

“The events of that year caused one to fully commit to contributing to the bringing down of that obnoxious system of apartheid and rebuilding in its place a truly united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.”

That commitment remained with him long after apartheid fell. His reflections contain an important message for today’s youth.

The struggle of his generation was different from the challenges facing young South Africans today, but the need for active citizenship remains just as important.

Today’s battles may not be against apartheid laws. They may be against poverty,

unemployment, inequality, corruption, crime, poor education, gender-based violence and social division.

The question facing young people remains the same: What role will you play in shaping the future of your country? Phakamile reminds us that democracy did not mark the end of the journey.

Drawing on the wisdom of leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, he argues that political freedom must be accompanied by social and economic transformation. He warns that progress requires unity, political education, ethical leadership and an ongoing connection between leaders and ordinary people.

Perhaps the greatest lesson from his story is that history is not made only by heroes whose names appear in textbooks. History is made by ordinary young people who decide that injustice cannot be ignored.

As a fellow activist of the 1976 generation, I recognise in Phakamile’s story the courage and determination that characterised so many young South Africans of that era. Their sacrifices helped create the democratic South Africa we enjoy today.

The responsibility now passes to a new generation.

The youth of 1976 lit a torch. The challenge facing today’s youth is not merely to admire that flame, but to carry it forward. As Phakamile’s life demonstrates, one person, armed with conviction and a commitment to justice, can help change the course of history.

That is the enduring legacy of 1976.

“Thula Mama”

to all the heroes of June 16

■ By **LIQUID LOVE**

Thula Mama, nantsi inkululeko siyitholile.

Wipe those tears of prejudice and hatred from your face;

And sing: “Izobuya I Afrika” Mama,

To the ululation of chanting youths in the streets

And shame the pink faces and their hippos.

Dance like it is the end of the world Mama,

Show them that your body they can oppress –

But not your soul – that’s forever free!!

Tell them that; “Mmangwana o tshwara thipa kamo bogaleng”

We live to die for what we believe in.

Tomorrow freedom will come –

**Like the sun; it will shine on every black faces and cast away
darkness**

To their annoyance...



**Mama ndithi thula musa ukulila,
'76 was a year of youth power and
June 16 was the day the phoenix rose.**

**Sing Mama, sing a song of freedom, liberation and equality.
Sing about Chief Luthuli and Bra Tsietsi Mashinini mama,
About Lillian Ngoyi and Helen Khuzwayo mama
And leave traces of your freedom chants after your dance.**

**Thula Mama inkululeko ye yethu;
To the graves of all our unsung heroes,
From prison to prison – what was your reason?
Ours was equal and fair education not oppression!!**

And yours?.....

**To Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Duduza, Soweto and Mamelodi;
United we fight – together we triumph.**

Thula Mama musa ukulila.



LEST WE FORGET:

31 May, A Day to Remember in South Africa

■ By **CHINA DODOVU**

IN 1897, Rudyard Kipling wrote a Christian poem entitled *Recessional* where he used the phrase “Lest we forget”. Kipling repeated the poem eight times in order to add particular emphasis regarding the dangers of failing to remember.

Failing to remember because of aging, stress, or underlying conditions like cognitive impairment or memory lapses is understandable but it is intolerable and unacceptable if it is because of motivated forgetting (wilful blindness when the brain actively suppresses memories that cause psychological discomfort or conflict), the hubris effect (when power and money can reduce empathy and increase a sense of entitlement) or cognitive dissonance (when actions such as ruthlessness clash with a person’s desire to view themselves as morally).

Lest we forget that the 31st of May is a very terrible day in the history of our country. It is a day that before the dawning of the New Democratic dispensation in 1994 was declared a public holiday called Republic Day by the apartheid government used to celebrate the perpetuation of colonialism, racism and apartheid in our country.

It was on this day in 1902 that a peace treaty of Vereeniging be-



tween representatives of the British government and Republican Boer governments was concluded to end the three-year Anglo Boer War of 1899 and to make the Transvaal and the Orange Free State republics fall under the British administration and excluded the African majority.

Lest we forget, that it was on this day in 1910 that the so-called Union of South Africa came into existence with the unification of the Cape, the Natal, the Transvaal, and the Orange River colonies. This also excluded the African people in the running of the affairs of the country. It is that

momentous occasion that propelled the formation of the African National (ANC) Congress on the 8th of January in 1912.

Lest we forget, it was on this day in 1938 that the South African apartheid flag was first flown and a new National Anthem, *Die Stem*, was sung to coincide with the 100th centenary anniversary of the Great Trek of 1838.

Lest we forget, it was on this day in 1961 that the Union of South Africa became the Republic of South Africa thus severing its long-standing ties to the old British Empire. It was also on this



period that South Africa produced the Rand as its monetary currency to replace the British pound sterling.

It is in this context that our struggle against colonialism and apartheid was not only about political rights but included the socio-economic rights.

Still today, 32 years after our freedom that our country continue to resemble what Frantz Fanon refers to as the Manichaeism of the colonial world.

Our country and cities are divided into two as Fanon described them thus: the one part of the city is made of stone and steel ... brightly-lit town, the streets are covered with asphalt and the garbage-cans swallow all the leavings while the other part is popu-

lated mostly by black poor people who live on top of each other... the native town is a hungry town, starved of bread, of meat, shoes, of coal, or light.

My view is that we cannot continue with the current spatial apartheid planning with two worlds within a single city: one for the rich and the other for poor people who are mostly black and women. The world for the rich is well serviced while the world for the poor does not have a proper functioning infrastructure.

We must not only remember this day for its terrible past. Lest we forget, we must remember that it was on this day 47 years ago in 1979 in Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre in Roodepoort that the Congress of Students Congress (COSAS) was formed.

COSAS was indeed born out of struggle as an anti-apartheid student organisation in the wake of the June 16 Soweto Uprisings in 1976. COSAS was built through the blood of many gallant student revolutionaries who dared to fight against Bantu education in particular and against a murderous & racist apartheid government for our people's liberation.

In this regard, with a motto "**Each One Teach One**" COSAS played an incredible role as part of the death defying Student Activists and Young Lions generation, the fearless generation which kept the fires burning throughout the 1980s. On this day, the 47th anniversary of COSAS, we salute its founding leaders like Ephraim Mogale, Nyami Booi, Lulu Johnson, Rev Thami Mvambobo, Ephraim Nkwe etc.

Resolving Illegal Immigration is Not Xenophobia: Towards a Lawful, Humane and Developmental Response

■ By **MOJALEFE NALE**

THE recent national address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on immigration challenges in the country marks an important moment in South Africa's democratic journey. For the first time in many years, government has directly and comprehensively responded to growing public concerns regarding illegal immigration, border management, and pressures on public services, employment, crime and social cohesion.

The President deserves recognition for confronting a matter that many South Africans have been discussing in their homes, workplaces and communities for a considerable period. The significance of the address lies not merely in the measures announced, but in the acknowledgement that concerns about illegal immigration are real, legitimate and deserving of a serious policy response.

For too long, public discourse around immigration has often become trapped between two extremes. On the one hand are those who seek to portray every concern about illegal immigration as xenophobia. On the other are those who exploit legitimate frustrations to promote hatred, vigilantism and hostility towards foreign nationals.

Neither position advances the

national interest.

A sovereign state has both the right and the obligation to regulate who enters its territory, under what conditions they enter, and how long they remain. Every country in the world exercises this responsibility. South Africa cannot be expected to be the exception.

At the same time, any discussion of immigration must be grounded in constitutional values, respect for human rights and an appreciation of South Africa's historical commitment to solidarity with those fleeing conflict, persecution

or economic hardship. Effective immigration management is not about exclusion; it is about ensuring that migration occurs within a lawful, transparent and sustainable framework that serves both national interests and human dignity.

To insist that immigration laws must be enforced is not xenophobic. It is not anti-African. It is not anti-foreigner. It is not inconsistent with the values of Ubuntu. It is a recognition that orderly migration is necessary for social stability, economic development and the protection of rights for both citizens and lawful migrants.





Indeed, one of the strengths of the President's address is that it rejects the false choice between law enforcement and human dignity. South Africa can secure its borders while respecting human rights. It can enforce immigration laws while remaining committed to Pan-African solidarity. It can protect vulnerable migrants while acting decisively against illegal immigration and criminal syndicates that exploit migration routes.

The announcement of stronger border controls, dedicated immigration courts, stricter penalties for employers of undocumented migrants, enhanced labour inspections and measures to combat corruption within Home Affairs should be welcomed. These are important interventions and indicate a recognition that immigration management requires a whole-of-government approach.

However, while the speech is welcome, South Africans have become increasingly cautious about announcements that are not followed by visible implementation. The challenge facing government is no longer one of policy formulation. It is one of execution.

Citizens want to see results

The success of this intervention will therefore be measured not by the quality of the speech, but by what South Africans experience in their daily lives over the coming months and years. Communities want to see secure borders. They want to see action against corrupt officials. They want to see employers who exploit undocumented workers prosecuted. They want to see criminal syndicates disrupted. Above all, they want evidence that the state is capable of enforcing its own laws.

President Ramaphosa assured citizens that government will move quickly from declaration to implementation. We already saw the building blocks towards this already taking shape as shown by the SIU investigation work at Home Affairs as reported in the media and the reported work of the Border Management Authority before the President historic announcement.

One area that deserves further consideration is the role South Africa can play at continental level. Migration is not a South African problem alone as acknowledged by the President. It is an African

challenge and increasingly a global challenge.

Historically, South Africa's economy, particularly the mining sector during the apartheid era, relied heavily on migrant labour drawn from across the region. Many workers from neighbouring countries were recruited under systems designed to provide industry with a steady supply of cheap labour while limiting workers' rights and bargaining power. This history reminds us that migration has long been intertwined with patterns of economic exploitation. As South Africa addresses contemporary migration challenges, it must do so with an awareness of this legacy and a determination not to allow vulnerable migrants to be exploited for profit. Failure to enforce labour and immigration laws consistently risks perpetuating conditions in which undocumented workers are used to suppress wages and undermine labour standards.

During the dark days of the struggle against colonialism, the Organisation of African Unity established the Liberation Committee to coordinate support for liberation movements across the continent. That institution recognised that some challenges require collective continental responses rather than isolated national efforts.

The current African Union could consider emulating its predecessor by establishing a Continental Migration and Human Mobility Committee dedicated to migration management, border cooperation, labour mobility, refugee protection and combating transnational criminal networks. Such a body could coordinate intelligence, harmonise migration policies and address root causes

of displacement, including conflict, poverty and uneven development. It is such a body that could receive and process the announced efforts, especially the context and perspective of the whole initiative.

South Africa is uniquely positioned to champion such an initiative

Our country has demonstrated international leadership on matters of principle, most notably through its role in placing the question of Palestine before the International Court of Justice. That same diplomatic influence can be utilised to advance a comprehensive African response to migration challenges.

In this regard, the envoys that the President has decided to send abroad to explain South Africa's intended approach to addressing illegal immigration should also be mandated to engage African governments and regional institutions on the proposal for a Continental Migration and Human Mobility Committee. These diplomatic engagements would provide an opportunity to build consensus around a coordinated continental response and to position the establishment of such a committee as part of a broader strategy to manage migration in a lawful, humane and development-oriented manner.

At a domestic level, government should also consider visible measures that reassure citizens that immigration laws are being applied fairly and consistently.

One possible intervention could be a time-bound national identification and verification campaign. During such a period, all persons residing in South Africa, including

citizens, permanent residents, documented migrants and asylum seekers, would be required to produce valid identification upon request by authorised officials.

It is important, however, to distinguish clearly between identification and verification campaign under a democratic government and the pass law system imposed under apartheid. The apartheid regime used pass books and population registration measures to control the movement of Black South Africans, enforce racial segregation, restrict access to economic opportunities and advance the ideology of separate development based on race. Those measures were discriminatory by design and applied unequally according to colour.

By contrast, any contemporary identification and verification campaign must be non-racial, constitutionally compliant and applied equally to all persons residing in South Africa regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality or social status. Its purpose would not be to restrict freedom of movement or enforce segregation, but to verify legal status, strengthen the integrity of public records, combat fraud and ensure that im-

migration and other laws are administered fairly and consistently. The distinction is therefore not merely procedural but fundamental: one system was designed to deny rights on the basis of race, while the other must operate within a constitutional framework that protects equality, dignity and human rights for all.

Such a programme would have two advantages.

Firstly, it would remove perceptions that immigration enforcement targets only certain groups while leaving others untouched.

Secondly, it would provide citizens with visible evidence that government is actively verifying the legal status of everyone within the country.

In addition, government should accelerate the long-delayed migration from the green barcoded identity document to the smart ID card system. A faster and more comprehensive rollout would strengthen the integrity of the national population register and assist in identifying cases where identity documents may have been obtained through corruption or without the required supporting documentation. There have long



been concerns that weaknesses within Home Affairs have enabled some individuals to acquire identity documents improperly, sometimes with the assistance of corrupt officials or employers seeking access to vulnerable workers willing to accept lower wages. Strengthening identity verification systems would therefore support both immigration management and broader efforts to combat corruption and labour exploitation.

Such measures would need to be implemented within constitutional safeguards and under the supervision of authorised state institutions to prevent abuse and discrimination.

Most importantly, the President advised that South Africa must avoid reducing the immigration debate to a simplistic search for scapegoats. He correctly pointed out that illegal immigration is not the primary cause of unemployment, poverty or inequality.

These challenges have deeper structural causes rooted in low economic growth, insufficient industrial expansion and limited employment creation.

Illegal immigration must be addressed. But so too must economic sluggish growth that is near stagnation, infrastructure

constraints, poor service delivery and declining state capacity.

The struggle against illegal immigration cannot substitute for the struggle for economic transformation.

It is equally important that this immigration issue is not exploited for political gain by political parties, pressure groups or individuals seeking to mobilise public anger against government. Illegal immigration is a genuine concern for many citizens and deserves a serious, evidence-based response rather than political opportunism. Efforts to strengthen border management, improve immigration administration and enforce existing laws should be assessed on their merits and supported where they contribute to effective solutions.

Civil society organisations and NGOs also have an important role to play. Rather than contributing to an environment of confrontation between citizens and foreign nationals, they can assist in promoting lawful processes, protecting human rights, supporting documentation and regularisation efforts where appropriate, and helping government identify practical solutions to migration challenges. Constructive engagement between government, communities and civil society will

be essential if South Africa is to address illegal immigration in a manner that is both effective and humane.

Ultimately, the President's address should be viewed as a welcome beginning rather than a final solution. It signals that government has heard the concerns of South Africans and is prepared to act. What remains is to demonstrate, through visible and measurable outcomes, that these commitments will be translated into reality.

South Africans do not seek confrontation with foreign nationals. Nor do they seek to abandon the values of solidarity and humanity that have defined our struggle for democracy.

What they seek is a state that is capable, fair and effective.

A state that protects its borders.

A state that upholds the law.

A state that protects human dignity.

A state that inspires confidence among its citizens.

The challenge before government is to ensure that this moment becomes the beginning of a sustained programme of action rather than another chapter in the long history of unfulfilled promises.

If that challenge is met, South Africa will emerge stronger, more secure and more united.

Amandla ngawethu! Maatla ke a rona. Power to the People.

Mojalefa Nale is a member of the ANC and MKLWV.



A Tribute to John Pampallis: Comrade, Educator, Historian, and Freedom Fighter



■ By **PETER LEBELO**

COMRADE John Pampallis was a prominent South African liberator, freedom fighter, educator, and historian who spent more than ten years in exile in service of the struggle for freedom. During those years, he dedicated himself to the education of young South Africans who had fled the oppressive and evil Bantu Education system.



Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO)

The bulk of his time in exile was spent at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) in Tanzania, the school run by the African National Congress (ANC). There, Comrade Pampallis served as a dedicated comrade, counsellor, and teacher of History and English. His commitment to his students was unwavering, and his influence extended far beyond the classroom walls. He later rose to become the Vice Principal of SOMAFCO, a testament to the respect and trust he commanded among his peers and comrades.

A Teacher's Lasting Legacy

As one of his former students, I had the privilege of being taught by Comrade Pampallis in History during Form 4 and Matric, from 1980 to 1982. His patience and

methodical approach to teaching transformed the way I learned. He taught me to first understand the concept, and only then to memorise if necessary. He instilled in me the discipline to listen well and understand before responding to any question, and the wisdom to pause before I speak. These were not merely lessons in history; they were lessons for life.

Service to a Democratic South Africa

After leaving SOMAFCO, the wealth of experience he had gained in ANC education in exile became a vital resource for the new South Africa. His expertise informed the country's post-apartheid education transformation, and he went on to serve as an advisor to South Africa's first Minister of Higher Education, helping to shape the system from which

so many had been excluded for so long.

In Remembrance

Comrade John Pampallis was more than a teacher. He was a guide, a mentor, and a revolutionary who understood that true liberation begins with the mind. His life was spent opening doors for others, and his legacy lives on in every student he taught and in every life he touched.

Hamba kahle Comrade, Hamba kahle Solder of Freedom, Long Live the Spirit of Cde JP Long Live. He will forever be remembered for his contribution to our struggle.

Peter Lebelo is a former student of Comrade John Pampallis and DDG in the Department of Defence.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

13–19 June 2026

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

13 June 1964 Nelson Mandela and fellow Rivonia Trialists arrived on Robben Island



Nelson Mandela arrives on Robben Island to start his lifelong sentence, along with fellow Rivonia trialists – Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni. Dennis Goldberg was separated from the group because he was white, and served his sentence in Pretoria.

13 June 1912 South Africa Defense Act paves way for Union defense force

The South Africa Defense Act was passed, and the Union Defense Forces (UDF) formed, integrating forces from the two British colonies and two Boer Republic that formed the Union of SA in 1910. This was the forerunner of the South African Defense Force and after 1994, the non-racial and non-sexist SANDF.

14 June 1898 France signs the Niger Convention

The convention was an agreement between France and Britain about the portioning of West Africa. The partitioning mostly defines borders in the West African region today. These decisions determined the borders between former British or French colonies of Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Benin (formerly Dahomey). Sometimes borders divided relatives and people who had previously belonged to the same ethno-linguistic groups. A person who fell on the French side of Nigeria-Dahomey border, for example, might have learned French as a second language and migrated to the colonial capital Cotonou. Her cousin on the Nigerian side of the border, on the other hand, may have learned English as a second language, and migrated to the Nigerian colonial capital of Lagos.

14 June 1985 Artist Thami Mnyeale assassinated



On this day, graphic artist, activist and member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Thamsanqa (Thami) Mnyeale was shot and killed by the South African government in Gaborone, Botswana where he was in exile. In Gaborone Thami participated in the anti-apartheid cultural organisation, the MEDU Art Ensemble. After killing him, the apartheid agents confiscated his work and soon after displayed it on national television as evidence of his so-called terrorist activities. His works have not yet been recovered.

14 June 1977 Afrikaans Language Monument

The 'Afrikaanse Taal Monument' (Monument of the Afrikaans language) near Paarl, is handed to the state. The idea of monument to the Afrikaans language was first raised in 1942, a local committee was established to raise funds for it, but it only came to fruition when taken over by the whites only Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging (ATKV) in 1963. The Paarl municipality provided the land (83 hectares) for free for this purpose, building started in 1972 and was completed in 1974. The design of the Taal monument represents the diversity of the origins of Afrikaans, as well as the symbolism of a bridge between Europe and Africa. The monument today also symbolises the debate and challenge by black South Africans who spoke the language,

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



Thabo Mbeki is elected President

Thabo Mbeki became the second President of South Africa and succeeds Nelson Mandela, with Jacob Zuma becoming Deputy President. During his inaugural speech Mbeki said the following: "As the sun continues to rise to banish the darkness of the long years of colonialism and apartheid, what the new light over our land must show is a nation diligently at work to create a better life for itself."



ANC LIVES! ANC LEADS!

pointing towards the influences of indigenous languages and the Malay language to Afrikaans, in addition to its Dutch origins. After 1994, the monument remained part of South Africa's national monuments.

15 June 1860 First nursing school opened

Florence Nightingale, seen as the founder of the modern nursing profession opened the first school for nursing at St Thomas Hospital in London.

15 June 1960 Independent African states imposed sanctions on Apartheid South Africa

During the Second Conference of Independent African States held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a resolution calling for sanctions against

South Africa was passed on this day. The Conference called upon its members to cut diplomatic relations or refrain from establishing diplomatic relations, as

the case may be, to close African ports to all vessels flying the South African flag, to enact legislation prohibiting their ships from entering South African ports, to boycott all South African goods, to refuse landing and passage facilities to all aircrafts belonging to the Government and companies registered under the laws of the Union of South Africa and to prohibit all South African aircraft from flying over the airspace of the Independent African States. The history of international pressure for sanctions against South Africa dates back to December 1958 when the All African Peoples' Conference in Accra, Ghana called on all countries to impose economic sanctions against the Union of South Africa in protest against apartheid.

16 June 1976 Students in Soweto march against imposition of Afrikaans

Students marched from Morris Isaacson High in Soweto to protest against the introduction of



Soweto Youth Uprising

Student anger and grievances against Bantu education explode. Tens of thousands of high school students take to the streets to protest against compulsory use of Afrikaans at schools. Police opened fire on marching students, killing thirteen-year old Hector Petersen and at least three others. The student uprising spreads to other parts of the country leaving over 1,000 dead, most of who are killed by the police. The Soweto Uprising was a "dramatic climax of the escalating wave of struggles in the first half of the 1970s."

JUNE 16TH
50
ANNIVERSARY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Afrikaans as a language of instruction in schools. This sparked off violent response from the police, the killing of young student Hector Peterson, and a country wide student uprising which forever changed events in South Africa. After 1994, following lobbying by youth and student organisations, the day was declared as South African Youth Day, a public holiday, annually commemorating the bravery of the 1976 generation.

16 June 1983 Rev James Calata born



African National Congress (ANC) leader and Anglican clergyman, James Arthur Calata, died in Cradock, Eastern Cape. He joined the ANC in 1930 and rose to become its secretary-general. In this capacity, Calata was signatory of the 1949 Programme of Action, though he found the proposal of the Youth League too extreme. During the Defiance Campaign of 1952, he was banned from attending gatherings but was eventually allowed to carry on with his church work, although not without government harassment. In 1960, Calata was given a six months suspended sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act. He continued serving the ANC's structures

both nationally and provincially until his death.

16 June 2009 BRICS formed



The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. Shortly afterwards, in September 2006, the group was formalised as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. After a series of high level meetings, the 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009. BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010 and South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya, China on 14 April 2011. BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, in 2019 comprising 41% of the world population, 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in the world trade. BRICS countries have been the main engine of global economic growth over the years. Over a period of time, BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial and cultural and people to people exchanges.

17 June 1916 Trade unionist Sarah Carneson born

Sarah Carneson (néé Rubin) was born in Johannesburg, by parents who were founders of the Communist Party of South Africa. She also joined the Young Communist League at the age of 18, went on to teach at the Party night schools for workers and was banned in 1950 under the Suppression of Communism Act. She worked full-time for the League Against Facism and War, and later in the CPSA Johannesburg offices. She later moved to Durban, where she became involved in the trade union movement, she organised workers in the sugar, tobacco and transport sectors. After her marriage, she moved to Cape Town and became secretary of the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) in 1949. Banned and arrested several times, she went into exile in 1968, again working in the trade union movement. On return to South Africa in 1991, her family settled in Cape Town, and remained active in the SACP and ANC. Sarah Carneson passed on 30 October 2015 in Cape Town at the age of 99.

17 June 1959 Cato Manor protests begin

Under the Group Areas Act, a proclamation was made in 1959 that "In Cato Manor, Natal; 25,798 Indians, 2,107 Coloureds and 28,298 Africans would be shifted. Indians will lose 2,891 acres of land and 2,444 dwellings valued at £1,685,350. Coloureds and Africans will lose over 70 acres of land and 133 dwellings valued at £25,940". The protests in Cato Manor began on 17 June 1959, when a demonstration of African women forced their way into a beer hall, destroying beer

and drinking utensils and beating men who were drinking there. The women were led by Florence Mkhize and Dorothy Nyembe, and were dispersed by the police. It spread to become long months of protests against the forced removals.

17 June 1991 De Klerk's whites-only parliament repeal some Apartheid laws

The whites-only Parliament voted to repeal some of the key laws that formed the foundation of apartheid, namely the Population Register Act of 1950 (that stripped the majority of black South Africans of citizenship, with citizenship supposed to be only in the bantustans); the Group Areas Act and the Land Act (which together with Bantustan acts, preserved 87% of land for whites); and the Separate Amenities Acts, which segregated amenities – from public toilets, benches, beaches, cinemas, shops, sports facilities, transport facilities, hospitals, etc – between whites and blacks. This was seen as part of the process of removing the legal basis of apartheid.

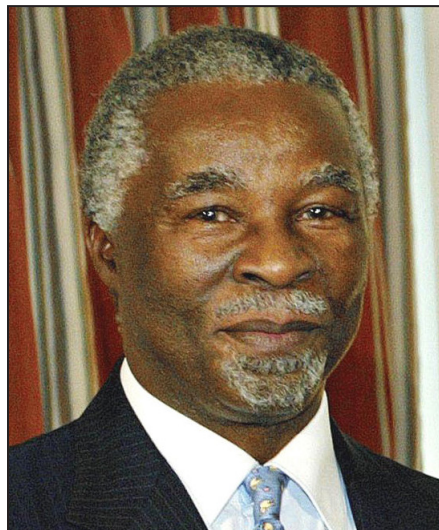
17 June 1992 Boipatong Massacre



As part of the third force violence, sponsored by the regime at the time, approximately 300

armed residents of the Inkatha-aligned Kwamadala hostel shot and hacked their way through the Black township of Boipatong (Johannesburg), leaving forty-six people dead and scores injured, including women and children. At the time, it was said that the attack was organised by the Third Force, a conservative element of the police force and government colluding with members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to destabilise the country and disrupt the Convention for Democratic South Africa (Codesa). The ANC suspended its participation in the negotiations indefinitely and withdrew from CODESA, blaming FW. De Klerk, for not doing enough to stop the violence.

18 June 1942 ANC President Thabo Mbeki born



Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki was born in Idutywa in Transkei on June 18 1942. Both his parents, Ephainette and Govan Mbeki were ANC and CPSA activists. The young Mbeki joined the ANC Youth League at the age of 14 and became active in student politics. After his schooling at Lovedale Academy was interrupted by a strike in 1959, he completed his studies at home.

He later moved to Britain where he completed a Masters degree in economics at Sussex University. During the years of apartheid, he played a major role in turning the international media against the system. After South Africa's first democratic election in April 1994, Mbeki became deputy president Mbeki, was elected President of South Africa on 14 June 1999 and was inaugurated as President on 16 June 1999. Mbeki played a major role in the African continent, through his commitment to the African renaissance, his involvement in resolutions of conflicts, the adoption of NEPAD and the launch of the African Union in 2002. Mbeki resigned from the presidency in 2008, just a few months before he was to complete his second term of office. He is the patron of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute.

18 June 1995 Angolan national team plane crash

The Angolan national soccer team was involved in a plane crash, which killed the entire team support staff and crew.

18 June 2000 First Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace agreement signed

Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a ceasefire in Algiers, capital of Algeria, ending two years of war with tens of thousands casualties in both sides. A 25 kilometer neutral zone resulted, introducing a 'No-War-No-Peace' standoff between the countries. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018 signed another peace agreement aimed at normalizing relations between the two neighbours.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 June 1904

Arrival of Chinese workers in South Africa

A labour shortage at the gold mines on the Rand resulted in the importation of Chinese labour in 1904. This situation, in part, was the result of the Anglo-Boer War (South African War) of 1899-1902, that had displaced large numbers of the indigenous population. The development of the Gold mining industry was also one of Milner's plans to further development in South Africa in the post Anglo-Boer War years. On the 19 June 1904, the first Chinese labourers thus arrived at the Witwatersrand. Between 1904 and 1910 there were almost 64,000 Chinese working on the Witwatersrand gold mines near Johannesburg. This measure was very successful in increasing the production of gold from mining, but in the long run it faced stiff resistance from White labour that considered the Chinese unfair competition in terms of skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

19 June 1913

1913 Land Act Passed



The Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913) was passed to allocate only about 7% of arable land to Africans and leave the more fertile land for whites. This law incorporated territorial segregation into legislation for the first time since Union in 1910. The law created reserves for Blacks and prohibit-

ed the sale of territory in white areas to Blacks and vice versa. An annexure designated the territory initially allocated to Blacks, with a provision that a commission was to investigate the matter further for a more realistic delimitation. In effect, over 80% went to White people, who made up less than 20% of the population. The Act stipulated that Black people could live outside the reserves only if they could prove that they were in employment.

19 June 1925

ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo born



Alfred Bapethuxolo Nzo was born in Benoni. He matriculated in the Eastern Cape and enrolled for a Bachelor of Science degree at Fort Hare University in 1945. He became active in student politics after joining the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League. Nzo was active in organising the Defiance Campaign in the 1950s and took part in the consultative campaign to canvass the views of people on the kind of society they wished to build. This campaign culminated in the Congress of the People in 1955, at which the seminal Freedom Charter was adopted. In 1958 he was voted onto the regional and national executive

committees of the ANC. In 1964 he left the country to work for the ANC in exile. He was posted to various places, including Egypt, India, Zambia and Tanzania. Nzo served as the Secretary-General of the ANC from 1969 until 1991, and also served as an ANC delegate in the CODESA talks with the Nationalist government that finally led to the interim constitution. Nzo served as the first Minister of Foreign Affairs in a democratic South Africa. In this capacity, he laid the groundwork for continental conflict resolution processes, which have in recent years begun to bear fruit. Comrade Alfred Nzo dedicated his entire adult life to the struggle for liberation and human rights in South Africa. He passed away on 13 January 2000.

19 June 1932

Sol Plaatje passed on



Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje was a South African writer, linguist, translator and political leader. Plaatje died of pneumonia at the age of 55 while on a trip to Johannesburg. He was a prolific journalist and writer and in 1912 became first secretary-general of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), which in 1923 became the African National Congress (ANC). Plaatje's contributions to literature include



the widely acclaimed book, *Native life in South Africa* documenting the experiences of black farmers forced off the land following the passing of the Land Act in 1913. He also translated Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Much Ado about Nothing* into Setswana.

19 June 1959

Extension of University Education Act

The Extension of University Education Act comes into effect. It segregated university education on racial lines, prevented blacks from attending white universities unless given permission by the minister of education, and also created segregated universities for blacks, coloureds and Indians, which received considerably less resources than white universities. *"The separation of these institutions was not only along racial lines but also along ethnic lines. The University of Fort Hare was opened for Xhosa speaking students only, while the University of the North in Turfloop was set up for the Sotho and Tswana students. Coloureds had their own University in Bellville, while Indians and Zulus had their universities in Durban-Westville and Ngoye (KZN) respectively. The provision of this Act was met with protest from most lecturers at Fort Hare. Prof Z.K. Matthews, who was a lecturer at Fort Hare, relinquished his position in protest against the Act."*



JUNE 16 YEAR OF THE SPEAR

(an extract)

They call me freedomchild
I am liberationbound
My name is June 16
But this is not 1976.

I am June 16
As Arab Ahmad says
My body is the fortress
Let the siege come!
I am the fireline
And I will besiege them
For my breast is the shelter
Of my people

I am June 16
I am Solomon Mahlangu
I am the new chapter
I am the way forward from Soweto
I am poetry flowering with AK47
All over this land of mine.

WILLIE Kgositsile

VOTER REGISTRATION



REGISTER NOW TO

VOTE X ANC



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

13–19 June 2026

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



13 June

World Albinism Awareness Day

People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide. Albinism is still profoundly misunderstood, socially and medically. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization and social exclusion. This leads to various forms



of stigma and discrimination. In some communities, erroneous beliefs and myths, heavily influenced by superstition, put the security and lives of persons with albinism at constant risk. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. One of the most prominent South African persons living with Albinism was ANC leader from the North West, Reverend OJ Tselapedi.

14 June

World Blood Donor Day

This day is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to celebrate people who regularly donate blood and the role that they play in health systems. According to the WHO, very few seconds, someone, somewhere, needs blood; and transfusions of blood and blood products save millions of lives every year. Blood and blood products are essential to care for women with pregnancy and childbirth associated bleeding; children with severe anemia



due to malaria and malnutrition; patients with blood and bone marrow disorders, inherited disorders of hemoglobin and immune deficiency conditions; people with traumatic injuries in emergencies, disasters and accidents; and patients undergoing advanced medical and surgical procedures.

14 June

UN World Day Against Elder Abuse

Around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse and rates of abuse may be higher for older people living in institutions than in the community. Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. It is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. South Africa also has more older people, with life expectancy up from 54 years in 2006 to 64 years in 2018. There are now about 4.8 million South Africans over the age of 60 in a population of 57.7 million people (StatsSA, Midyear Population Estimates, 2018). In 2011, more than half of elderly persons lived in extended households, and in the same year, about 19.9% of households were headed by an elderly person. Institutions like the SA Human Rights Commission and NGO's work with the elderly, to protect their rights.



16 June

African Union Day of the African Child

This day was adopted in 2011 by the African Union Heads of State and Government, to focus attention each year on the situation of children in Africa. It coincides with the celebration of the contribution of youth and students to the struggle in South Africa. The AU has an African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children. It has been ratified by 41 countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan and South Sudan are the only four countries that have not signed the Charter. The 2026 AU theme is *Ensuring Universal Access To Water, Sanitation And Hygiene For Every Child In Africa*.

16 June

International Family Remittances Day

This day is observed by the United Nations, to draw attention to how migrants (internal and international) contribute to their families. According to the UN, "the day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most. South Africa's also has its own history of the migrant system, where men and women left home to find jobs in cities and on mines and send money home to their families. Since 1994, more and more people have migrated to the cities, and also send money home to their families in rural areas. Some South Africans – nurses, teachers and other professions – also work outside of the country and send money home. This day celebrates their contribution to their families.

17 June

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Desertification refers to the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. And when there are long droughts (no rain), this becomes even more of a problem. This is as a result of human activities and weather changes. This day celebrates the work done by communities, governments, civil society and international organisations to prevent desertification. Across Africa, countries are trying to do this through various projects. Projects include educating farmers so that they do not allow their life stock – cattle, goats, sheep – to overgraze; crop rotation to help land recover; and planting more trees.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The African Union has a project, called the Great Green Wall, to plant a wall of trees (1km wide and over 8000 km) that stretches from Eritrea and Djibouti in East Africa, to Senegal on the West of Africa, to stop and reverse desertification of the Sahara/Sahel. In South Africa, the very dry semi-arid and desert areas of the Karoo and Namakwa are at risk of desertification, also as the western part of the country gets dryer because of climate change. Former Bantustan areas are also prone to desertification, because so many people were forced to survive on small parts of the country. Government has therefore started projects to rehabilitated land and fight land degradation in Sekhukhune district in Limpopo, the Mkhuze catchment area in KwaZulu-Natal and Machubeni catchment management in the Eastern Cape.

18 June

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

Gastronomy refers to the food we eat, where it's grown, processed and how we prepare it. Agriculture and agro-processing play an important role in our life, because we all have to eat. Both have an impact on our health and on the planet. The food we eat and how it is prepared is also influenced by culture, and changes in our lifestyle. In the past, we used to eat less processed food, eating what we grew locally, without much processing. This has changed, introducing new challenges like obesity. Governments and international organisations have intervened in two main ways. Firstly, by insisting that foods are labeled for our safety, so we know what is in our food, and if it is harmful. For example, government recently introduced legislation to force producers to find a simpler way of showing how much sugar is in the food that we buy. There are also national and global rules about labeling where food comes from. We have a Buy South Africa campaign, to support local jobs and businesses. Imported food may sometimes be cheaper, but it is better to support local producers, because the food does not have to have so much preservatives to make it last longer. This also means we must support local food gardens in communities and schools. The other issue is about country of origin and protecting it as part of preserving of culture. Not too long ago, we had to fight a legal battle with someone in another continent who wanted to claim Rooibos tea as their own and prevent us from using the name. The African continent has lots of indigenous plants and food, but we must find a way of protecting and promoting these, as part of our heritage.

18 June

International Day to Counter Hate Speech

Hate speech is on the rise worldwide with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm to those affected. Hate speech not only affects the specific individuals and groups targeted, but societies at large. The devastating effect of hatred is sadly nothing new. However, its scale and impact are amplified today by new technologies of communication, so much so that hate speech has become one of the most frequent methods for spreading divisive rhetoric and ideologies on a global scale. If left unchecked, hate speech can even harm peace and development, as it lays the ground for conflicts and tensions and wide scale human rights violations.



19 June

International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Rape and sexual violence are tools used in war and conflicts against civilian populations, with women and children seen as part of the spoils of war. However, when talking about crimes against humanity and gross abuse of human rights, sexual violence in conflicts has not been included. The women's movement has been lobbying for a UN resolution declaring this day and included it in the crimes against humanity. The African Union in 2013 appointed a special envoy, Mme Bineta Diop on Women, Peace and Security, to highlight this issue and to ensure women have a voice in peace processes.



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



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