



ANC TODAY

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Conversations *with the* President



An action plan to end the water crisis once and for all

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, I spoke about our commitment to give effect to the constitutional right of access to water for all South Africans, with particular reference to communities that have remained underserved.

This past week, we released the National Water Action Plan which sets out our government's determination to ensure that every community in our country has access to a reliable supply of quality drinking water, no matter where they live.

For too many South Africans, turning on a tap has become an act of uncertainty.

In too many cities, towns and rural areas, water disruptions have become a fact of life. Families

cannot cook or clean. Children cannot wash. Shops and businesses have to close. We are determined to change that.

The National Water Action Plan sets out a clear, focused programme of immediate interventions and far-reaching reforms to address the root causes of water supply failures in many municipalities.

Our main priority lies in implementation, clear responsibilities and accountability. The National Water Crisis Committee, known as WATERCOM, will meet regularly to oversee implementation, track progress and hold the responsible departments and public entities accountable for delivery.

Just a few years ago, we faced a

similar national crisis in electricity. By acting boldly to implement reforms, improve Eskom's performance and enable massive investment in new generation capacity, we brought an end to load shedding.

We are now applying that same approach to water.

South Africa is a water-scarce country. We must continue to invest in dams, pipelines, treatment works and other bulk water infrastructure to secure our long-term water supply. The immediate challenge, however, is not mainly a shortage of rain or a lack of dams.

The problem is that municipal water systems are not being properly managed, maintained and financed.

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In too many municipalities, revenue collected from the sale of water is used to fund other municipal functions. This leaves too little money to repair pipes, replace pumps or employ qualified engineers and technicians.

As a result, on average across the country, close to half of all the water pumped never reaches paying customers. It leaks out of broken pipes, is stolen or is simply never billed for. That is water that has been treated at great cost and then lost, along with the revenue that should have paid for maintenance.

We cannot build our way out of the crisis if we do not properly maintain and manage the infrastructure we already have.

The National Water Action Plan will address the root cause of this crisis by changing the way that water services are delivered.

The Water Services Amendment Bill currently before Parliament will establish a clearer separation between the municipality's role as the authority responsible for water and the role of the operator that actually delivers it, so that both can be held to account.

Water service providers will be required to obtain operating licences based on their technical, managerial and financial capability. Municipalities will only be able to appoint providers that meet the required standards and can demonstrate that they are capable of delivering reliable water and sanitation services.

Where a municipality is failing, unwilling or unable to provide an acceptable service, government will intervene in accordance with the Constitution and the law to



NATIONAL WATER ACTION PLAN

Five actions to end the water crisis

1. Fix immediate challenges in municipal water delivery
2. Accelerate reform of water delivery system
3. Increase investment in water infrastructure
4. Review water laws and regulations
5. Tackle corruption and crime

provide the required services to our people. Where necessary, another capable water utility will be appointed to run the service in the municipality's place.

The plan will also reform the way municipal water services are financed.

Through the Metropolitan Trading Services Reform Programme, the country's eight metropolitan municipalities are being supported and incentivised to ring-fence their water revenue. This means that money collected for water and sanitation must remain within the water utility and be reinvested in infrastructure, maintenance and improved operations.

Municipalities will also receive more technical support. We will bring in additional funding by partnering with private investors and lenders, and by paying contractors according to results delivered.

Mobilising private finance and expertise does not mean surrendering public responsibility for water. Water will remain a public good and the state will continue to protect public ownership, affordability and universal access. The purpose of these partnerships is to bring additional resources and expertise into a sector where the investment need is far greater than government grants alone can meet.

We will act firmly against the corruption and criminal networks that are benefiting from irregular water contracts and damage to infrastructure.

We are not starting from scratch.

Over the last few months, work has been underway to implement the action plan. This includes immediate interventions in poorly performing municipalities, including, for example, water boards helping struggling municipalities

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to drill boreholes and provide emergency supply.

Grant money has been redirected to the worst-performing municipalities. Legal action has been taken against dozens of municipalities that have violated the National Water Act.

With the passage of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency Act, South Africa will for the first time have a specialised agency to develop, operate, maintain and finance national water resources infrastructure.

Another key reform that we have implemented is the establishment of six Catchment Management Agencies across the country. These agencies will protect and manage our major water systems, bringing control of wa-

ter closer to local communities.

We are channelling more funds from national government into water infrastructure. Through national grants, we are investing R24 billion a year in municipal water and sanitation, with around 800 projects underway nationwide.

Additional funding is being mobilised for municipal water infrastructure through a mix of financial instruments and public-private partnerships.

Through our programme for unserved rural communities, 71 borehole projects have already been completed in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, reaching roughly 30,000 households that previously had none. Between 80 and 100 more boreholes will be drilled this

year, and 500 over the next two years, extending water to around 250 000 households.

Larger projects are also moving ahead. To give a few examples: in the uMkhanyakude District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, R1.3 billion of grant-funded projects will improve the reliability of water services to over 130 000 households. In Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, a R2 billion project will provide access to 65 000 unserved households. This project is 80% complete. In Limpopo, mining companies are funding half of a R26 billion pipeline project that will reach 180 000 households.

In Emfuleni, Rand Water has partnered with the municipality to create a new water utility called the Vaal Corporation Water Utility. This will result in a professionally run and financially self-sustaining water service provider that will provide greatly improved water services in a struggling municipality.

In developing the National Water Action Plan, we have had extensive consultations across all relevant national departments and entities, provincial governments, municipalities and water boards.

Everyone is committed to the successful implementation of the plan and to ending the water crisis in our country once and for all. ■



NATIONAL WATER ACTION PLAN

Cutting water losses

Work is already underway to reduce water losses:

- Metros supported to fix their water utilities and invest water revenue into maintaining water infrastructure.
- Licensing changes to ensure water service providers meet minimum requirements for delivering water.
- Some municipalities entering into partnerships with capable utilities to provide water, such as Rand Water and Emfuleni.

ANC STATEMENT ON ORGANISATIONAL AND NATIONAL MATTERS

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) notes the marches and demonstrations that took place across South Africa. These events have once again affirmed the strength and maturity of South Africa's constitutional democracy, demonstrating that the Constitution protects the fundamental rights and civil liberties of all South Africans, including the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket and present petitions peacefully. The ability of citizens to voice their concerns freely and within the framework of the law remains one of the enduring achievements of South Africa's democratic dispensation.

The ANC begins where the whole nation has been smiling. At the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, South Africa's young people have made the nation proud: the ANC congratulates Pieter Coetzé on his double gold in the backstroke, in record-breaking time, and Aimee Canny on her fine silver in the breaststroke. All members of Team South Africa still in the pool and on the track carry the hopes of the nation and are bringing the medals home.

The ANC's support is firmly with Banyana Banyana, the defending champions of this continent, who opened their Women's Africa Cup of Nations campaign in Morocco last night under Coach Desiree Ellis. South Africa's champions fell narrowly to Tanzania, by two goals to one; Bambanani Mbane



with South Africa's goal on the stroke of half-time; in a match they largely dominated, and the result flattered South Africa's opponents. But a tournament is not won or lost on its first day. Banyana meet Côte d'Ivoire on the thirty-first of July and Burkina Faso on the fourth of August. The ANC urges the champions and Coach Ellis to hold their heads high. The whole country stands behind them as they defend their crown.

In recent weeks the world and the people of South Africa paused to honour Nelson Mandela on the international day that bears his name. To honour Madiba is for the ANC and the nation to measure themselves against what he stood for; a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it; and therefore the ANC speaks of an economy that must be shared; reconciliation anchored in the rule of law and therefore the ANC speaks of the courts and the

commissions; the humble service of the people.

The ANC speaks of water and of local government; and an African before all else and therefore the ANC speaks of South Africa's neighbours, and of the ubuntu that binds the people of the continent. This is the standard to which the ANC holds itself.

The National Working Committee of the African National Congress has met and considered the state of the country, beginning with a necessary acknowledgement. Times are hard. Families are stretched by the price of electricity, of food, of transport. The ANC does not watch this from a distance; it is of the people and carries the worries of South Africans as its own. The National Working Committee wants the country and the world to see an ANC that is listening, that is changing, and that is doing the hard, careful

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work of fixing what is broken in the open, within the law, and with the people.

On the cost of living

The ANC has made the cost of living the first item on the nation's agenda, because it is the first item at every family's table. The latest Consumer Price Index figures released by Statistics South Africa show inflation holding within the target range, and the Reserve Bank took the welcome decision to hold interest rates rather than raise them, real relief for every family with a bond or an account, and the ANC commends this decision.

The ANC is clear about the source of this pressure. Much of it begins far from South Africa's shores. The tensions around Iran and the Gulf, and the wars in the wider region unsettle two things that the South African economy cannot do without. The world's oil and the world's fertiliser. When the oil price climbs, the price of fuel climbs with it; and fuel and fertiliser together sit inside the cost of everything South Africans grow, make and move. So, a conflict far away reaches the till of every South African household, in the price of food and of transport. Because the cost of living at home is tied to peace in far-off waters, the National Working Committee adds the movement's voice to the call for calm in the Strait of Hormuz and now the Bab-el-Mandeb, and the ANC stands ready to assist any genuine effort towards peace and a ceasefire, should it be needed and welcomed.

But the State can do more to cushion the people directly. The ANC renews its call to the Minister of Finance, with the Ministers responsible for minerals and en-



ergy, to relieve the consumer on the fuel levy; the one lever that reaches straight into the price of nearly everything. The ANC states plainly: the coming Medium-Term Budget must meet the people halfway on the cost of living and relieve the pressure on the people. The Office of the Secretary General will examine whether it is lawful for the movement to appear consistently before NERSA, the independent regulator, so that the voice of the ordinary consumer is heard whenever an electricity price increase is proposed.

The ANC also sounds an early warning on the forthcoming weather condition. South Africa's scientists caution that El Niño may again bring drought, and the ANC expects government to place its plans for food, water and disaster preparedness before the nation ahead of time.

On fixing local government

This is the year of decisive action to fix local government, and the ANC is doing the patient work it requires; intervening under the Constitution where councils have

faltered, and driving turnaround on water, electricity, refuse and roads through the ANC's Local Government Interventions programme. On the withholding of grants to struggling municipalities, the ANC holds two truths together, that is, public money must never be stolen or wasted, and that discipline must be exercised within the constitutional order, through Parliament, which divides the nation's revenue.

And there are real signs that the turn is coming. The latest audit outcomes of the Auditor-General show municipalities beginning to recover: the number of clean audits has risen, and in KwaZulu-Natal alone, Richmond, Msinga and uMvoti earned clean audits for the first time in years, while some eighteen municipalities across KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the North-West have climbed out of the worst audit categories. EThekweni is in steady financial recovery, collecting ninety-three cents in every rand it bills, with billing accuracy near total. These are not yet victories to be celebrated, but they are the proof that discipline, and competent and capable hands,

can bring a municipality back to health.

The ANC must speak of water, for there is no dignity without it. Where communities have been left without water the country has seen deep anguish, and in the worst moments the country has seen lives lost and the ANC grieves everyone, for no debt dispute is worth a human life. The response is serious in a form of urgent rescue teams, boreholes where the pipes cannot yet reach, and the President's new National Water Action Plan to secure a reliable supply. And where the State has focused itself, South Africa has seen what is possible, for more than a year now the people have lived without load-shedding. The ANC does not boast; it cites this to give the nation confidence that the same seriousness is now turned on water and on municipalities.

On economic transformation, the economy shall be shared

This is also the year to transform the economy and that task is under deliberate assault. The ANC notes with alarm the orchestrated effort to stain the ANC's policies of transformation and redress. Let the facts speak. South Africa remains the most unequal country in the world for which reliable measurement exists; the richest tenth hold roughly eighty-six per cent of all wealth, and a few thousand at the summit hold more than the poorest thirty-two million combined. An economy owned by so few is not only unjust, but also unstable, the fertile soil of South Africa's poverty and unemployment.

The ANC sees the attacks on Black Economic Empowerment for what they are, an assault on the patient building of a shared

economy. The ANC is clear: Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment will survive the attacks and the slander. It is not a cost; it is an investment in stability and social peace. And transformation must be felt as work, not ownership alone. The country is beneficiating its minerals at home, protecting workers as artificial intelligence enters the workplace, and making the income floor permanent through a Basic Income Support to succeed the social relief grant. No newspaper column or badly constructed research paper will shame the people out of a lawful demand. From Cape Town to Musina, this economy belongs to the people too.

On peace, safety and stability

Every life is precious, and the National Working Committee must speak plainly of the political killings that scarred the run-up to this election. On the voter-registration weekend of the twentieth of June, four politically linked South Africans were murdered across three provinces, cut down for their part in South Africa's democracy. Cde Sicelo Mleve, an ANC ward councillor in Nelson Mandela Bay, gunned down at a party meeting; Ms Sinovuyo Dyokwe, a Democratic Alliance by-election candidate, shot in Dunoon as she returned home from a registration station; Mr Leon Ngcikwe, a Build One South Africa candidate, ambushed in Gugulethu; and Mr Mozwakhile Zungu and Mr Siyabonga Mabaso of the MK Party, killed in Bekkersdal.

The movement condemns every one of these murders, whatever the colours the victim wore, for the killing of a candidate or a councillor is an attack on the vote itself. The ANC extends its con-

dolences to their families and to their movements.

The ANC insists on decisive police action, and the ANC calls on the Political Killings Task Team to pursue those responsible without fear or favour and to bring them before the courts. And where the police have already acted, the ANC hails their work. The alleged mastermind behind the murder of Ms Dyokwe has been arrested, and a suspect is in custody for the killing of Cde Mleve. That is the diligence the nation demands of its police, and it must be sustained until every one of these matters is answered in a court of law.

On the safety of the people there is cautious hope. The latest statistics show a second quarter of broad decline, murder down more than nine per cent, house robbery down a fifth. The ANC does not celebrate, and will not celebrate, because fifty-eight murders a day remains a wound, and because nearly half of all reported rapes still happen in the home. Gender-based violence and femicide remain the sternest test of the country's moral standing, and no decline is worth a celebration while a single woman or child is unsafe behind her own door. The ANC commends the police for this turn and demands that they sustain it.

On cleaning the State

South Africans have said they will not be governed by the corrupt and the state capturers; those who feed at the trough of public money while the people go without water. That is why the ANC established the Madlanga Commission and the other instruments now at work, and why the ANC insists that they run their course in the open.

The Madlanga Commission is cleaning criminality out of the South African Police Service and reports by the sixteenth of November; Parliament's ad hoc committee arising from Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi's disclosures is in its final phase; and the Khampepe Commission carries the sacred task of justice for the families of apartheid's victims.

On the Mkhwanazi matter, as a movement of policy and oversight not of operations, the ANC believes three areas should be the focus: an end to 'phone-call policing', with Ministers setting policy and the National Commissioner commanding operations, and no more; the return of IPID to its lawful mandate, for it is not an intelligence agency, and its drift into covert-style work is a national-security concern that warrants a proper audit; and the demilitarisation of the police into a genuine Service for the people, with firm protection for those who testified at risk to their lives.

The ANC insists that the work be done in the open, so the nation sees that even when the wrongdoer wears ANC colours, that person is named and isolated. This

is the necessary pain of building a State worthy of the people.

On the constitutional matter concerning the President

On the parliamentary process concerning the President and the order of the Western Cape High Court, the ANC asks the nation to hold one line: the process is what matters. A fair, unrushed process will give the country a result it can stand behind. Let the ANC set out plainly what the court actually said, so the matter can be read calmly:

First: the court granted an interim order that pauses the public hearings of the parliamentary committee. It is a pause, not a cancellation.

Second: it did so to allow a proper court to hear the review the President is entitled, in law, to bring, set down for the second to the fourth of September.

Third: the court did not decide who is right or wrong on the substance. It protected the process so that it is done correctly.

Fourth: the binding judgment of

the Constitutional Court of the eighth of May still stands, and the parliamentary process remains alive; it will continue once the court has spoken.

The ANC now knows the President is advancing a credible case, and it must be given its space and not be rushed. The ANC has held its own participation as a friend of the court in abeyance, on matters of process only, and firmly outside the election contest while some parties, the ANC notes with regret, abuse this moment for headlines.

The National Working Committee also defends the Speaker of the National Assembly against the motion of no confidence; faced with litigation between two parties she may later preside over, the correct and constitutional thing was precisely what she did; not to take a side. To punish a presiding officer for refusing to be partisan is to stand the principle on its head. And Parliament must chew gum and walk at the same time: it cannot be consumed by one matter while the people are jobless and the cost-of-living bites. No one will stop September from arriving, very shortly.



On the migration matter: the June aftermath, and the Continental Compact

At the end of June, forces under an anti-immigrant banner set out to shut down parts of South Africa and to sow mayhem. The ANC reports plainly: they were contained, and the shutdown they promised did not break the back of the Republic. But there was a cost to the good name South Africa has built since 1912. The organisers and funders must understand that they are eroding South Africa's standing as a safe

home for the tourist and the investor, and isolating South Africa from the African continent and when South Africa stands alone, it will not succeed. The ANC sees the patterns for what they are: the agent provocateur, the cheap mob politics of the ballot-chaser, and the poison of ethno-nationalism that would break this country apart.

The enforcement of South Africa's laws is the work of the State, and of no one else. The authorities have affected some seventy-two thousand deportations of persons who were unlawfully in the country.

Diligent work, yet still under a tenth of the estimated total, a presence that does depress the wages of South African workers and the tax base of public services.

The ANC directs a firm word to the employer: the one who knowingly hires the undocumented to work them harder and pay them less is not only breaking the law; that employer is depressing wages, starving the fiscus, and sabotaging the economy and the peace of communities. The exploiter of cheap and unlawful labour is as much the author of the tensions in communities as any smuggler at the border. The ANC cautions South Africans to be wary of the radicalisation trap. South Africans must not be drawn into public disorder and vigilantism, which lead to a police cell while the true causes of hardship go untouched. Grievances must be taken to the ballot, not the streets.

For the pressure at South Africa's borders is, at root, a continental crisis; of economies under strain, of conflict, and of climate shock.

A continental problem asks for a continental answer. It is for this reason that the ANC today places before the nation the Continental Compact on Migration in Africa, published in full on the ANC's website at www.anc1912.org.za where every South African may read it.

It faces the people's concerns honestly and answers them in law; it acts on the causes of migration at their source; it manages movement while breaking the trafficking syndicates; and it protects the wages of South African workers. The ANC offers it not as a decree, but for the people to study, to challenge, and to improve.

South Africa and the world

South Africa's freedom was always bound up with the freedom of others. The ANC must speak of the grave setback to the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor, Mr Karim Khan: it is the ANC's firm belief that his isolation flows from the warrants he pursued against the powerful, including for the crimes in Gaza and that those who hold the mighty to account are made to pay a price.

The ANC must not forget the people of Palestine, who endure fresh incursions into the West Bank, and the ANC calls on the world and the Secretary-General of the United Nations not to let their plight slip from view. And the ANC calls upon the State of Israel to vacate the territories it occupies in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza, and to fulfil its obligations under international law and the UN Charter for there is no peace to be built on occupation.

The ANC also condemns the violation of the sovereignty of Ven-

ezuela; and this concerns Venezuela, for the seizure of a sitting head of state through a breach of another nation's territory is a grave breach of the UN Charter, and the reported loss of life must be independently investigated. The ANC does not choose any nation's government; it stands, without equivocation, for the principle that no country's borders may be seized by force.

On a warmer note, the ANC congratulates the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable Andy Burnham. And the ANC welcomes, with gratitude, the extension of AGOA to South Africa under President Trump's Administration, and thanks Ambassador Bozell for his constructive part in it. On the new forced-labour designation and its duty on South African exports, the ANC states plainly that it is unfortunate and not founded on the facts; South Africa's laws prohibit forced labour and South Africa has ratified the ILO conventions and the ANC is ready to meet the Ambassador at the appropriate level, hear him out over a warm cup of rooibos, and repair a friendship that runs from ka-Seme at Columbia to Chief Luthuli on American shores.

Towards the local government elections

The National Working Committee has set the movement's programme for the ninety days that remain, on the two fronts that carry the movement to the vote; the fixing of local government, and the campaign itself; and the National Executive Committee will take up that programme when it convenes at its meeting in the days ahead. The ANC is on the ground in every ward, at the doorstep, the way the movement



has always campaigned. The ANC urges every eligible South African, and young people above all, to use the coming registration weekend: their voices will decide who fixes their streets.

On the leadership of South Africa's cities and towns, the National Officials of the movement have, for the first time, taken direct and personal charge of choosing the ANC's mayoral candidates; a centralised process built to answer the country's demand for mayors who will serve, and not steal.

It works in stages. The branches and the sectors nominated; the nominees were screened, short-listed and put through an enhanced, independent vetting process; and the National Officials themselves, sitting in panels with the National Executive Committee, have now interviewed more than two hundred candidates against a common standard of competence, ethics and fitness for purpose. What remains is the most careful stage of all. The National Officials, having done the interviews, will now go municipality by municipality through the painstaking task of deciding who is truly fit for the purpose in each

council. Those candidates will be announced in the coming weeks.

Alongside them, the ANC Manifesto; the movement's contract with the people for the next five years of local government; is nearing finalisation, as the inputs of the sectors and of communities continue to come in, and it too will be revealed to the nation in August. It will carry clear, localised minimum deliverables, drawn from what the people themselves have told the ANC they need.

And where an election is not run on a lawful and reliable voters' roll, the ANC will defend the vote of the people through the courts.

The ANC is before the Electoral Court in the ANC's challenge to the Independent Electoral Commission over the by-election in Ward 28 of Emfuleni, in the Sedibeng District, which was decided by a mere eight votes on a roll that could not lawfully be placed in that ward. This is not sour grapes; it is a matter of the integrity of the roll on which the whole nation votes on the fourth of November, and the ANC pursues it in exactly that spirit.

And in Cape Town, two recent

findings by the Constitutional Court on apartheid's spatial planning, and the Public Protector on Langa and Khayelitsha, have exposed a governance grown distant from the Black and Coloured communities who are the majority of that city. The ANC is returning to the people's side, ward by ward, with humility and a plan to govern for everyone.

Conclusion

The ANC offers, not a plea, but with a plain statement of who it is and where it is going.

The work is unfinished, and the ANC says so plainly; it does not pretend otherwise and does not run from it. But a movement that can lift the darkness of load-shedding, turn the tide on crime, and clean its own house in full view of the nation is a movement that can be trusted with the next five years of local government.

The ANC says simply to the people of South Africa. The ANC has heard the people, stands with them, and asks them to walk this road with the movement to the voter registration weekend, to the doorstep debates, and to the ballot on the fourth of November. ■

VETERANS' Voices

Honouring the Life and Legacy of **Comrade Shantie Naidoo Tweedie**

(6 March 1935–23 July 2026)

■ By **DR SNUKI ZIKALALA, ANCVL PRESIDENT**

THE African National Congress Veterans League joins the people of South Africa, and freedom-loving people across the world in mourning the passing of Comrade Shantie Naidoo Tweedie, who passed away at 91 on 21 July 2026

Today, we dip the flag of the ANC Veterans League in honour of a revolutionary of exceptional courage, unwavering conviction and impeccable integrity. South Africa has lost one of its finest daughters – a woman whose life became inseparable from the struggle for justice, equality and human dignity.

Shantie was an activist from the time she was still at school, organising school boycotts, distributing leaflets and attending mass meetings at the Red Square, in Fordsburg. In her youth, she was active in the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress and Federation of South African Women (Fedsaw).

From 1953, she worked as a clerk in the office of the Congress of Democrats until it was banned in 1962, and then went to work for the South African Congress of Trade



Cde Shantie Naidoo Tweedie

Unions (Sactu), but was forced to give up that job in December 1963, when she was banned for five years. She was banned for a further five years in 1968.

For her commitment to the struggle, Shantie experienced the full wrath of the apartheid security forces. In February 1965, she was arrested for contravening her banning order because she held her finger to her lips to warn a fellow banned member not to com-

municate with her! This was while attending the trial of Bram Fisher.

In 1969, she was detained under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. She was interrogated continuously and not allowed to sleep, shower or bathe. She was brought to court on 21 December 1969 to give evidence in the trial of Cde Winnie Mandela and 21 others who were charged, after several months of imprisonment, with furthering the aims of the African National Congress (ANC). After a further six months in jail awaiting trial, she refused to give evidence and was then imprisoned for two months. The prosecution against Winnie Mandela and others was eventually stopped due to a lack of evidence, but Shantie continued to be detained.

She was eventually released, and only after a protracted battle involving going to Court, international pressure and the intervention of Helen Suzman, a liberal Member of Parliament, she was given permission to leave South Africa in 1972 for the United Kingdom. At the airport where 200 people gathered to bid her farewell, she had to say goodbye to one person at a time because

of her banning order!

In this time, she demonstrated enormous moral courage. She refused to surrender her principles when confronted by an oppressive state determined to destroy the liberation movement through intimidation and coercion. Her refusal to testify against Comrade Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her refusal to testify in the trial of Comrade Snuki Zikalala remain enduring examples of revolutionary discipline and loyalty.

In exile, she worked for the International Defence and Aid Fund in London and the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College, established by the ANC in Morogoro, Tanzania. At the same time, she was active in the ANC Women's Section and SATIS, a society dealing with people detained, tortured and sentenced to death. They organised petitions, marches and all-night vigils outside South Africa House.

After the ANC was unbanned, she returned to South Africa with her husband, Dominic Tweedie.

Cde Shantie belonged to that distinguished generation of freedom fighters who answered the call of history when our country descended into the darkness of apartheid. She stood shoulder to shoulder with countless patriots who understood that freedom would never be bestowed upon the oppressed; it had to be won through sacrifice, discipline, courage and an unshakeable commitment to the liberation of our people.

History will remember her as a woman who never relented.

When the struggle demanded sacrifice, she sacrificed.



When the struggle demanded courage, she stood firm.

When the struggle demanded loyalty, she never wavered.

She was a revolutionary in the truest sense of the word.

Like thousands of unsung heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle, Comrade Shantie never sought public recognition. She never measured her contribution by titles, positions or honours. Her reward lay in knowing that she had served her people faithfully and honestly.

Her life reflected the finest traditions of the ANC – selfless service, humility, discipline, courage and unwavering commitment to the Freedom Charter and the ideals of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

As Veterans League members, we ask ourselves what lessons today's generation can draw

from the life of Comrade Shantie Naidoo Tweedie.

She teaches us that principle must always triumph over personal interest.

She teaches us that integrity is not negotiable. She teaches us that courage means standing for justice even when the consequences are severe.

She teaches us that loyalty to the people is more important than loyalty to self.

She teaches us that public office is a platform for service, not personal enrichment.

Above all, she reminds us that freedom carries responsibilities. Democracy cannot survive unless each generation is prepared to defend it with the same courage and commitment displayed by those who fought to establish it.

At a time when our movement confronts complex challenges, Comrade Shantie's life calls us back to the values that built the African National Congress: ethical leadership, humility, accountability, unity, discipline and service to the people.

These are not outdated ideals. They remain the moral compass that must guide our movement and our country into the future.

The ANC Veterans League conveys its deepest condolences to Dominique, the Naidoo and Tweedie families, her comrades, colleagues and countless friends whose lives she enriched through her compassion, generosity and unwavering humanity.

*Hamba Kahle,
Comrade Shantie.*

The Enemy Has Struck Us a Blow:

Comrade Joe Nzingo Gqabi's Legacy and the Imperative of Revolutionary Renewal

■ By **GERALDINE FRASER-MOLEKETI**



FORTY-FIVE years ago, on the night of 31 July 1981, Comrade Joe Nzingo Gqabi was reversing out of the driveway of the ANC residence in Ashdown Park, Harare, when an apartheid hit squad shot him nineteen times. At the time, he was the ANC's Chief Representative in Zimbabwe, a member of its National Executive Committee, and a key member of the Revolutionary Council. His loss prompted President Oliver Tambo to observe: *"To say that the enemy has struck us a blow is to tell the truth."*

Forty-five years later, I return to a question I posed in the memorial lecture organised by the Harry Gwala Foundation: What does it mean to honour Joe Gqabi's legacy in 2026?

The answer lies not in monuments, but in the urgent work of revolutionary renewal of the movement.

Born on 6 April 1929 in Aliwal North, Gqabi joined the ANC in 1952 and later the underground structures of the South African

Communist Party (SACP). As a journalist and photographer for New Age, he worked closely with its editor Ruth First, assassinated by the regime in 1982, and Wolfie Kodesh, a fellow journalist, photographer, SACP member, and MK cadre. Together, they wielded the power of the pen and camera to expose the brutal realities of apartheid.

As one of the early MK cadres, Gqabi was sent for guerrilla training in China in the early 1960s.

He understood that armed action could never be divorced from the masses. In October 1978, he was among the select delegation sent to Vietnam to study guerrilla warfare. This mission culminated in the Politico-Strategy Commission led by OR Tambo and including Moses Mabhida, Joe Slovo, Joe Modise, Thabo Mbeki and Gqabi which produced the **"Green Book"** in August 1979. This historic document signalled the ANC's strategic shift toward a People's War, embedding the principle that military operations must be guided by mass political mobilisation.

Captured and sentenced under the Sabotage Act, Gqabi served ten years on Robben Island alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, and Ahmed Kathrada. There, he became a pillar of political education, drawing on his organisational experience to sharpen the ideological clarity of his fellow prisoners.

Released in 1975, he resumed underground work, becoming an indispensable bridge between the older Congress tradition and the militant Black Consciousness youth. He guided students in the period leading to the 1976 Soweto Uprising. He became chief defendant in the 1977 "Pretoria Twelve" trial; despite immense state pressure, he and six comrades were acquitted.

He was withdrawn, by the movement, to join the ANC's external missions, appointed Chief Representative in Zimbabwe following its independence in 1980. Tambo captured his essence: "He was the type of leader who knew how to follow. He was the type of operative who yielded results." Gq-

abi moved among the youth and workers, building alliances across political and colour lines. He was the ultimate organiser because he understood the masses, and they understood him.

The regime tried to kill him before, on 24 February 1981, planting 7kg of dynamite under his car. On 31 July 1981, they succeeded.

The Enemy's Many Faces Today

Counter-revolutionaries remain active, clothed in our colours and speaking our language, seeking to divide and defeat the National Democratic Revolution. The damage has been devastating, weakened state institutions, a compromised criminal justice system, collapsing SOEs, and a fractured Alliance.

The stakes are existential

32.7% of South Africans are unemployed; among youth aged 15–24, unemployment stands at 60.9%. This is a generation locked out of the very economy for which Comrade Gqabi gave his life, an economy where, in the words of Statistics South Africa, *"inequality has remained persistently high, with the richest 10% of the population capturing the vast majority of income growth."*

We must diagnose the root cause with surgical precision: money has replaced consciousness. The use of money to buy votes is at the heart of our organisational decline. Ethical leadership has been replaced by status; ethics is cynically dismissed as *"elitist."* When leaders prioritise accumulation over service, the revolution loses its soul.

- JOE GQABI -
MURDERED 31ST JULY 1981



- OUR GRIEF WILL -
FUEL OUR STRUGGLE!

The Intergenerational Challenge

Who is reaching out to the youth today? Are we producing the modern equivalents of Joe Gqabi?

The ANC Youth League has been reconstituted at its 26th National Congress in 2023 and its 27th in December 2025. But a deeper question remains: Is the League reaching young people in townships, informal settlements, and the unemployed masses or has it become another node in the patronage networks that threaten our survival? Gqabi understood that the youth are the present engine of the movement. He moved among them.

Renewal as Revolutionary Duty: The ANC's 55th National Conference reaffirmed that restoring integrity, ethics, and foundational values is central to our survival. But resolutions alone are insufficient. As I warned: "If the ANC does not carry out this process of renewal, it will perish."

Renewal requires confronting uncomfortable truths: that the quality of membership has declined, that money has replaced consciousness, that the movement has lost its connection to

the masses. It requires asking whether this generation possesses the courage and revolutionary consciousness to answer the question posed forty-five years after Gqabi's assassination.

Are we the Joe Gqabis of today?

Conclusion

The Unfinished Revolution as winning the war against apartheid was never the final victory. The National Democratic Revolution remains unfinished. Political freedom has not translated into economic freedom. Twenty-three million people live in poverty. Eight million are unemployed.

Gqabi's remains were reburied in Aliwal North on 16 December 2004, Day of Reconciliation. But reconciliation without economic liberation is incomplete.

The question is not for the martyrs, but for the living, for every cadre, every leader, every member: Are we the Joe Gqabis of today?

The answer will be written not in speeches, but in the lived reality of millions for whom liberation remains unfulfilled. Renewal is not optional; it is a revolutionary duty. It is the only way to ensure that history does not find this generation wanting.

Long live the spirit of Comrade Joe Nzingo Gqabi! Long live the struggle for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa!

*This article is adapted from the **Memorial Lecture** delivered by **Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, organised by the Harry Gwala Foundation on 31 July 2021, and updated to mark the **45th anniversary of Comrade Joe Nzingo Gqabi's assassination.** ■*

Women of Courage: COMRADE EUNICE KEKANA

– *A Life Dedicated to Service and Liberation*

■ By **SIVA NAIDOO**

WOMEN'S Month offers South Africans an opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of women, but also to reflect on the sacrifices of those who helped build our democracy and continue to shape its future. Among these outstanding leaders is Cde Eunice Kekana, Deputy Secretary General of the ANC Veterans' League, whose remarkable journey embodies courage, resilience, humility and unwavering commitment to the ideals of the African National Congress.

Born in Graaff-Reinet, now proudly renamed Robert Sobukwe in the Eastern Cape, Cde Kekana's life story is one of perseverance in the face of adversity. She received her early education at schools affiliated with St Phillips Church before attending a Roman Catholic secondary school in Sterkspruit. Family responsibilities interrupted what would otherwise have been a conventional educational path. Instead of allowing hardship to define her future, she completed her matric privately while helping her mother care for her younger siblings and support the family.

Her determination eventually led her to Lovedale Training College, one of South Africa's most historic centres of learning. It was here



Cde Eunice Kekana

that her political consciousness began to awaken.

The student uprising at Lovedale in 1979 against the brutality of the Ciskei Bantustan authorities exposed her to the harsh realities of apartheid oppression. It was an experience that profoundly shaped her understanding of justice, human dignity and the responsibility of young people to stand against injustice.

Yet it was not only events at college that moulded her political outlook. Apartheid entered her family home with relentless cruelty. She recalls the repeated ar-

rests of her late father simply for entering shops marked "Whites Only." Her family home became a target of police intimidation. While her mother travelled to support the grieving families of the Caddock Four following their brutal murders, the Security Police attacked their home. On her return, both her mother and brother were detained without trial during the State of Emergency.

Such experiences were not isolated incidents. They formed part of the lived reality of thousands of South African families whose commitment to justice came at enormous personal cost. For

Cde Kekana, these experiences transformed political awareness into lifelong activism.

Education remained central to her life's work. Between 1980 and 1984 she began her teaching career in Kimberley before returning home to support the family's business during difficult economic times. Refusing to remain idle during unemployment, she helped establish a day-care centre that provided children with a safe environment away from the dangers of the streets.

She later served as a facilitator at the Inyameko Adult Centre before resuming her teaching career at Isibane Primary School and later at Qengqeleka Junior Secondary School. Throughout her professional life she understood education not merely as a profession but as a powerful instrument of social transformation.

Her political journey gathered momentum during the turbulent 1980s. She aligned herself with the programmes of the United Democratic Front while becoming active in student struggles through NEUSA. Between 1985 and 1991 she participated in campaigns demanding the release of Nelson Mandela and opposing the brutal repression inflicted upon communities resisting apartheid.

In 1989, even before the release of President Mandela, she was recruited into organised political work by respected activists including Mama Fazi, Lamani, Judy Chalmers, Nonindzi and Dipuo Kondile. Working within regional women's structures centred in Port Elizabeth, she also came under the influence legendary stalwart Sophie de Bruyn, whose lifelong dedication to



women's emancipation inspired many younger activists.

The following year, Mbulelo Goniwe recruited her into the South African Communist Party, where she became Chairperson of the Graaff-Reinet Zone. Following the unbanning of liberation organisations, she joined SADTU in 1991 before formally becoming a member of both the ANC and the ANC Women's League in 1992.

For more than three decades she has served the movement with distinction, occupying leadership positions within Regional Executive Committees across the Mid Karoo, Cacadu and Sarah Baartman regions while also providing dedicated leadership within the ANC Women's League.

Listening to Cde Kekana reflect on the role of women in South Africa's liberation struggle is both inspiring and instructive. She firmly believes that women were never merely supporters of the struggle; they were among its principal architects. They organised communities, mobilised resistance, challenged forced removals, sustained families during imprisonment and exile, and en-

sured that the liberation struggle remained inseparable from the struggle for gender equality.

She points to the historic Women's March of 9 August 1956 as one of the defining moments in South African history – a demonstration that not only challenged unjust legislation but affirmed the power of organised women to transform society.

Today, as Deputy Secretary General of the ANC Veterans' League, Cde Kekana continues to champion the empowerment of women and the girl child while helping preserve the values, traditions and history of the liberation struggle. She believes that democracy must continue to address the triple challenges of inequality, poverty, and gender discrimination while ensuring that the Freedom Charter remains a living document guiding South Africa's transformation.

Her understanding of leadership is firmly rooted in the principle of servant leadership. For her, leadership is neither about prestige nor position. It is about placing the interests of the people above personal ambition, listening with humility, acting with integrity and

remaining accountable to those one serves. It is a philosophy that has guided her throughout decades of public service.

Like countless women activists, balancing organisational responsibilities with family life has demanded enormous sacrifice. She speaks warmly of the support she has received from her children and family, acknowledging that their understanding has enabled her to fulfil her public responsibilities. Constant communication, shared responsibility and disciplined time management have become the foundation upon which she balances service to her family and service to the nation.

Looking towards South Africa's future, Cde Kekana remains optimistic despite the many challenges confronting the country. She envisions a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa rooted firmly in the values of the Freedom Charter. She believes the country must intensify the fight against corruption, accelerate economic transformation, create meaningful employment, modernise education, strengthen social protection and renew the African National Congress as the trusted leader of society through ethical leadership and political education.

Her Women's Month message carries particular significance as South Africa prepares for the 2026 Local Government Elections. She calls upon women to remain steadfast, humble and united, drawing inspiration from the millions of women who sacrificed for freedoms they themselves never lived to enjoy. She encourages women to continue building communities, strengthening the movement and never losing faith in the ideals for which

generations fought.

When I asked Cde Eunice Kekana how she hopes history will remember her, her answer reflected the humility that has characterised her life's journey. She wishes to be remembered simply as a resilient, compassionate and generous servant of the people – a woman who stood with the poorest and most vulnerable communities, who served with dedication and integrity, and who remained faithful to the values and mission of the African National Congress.

As we commemorate Women's Month, the story of Cde Eunice Kekana reminds us that the struggle for freedom was built upon the courage of ordinary

women who performed extraordinary acts of service.

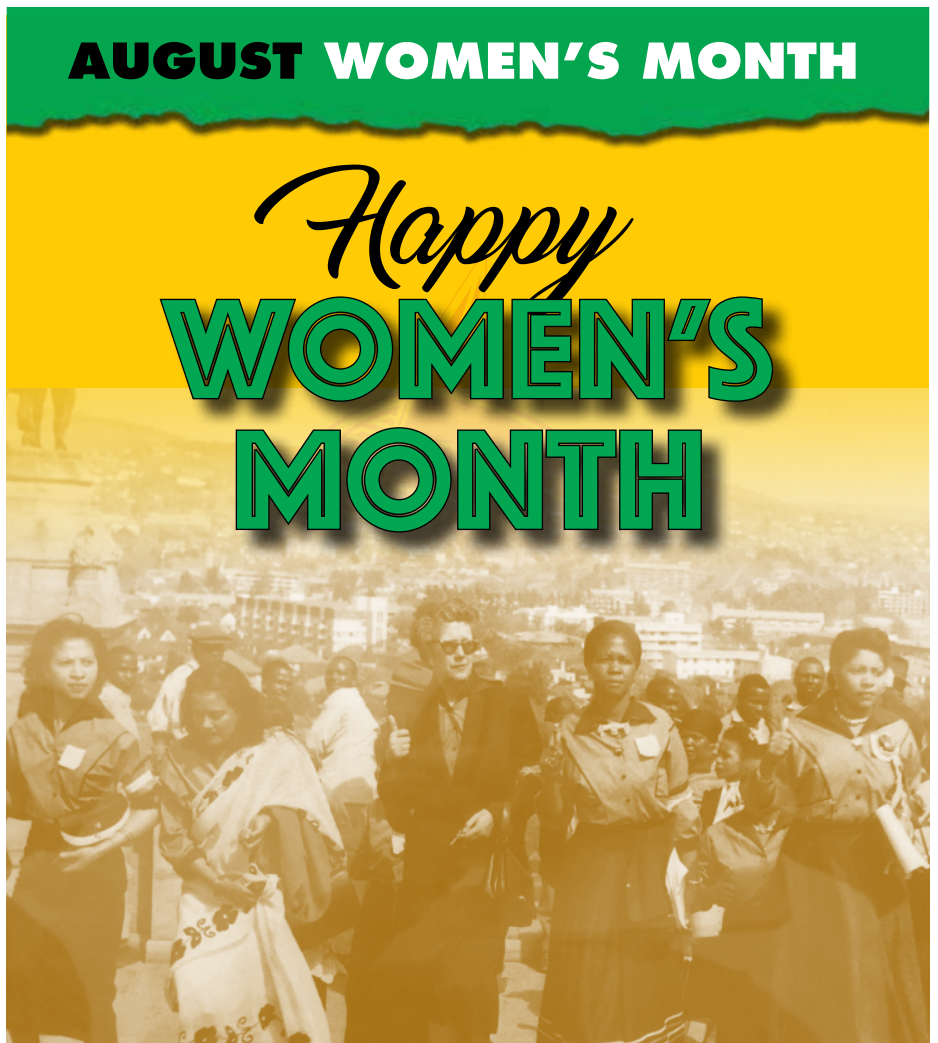
Her life continues to inspire a new generation of women leaders to place the people first, uphold the values of the ANC and work tirelessly towards the South Africa envisioned in the Freedom Charter.

The history of our liberation movement is richer because of women like Cde Eunice Kekana, whose quiet determination and lifelong service continue to strengthen both the African National Congress and our constitutional democracy. ■

Comrade Siva Naidoo is a member of the ANC Veterans League.

AUGUST WOMEN'S MONTH

Happy
**WOMEN'S
MONTH**





AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
HONOURING OUR FOUNDERS.
PRESERVING OUR LEGACY.

SAUL “MAI MAI” MSANE

FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
(BLOEMFONTEIN, 1912)

FORMAL RECOGNITION & COMMEMORATION OF A FOUNDING GENERATION LEADER

“Honouring the legacy of one of the pioneers of the African National Congress, whose contribution to the founding and early development of the movement remains a vital part of South Africa’s liberation history.

PROPOSED COMMEMORATION INITIATIVES



RECOGNITION OF THE GRAVESITE AS PART OF THE LIBERATION HERITAGE OF THE MOVEMENT.



WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY LED BY ANC NATIONAL OFFICIALS, VETERANS AND ALLIANCE PARTNERS.



ERECTION OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE OR MONUMENT ACKNOWLEDGING HIS ROLE AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ANC.



COLLABORATION WITH HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE SITE.



INSTITUTIONALISATION OF AN ANNUAL COMMEMORATION AND POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.



6 OCTOBER 2026
COMMEMORATION CEREMONY



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Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the 1956 Women's March

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

In her seminal work titled *“Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle”* Alexander Kollontai elevates the women's struggles beyond masculinity to their oppression on the basis of race, class and gender. In many instances, these struggles remain limited to unchaining women from abuse against the dominant power of patriarchy against the broader struggles from the repressive albatross that confined them to the lowest economic rung, relegating them to perpetual minority and secondary citizenship through various pieces of apartheid legislation.

In her erudite work, Kollontai identifies, dissects and explores factors and an intricate climate within which these struggles evolve, from oppression in the family place, the workplace, society and the socioeconomic milieu.

In our context as a country these struggles were within, influenced by patriarchal practices and traditional practices. Influenced by the prevailing conditions many women like Charlotte Maxeke defied the system through class consciousness, community development and self-empowerment by powering herself into a field reserved exclusively to men to break the boundaries of repres-



sion which limited the careers and opportunities of women.

Nothing changed significantly. As the struggles gradually evolved, the struggle reached a climax during the ANC's 1952 Defiance Campaign to break unjust apartheid laws, such as pass laws and segregation rules, to and force the government to change its racist policies and to highlight the plight of women and to end sexism and patriarchy.

On the 9th August 1956 the unexpected happened. In the face of a string of apartheid struggles more than 20 000 women rose in unison, in war cry saying *“Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo.”* Loosely translated it means *“You strike a woman, you strike a rock.”* The 1956 Women's March represented a turning point in the struggle against apartheid oppression.

This song is synonymous to resistance slogan symbolizing courage, power, and unyielding strength of women against odious and repressive laws that reduced them to a mortifying status of hewers of wood and drawers of wood.

It is more relevant today. As an organisation at whose apex resides the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) towards the creation of the National Democratic Society (NDS). The NDR is an ideological and theoretical framework and a lighthouse towards the NDS pursued by crushing the plinth of apartheid, reversing its vestiges, fighting misogyny and patriarchy.

Why is the still NDR relevant?

What does it seek to achieve?

The work “revolution” was deliberately vulgarised, distorted as propaganda to instil fear, portray the ANC as an organisation on a war path to destroy everything under apartheid, racial and ethnic cleansing of minorities, arbitrary land dispossession and anarchy and many acts of misrepresentation as an attempt to subvert the revolution in its rudimentary sense of change. This change was driven in 1996 through the Reconstruction and Development

Programme which prioritised development in a paradigm that is people-centred and people driven.

To achieve the objectives of development and the vision of emancipation in the true sense the ANC introduced an intraparty policy of parity where women would have an equal say in the life of the movement, giving effect to the dream of the 1956 march led by the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) which was formed in 1954 to unite women across racial lines to fight for equal rights, end apartheid and remove legal and economic injustices.

An assessment of the progress made since 1994 reveals that the ANC had not jettisoned its strategic vision of a democratic South Africa devoid of sexual bigotry, gender discrimination and inequality.

South Africa remains one of the most unequal society in the world, characterised by a wide wage gap, abject poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, inequality in the workplace. amongst others.

In the midst of these challenges the ANC advocated for laws to eradicate these ills and imbalances to ensure redress, reversing the horrid legacy of apartheid through the Employment Equity Act, Black Economic Empowerment, Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Strategy of Gender Based Violence and Femicide and the Mother-to-Child Transmission and other strategic interventions to address the plight of women, fighting triple oppression by creating an inclusive society and conducive environment where women can unleash their true potential.



These struggles find expression in Kollontai's core ideas of feminism which drew a sharp line between working-class women and wealthy, liberal feminists where she argued that liberal feminists only sought equal rights to exploit workers and succeed within a capitalist system, whereas true liberation meant ending all class and gender privilege. This is the NDR, where transformation, redress and the fight against patriarchy are relevant.

In addition to her postulation, in the *"The Family and Economic Roots"* she argues that women's oppression is rooted in the economic structures and the traditional family model. As wives and mothers in a capitalist society, women perform unpaid, unrecognized labour that binds them to servitude.

In *"Socialized Labour"* she posits that to free women, she championed the nationalization of domestic work – such as public communal dining halls, state-supported healthcare, and public nurseries – so childcare and housework were shared by society. The ANC's work is motivated by these theories in view with the similarities with our situation. Progress is made in all

these areas.

The legacy of apartheid remains obstinate, epitomised by resistance to transformation. Amidst this fight back the will not veer from its path of changing the economic echelons, transforming the levers of power, equity laws the integration of women into the mainstream economic and sharing in the country's wealth.

As the ANC renews, it prides itself with progressive laws to change the face of society driven by the establishment of a department to empower women, government agencies to ensure gender mainstreaming and the employment of women in strategic positions which were reserved strictly for men. This is drastic departure from a stubborn and institutionalised culture which refuses to die.

This year, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Women's Day under the theme **"Empowered Women Empower – The Nation"** and **"Building Resilient Economies for All"** as the overarching theme of the Women's Month. This theme guide us as we accelerate and reaffirm the role of women in the economy and empower them to address triple oppression, the challenges

of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

As we continue to pursue transformation, even in the 32 years of democracy there remains stubborn elements in our society against the values of our democratic society. The path towards true transformation remains arduous, with concerted efforts to stall transformation as demonstrated by opposition to the Employment Equity Amendment Act, the National Health Insurance Act and other pieces of legislation acts that benefits women.

These progressive laws crushed the bastions of women oppression creating an enabling environment where each person can unleash and realise their full potential, positively contributing to the prosperity of the country and the empowerment of women.

The ANC is the only organisation in the country, parliament and the workplace that had advocated for the full representation of women, promoting gender parity, non-sexism, diversity and equity in the workplace and acts that offend against the Constitution of the country. The ANC's transformation transcends cosmetic change and fronting, but represents the vision of the Freedom Charter of sharing in the country's wealth, land distribution, redress and the reversal of the frontiers which relegated and confined women to the margins of the economy.

Since 1994 the ANC had ensured the decency of women by providing houses, connected electricity and potable water and provided social security to protect them from the hardship of unemployment and gender based violence bred by the apartheid laws that relegated women to dependency,

hewers of wood and drawers of water with no meaningful economic contribution and benefit and the fight against women exploitation.

Today the ANC prides itself with many strides and achievements to change the face of society and reversal of the ugly vestiges of apartheid. Despite these achievements, women continue to occupy the lowest rung of the economic ladder with so wide disparities in wages and other benefits and subjected to gender based barbarism.

True to our commitment and in advancing the dream of the 1956 generation of women, what FEDSAW and the ANC Women's League represent, in parliament and at the helm of the businesses, cabinet and the judiciary remain women.

The ANC needs to remain steadfast and undeterred in the people's cause, committed to the vision of non-sexism. As we approach the local government elections the ANC needs to ensure equal representation of women in all municipalities. We call upon young women to register to vote in the local government elections, to fix

local government and to advance the aspirations of young women, the frail and the elderly and towards building a caring society.

Women have shown resilience, epitomised by their ability to unravel complex social dynamics as expressed by our adage that ***"Mmage ngwana of swara thi-pa kamo bogaleng,"*** meaning that a child's mother holds the knife by the sharp edge. This is no ordinary adage without meaning but about the qualities of resilience, the valour and leadership of women in leading and defending society, promoting its values, providing in difficult times of need, resolving conflicts and cultivating many values which are an embodiment of our ever-changing society committed to gender transformation and women empowerment.

In the celebrating the 70th anniversary of the historic Women's March the we recognise the valiant struggles of the 1956 generation, and pay tribute to Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, Lilly Diedericks and the many others who formed part of the march. ■



Final push for Voter Registration!

■ By **SELLO SHAI-MORULE**

THE voter registration weekend of 1 and 2 August is upon us. We have no choice but to make the final push count. It is the responsibility of every ANC member to mobilize family members, including the youth, neighbors, all community members, young and old. We must ensure that everyone register to vote for the ANC, check and update our details, confirm our correct voting station and address. We must also encourage first-time voters to register so that they are ready to vote for ANC on 4 November 2026

Every eligible voter has a role to play in shaping local services, water, sanitation, roads, housing, libraries, sports and recreational facilities, and community development. The Constitutional mandate of local government according to Section 152 of the Constitution, the objectives are Democratic & Accountable Government with an endeavor to provide accountable government for local communities. Sustainable Service Delivery to ensure provision of services in a sustainable manner, Social & Economic Development to promote social and economic development, Safe & Healthy Environment to promote a safe and healthy environment as well as Community Involvement and lastly encourage community and stakeholder participation. The functions of local government is to deliver the basics that affect people's daily lives, which are and not limited to water and Sanitation, clean



water, sewerage, refuse removal, electricity as well as reticulation and maintenance of local networks, roads and stormwater, local roads, potholes, bridges as well as Waste Management, collection and disposal. This important sphere of government has proximity to the People.

South Africa has eight metropolitan municipalities. In the 2000 Municipal Elections, the ANC won five out of six metros. In 2016 Municipal Elections, this was a big loss. ANC retained outright majorities in 5 metros, Buffalo City, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Mangaung, City of Johannesburg and lost outright control of two metros. The City of Johannesburg & Ekurhuleni became hung councils because the ANC did not get 50%+1. In 2021 Municipal Elections the ANC was the biggest loser, currently it only

controls two metros with outright majorities – Mangaung and Buffalo City and five metros became hung municipalities, Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay, eThekweni. The ANC lost power in all three Gauteng metros and dropped below 50% nationally for the first time since 1994. That means Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni all went to coalitions.

The ANC remains the only vehicle capable of driving the National Democratic Revolution to its rightful destination, a national democratic society in which its middle name must remain equality, human rights, stability, peace, harmony, law and order.

The African National Congress's National Executive Committee declared 2026 a year of decisive action to fix Local Government

and transform the economy, as stated in the January 8th Statement marking the 114th Anniversary of the ANC. This declaration is politically progressive, relevant, and acknowledges the current realities facing the Congress Movement in this challenging political epoch as a liberation movement, since the inception of democracy and the enacting of the nation's birth certificate three decades ago in 1996.

The outcome of the November 04, 2026, Municipal Elections in South Africa will be a yardstick to measure our performance as the ANC, which will be a crystal-clear mirror for the outcome of 2029 General Elections because voters for both local and general elections are the same voters respectively. It'll indicate whether we'll bid farewell to the Government of South Africa or remain relevant to the people and voters. There's a high level of apathy towards the ANC-led government, driven by issues including poor service delivery, particularly on the coalface of service delivery, at Local Government level, widespread corruption, crime, compromised law enforcement institutions, favoritism and nepotism in both private and public sector respectively, weak immigration laws, local and global forces pushing for regime change in South Africa and lastly biased media coverage by left-leaning media houses. The elections will show if these concerns have impacted the ANC's standing with voters and it is up to the ANC to become unpopular, confront and crush this sorry state of affair.

If we want to realize the decisive action which will fix Local Government and transform the economy, the only time to take stock of the progress made and chal-

lenges faced by our municipalities over the past three decades is now. Many of our local governments, particularly in rural areas, remain indigent, relying heavily on government grants due to limited revenue collection. Despite this, local government plays a vital role in service delivery and development. To fix the local government, we must abolish or reduce provincial administrations and merge resourceful municipalities with indigents municipalities and work towards holding one election for three spheres.

In July 2026, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana temporarily withheld the July equitable share transfers to 69-75 municipalities across all 9 provinces. This included metros like City of Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City, Mangaung, Ekurhuleni. Treasury said municipalities failed to comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) despite years of support, guidance and warnings. Since 2021/22 municipalities have incurred R145.21bn in irregular expenditure, R24.12bn in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, R118.13bn in unauthorised expenditure. On the issue of unfunded budgets, it seems many municipalities continued to adopt

budgets that don't balance, infact they planned to spend money they don't have. These challenges and sorry state of affair have led to widespread service delivery protests, with citizens demanding better services and accountability from their municipalities. The situation is dire, with 87 municipalities deemed dysfunctional or distressed, and only 41 out of 257 receiving clean audits in the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

To turn things around, municipalities need to prioritize transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. This can be achieved through initiatives like Citizen-Based Monitoring (CBM), which empowers residents to evaluate municipal performance and provide feedback. The Minister invoked Section 216(2) of the Constitution as a "corrective measure". The goal was to instil fiscal discipline and ensure public money is properly managed. Force compliance with the MFMA, protect service delivery by stopping waste and ensuring municipalities pay creditors. No municipality must plan to spend money they don't have. Because this will result in empty promises.

The incoming local government must be kept on its toes. Our



people deserve tangible improvements in their daily lives, clean water, reliable electricity, safe roads, quality education, and effective governance. If we want to realize the decisive action with an to fix local government and transform the economy, we must run our local authorities like business. November 2026 must produce leaders who can turn the tide. We need individuals with skills, experience, and vision to manage our municipalities effectively. Local government is not just a sphere of government; it's about people's lives. It's time to treat it as an essential service, with leaders who prioritize accountability, transparency, and the needs of their communities.

The local government lives with the people. It sees the burst pipe, the pothole, the dark street. No other sphere can respond as fast. The National and Provincial governments set policy. But local government turns policy into taps that work, lights that are on, and clinics that are open. People don't experience "policy" – they experience service. The local government is a poverty alleviation frontline because most poor households rely directly on municipal services. Free basic water, electricity, sanitation and indigent support all come from the municipality. This is the government which must play a vital role and realize that trust in Government is built. Because when a municipality collects refuse and fixes roads, people trust the state. When it doesn't, people lose faith in all of government, even national programs.

This government must remain an economic engine of communities, it must create an enabling environment for business through infrastructure, safety, and planning.



No investor comes to a town with no water or broken roads. In the next term of office of the municipalities, democratic participation must be encouraged. The incoming Ward councilors and ward committees must make sure that community meetings continue to happen at local level. Because it's where people's voices must be heard and translated into budgets.

The national government is responsible for policy and funding, provincial government for coordination and oversight and local government for delivery and impact. If local government is weak, the whole state is weak. That's why we say: *"Local government must be the coalface of service delivery."* It is where the rubber hits the road. A time for introspection, this is a time for us to go back to our mirror and ask ourselves a difficult question: Are we still the same movement? Honestly, I do not believe we are still the same. We need to be honest and paint a clear picture of how we found ourselves here.

We need to account for our mistakes, our weaknesses, and the distance that has grown between us and the people. Only by confronting the truth can we begin

the work of renewal and rebuilding. The people are watching. History is watching.

Let's demand a new era of leadership, one that puts the people first and delivers on their promises. The future of our country depends on it. The time to harness the potential of regional and local economic development must be our economic turnaround strategy under the GNU if we want to fix local government and transform the economy. The African National Congress must prioritize strengthening Governance by implementing robust governance structures and ensuring accountability. Must also make sure that the issue of technology integration is realized so that municipalities leverage on technology to streamline services and improve efficiency. Dealing with the issue of capacity building and amongst other things fill vacant posts with skilled employees and provide training, initiate the Citizen engagement program where they are encouraged to participation in decision-making and feedback processes must be number on the list of our priorities.

For the Congress Movement to succeed in fixing local government and the transformation of the economy it must address governance issues, build economic capacity, allocate resources effectively, and collaborate with regions and localities. By doing so, the party can create jobs, reduce inequality, and foster vibrant economies where people live. The road ahead requires a nuanced approach, recognizing the unique needs and endowments of each region and locality. By prioritizing regional and local economic development, the ANC can fulfill its moral imperative and create a more equitable society. ■

Government Commits R830 million to Strengthen Water Security across Gert Sibande Municipality

■ By **CORNELIUS MONAMA**

GOVERNMENT has committed more than R830 million towards water and sanitation infrastructure projects across Mpumalanga's Gert Sibande District, in one of the Department of Water and Sanitation's largest district-level investments aimed at strengthening water security, modernising ageing infrastructure and supporting economic growth.

Announcing the investment during the Annual Sitting of the Gert Sibande Local House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation David Mahlobo said the allocation demonstrates government's commitment to translating the constitutional right to water into reliable services for communities that continue to experience persistent water shortages.

The investment accounts for about 60 per cent of Mpumalanga's allocation under the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), highlighting the strategic importance of improving water services across the district.

"Water is no longer simply a service delivery issue. It is strategic national infrastructure that underpins economic growth, food security, industrial development,



public health and social stability," Mahlobo said.

He said the programme extends beyond constructing pipelines and treatment works. "It is about restoring dignity, stimulating local economic development, creating employment opportunities and ensuring that future generations inherit resilient infrastructure."

Mahlobo acknowledged that while millions of South Africans have gained access to water since democracy, many communities still experience inconsistent supply.

"A tap without water cannot be regarded as service delivery. The next phase of our democratic journey is about ensuring that infrastructure functions proper-

ly, water flows consistently and communities receive reliable services every day."

The investment will fund water and sanitation projects across every local municipality in Gert Sibande District.

The R830 million investment will fund an extensive programme of water and sanitation projects across every local municipality in Gert Sibande District. In the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, government continues implementing the Empuluzi-Methula Bulk Water Supply Scheme, one of the district's flagship water projects aimed at improving bulk water availability for thousands of households.

The Department is also upgrading

the Carolina Wastewater Treatment Works, expanding sewer reticulation infrastructure, improving existing bulk water systems and advancing implementation planning for the Nooitgedacht Bulk Water Project, which is expected to strengthen long-term water security across the municipality.

In the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, work is progressing on the Ermelo Wastewater Treatment Works upgrade, improvements to sewer reticulation networks and the development of a Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme to increase reliable water supply for growing residential, commercial and industrial demand.

Government is simultaneously investing in the Mkhondo Local Municipality, where the Amsterdam Gabosch Dam, wastewater treatment infrastructure and sewer network upgrades are expected to improve municipal services while supporting future economic development.

Mahlobo said similar investments are underway in the Lekwa, Dipaleseng, Govan Mbeki and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme municipalities, where regional bulk water schemes, wastewater treatment upgrades and implementation readiness studies are laying the foundation for future infrastructure expansion across the district.

Collectively, these projects form one of the most comprehensive water infrastructure programmes currently being implemented in Mpumalanga. *“Government is not merely responding to today’s challenges,” Mahlobo said. “We are building the infrastructure that future generations will depend upon.”*

“For communities that have waited years for dependable water

services, these are not merely engineering projects,” Mahlobo said. “They are investments in dignity, health and opportunity.”

Alongside major bulk infrastructure projects, the Deputy Minister highlighted the Department’s accelerated Ministerial Groundwater Programme, which seeks to provide permanent water solutions to rural communities that have historically relied on water tankers. For years, emergency water tankering has become a routine reality for many rural households. While tankers remain necessary during emergencies, Mahlobo said they cannot become a substitute for permanent infrastructure.

“Every community deserves a reliable and permanent source of safe drinking water.” The programme, developed following President Cyril Ramaphosa’s declaration that water security is a national priority, focuses on rapidly deployable interventions including fully equipped boreholes, protected springs and associated reticulation infrastructure.

Communities in Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme municipalities have already been prioritised during the programme’s first phase and will benefit from new groundwater infrastructure designed to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water.

The Deputy Minister said reliable water services are fundamen-

tal to economic development, warning that municipalities continue to lose significant volumes of treated water through leaking pipelines, ageing infrastructure, illegal connections and poor maintenance. The Department is supporting municipalities through water conservation and demand management programmes to reduce non-revenue water and strengthen technical capacity.

Mahlobo also welcomed improvements recorded under the Department’s Blue Drop and Green Drop regulatory programmes, saying they demonstrate that sustained investment, stronger governance and technical support can deliver measurable results.

He described traditional leaders as indispensable partners because of their knowledge of local communities and urged them to champion water conservation, report leaks, reject illegal water connections and help protect public infrastructure from vandalism and theft.

Concluding his address during Mandela Month, Mahlobo reaffirmed government’s commitment to expanding reliable water services and strengthening municipal capacity.

“Our generation’s long walk is the journey towards water security, environmental sustainability and shared prosperity,” he said. “It is the journey towards restoring dignity to every village, every household and every citizen.”

For Gert Sibande, the R830 million investment represents a strategic programme to strengthen municipal capacity, improve water security and unlock inclusive economic growth across one of Mpumalanga’s most important agricultural and industrial regions. ■





THE MANDLANGA COMMISSION: EXPOSING THE HIDDEN ARCHITECTS OF STATE CORRUPTION

■ By **SASABONA MANGANYE**

SOUTH AFRICA has become accustomed to explaining corruption through the language of politics. Every scandal quickly degenerates into a contest between political parties, with accusations and counter-accusations dominating headlines while the institutions that enable corruption receive far less scrutiny. This political theatre obscures a constitutional reality: governments change through elections, but the administrative state remains.

The work of the Mandlanga Commission has the potential to fundamentally alter this conversation. Although established to investigate allegations relating to

the state security environment, the Commission has exposed a broader governance challenge that extends well beyond intelligence structures. It has demonstrated that corruption is seldom the work of politicians alone. More often, it is sustained by an alliance between political authority and administrative power, with career public servants possessing the technical capacity to manipulate state institutions while remaining largely invisible to public accountability.

President Cyril Ramaphosa deserves recognition for establishing the Commission. In a constitutional democracy, confidence in public institutions depends

upon a willingness to subject even the most sensitive organs of state to independent scrutiny. Rather than allowing allegations surrounding the security cluster to become another arena for political speculation, the President chose the constitutional path of inquiry, transparency and evidence.

The Commission itself equally deserves commendation. Its work reminds South Africans that institutional renewal cannot be achieved through political slogans alone. It requires careful examination of how state institutions function, who exercises real administrative authority, and where accountability has failed.

Much of South Africa's public debate incorrectly assumes that politicians are the primary architects of corruption. This assumption ignores how the Constitution structures public administration.

Section 195 of the Constitution requires public administration to be governed by professional ethics, accountability, transparency, efficient use of resources and impartial service to the public. These constitutional obligations fall principally upon public servants who administer government, manage procurement, certify payments, control intelligence information, maintain records and implement executive decisions.

Ministers, MECs and MMCs may determine policy direction, but they do not personally draft tender specifications, evaluate bids, authorise invoices, manipulate procurement systems or maintain financial records. Those functions are exercised by accounting officers, directors-general, municipal managers, chief financial officers, supply chain practitioners, engineers, intelligence operatives and other career officials.

Consequently, corruption is rarely an isolated political act. It is an administrative process requiring specialised institutional knowledge.

South Africa's recent history illustrates this repeatedly.

The COVID-19 procurement investigations revealed numerous instances where officials manipulated emergency procurement procedures, approved unlawful contracts, ignored compliance requirements and authorised irregular expenditure. Political oversight failures undoubtedly

existed, but the operational execution depended upon officials responsible for implementing procurement legislation.

The same institutional pattern has appeared across municipalities. Auditor-General of South Africa reports repeatedly identify municipal managers, chief financial officers and supply chain officials who disregard financial controls, fail to implement consequence management and permit irregular expenditure to continue across multiple financial years. Elections replace councillors. Cabinets change. Yet many of the officials responsible for administering these systems remain in office.

State-owned enterprises present another example. Evidence emerging from previous commissions of inquiry consistently demonstrated that politically connected networks required the cooperation of executives, procurement specialists, legal advisers and financial professionals who understood precisely how to manipulate governance systems while maintaining the appearance of procedural compliance.

This distinction is not intended to absolve politicians of responsibility. Constitutional accountabil-

ity requires executive authorities to answer for failures occurring under their leadership. Ministers appoint accounting officers. Councils oversee municipal administrations. Cabinets establish governance priorities. Political accountability therefore remains indispensable.

However, democratic accountability becomes distorted when public debate concentrates exclusively on elected representatives while the permanent bureaucracy escapes equivalent scrutiny.

Indeed, one of the paradoxes of South African politics is that politicians frequently become the public face of scandals while officials who designed procurement systems, prepared documentation, processed payments or concealed irregularities continue serving successive administrations irrespective of electoral outcomes.

Political parties then become convenient shields.

Opposition parties attribute every governance failure to the governing party. Governing parties accuse opposition administrations of sabotage or historical neglect. Meanwhile, many career





officials continue operating within the same institutions, adapting to whichever political leadership emerges after elections.

This phenomenon is particularly significant within the state security environment, where secrecy, classified information and specialised operational knowledge create conditions in which administrative misconduct can remain concealed for extended periods.

The Mandlanga Commission therefore raises questions extending beyond individual wrongdoing. It invites South Africans to reconsider the architecture of accountability itself.

Should accounting officers bear stronger personal liability for governance failures?

Should lifestyle audits become compulsory for officials occupying high-risk procurement and intelligence positions?

Should consequence management extend more rapidly to senior administrators who repeatedly violate procurement legislation?

Should Parliament strengthen

oversight over the professional bureaucracy rather than concentrating predominantly on ministers?

These are constitutional governance questions rather than partisan ones.

If the Commission merely identifies individual misconduct, its contribution will be important but incomplete. Its lasting legacy should be to strengthen the constitutional principles governing public administration by reinforcing professionalism, impartiality and administrative integrity throughout the state.

South Africa's fight against corruption will remain ineffective if accountability is selectively political. Corruption flourishes where political authority converges with administrative expertise. Eliminating one while ignoring the other leaves institutional incentives fundamentally unchanged.

The constitutional project envisioned in 1996 was never intended to produce a politicised bureaucracy. It envisioned a professional, development-oriented public service capable of serving any democratically elected gov-

ernment with integrity, competence and impartiality.

That constitutional vision remains unfinished.

The Mandlanga Commission has provided South Africa with an opportunity to complete it, not by deepening partisan conflict, but by recognising that corruption is ultimately an institutional failure requiring institutional solutions.

The measure of the Commission's success will therefore not be the number of politicians embarrassed before television cameras. It will be whether South Africa finally reforms the permanent machinery of the state so that neither politicians nor public servants can exploit public institutions for private or factional interests.

If that becomes its legacy, the Mandlanga Commission will have achieved far more than exposing wrongdoing. It will have strengthened South Africa's constitutional democracy itself. ■

Comrade Sasabona Manganye is ANC Regional Secretary, Greater Johannesburg.

When Desperation Goes Looking for a Hero

South Africa's Immigration Protests and the Collapse of Public Trust

■ By **LINDIWE MATLALI**

“THE most tragic form of loss,” a quotation widely attributed to the philosopher Ernst Bloch reminds us, *“is not the loss of security. It is the loss of the capacity to imagine that things could be different.”*

South Africa has not yet reached that point, but the warning signs are becoming impossible to ignore.

The recent protests against undocumented immigration should not be viewed simply as demonstrations about border control. They are symptoms of something much deeper. They reflect a growing crisis of confidence in the state's ability to provide safety, create jobs, deliver basic services and uphold the rule of law.

When citizens begin to lose faith in government, they do not stop searching for solutions. Instead, they begin searching for someone, anyone, who appears willing to solve their problems. History teaches us that this is often the moment when societies become vulnerable to populism, vigilantism and the promise of strong personalities over strong institutions.

The immigration debate is therefore not only about migration. It is about trust.

South Africa's unemployment crisis remains one of the worst in the world. Millions of people wake up every morning without meaningful work or realistic hope of finding it. Young people, in particular, face a future defined by uncertainty rather than opportunity. At the same time, violent crime continues to dominate headlines, municipalities struggle to deliver reliable services, corruption cases move slowly through the courts and communities increasingly feel abandoned by the institutions meant to protect them.

Against this backdrop, undocumented immigration has become a lightning rod for public frustration.

This should surprise no one.

When jobs are scarce, the foreign worker becomes visible. When clinics are overcrowded, the migrant standing in the queue becomes easy to blame. When crime rises, rumours spread faster than evidence. Meanwhile, the systemic failures that created these conditions remain largely invisible because they are far more complicated than identifying a single group of people as the cause.

That does not mean concerns about undocumented immigration should be dismissed.

Every sovereign nation has both the right and the responsibility to secure its borders, manage migration effectively, enforce immigration laws fairly and ensure that



those living within its borders do so legally. Effective border management is not xenophobia. It is an essential function of a capable state.

The problem begins when government fails to perform that function consistently.

When institutions appear absent or ineffective, citizens often conclude that they must act for themselves. Community patrols evolve into self appointed immigration inspectors. Ordinary residents begin demanding identity documents from strangers. Businesses are targeted. Families are threatened. Entire communities become divided by suspicion.

The rule of law slowly gives way to the rule of emotion.

This is dangerous for everyone.

Today the target may be undocumented migrants. Tomorrow it may be legal immigrants, refugees, naturalised citizens or even South Africans who simply speak a different language or come from another province.

History repeatedly demonstrates that once societies normalise mob justice, the list of targets rarely becomes shorter.

The debate is also weakened by misinformation.

Reliable data indicate that immigrants represent only a small proportion of South Africa's total population. While undocumented migration creates genuine administrative, security and humanitarian challenges, it cannot realistically explain unemployment levels exceeding thirty percent, decades of weak economic growth, failing municipalities,



poor educational outcomes or the country's persistent infrastructure crisis.

These problems were not created by migrants.

They are the accumulated consequences of years of policy failures, weak governance, corruption, inadequate economic reform and declining institutional capacity.

Yet immigration has become politically powerful because it offers something many structural problems do not. It provides a visible explanation for invisible failures.

This is precisely how populism gains momentum.

Complex economic problems are reduced to simple narratives. Citizens are told that removing one group will somehow solve problems that have accumulated over decades. Such narratives are emotionally satisfying because they offer certainty in uncertain times. Unfortunately, they rarely produce lasting solutions.

Expelling undocumented mi-

grants will not repair Eskom. It will not rebuild municipalities. It will not improve literacy rates. It will not reduce corruption. It will not create the millions of sustainable jobs South Africa desperately needs.

The answer is therefore neither open borders nor mob justice.

South Africa needs a balanced, lawful and evidence based response.

Government must modernise border management through integrated digital systems that improve the monitoring of visas, permits and asylum applications.

Law enforcement agencies should prioritise intelligence driven operations targeting human trafficking networks, document fraud syndicates, corrupt officials and employers who knowingly exploit undocumented labour.

Labour legislation must be enforced consistently so that businesses cannot gain an unfair advantage by employing vulnerable workers below legal standards.

Communities also need credible mechanisms for reporting suspected immigration violations and receiving timely feedback.

Above all, government must address the conditions that create public anger in the first place.

No immigration policy can substitute for economic growth. No deportation programme can replace industrial development. No border fence can compensate for failing schools, collapsing municipalities or persistent youth unemployment.

Economic opportunity remains the strongest antidote to social division.

Political leadership matters just as much.

South Africa's greatest challenge is not simply managing migration. It is rebuilding trust.

Trust that public institutions can enforce the law fairly. Trust that corruption will have consequences. Trust that hard work will be rewarded. Trust that government is capable of improving people's lives.

South Africa deserves capable institutions, effective governance, inclusive economic growth and leadership that restores confidence rather than exploits fear. ■

Lindiwe Matlali is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SWERFVALK, a deep technology company developing advanced autonomous defence and security systems. She is an entrepreneur, technology leader, award winning social innovator and author of the forthcoming book **No More Shrinking**.



A Tale of Three Fighting Brothers: Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa

■ By **CHINA DODOVU**

THIS is a story about three brothers (Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa) born from the same mother but different fathers. The brothers did not love one another as they were always quarrelling and fighting.

The eldest (Ghana) was born 69 years ago on 06 March 1957. His father was Kwame Nkrumah, a very intelligent man who fought for total liberation, independence and unity of his people. He was a selfless man whose beliefs were anchored on the creation of a fair society, achieve equality and promote collective ownership.

Nkrumah hated greedy and selfish people and didn't like to see any person suffering from hunger,

diseases or even backwardness. He helped everyone to have access to education and housing.

Despite Nkrumah's good gestures, some family members were jealous of him. They hated him so much that while he was away on work, they ganged up, plotted his down fall and accused him of a lot of bad things.

As they were baying for his blood and planning to killed him, Nkrumah never returned home and instead fled to Guinea where his friend, Sekou Taore hosted him even using his skills and knowledge to run his home, Guinea.

Nkrumah suffered from depression and cancer. Taore gave him



the best medical support including flying him to Romania, where he unfortunately died. His wife was extremely upset on how Nkrumah was treated in Ghana and agreed he be buried in Guinea and received full honours.

Many ordinary people who Nkrumah empowered, especially students were not happy and pleaded with the wife and close relatives to return his body to be buried in his private graveyard in Ghana. Two decades later, his remains were exhumed a second time, moved to his final resting place and became a national monument.

After Nkrumah died, his son (Ghana) suffered deep instability, decay, hardship and repeated feuds. For the longest period, the family was riddled with struggles for power, infighting and even killings.

The second brother (Nigeria) was born 66 years ago on 01 October 1960. His father was Nnamdi Azikiwe, a man who bore the same qualities as Nkrumah and was befallen by the same misfortunes. Some family members were jealous of him too. When

he was safely out of the country in England convalescing from a medical operation, he was thrown out.

After Azikiwe was ousted, his family also experienced serious power struggles, infightings and killings for almost three decades, causing hardships, poverty, hunger and lawlessness in the entire nation.

For many years, the two brothers (Ghana and Nigeria) didn't just hate each other but their historic rivalry and friction was fraught with tit-for-tat mass expulsions and hostilities at worst. In 1969, under the Aliens Compliance Order, the second brother (Ghana) forced out his younger brother (Nigeria) and hundreds of thousands of his relatives out of his home, in order to reserve jobs for his locals.

In 1983, the younger brother (Nigeria) retaliated by using the same tactic called "*Ghana must Go*", to chase them out of his house. Ghana packed his belongings into cheap, blue-and-white checkered plastic-woven luggage, and Nigeria left.

The third brother (South Africa) was born only 32 years ago on 27 April 1994, coinciding with the death of Nkrumah on 27 April in 1972, and signifying a historic moment. His father is Nelson Mandela, a caring and intelligent man who suffered under the cruelty of white people. Mandela told his son, South Africa very painful stories especially how his two brothers (Ghana and Nigeria) ruined their opportunities and destroyed their lives with petty jealousies and infightings.

Mandela brought his son very well and taught him good manners and urge him to forgive and reconcile with his enemies to build one nation, after spending 27 years in prison fighting to free his people. Mandela's vision was to build a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.

Despite some challenges like crime, diseases, unemployment and poverty, Mandela's son, listened and began to grow and prosper. He invested in human capital, physical infrastructure and focussed a lot to help the poor in his society. He didn't

chase other people away but built a rainbow nation. As he was doing well even though not to the fullest, he supported his children by giving them free education, health care and houses among other many opportunities.

Those who are old, sick, disabled and unemployed in his family are given some social grants to advance their lives and reduce poverty. The youngest son became very strict and protected his children from abuse and exploitation by their employers. He placed some restrictions to protect their rights and insisted that they be paid minimum wages.

As the little brother (South Africa) is doing well and beginning to prosper, he experienced a relatively high influx of relatives mostly from his brothers, Ghana and Nigeria and this increased. As the relatives arrive in the house in large numbers, they lied and claimed to be fleeing wars, violence and instability in their homes.

The truth is that most of them flee, driven by the desires to find better jobs, higher pays and improved living conditions compared to their homes. They do these at the expense of the young brother's kids who have turned to be very angry and upset.

Instead of behaving well in their youngest brother's house, some of them indulged in funny stuff like organised crime syndicates; drug and human trafficking; fraud and scams and hijackings especially committed by those from the second brother (Nigeria).

As mentioned, the kids are ex-



tremely upset and feel that their complaints are being ignored by their parents. They believe that the unknown, uninvited visitors were taking their job opportunities and causing their miseries like crime and poverty. They also accept peanuts salaries which make employers to prefer to employ them rather than the locals.

Out of anger and frustration, the kids take the law into their own hands by chasing them around and firmly saying: *"Enough, you must now leave to go fix your home"*, even giving them deadlines to do so.

The two older brothers and not happy. They have reported the young brother to the whole village. They complain saying: *"Our young brother is chasing our children out of HIS house!"*

Mind you, this same younger brother has been feeding those children for years. In fact, he's the biggest contributor to the entire family, but now somehow he is seen as a villain and hated because he finally said: **"Enough!"**

The older brothers have admit-

ted that their children didn't even go there to visit the youngest brother. No! They went because there's always food at the youngest brother's house.

As they groan, they say: *"After everything we did for you! We bathed you when you were a baby! We changed your nappies! We carried you on our backs, now treat us badly!"*

The second brother is the loudest and a real comedian among the three. Also, he doesn't look af-

ter his own household properly and he is a lying thief with bad habits! He always act like a GIANT of the family.

The truth is that the two older brothers contribute far less to the family than the youngest who is being criticised and accused of hatred. He has done more than enough. Feeding someone else's children is generosity, and not a lifelong contract.

Sometimes love means saying, *"Go back home. Go fix your home!"* Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa must remain brothers to the end. The brothers must realise that in the families, fights do happen from time to time. They must learn that the love of brothers endures despite arguments and no family is perfect.

Brothers argue and fight, even at times stop talking to each other, but in the end, brotherhood is brotherhood. After fights, brothers must time-out to calm down; reflect on their feelings after the fights; think about what led to the fight; develop communication skills; apologise and forgive each other! ■

PART ONE

The National Question in Contemporary South Africa: **Learning from the Past to Understand the Present**

■ By **DENIS MATWA**

THE National Question has become an interesting topic in contemporary South Africa. This has been so because of the different interpretations of this topic from the various, if we can argue stances within the National Liberation Movement as led by the African National Congress (ANC) and the challengers within and outside of the liberation movement. Much has been written about the National Question both during the time of the liberation movement's illegality and after its unbanning in 1990. This series of articles looks at the tradition of understanding the National Question both during the time of illegality and the present. We are going to attempt to locate the National Question as it has manifested itself throughout the decades. We are going to demonstrate how, by stating different positions on the National Question; this topic is still too relevant if we are to understand contemporary South Africa. We argue that it is a daunting task to understand the different strands in understanding the National Question if we do not interrogate the past. This paper, we must point out, is attempting to address the National Question



through the understanding of the liberation movement as led by the ANC.

We are going to demonstrate, throughout this series, that the National Question in South Africa should be understood within the ambit of the progressive movement that has toiled over many decades to ameliorate South Africans in general, and the black majority in particular. We do not claim to have all the answers; however, this is an honest interrogation of this topic from the standpoint of laypersons who

happen to be members of the liberation movement. Furthermore, this series are a contribution to the battle of ideas, as we understand these ideas within the liberation movement. For the liberation movement to be alive and vibrant, we believe that we should critically engage these issues in a comradely fashion. We don't claim to have all the answers; however, we feel that our contribution will help, to a certain extent, to illuminate the nature and character of our national democratic revolution. It is our view that, even as comrades, we need

to engage in the battle of ideas so as for us to be able to chart the way forward. We belong to the national liberation movement, as led by the ANC, because we share a profound belief in the liberation of the masses of our people from the centuries of colonialism and, subsequently, apartheid capitalism and exploitation.

This series of articles, we must point out, tries to locate the National Question within the debates in contemporary South Africa. As disciplined members of the national liberation movement, to paraphrase Amílcar Cabral, we do not have to tell lies and claim easy victories. We need to address the challenging issues in a very honest and comradely fashion.

What is the concept of Nationalism?

For us to understand the topic at hand, we need to first define and articulate our understanding of nationalism. Nationalism, basically, is the fervent love of the motherland. It includes understanding of one nation's boundaries, language, culture and sovereignty. We belong to a nation because we adhere to the traditions, culture and language (s) of that particular nation. As Ronald Munch correctly points out, "that nationalism is of vital importance today should be self-evident: a cursory survey of world politics is sufficient to alert us to its continued importance. For some, the era of the multinational corporations has banished the nation-state to the dustbin of history. For the working class, nationalism is considered an outmoded ideology of the 19th century; yet curiously, this is usually a criticism directed by socialists living in a powerful state to those in a small oppressed nation. Taking

the argument one step further, we could say that nationalism matters because people die for it... (Munck: 1986: 1-2). We therefore argue that nationalism can either be progressive or destructive. An example of progressive nationalism is the one that is presented by the liberation movement, as led by the ANC. A destructive nationalism is what we saw under the successive governments of the Nationalist Party.

Nationalism was first clearly articulated in France during the revolution of 1789. People in France rose up against the despotic rule of the aristocracy, opening the way for other revolutions to take place. The 1789 revolution exposed the despotic nature of the aristocracy. Pallo Jordan points out that, *"in revolutionary France all adult males were regarded as citizens. The original French conception of citizenship was that it was a birth right that applied to all adult males as individuals. Equality before the law indicated that the individual's parentage, region of origin, city or town of domicile, religious preference or race were irrelevant. Citizens had certain rights, the most im-*

portant of which was the vote. Thus the community of citizens, created by the revolution, defined itself as "the French nation", and no longer as the subjects of the Bourbon kings. The Bourbon monarchs too became the kings of the French nation before they were deposed and executed" (Jordan: 2019). What happened in France about 200 years ago is still very relevant for revolutionaries all over the world today. In South Africa, nationalism expressed itself in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. African nationalism was progressive and inclusive from the start in the sense that it wanted to accommodate all sections of South African society, irrespective of race and class. We argue, therefore, that nationalism as expressed through the national liberation movement, led by the ANC, remains progressive throughout the many decades of struggle.

How do we understand the National Question?

It becomes imperative to understand the National Question by locating it in the ambit of our struggle for freedom and democ-



racy. Our struggle, first and foremost, is about the eradication of all forms of oppression, racism, sexism and the creation of a truly democratic society. *"During the late 19th century Black politics had been concerned with fighting an unsuccessful rear-guard action in defence of the few rights the Black petty bourgeoisie had enjoyed under colonial rule. After January 1912, Black politics would increasingly challenge the institutions and the notion of White overlordship and in the process learns to pose alternatives for the country as a whole. As the 'parliament of the African people', the ANC assumed unto itself the role of the custodian of the political values, ideals, and aspirations that had found no place in the 'official' White parliament, implicitly seizing the initiative from the white minority and recasting the question facing the country as the pursuance of common citizenship in a unified state"* (Jordan: 2019).

The National Question, as we understand it, must include the total emancipation of the oppressed black majority in all political, social and economic life. We further argue that, for this project to be fully addressed, we need to rid

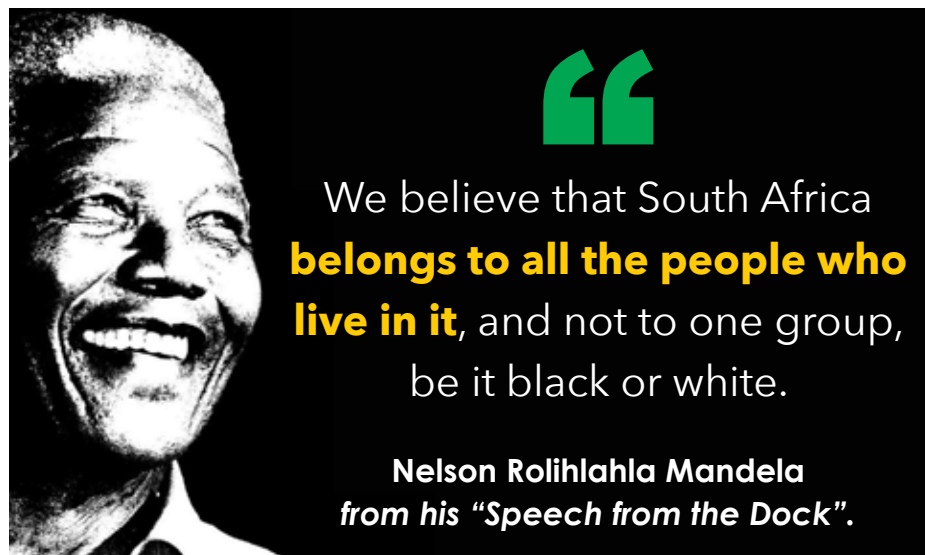
our country of all the remnants of colonialism and apartheid capitalism. The only vehicle towards that goal is the liberation movement led by the ANC. The ANC remains the authentic representative of the oppressed masses of our people. Writing about the National Question in the late 1980s, Francis Meli points out that, *"African nationalism in South Africa is an ideological reflection of the unresolved national question in South Africa. This means that African nationalism cannot be divorced from the national question, which is nothing less than the question of the national liberation of the oppressed black majority, especially the Africans. At the same time, the national question must, in my opinion, be associated with the whole question of the social emancipation of all South Africans, Black and White"* (Meli: 1988: 70).

This is profoundly what is articulated in the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter boldly states that all national groups shall have equal rights, and this wish is stated in the democratic Constitution of a liberated South Africa.

We must point out that the National Question has been under-

stood from different viewpoints within and outside of the liberation movement.

Our detractors from the far or ultra-left argue that the ANC's conceptualization of the National Question serves to perpetuate the continued oppression and exploitation of the masses of our people. For instance, Dale T. McKinley argues that *"the macro-nationalist approach to struggle that has characterised the ANC-Alliance politics to date has virtually institutionalised the above-mentioned contradiction. This approach has led to the subordination of class organisation and politics. In turn, this has allowed the struggle for national liberation to be infused by, and to accept, all those 'antithetical form of social unity' under capitalism. Under these circumstances the mass struggles for revolutionary nationalist transformation are turned into little more than a 'national struggle for petite bourgeoisie reformism"* (McKinley: 2012: 72). We must point out that McKinley fails to understand that the ANC is a nationalist organisation that is in alliance with both the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).



Throughout its existence, the ANC has never claimed to be a socialist organisation. Instead, it is a national liberation movement that is consciously biased towards the working class. Our ANC is proud of its tradition of struggling to ameliorate our people from the yoke of national oppression and class exploitation.

To be continued...

[Part two will exam Colonialism of a Special Type (CST) and whether it is still relevant.]

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1–7 August 2026

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

1 August 1876

Sekhukhune defeats Boers

Sekhukhune I, King of the Bapedi, successfully resisted the Boers during a protracted Boer/Bapedi land ownership war. On 16 May 1876, the Volksraad of the South African Republic declared war on Sekhukhune and his followers. A Boer commando under President T.F. Burgers, armed with 7 pounder Krupp guns, reached the Bapedi stronghold on 1 August. The Bapedi, also armed with rifles, offered stiff resistance and inflicted a humiliating defeat on the well-armed Boer force.

1 August 1936

Official Launch of SABC

In 1934, General James Barry Munnik (JBM) Hertzog, prime minister of South Africa, ordered an official investigation into all aspects of Broadcasting in South Africa. The investigation ultimately led to the formation of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), under Act 22 of 1936. The broadcasts of the

African Broadcasting Company (ABC), which was formed in 1927, ceased and the broadcasts from the newly formed SABC began.

1 August 1973

Treaty establishing CARICOM signed

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was signed by Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago and came into effect on August 1, 1973. Subsequently, the other eight Caribbean territories joined CARICOM.

1 August 1985

Victoria Mxenge assassinated

Victoria Nonyamezelo Mxenge, human rights lawyer, a former nurse and UDF activist and leader, was murdered on 1 August 1985 in her home in Umlazi Durban. This brutal murder of Mam M was meant to silence her crusade on behalf of her people against injustices. Shortly before her brutal slaying in front of her children, Victoria Mxenge spoke at the funeral of the Cradock Four. A leader of the Natal Organisation of Women, the UDF and Release Mandela Committee, as a lawyer she fought for the rights of those denied their human dignity. At the time of her death, she was also one of fifteen United Democratic Front team



members facing trial for treason, was part of the defence team of the Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial, and represented the families affected by the cross border raids by the regime at Matole and Lesotho. Mam M's assassination happened nearly four years after the assassination of her activist husband Griffiths Mxenge in November 1981. A year later, on 1 August 1996, students from Claremont, King Williams Town and Chesterville staged a protest on the day of the commemoration of her assassination. Although one of her murderers admitted to the killing during the TRC hearing, none of those in the security branch who ordered her killing applied for amnesty or were prosecuted. Victoria Mxenge was awarded the Order of Luthuli posthumously in 2004.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

2 August 1989 Mass Democratic Movement starts Defiance Campaign

After nearly a decade of country wide popular mass uprising, boycotts and strikes against apartheid, and four years of a state of emergency, the Mass Democratic Movement, of which the UDF and COSATU were part of, embarked on a national Defiance campaign to defy apartheid laws, similar to the campaign led by the Congress Alliance in the 1950s. The campaign challenged segregation laws on beaches, hospitals and other facilities, as well as detainees going on hunger strike, and activists breaking their restrictions and banning orders.

2 August 1983 Writer Davina Ittoo born



Davina Ittoo was born in Quarte Bornes, and is at the forefront of a new generation of writers from the island state of Mauritius. She won the 2015 Prix Jean-Franchette for her short story *La Proscrite* and in 2019 won the Prix Indianocéanie for her first novel *Misére*.

2 August 2003 Mkapa Bridge opens

The Mkapa bridge officially opened on 2 August, in Tanzania, spanning the Rufiji river is 970 meters long, is one of the longest bridges in East and Southern

Africa. It is named after Benjamin Mkapa, the third President of Tanzania.

3 August 1946 Artist Cyprian Shilakoe born



Cyprian Mpho Shilakoe, South African artist who studied under Azaria Mbatha at Rorke's Drift. Shilakoe was known for his wooden sculptures and etchings. Unlike most of the first group of artists at Rorke's Drift who preferred working in linocut, Shilakoe produced etchings, often combined with aquatint, as seen in one of his famous works, *Loneliness*. In a short art career of just over four years, Shilakoe was prolific, with an estimated 80 prints and a number of sculptures. He died tragically in a car accident in September 1972.

3 August 1959 Dock workers strike in Guinea Bissau

A dock workers strike in Bissau is the first action of the liberation struggle, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde. Portuguese police respond with deadly force, killing more than 50 workers.

3 August 1964 Lucky Dube born

South African and Africa's best-selling reggae performer was



born on this day in Ermelo, Mpumalanga. His record sales across the world earned him the Best Selling African Musician prize at the 1996 World Music Awards. In his lyrics, Dube discussed issues affecting South Africans and Africans in general. He recorded 22 albums in a 25-year period and was Africa's best-selling reggae artist of all time. Dube was murdered on 18 October 2007. In 2009, Judge Seun Moshidi found Sifiso Mhlana, Mbuti Mabe and Ludwe Gxowa guilty of his murder.

3 August 1964 Oosthuizen family perishes down sinkhole

The entire Oosthuizen family, husband, wife, three children and domestic worker died when their home in Carltonville disappeared into a sinkhole. This also affected neighbouring houses, but other families escaped, some climbing through windows.

3 August 1981 The Ennovator born

Kenyan record producer Tim Rimbui was born in Nairobi. He is considered one of East Africa's leading producers in the early 21st century. The "Ennovator" has worked with the region's top singers and songwriters, specializing in urban sounds with a focus on Afrobeat and R&B.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

3 August 2012

Caster Semenya wins Gold



South Africa's Caster Semenya won the women's 800 meters to take gold at the Summer Olympic Games in London on this day.

4 August 1967

South Africa introduced compulsory military conscription for whites

The Defense Amendment Act came into force, under which every young white male over the age of 16 years became liable for military service. Conscripts formed part of the SADF and their services were largely used to uphold the apartheid regime. They fought against liberation movements in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique, and were often deployed to townships to quell anti-apartheid action. In 1983, the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) was formed to end compulsory military service. By 1985, the ECC held a **"Troops out of Townships"** campaign, in which the White dissatisfaction with apartheid and conscription was made clear. The government banned the ECC in 1988. In 1993, the end of conscription was announced. The SADF was replaced by the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) in 1994.

4 August 1996

Josiah Thugwane wins Olympic Gold



Josiah Thugwane became the first Black South African athlete to win an Olympic gold medal award by winning the marathon in Atlanta, Georgia. Josiah Thugwane was born on 15 April 1971 in Bethal, Mpumalanga. From humble beginnings, having no schooling, yet he rose to become an internationally celebrated and respected athlete. A former soccer player, Josiah was a speedy striker, but too small to make it as a professional player, his childhood dream. At the age of 17, while watching a TV programme that featured iconic distance stars Matthews Temane and Xolile Yawa, he decided that running was the future for him. His first move was to enter a half-marathon. He won, taking home R50.00 as the winner. *"That was it: I knew I was a runner and this was my way out"*. In 1988, Josiah ran away from a farm to pursue his dream of being a marathon runner. In 1989, he found work as a kitchen cleaner in a mining company in order to run under the mining club. He ran more than 50 marathons over the next five years, before realising that through hard training and a focus on select international events, he could reap much greater rewards. His first win in an international race came in 1995 at

the Honolulu Marathon in Japan. 1996 was his best year ever in his running career. He won the Old Mutual national championships in Cape Town, which qualified him to go to the Atlanta Olympic Games in the United States of America. He won a gold medal during the Olympics in Atlanta, and became the first South African to win gold after South Africa was readmitted into international sports. Thugwane received the national order of Ikhamanga in Silver. (www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/josiah-thugwane-1971).

4 August 2014

First US-Africa Leaders' Summit held in Washington

The Summit, hosted by President Barack Obama was the largest meeting ever between a US President and African leaders.

5 August 1875

First edition of Al-Ahram newspaper published in Cairo

Al-Ahram was founded in Alexandria in 1875 by two brothers, Beshara Takla and Saleem Takla. It began as a weekly newspaper published every Saturday. Its first issue appeared on 5 August 1876. The paper was relaunched as a daily newspaper in January 1881.

5 August 1907

Bombardment of Casablanca starts

The French naval started bombarding Casablanca with artillery shells from battleships. 7000 Moroccans were killed in the attack as part of French colonization of Morocco. The conquest met fierce resistance from the Shawiya people, and

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

as the insurrection spread, the French responded by firing bombs containing picric acid into residential neighbourhoods. Businesses, mosques and entire neighbourhoods were destroyed in the assault.

5 August 1947 Playwright Julie Okoh born



Nigerian playwright, educator and women's rights activist was born in Ubiaja, Edo. More than a dozen books have been written analysing her plays depictions of women in African society. Julie Okoh received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Nigerian Theatre Artists in 2011, and she continues to write plays.

5 August 1965 South Africa's first atomic reactor, Safari 1 opened

South Africa's first atomic reactor, Safari I, was opened by the Prime Minister at Pelindaba near Johannesburg.

5 August 1987 Boy Who Harnessed the Wind born

Malawian inventor and author, William Kamkwamba was born in Kasungu. He earned fame at

age 14 for inventing an electric turbine to power household appliance made from blue gum trees and scrap parts. He turned the experience into a book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, which became a global hit.

5 August 2021 Gaming in Africa reach

Games analytic company NewZoo reports that 186 million Africans are gamers, mainly through games downloaded and played on phones. This is the highest growth in gaming in any continent.

6 August 1909 Mining leads Eswatini economy

The British Commissioner of the protectorate of Swaziland, reported that mining led the country's economy, with cassiterite tin as the main export, extracted from five white-owned mines.

6 August 1945 USA nuclear bomb obliterates Hiroshima

The first nuclear weapon used in warfare obliterates Hiroshima, Japan as the World War II draws to an end. Uranium to power the bomb was mined in Belgian Congo (DRC). Since 1921, millions of dollars' worth of uranium have been mined from Congo, with no profit or benefit going to the Congolese people or towards the development of the country.

6 August 1962 Nelson Mandela arrested

Nelson Mandela, leader of the ANC and first commander-in-chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), was captured in Cedera, near Howick, KZN shortly after his return to South Africa on completing military



training in Oujda, Morocco, and after attending the All Africa People's Conference in Ethiopia. He was charged with incitement to strike and with illegally leaving the country. His trial took place in Pretoria Old Synagogue and in November 1962, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on the charges. He began his sentence in Pretoria Central Prison.

6 August 1965 Cocoa House opens in Ibadan

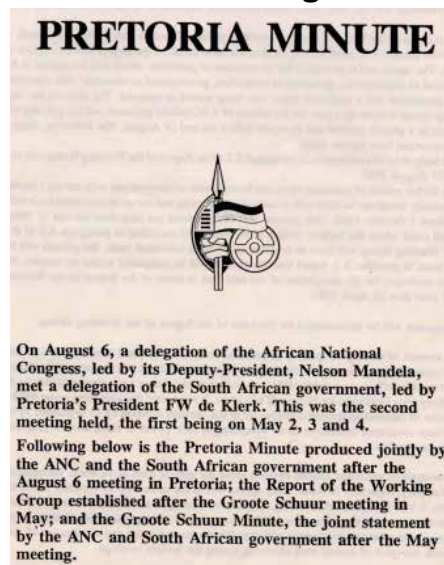
Cocoa house in Ibadan, Nigeria is a testament to the once-lucrative cash crop era of Nigerian history. It was built from the revenue from cocoa, timber, rubber production and was the first sky scraper to be built in tropical Africa. The 26 floor building was first named Ile Awong be (House of Farmers), before renamed Cocoa House. Nigeria remains the fourth largest exporter of cocoa, after Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Ghana.

6 August 1982 Moroka Three Sentenced to Death

Three ANC members, Telle Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Semano Mosololi, and Marcus Thabo Motaung, were sentenced to death for separate attacks at the Moroka and Orlando Police

stations in Soweto and the Wonderboom Police station in Pretoria in which four policemen were killed. The three, known as the “Moroka Three”, were charged with high treason and twenty other alternative charges, including the attack at New Canada railway station and Central Park electric sub-station. They pleaded not guilty and cited police brutality during the 1976 uprising as cause for their actions against the police in Soweto and Wonderboom. Justice D. J. Curlewis ignored evidence of police brutality and passed a guilty verdict and imposed a death penalty on these men. He rejected their testimonies detailing their torture. The trial also revealed that South African medical professionals were complicit in police brutality and at times collaborated by giving the police permission to take away Motaung who was shot three times. The “Moroka Three” were executed on the 9 June 1984.

6-7 August 1990 Pretoria Minute signed



The ANC and the South African Government issued a joint declaration (the “Pretoria Minute”) at the conclusion of 15 hours of

talks. The ANC announced that it would immediately suspend all armed actions, while the Government undertook to consider lifting the state of emergency in Natal “as early as possible” and to continue reviewing the security legislation and its application “in order to ensure free political activity”. The government and the African National Congress (ANC) reaffirmed their commitment to talks about talks (Groote Schuur Minute) and the consensus reached on the release of political prisoners, return of exiles, obstacles in the Internal Security Act and suspension of armed action by the ANC as part of the on-going negotiations to end minority White rule. The final report of the Joint Working Group on political offences was accepted by both parties. Both sides pledged to redouble efforts to reduce the level of violence in the country. This consensus between the two parties became known as the Pretoria Minute.

6 August 1992 Adelaide Tambo Return to South Africa after 30 years of exile



Mam Adelaide Tambo became politically active after her grandfather's arrest at the age of

ten. At high school, she started to work as a courier for the ANC, and joined the ANC Youth League at the age of 18, where she met Oliver Tambo whom she later married. In 1960, the Tambo's were asked by the ANC to set up the movement in exile. They first settled in London, and Mme Adelaide became a founding member of Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement and the Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO). Mam Adelaide Tambo returned to South Africa after the unbanning of the ANC, and was elected as National Treasurer of the ANC Women's League in 1991. She served as a member of the first democratic parliament from 1994 to 1999. She received the order of Boabab in gold for her commitment in struggle and her dedication to community service and nation building. Mam Tambo passed on 31 January 2007.

6 August 2018 WHO reports on Rwanda child health

The World Health Organisation reports significant advances in children's health in the country. At independence from Belgium in 1962, nearly a quarter (222 of 1000) of Rwandan children died before their fifth birthday. At the time of the WHO report, the figure declined to 39 of 1000, helped by advances against malaria.

6 August 2019 Ngwevu intloko dinosaur fossil named

For the first time a dinosaur was given an isiXhosa name: Ngwevu intloko (meaning grey skull). The fossil of a 200 million year old dinosaur was dug up in 1978 on a South African farm. It was first misidentified, until a Wits University paleontologist

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

determined that the fossil is a new genus of dinosaur and it got named on this day.

7 August 1860

Natal colony permit to import Indian indentured labour

The colony was permitted by the British government to import indentured workers from the Indian subcontinent, to work on Natal sugar plantations on three year contracts. This formed the nucleus of the South African Indian population. South Africans of Indian/Asian origin today constitute 2.6% of the population, or just over 1.5 million citizens (StatsSa, 2019)

7 August 1932

Abebe Bikila born



Ethiopian barefoot runner and first black African to win an Olympic gold medal was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Abebe Bikila won the Men's Marathon at the 1960 Olympics, and won gold again in the same race in the 1964 Olympics.

7 August 1933

Author Wilma Stockenstrom born

Wilhemina Johanna Stockenstrom is a significant and gifted Afrikaans writer, whose work has been translated into several other

languages. Wilma studied Drama at Stellenbosch University, where she initially focused on drama and playwright before she branched into poetry and fiction. She wrote a few plays and appeared in some theatre productions. With her first book of poetry, *Vir Die Bysienende Leser*, published in 1970, she received praise for the originality and unconventional use of language. Wilma showcased her acting abilities in television shows such as *Mannakwalanners* and *Die Besoeker*, for which her performance earned her the Rapport-Oscar. Wilma has contributed extensively to Afrikaans writing in general, but it is mainly for her poetry that she is considered an important figure in Afrikaans literature. Originally from Napier in the Cape, she spent most of her working life in Pretoria, where she worked as a translator. She moved back to Cape Town in 1993.

7 August 1960

Côte d'Ivoire gains independence

Pre-colonial history of Côte d'Ivoire includes the establishment of savanna and forest towns by the Duyla traders, including the town of Kong, the establishment of Islam in the north and the 17th century establishment of the kingdom of Gyaaman. The capital, Bondoukou, became a centre for trade and Islamic scholarship. By the 18th century, a centralized political and administrative system had developed, but due to the European scramble for Africa, this system was replaced by French colonial rule in 1893. From 1904-1958, Côte d'Ivoire was incorporated into the Federation of French West Africa. In 1958, Côte d'Ivoire became an autonomous country within the French community, and on 7

August 1960, full independence from France had been achieved under the leadership of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who governed until 1993. Côte d'Ivoire supported the South African liberation struggle and was the first country to re-establish diplomatic relations after the end of apartheid.

7 August 1975

Charlize Theron born



South African artist and the first African to win Hollywood's Academy award, Charlize Theron was born in Benoni. She won the Oscar for Best Actress in the 2003 drama *Monster*.

7 August 1992

President Chissano meets Renamo leader

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano met with Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Resistancia Nacional Mozambicana (RENAMO), to sign a peace agreement in Rome. The two leaders signed a joint declaration committing themselves to the spirit of established protocols and ensuring that agreed constitutional guarantees would be adopted as law before a final peace agreement was signed. The final agreement was signed on 4 October 1992.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

1–7 August 2026

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



1 August

World Wide Web Day

Celebrated annually on August 1, World Wide Web Day is a tribute to the groundbreaking invention that has connected people globally. According to UNICEF, more than one third of young people do not have access to the internet or to adequate devices or data, and over 2.2 billion young people do not have access to stable internet at home, making online learning inaccessible. As we therefore celebrate World Wide Web day, we must continue to fight for digital inclusion through universal broadband access, as a basic human right.

1–7 August

World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebration which is held every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 120 countries. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), *“Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable*

food system. But while breastfeeding is a natural process, it is not always easy. Mothers need support – both to get started and to sustain breastfeeding.” In 2026, the global campaign focuses on the theme **“Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works”** to highlight child nutrition, health, and support systems.





LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2026

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