



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

18–24 September 2026

Conversations *with the* President



We must use our BRICS membership to improve the lives of our people

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**



OVER this past weekend, we were in New Delhi, India, for the 18th BRICS Summit, an event that cemented the pivotal role of the group in building a more inclusive global economy and world order.

At the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg in 2023, it was decided to expand the group beyond Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. In addition to these five countries, BRICS now includes Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Together these countries account for around half of the world's population and around a quarter of global trade.

For South Africa, BRICS is an

important platform for building political and economic ties that benefit our country and people. Through BRICS, we can help to build a fairer multilateral world order governed by international law with the United Nations at its centre.

Through our BRICS membership we have deepened practical cooperation in fields such as science and technology, research, education and skills development. We have led people-to-people exchange through bodies like the BRICS Youth Council, BRICS Think Tanks Council, the BRICS Network University and others.

While BRICS Summits may seem far removed from the daily lives of South Africans, the coun-

try gains a lot from our membership of the group.

It is an important forum for investment and trade. More than a fifth of South Africa's trade is with BRICS countries. As a shareholder in the New Development Bank – also known as the BRICS Bank – South Africa has been able to access development finance to support major energy, water and transportation infrastructure investments.

Through the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement, South Africa is able to access a pool of \$100 billion in currency reserves in the case of a liquidity crisis. We also benefit from BRICS co-operation across areas such as health, science, agriculture and skills development.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Cooperation between BRICS countries extends beyond government. A number of sectors of society participate in BRICS activities, most notably the private sector. While in New Delhi, we took part in the BRICS Business Forum, where heads of state, ministers and business leaders discussed how to deepen trade and investment between our countries.

We used the opportunity of being in India to strengthen links between South African and Indian business.

We already have strong ties. India is South Africa's fourth largest trading partner. More than 150 Indian companies have invested over \$10 billion in our country, creating employment for over 18,000 South Africans. A number of leading South African firms like Naspers, FirstRand Bank, Sanlam and Momentum also have significant investments in India.

Building on these links, we convened the South Africa-India CEOs Roundtable with leaders from some of India's leading firms and a number of South Af-

rican companies. We also held a number of meetings with individual Indian companies that either want to expand existing interests in South Africa or explore new opportunities.

The Indian companies commended South Africa for the structural transformation that is underway in the energy, logistics, telecommunications and water sectors, and the reforms being undertaken in visas, public digital infrastructure and other areas.

We highlighted various opportunities for investment and partnership in areas such as green industrialisation, critical minerals and beneficiation, infrastructure, agriculture and the digital economy.

South Africa and India have complementary resources and capabilities that when combined can create great value for both countries.

For example, India's strengths in pharmaceuticals and health technology can support our ambition to expand the local production of medicines and vaccines. It has capabilities in information technology, financial technology

and digital public infrastructure that can support the modernisation of our own systems and services.

Our endowment of critical minerals can feed India's fast-growing renewable energy, battery and automotive value chains, while ensuring that more of the processing of these minerals happens on South African soil.

To turn this potential into practical partnerships, we are keen to restore direct flights between South Africa and India. We also need closer working relationships between our business chambers.

Looking ahead, our priority as South Africa is to continue to use our membership of BRICS to deepen bilateral cooperation and expand trade and investment ties.

Through BRICS, we will continue to add our voice to the growing call from the Global South for an inclusive world order rooted in mutual respect and shared prosperity. And we will continue to use our membership of BRICS to develop our economy and improve the lives of our people.

ANC STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE ELECTORAL COURT JUDGMENT

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress has noted the judgment of the Electoral Court concerning the dispute over the submission of the party's candidate information in the affected municipalities.

The ANC respects the courts and the judicial process. We have consistently maintained that this matter is not about seeking preferential treatment for the ANC, nor about asking the Electoral Commission to change the rules for the benefit of our organisation. It con-

cerns the legal status of candidate information that the ANC maintains was captured into the IEC's electronic system before the prescribed deadline.

Having considered the judgment, the ANC will exercise its legal rights and pursue the appropriate appeal process. Our legal representatives will engage the court on the legal questions arising from the judgment.

We call on all ANC members, leaders, and supporters to re-

main calm and disciplined, and to refrain from public commentary that could prejudice or interfere with the ongoing legal process.

The ANC remains fully committed to the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Our focus remains on presenting our programme to South Africans, engaging communities, and earning their support through our record and our policies for the betterment of communities.



A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

VOTE ANC



From Faith to Action:

TG Calls for Unity and Action

■ By **DR GWEN RAMOKGOPA, ANC Treasurer General**

“If it weren’t for faith, I would have given up long ago.”
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FAITH, heritage and community action came together during Heritage Month as ANC Treasurer General (TG), Dr Gwen Ramokgopa engaged with church communities in Mabopane, Sedibeng in Vereeniging and Mamelodi, east of Pretoria. The engagements formed part of a broader call for unity, active citizenship and collective responsibility to build safer, stronger and better communities, while creating an opportunity to listen to communities and take the ANC 2026 Local Government Elections Manifesto directly to the people ahead of the 4th November elections.



The first prayer meeting was held in Mabopane with a special prayer session with Ilizwe-Lonke, BoMme Ba Thapelo. The occasion formed part of South Africa’s commemoration of 70 years since the historic Women’s March of 1956. Reflecting on the way forward, TG called on South Africans to carry the spirit of 1956 into the present.

“The spirit of 1956 must live in the actions we take today. We honour the women who came before us by ensuring that future generations inherit a country where women and children can live in safety, dignity and freedom,” she said.

The message from Mabopane was one of faith, unity, empowerment and action. As South Africa marks 70 years since the historic Women’s March, the legacy of the women of 1956 remains alive – not only in remembrance, but in the continued determination to build a safer, more equal and just society.

With this year’s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising and the Local Government Elections approaching on 4 November, women are once again called upon to recognise their collective power and responsibility as citizens, community builders and leaders.

The engagement was followed by a visit to St Mark’s Apostolic Church in Sedibeng, Vereeniging, where the Treasurer General (TG) received a warm welcome from congregants, followed by a musical item from the church’s young brass band. The spiritual engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on the important role of faith-based communities in strengthening families, supporting vulnerable people and contributing to the development of safer and more cohesive communities.

The church engagement also highlighted the importance of practical solidarity and giving back



to communities. ANC-branded blankets were donated to elderly women who are members of the congregation, reinforcing the principle that building better communities begins with looking after those who are most vulnerable.

The message of faith, unity and community action continued at the Interdenominational Women in Prayer gathering at Mamelodi East Baptist Church. TG was welcomed and supported by church leaders, congregants and members of the ANC Women's League from surrounding areas. The gathering was marked by a jubilant atmosphere, with members proudly wearing traditional attire in celebration of Heritage Month.

Their colourful presence reflected the importance of culture, identity and the role of women in preserving South Africa's heritage while helping to shape the future of their communities. The gathering also demonstrated the value of reaching beyond formal political structures and engaging directly with people where they live, worship and organise.

As the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a giant of South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, frequently emphasised, prayer has an important role to play in the life of a nation. Yet faith must also be accompanied by action, particularly when communities face social and economic challenges. The church engagements therefore provided an opportunity to connect South Africa's history of collective struggle and community solidarity with the challenges confronting communities today.

The role of prayer for a nation, especially during times of socio-economic or political hardship, remains critical. At the same time, building better communities requires people to stand together across generations, protect the vulnerable and work collectively to address the challenges affecting families.

Particular attention was given to the protection of women, children and young people, as well as the urgent fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The TG called for stronger partnerships between

families, churches, community organisations, political structures and government to create environments where people are safe and able to realise their full potential.

At the centre of the engagements was the ANC 2026 Local Government Elections Manifesto, which the Treasurer said must be taken beyond political platforms and placed directly in the hands of communities.

"The Manifesto is a commitment to the people. It speaks directly to the issues that affect communities every day – the quality of basic services, safer communities, jobs, local economic development and municipalities that are accountable and responsive. Our responsibility is to take these commitments to the people and, together with communities, turn them into action," she said.

The Manifesto's six pillars provide a framework for building capable, responsive and accountable local government. These include improving basic services and infrastructure; building safe

and healthy communities; creating jobs and expanding local economies; strengthening capable and ethical municipalities; advancing inclusive and sustainable development; and deepening community participation and social cohesion.

It was stressed that these priorities must be discussed with communities in a manner that allows people to understand how local government decisions affect their everyday lives – from water and sanitation and roads to safety, economic opportunities and the quality of municipal services.

The 4 November Local Government Elections provide an important opportunity for citizens to exercise their democratic voice and influence the future direction of their communities.

“Voting is not simply about choosing a political party; it is about choosing the kind of community and local government we want. On 4 November, every eligible voter has an opportunity and a responsibility to make their voice count. We must encourage our communities to register, to understand the choices before them and to participate in building the

South Africa we want. As a nation, we should not lose patience nor forget where we come from. Let us not give up, but continue to fight for our land,” said TG.

She further emphasised that democratic participation cannot end on election day. Communities must remain actively involved in holding municipalities accountable, monitoring service delivery and working with local structures to identify challenges and find solutions.

This places community outreach at the heart of the election period – not simply as a mobilisation exercise, but as an opportunity to listen, engage and rebuild trust between communities and local government. Churches and faith-based organisations, with their deep roots in communities, have an important role to play in encouraging responsible citizenship, social cohesion and participation.

The warm reception from the church communities in Mabopane, Sedibeng and Mamelodi highlighted the importance of intergenerational participation and community solidarity. Young people, women, elders, churches, community organisations and

political structures all have a role to play in shaping communities where people can live with dignity, safety and opportunity.

From Mabopane to Sedibeng and Mamelodi, the message was clear: faith must be accompanied by action, heritage must inspire unity, and communities must take an active role in shaping their future.

As the ANC takes its 2026 Manifesto to the people ahead of the 4 November Local Government Elections, the call is for communities to unite, understand the commitments being made, participate in the democratic process and work collectively towards municipalities that deliver services, create opportunities and put people first.

The road to 4 November is therefore not only about an election. It is about the kind of communities South Africans want to build and the kind of local government they expect to serve them.

Faith must inspire action. Heritage must strengthen unity. And through active participation, dialogue, giving back and collective responsibility, communities can help build better communities.



Why South Africa Still Needs the ANC

■ By **DR SNUKI ZIKALALA, ANC Veterans League President**

SOUTH AFRICA stands at an important crossroads. As citizens prepare to exercise their democratic right to vote on 04 November 2026, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: Which political movement has the vision, values, experience and policies necessary to build the South Africa we want for ourselves and future generations?

For us as veterans of the liberation struggle, the answer remains unequivocally clear – it's the African National Congress.

This is not because the ANC is without its faults and shortcomings. It is not. We are candid about where we have fallen short. Where corruption, maladministration, poor service delivery or political complacency have undermined the confidence of our people, we have and will continue to confront these problems honestly.

But we must also be honest about where South Africa came from, what has been achieved since 1994, and what the ANC still stands for. The ANC inherited a deeply unequal society. Apartheid was not simply a system of racial discrimination; it was a political and economic system designed to deny the majority of South Africans their dignity, opportunities and rightful place in



their own country. The enormous task of reversing this legacy is not over.

The ANC's continued commitment to transformation is reflected in its inclusive and pro-poor policies. They have consistently sought to address poverty, unemployment and inequality; expand access to education and health-care; develop infrastructure; empower historically disadvantaged communities; and create an

economy that serves the interests of the majority rather than a privileged few.

But the ANC's greatest contribution goes beyond our policies. It lies in the kind of country we chose to build. We chose democracy over authoritarianism. We chose reconciliation over revenge. We chose constitutionalism over arbitrary power. We chose a South Africa belonging to all who live in it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2026



The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is one of the great achievements of our democratic transition. It establishes a society founded on human dignity, equality, freedom and the rule of law. It protects fundamental rights and provides institutions designed to hold those in power accountable.

Establishing an independent Constitutional Court has been central to this constitutional order. The ANC played a decisive role in the negotiations that produced our democratic Constitution and in establishing the constitutional framework within which all political parties, including the ANC itself, must operate.

The ANC does not believe that because it led the liberation struggle it is entitled to govern indefinitely. Government is earned through the people's confidence. Every election gives citizens an opportunity to renew, withhold, or change that mandate.

We therefore appeal to South Africans not to vote out of anger alone, nor to vote simply because of disappointment with individual

leaders or government failures. We ask voters to consider the larger question: What political programme best represents the South Africa we want to build?

The ANC remains fundamentally non-racial. Our vision is not of a country divided permanently according to race, but of a united South African nation in which race, colour, gender, language or background should never determine a person's worth or destiny.

The ANC remains committed to restoring ethical leadership, combating corruption without fear or favour, improving the quality of public administration, and ensuring that government works efficiently for ordinary citizens. Few countries in the world would voluntarily agree to a Zondo and now Madlanga Commission of Inquiry into the depths of state power.

In the face of a plethora of small parties who seek political power for opportunistic and selfish reasons, only the ANC has the necessary policies and purpose to take local government forward.

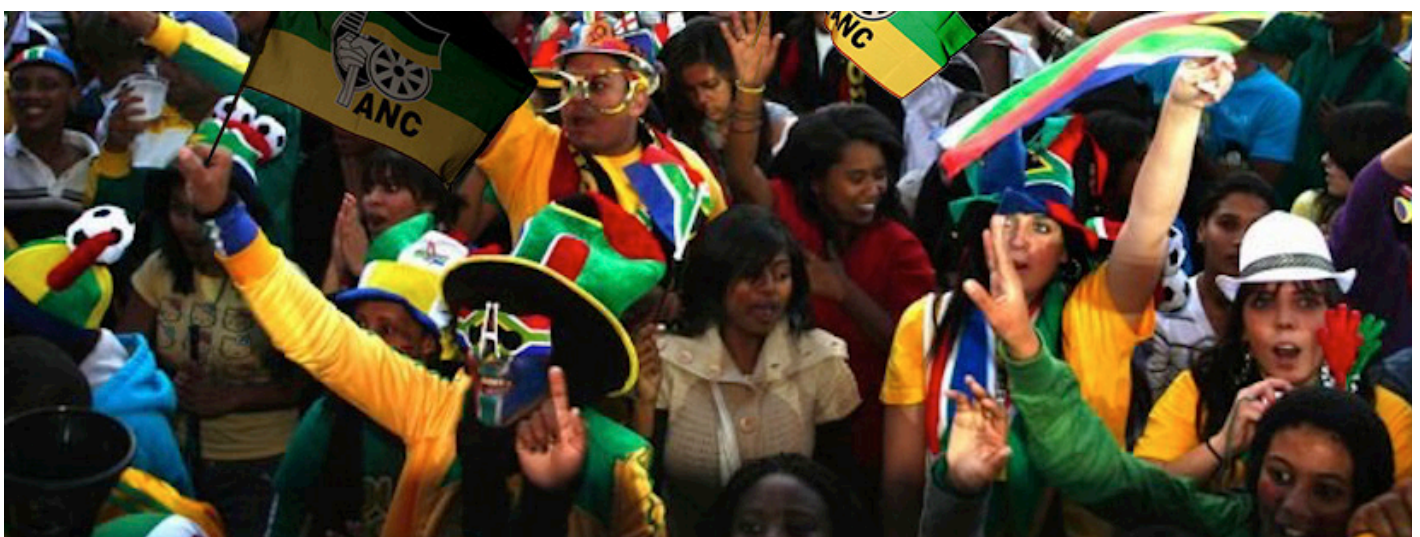
We therefore call upon South Africans to look beyond the politics of anger, despair and division. Look at the record. Look at the policies. Look at the constitutional order we helped establish. Look at the millions whose lives have been transformed since 1994. And then ask which movement is best positioned to complete the unfinished work of building a truly prosperous, just and united South Africa.

The ANC does not claim perfection. We claim a history of struggle, a record of transformation, a commitment to non-racial democracy and a vision of a better South Africa. Our task now is to renew that commitment, correct our failures and serve our people with humility, integrity and determination.

The future of South Africa belongs to all of us. Let us build it together.

Let us renew the ANC. Let us renew our democracy. Let us renew our country.

Vote ANC.



A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

VOTE ANC



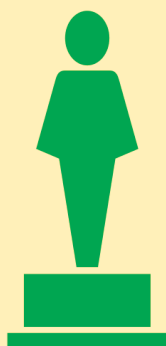
SA IN NUMBERS:

2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



NOMINATION METHODS

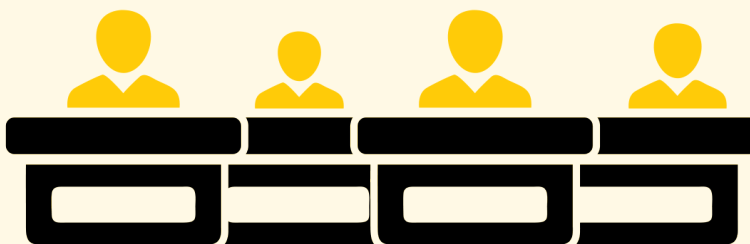
Online submissions accounted for 84% of candidate nominations, while the remaining 16% were submitted in person.



CANDIDATE NUMBERS

The IEC certified **136 790 candidates**, compared with **95 427 in 2021**. A further 5 096 candidates were disqualified during the statutory reviews. **1 596 PR candidates (31%)** and **3 500 Ward candidates (69%)**.

Most disqualifications stemmed from insufficient supporters for independents, non-compliance with statutory requirements especially unpaid deposits and missing nomination documents with a further significant share due to incorrect voters'roll registration.



COUNCIL SEATS

Candidates will contest **10526 council seats** across the country, compared with **10478 seats in the 2021 elections**.

Across the 8 metros, 44 district municipalities and 205 local municipalities. Metro seats attracted 43098 candidates, district seats 6443 candidates and local municipality seats 87249 candidates.

Political party candidates account for **99.5% (136169)** of all candidates, while independent candidates account for **0.5% (621)**



MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PR CONTESTATION

City of Johannesburg: **75** parties

City of Tshwane: **70** parties

City of eThekweni: **69** parties

City of Ekurhuleni: **67** parties

City of Cape Town: **55** parties.

Emfuleni: **41** parties,

Polokwane: **36** parties,

Rustenburg: **36** parties,

Nelson Mandela Bay; **37** parties,

Capricorn District: **36** parties.



WARD WITH ONE OF HIGHEST NUMBER OF CANDIDATES CONTESTING:

Ward 18 in Johannesburg has 63 candidates



GENDER REPRESENTATION

Women account for 51527 all candidates (38%), men account for all candidates 85263 (62%).

Women constitute 44% of PR candidates and 35% of ward candidates.

Men constitute 56% of PR candidates and 65% of ward candidates



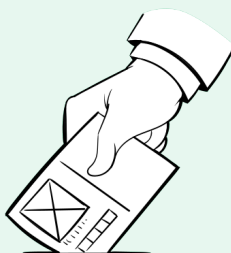
AGE PROFILE:

18 to 39 account: 32% (What the IEC considers as the "youth category")

30 to 39 (23.8%)

40 to 49 (31%),

50 to 59 (24.3%)



VOTING STATIONS AND OFFICIALS:

The IEC secured 23696 voting stations: 22668 permanent, 995 temporary and 33 mobile stations. These figures may change as the Commission finalises lease agreements.

Out of **23696** Presiding Officers and **29964** Deputy Presiding Officers being recruited, the Commission has to date recruited over 50%, and their training has commenced.

THE FACTS ARE CATCHING UP: Why the SG Must Not Be Made the Fall Guy

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

WHEN I wrote in the *Sunday Independent* that “the centre must hold” and that leaders must not become loose cannons when the movement’s engine room is under attack, some may have interpreted my intervention as a personalised defence of ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula. The evidence now emerging vindicates the central argument I advanced: accountability must follow evidence, not factional appetite, selective leaks or media choreography.

The ANC’s candidate-list debacle is serious. There is no point in sugar-coating it. A movement asking South Africans to entrust it with municipalities must demonstrate that it can administer its own candidate process competently. However, seriousness does not authorise scapegoating. Nor does the political inconvenience of a crisis permit a handful of NEC members to place the entire burden at the door of the Secretary-General before the facts have been properly examined.

The internal report attributed to the SG reveals an uncomfortable but important picture. Provincial structures were instructed to ensure that centrally recommended mayoral candidates appeared on their lists. Those instructions were repeated. On 28 August,

the SG approved lodgement subject to conditions, including the insertion of recommended mayoral candidates who had not emerged through the ordinary nomination process. Yet some provinces failed to carry out the instruction.

The consequences were substantial. Of the 206 comrades recommended for possible mayoral office across 48 municipalities, 51 reportedly appeared on no councillor list at all. This affected 32 municipalities, including metros and strategic cities. In Gauteng, Rev Frank Chikane was allegedly omitted despite a direct instruction that he be included. That is not evidence of an SG who secretly engineered the exclusion. On the available facts,

it points to instructions that were either ignored, carelessly implemented or not verified by those entrusted with executing them.

The Eastern Cape example is even more revealing. Its final list reportedly reached the ANC operations centre at 16:31, only 29 minutes before the IEC’s 17:00 deadline. In that period, the national team was expected to receive the file, compare it with previous versions, identify alterations, correct defects, capture amendments and submit the affected municipal lists. The same report records that correcting 35 identity numbers had earlier consumed more than four hours. Expecting the operations centre to complete an entire provincial process in 29 minutes was not

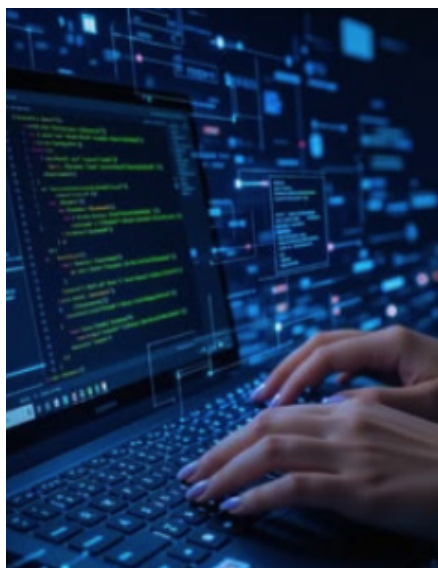


reasonable administration. It was political and administrative recklessness at provincial level.

This does not render the national office blameless. The SG is the ANC's chief administrative officer and must carry political responsibility for the performance of the engine room. The national office should have imposed a binding internal deadline well before the IEC cut-off, established a reliable reconciliation mechanism and independently confirmed that every NEC instruction had been implemented. Political accountability at the top is therefore unavoidable. But political accountability is not the same as sole personal culpability.

The distinction matters. A leader may carry overall responsibility while the direct cause of a failure lies with officials who submitted information late, omitted names or altered approved lists without authority. Collective responsibility must not become a convenient blanket protecting individual misconduct. Equally, the SG's position must not be used as a convenient hook upon which every institutional failure is hung.

The ANC's argument before the Electoral Court further demonstrated why the matter was never as simple as opponents and some internal critics portrayed it. The affected candidates' information and documents were already stored on the IEC's Online Candidate Nomination System before the deadline. The ANC sought to introduce no new candidate and amend no list after 17:00. Its legal argument was that neither the Municipal Electoral Act nor its regulations expressly makes pressing the software-generated "Submit as Final" button the decisive legal act of submission.



The party argued that when documents are delivered manually, they are submitted when received by the IEC, not only when an official stamps or processes them. Accordingly, when complete electronic information enters the IEC's designated system and can be retrieved and processed, it should similarly be regarded as received.

This is a serious legal argument grounded in the wording of the electoral legislation and the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act, not a crude demand for special treatment. The ANC's legal grounds are solid.

The IEC has a strong answer. It maintains that captured information remains editable and does not become a final nomination until the party presses "*Submit as Final*". Its audit trail also disputes the alleged system failure. These are matters the Electoral Court must determine. We should neither intimidate the court nor proclaim victory before judgment.

But the proceedings have already established one critical point: the ANC's case is neither frivolous nor a dishonest attempt to smuggle new candidates through the

back door. It raises a genuine question about whether an administrative software instruction can create an additional substantive requirement not expressly prescribed by legislation. Reporting from the hearing confirms that this was the central dispute.

This strengthens, rather than weakens, my earlier argument. Those who rushed to declare Mbalula the sole author of the crisis were themselves running ahead of the evidence. Some were not searching for accountability; they were searching for ammunition.

The approach of internal political contests cannot be allowed to convert every administrative failure into a factional execution.

The forensic investigation must now establish who changed each list, when it was changed, under whose authority, when each province submitted its final information and why clear NEC instructions were not implemented. Where negligence or deliberate defiance is proved, corrective and disciplinary action must follow without fear or favour.

The ANC must account, but it must account honestly. We cannot defend the organisation by burying mistakes, and we cannot renew it by manufacturing a convenient villain.

The centre must neither panic nor taunt. It must establish the facts, protect due process and act decisively against those actually responsible.

The facts are catching up.

The engine room may require repair, but setting fire to it will not move the train forward.

RESTORING DIGNITY:

Government Delivers R42 Million Lifeline to Eastern Cape Ex-Mine Workers

■ By **THOBEKA MAGCAI**

IN the rolling hills of the Eastern Cape, where the legacy of migrant labour runs deep, a quiet revolution of restorative justice is taking place. It is a story of a government that refuses to forget the men who built the backbone of South Africa's economy, only to be left in the cold by a system that took their health, dreams and youth.

This past week, that story reached a significant milestone. The Minister of Employment and Labour and ANC NEC Deployee, Cde Nomakhosazana Meth, MP, together with Eastern Cape Premier, Cde Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, welcomed the disbursement of over R42-million in compensation and benefits to Eastern Cape ex-mine workers and surviving beneficiaries.

The payout follows a 41-day Outreach Programme, which commenced on 13 July 2026, in Port St. Johns in covered areas such as King Sabata Dalindyebo, Nyandeni, Mbhashe, Kumkani Mhlontlo, Vuyisile Mini, Dr. AB Xuma. The unclaimed funds span over decades and represent far more than just Rands and cents; unlocking the funds is a concrete effort by the democratic government to address the long-standing needs of former mine workers and their families, ensuring streamlined access to social security benefits, unpaid compensation, and statutory claims.

A Premier's Personal Mission

For Premier Mabuyane, this initiative is deeply personal. Him-

self a former mine worker in his youth, the Premier has passionately spearheaded the Ex-Mine Workers Programme alongside the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), through Project Ithubalethu. His leadership embodies the ANC's historical commitment to the working class, ensuring that former mineworkers and their families receive their long-overdue compensation.

The programme is not a solitary government effort but a symphony of collaboration. The Department of Employment and Labour, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, the Department of Health, the Ithubalethu Ex-Mine Workers Programme, the South African Ex-Mineworkers Council, as well as Rand Mutual Assurance and the South African Medical Association, recently gathered for the Ex-Mine Workers roundtable at the Mthatha Health Resource Centre, located at the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital.

This roundtable served as a crucial platform to exchange information, share experiences, and report on progress made across the province. The session was further enriched by the presence of Mr. Sihle Mlangeni, representing the Embassy of eSwatini, who attended as part of the SADC delegation – a testament to the regional significance of this work.



Listening to the People

The true measure of a government is not found in boardrooms, but in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. During the engagements in Mthatha, Minister Meth, Premier Mabuyane, and departmental leadership did not stay behind desks. They met directly with ex-mine workers and beneficiaries, patiently moving along the snaking queues to greet and listen to their concerns, assess service delivery on the ground, and oversee the processing of claims via mobile Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and Compensation Fund units operating on-site.

The scene was a powerful reminder of the ANC's ethos of Batho Pele – the People First. Additional services on-site included health screening, work-seeker registration for beneficiaries, social security services by Social Development, and ID documentation by Home Affairs. This holistic approach ensures that the dignity of every applicant is restored, not just through financial compensation but through comprehensive care.

Restorative Justice in Action

"Our priority remains clear: bringing stakeholders together, advancing justice for our workers, and delivering tangible results to vulnerable communities. The disbursement of over R42 million is a demonstration of our commitment to restoring dignity to ex-mine workers who contributed immensely to the economic backbone of this country," said Cde Meth.

Premier Mabuyane highlighted the personal significance of the initiative, emphasizing that the provincial government remains



resolute in bringing restorative justice to former mineworkers.

"We appreciate the work of the teams who have demonstrated that you can go the extra mile to make a difference in the lives of people who desperately need the resources for their livelihoods," said Cde Mabuyane.

The Human Face of Delivery

The 41-day marathon of capturing and processing claims has seen great strides by all stakeholders. On the first day alone, 13 July 2026, the Department paid out R1.4 million. Some of the claimants are old and frail, while some of the beneficiaries have lost their husbands and fathers due to occupational diseases such as Silicosis and TB. For these families, the compensation is not just money, it is a recognition of their loved ones' sacrifice.

"This is a very important and much-needed programme for our

people, who are most in need, and it will continue nationwide," said Cde Meth.

A Call to Action

The Department emphasises that this initiative is an ongoing, long-term programme. Former mine workers and eligible family members or dependants are urged to visit their nearest Labour Centre or DEL service points to enquire, register, and process their unclaimed benefits and compensation claims.

Mobile offices across South Africa and processing teams will continue maintaining an active presence in targeted districts across the Eastern Cape to ensure all eligible former workers and families receive their rightful benefits.

We call on all structures and community leaders to assist in spreading this message. Together, we can ensure that no ex-mine worker is left behind.

Today we remember Steve Bantu Biko

*But is memory
all we owe him?*

■ By **LANGA ZITA**



THE other day, I was asked by the WHO to review a global learning module on urban health. At first, I hesitated. I remembered my first boss, Mcebisi Jonas, warning against people who “waffle” when they have nothing solid to say. I didn’t want to be that person.

But my mind travelled home. To the Eastern Cape. To my village,

Zinyoka Location, 8 km away from King William’s Town.

In 1975, my family had just arrived in the village after being evicted from the farm where my parents worked as labourers. We were evicted because bass Entini (Anthony), the farm owner, discovered that the son of his loyal worker was a freedom fighter, a “terrorist” in their eyes. He didn’t

think twice. We had to pack and go. At once.

As my father later recalled in an interview by Nhlanhla Mosele and Kim Rogers “*We were evicted because my son was in the BCM...*” (Stanley Roji, oral history interview, Dickinson College, 2008)

And that same year, something rare and revolutionary rose in Zinyoka: Zanempilo Community Health Centre. It was a dream of Black Consciousness made real. Steve Biko, Dr. Mamphele Ramphele and others chose to serve where the need was greatest. Built on the land of the Anglican Church, sustained by donations, and constructed by Black people, for Black people, at a time when apartheid denied us even the basics, the ‘Biko Clinic,’ as it was popularly known then, stood as defiance. As self-reliance. As dignity. As hope.

It declared that Black people are fully human. Deserving of care. Deserving of dignity. Deserving of health. On their own terms.

It was medicine, yes, but it was also dignity. The clinic became a





community hub, a public space where health met empowerment. Antenatal care stood alongside skills training. Food cooperatives eased daily survival. Women's projects created livelihoods and independence. Zanempilo stitched healing to livelihood, dignity to maternal care, rural life to the right to be seen. The right to be served. The right to be strengthened. Zanempilo was intersectional long before we had that word. It was a place where healing was never separate from freedom.

And at its gate stood the watchman. To many, his role was ordinary. He was just "security", keeping watch. But in truth, it was extraordinary. In a time of surveillance and police raids, he was the eyes and ears of the BCM. When police came disguised as patients, it was the watchman who noticed. He wasn't only guarding the walls, he was guarding the soul of the clinic and the movement. The clinic was Black Consciousness embodied. That's why, in the book *I Write What I Like*, it is referred to as the 'apple of Biko's eye.' It declared what

apartheid denied.

The watchman was not just any man. He was my father, uStanley Roji.

And the lesson of ZaneMpilo ? It is not just history. It still speaks. Fifty years later, it remains a compass for our present. In a world where our fellows, other Africans, are still turned away and denied care, it points us towards systems that put dignity first. It calls us to design health and commu-

nity systems that centre women, the poor, the vulnerable, the excluded. Where healing is justice. Where community and health belong together. That is the true meaning of healing.

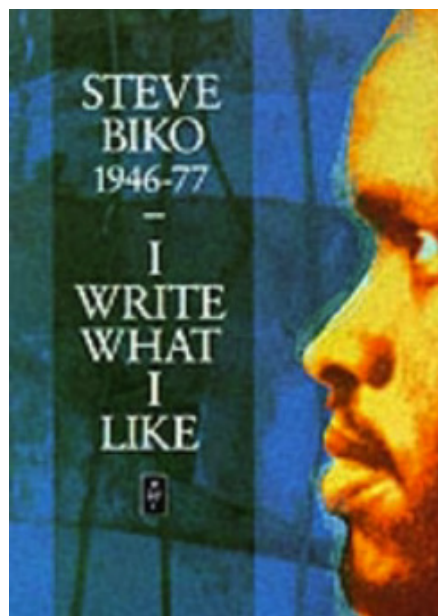
And when I grow weary as a civil servant, who preaches the importance of linking the struggles, it is because that is the soil I spring from. I carry ZaneMpilo with me. I carry that dream with me. It is the prayer I return to.

And the story of ZaneMpilo gave me the confidence to say yes to WHO: we can have a conversation about that. Yes I can contribute to that.

Thank you, Bantu Biko. To remember you is to keep building. To keep guarding. To keep believing. To keep pushing. To keep defying all that diminishes and divides us. To keep relying on ourselves, our people, our hands.

The watch is not yet over.

Langa Zita is Chief of Staff in the Secretary General's Office.



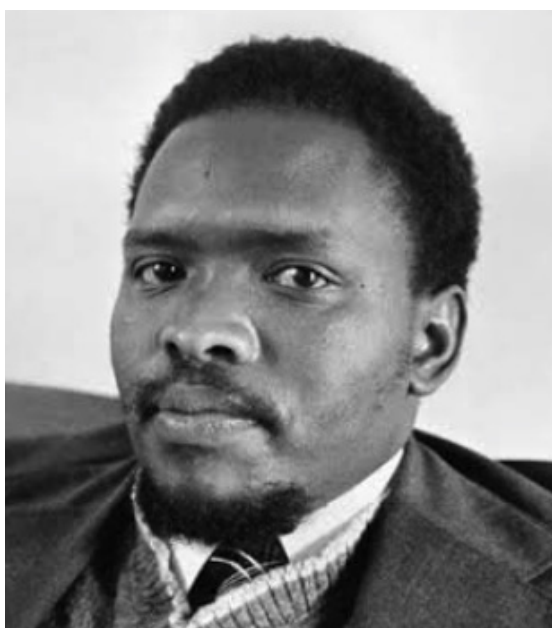
Calling on Young People to be the Steve Bikos of this Generation

■ By **SELLO SHAI-MORULE**

STEVE Biko was silenced for leading a crusade of becoming black. A crusade to make Black people proud of being Black. He was killed 49 years ago, on 12 September 1977, when he was only 31 years old. Biko was killed because he believed in a better tomorrow.

He espoused Black Consciousness philosophy that taught that Black people needed to overcome psychological oppression under apartheid and take pride in their "*Blackness*" and their humanity. The slogan was "*Black is Beautiful*." He was banned by the apartheid government in 1973. This meant he could not speak publicly, write, or leave his home district in King William's Town, but he continued to work underground.

Steve Bantu Biko, the founder of Black Consciousness Movement, co-founder of the South African Students' Organisation (SASO) and Black People's Convention (BPC) was born on 18 December 1946 in Ginsberg, Eastern Cape. On 18 August 1977, Biko was arrested at a roadblock near Grahamstown by the apartheid security police and charged under the Terrorism Act. He was taken to Port Elizabeth for interrogation. During interrogation at the Sanlam Building in Port Elizabeth, he was severely beaten by special branch officers. He suffered a



massive brain injury. On 11 September 1977, he was transported unconscious in the back of a police van, naked and chained, over 1,200km to Pretoria Central Prison hospital.

He died on 12 September 1977 on a mat on the floor of the prison hospital, aged 31. Police initially claimed he died from a hunger strike. An inquest in November 1977 found that he died from brain injuries caused by head trauma, but no one was charged. In 1997, during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, five former security policemen confessed to killing Biko, and applied for amnesty.

A few days ago, South Africa, Africa and the world marked 49 years since Biko's brutal death. Had he still been alive this De-

cember, he would be turning 80 years old. The fight for freedom was long and difficult and was fought on different fronts. However, the common goal was the total emancipation of Black people and equal human rights, economic freedom, linguistic and cultural rights, participation through one-man-one-vote, and a non-racial, non-sexist and a complete realization of national democratic society.

We have completely dismantled apartheid, done away with a government that was created to serve a minority, and established one that serves all South Africans. South Africans are now equal before the law irrespective of colour, health care, education and opportunities are accessible to all, however, much still needs to be done.

Young people of this generation must become the Steve Bikos of today and swell the ranks of progressive political and civil society organisations, stand up, lead and be counted, because this future is not ours, it is borrowed from them. The 4 November 2026 Municipal Elections are on our doorstep. The franchise we enjoy today must not be taken lightly, because compatriots like Steve Biko and many others paid the supreme sacrifice so that we, as the previously disadvantaged native populace of this country, can vote and be voted for.



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PRESERVING OUR LEGACY.

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

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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



THALANENI MISSIONARY CEMETERY
NKANDLA, KWAZULU-NATAL

“Mai Mai!” — an expression of urgency, care, and attention.



**SAUL MSANE
FOUNDATION**

PRESERVING HERITAGE • ACTIVATING CULTURE • LAND JUSTICE



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19–25 September 2026

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

19 September 1905 Egyptologist Pahor Labib born

Pahor Labib was Director of the Coptic Museum, Cairo, Egypt, from 1951 to 1965 and one of the world leaders in Egyptology and Coptology. He was the first Egyptian to obtain a Ph.D. in Egyptology, in 1934.

19 September 1953 Jessie Duarte born

Jessie Yasmin Duarte was born in Coronationville, Gauteng province, where she grew up and completed her schooling. She became actively involved in politics at a very early age and over the years she developed a reputation as an activist and an advocate for equality. She was recruited by Mme Albertina Sisulu in 1979 to establish women's structures throughout the

country, and by 1981 the ANCWL had nine (9) functioning women's structures in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Transvaal and others. She was also serving at that time as the provincial secretary of the Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDSAW), which was a UDF Affiliate. Comrade Duarte started her professional career as a Management Accountant at Anglo American Properties Limited, and later Raven Press. She was with the latter when she was served with a restriction order. During this period, she worked with Beyers Naude to set up and administer a scholarship fund to educate and skill ANC and UDF activists, progressive crop of public servants. She was detained without trial in 1988, released and placed under restriction orders until the State of Emergency was lifted. Follow-

ing the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, she was appointed to serve on the Interim Leadership Core. During South Africa's negotiations for democracy, from 1991–1994, Duarte was a member of the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC; she subsequently served as a special assistant to Nelson Mandela (1990–94); was on the ANC National Executive Committee (1997–1999); a member of the provincial cabinet (MEC, Safety and Security) for Gauteng (1994–1998); and was ambassador to Mozambique (1999–2003). Upon her return as Ambassador, she was appointed as the National Spokesperson of the ANC before being deployed as Chief Operations Officer in the Presidency, South African Government until she resigned in April 2010. Duarte was a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee since 1997. Comrade Jessie Duarte was elected Deputy Secretary-General of the ANC at the 53rd National Conference in Mangaung in December 2012, a position she was re-elected to at the ANC's 54th National Conference in Nasrec in 2017. She served as Deputy Secretary General until her passing on 17 July 2022. Comrade Jessie was an internationalist, a fighter for the rights of oppressed peoples everywhere, especially women and children. Her commitment to the cause of the people of Palestine, Western Sahara and against the Cuban Blockade remained unwavering.

Remembering Comrade
JESSIE DUARTE

1953–2022



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 September 1956

African writers and artists meet

The first International Conference of African writers and artists is held in Paris.

19 September 1997

Halima Aden born



Somali fashion model Halima Aden was born in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya on this day, and grew up in the USA. She was the first pageant contestant and model to wear the hijab on the catwalk.

19-28 September 2004

South African Paralympic team excels in Athens

The South African Paralympic team to the 2004 Paralympics games in Athens, Greece did very well, winning a number of medals. They were then called, rather unfortunately, Amakrokokroko. George Teboho Mokgalagadi, with his hair dyed golden, won a Paralympic world record gold medal in the 100m sprint in his first international competition on 22 September 2004. Mokgalagadi, a cerebral palsy athlete from Jagersfontein in the Free State, capped his performance at the games by also winning the 200m in 26,80sec on 26 September, another Paralympic record. On 20 September, 17 year old sprinter of Pretoria Boys' High, Oscar Pistorius, fell coming out of the start of his 200m heat for leg amputees, then showed mind-blow-

ing speed and tenacity to surge from last to victory in a world record 23.42sec for double-amputees at the Athens Paralympic Games, securing him a place in the finals. A 23-year-old Pretoria girl, Beverly Mashinini, who competed in discus and javelin, won a bronze medal in javelin. By the closing of the Athens Paralympics 2004 games, South Africa's Paralympic Team ended in thirteenth place with 15 gold medals, 13 silver and 7 bronze.

19 September 1983

Yusuf Dadoo passed away

ANC and SA Indian Congress activist, and Chairperson of the South African Communist Party died on this day. ANC President Oliver R Tambo spoke at his funeral, and Dadoo was laid to rest according to Muslim rights at Highgate Cemetery, a few metres away from the grave of Karl Marx. Dadoo was born on 5 September 1909 in Krugersdorp, Gauteng and played an active role throughout his life in the struggle against oppression. In June 1955, at the historic Congress of the People, Yusuf Dadoo, Chief Albert Luthuli and Father Trevor Huddleston, were awarded *Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe*. As a result of their banning orders only Huddleston was able to attend and receive the award in person. After deten-



tion and bannings, Dadoo left for exile, where he continued to lead and participated actively in the ANC and SACP, until his passing in 1983.

19 September 1985

Rapists sentenced to death

Two White men, Schalk Burger and George Scheepers, were sentenced in Klerksdorp to be hanged for the rape and murder of a Black woman, Ginny Gotsoine in February 1985. Two other White men in the same case were found guilty of rape. All four pleaded not guilty, even though there was DNA evidence and witnesses caught the four rapists and murderers in the act. Since 1984, 115 people were hanged, and only two of these were Whites. The death penalty was abolished in 1995.

The Rocklands Community Hall is significant as the birthplace of the UDF which was inaugurated on 20 August 1983.

21 September 1989

Thousands join second Defiance campaign



On 6 September 1989, we witnessed the election of the last all-

white election in South Africa. This election took place under a State of Emergency which had been in force for over 3 years; which prohibited freedom of speech, assembly and association and with arbitrary detention; and a covert culture of assassinations and disappearances. In a move to put forward the real issues concerning the majority, the Mass Democratic Movement embarked on a defiance campaign launched at the beginning of August 1989. The campaign gathered momentum and spread across the country embracing a wide range of issues. On 21 September 1989, a protest of almost 2000 students was held by the End Conscription Campaign (ECC). On the same day, a consumer boycott and overtime ban was launched, some 10 000 protesters marched in Durban and more than 5 000 in Oudtshoorn in the Cape.

21 September 1994 **RDP White Paper**

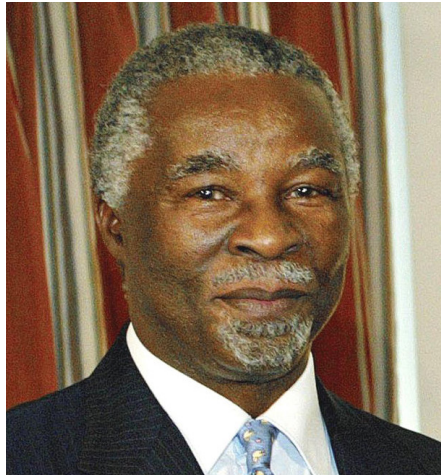
Government releases its White Paper on the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

22 September 1828 **King Shaka Zulu killed**

Shaka kaSenzangakhona (1787-1828), Zulu monarch and founder of the Zulu empire, was murdered by his bodyguard, Mbopha, and his two half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangana after a relatively brief period as king of the Zulu people, from 1816. His death came a year after his mother's death.

22 September 2008 **Parliament convenes on resignation of President Thabo Mbeki**

President Thabo Mbeki resigned as president of the Republic South Africa on Sunday 21 September 2008. Parliament convened on Monday 22 September



and accepted his resignation. The African National Congress also tabled a motion notifying the National Assembly on the resignation of Mbeki, and 25 September 2008 was put forward as the date on which the resignation of president would become effective.

23 September 1941 **Judge Navi Pillay is born**



Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, served as United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, and was born on 23 September 1941 in Clairwood, Durban. She went to the University of Natal where she graduated with a BA in 1963 and with an LLB in 1965. It was at the University that she joined the Unity Movement. After completing her degree she commenced her legal career by doing her articles in Durban. In 1967, Pillay became the first woman to open her own law practice

in Natal (now KwaZulu Natal). She provided legal defense for political activists, representing amongst others Phyllis Naidoo in her first case. In 1971, she represented 10 members of the Unity Movement who were charged under the Terrorism Act. Pillay also represented her husband Gaby Pillay who was detained by the Security Police under Terrorism Act. In 1973, she fought and won the right for political prisoners to have access to legal counsel. In the mid 1970's, Pillay defended detained BCM members such as Saths Cooper and Strini Moodley. In 1982, she obtained a Master of Law and in 1988 a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Harvard University. In 1995, Pillay joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and in 1999 she was elected as its Judge President for which she served two four-year terms. Since 2003, she has served as judge on the International Criminal Court. Pillay is co-founder of the South African Advice Desk for Abused Women and was appointed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 28 July 2008.

23 September 2019 **Jazz veteran Dorothy Masuka passed on**

Dorothy Masuka (also known as Masuku) was born on 23 September 1935 in Zimbabwe, to a Zambian father and a mother from KZN. Masuka is known for her contribution to jazz in South Africa and the entire world. Masuka's talent was discovered when she was singing at a school concert at St. Thomas Catholic Boarding School in Johannesburg. At the age of sixteen she signed up at Troubadour Records. During her teenage years, she released about 30 singles and most of them achieved hit status. This is when she started to be a top

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



recording star. One of her famous song was 'Hamba Nontsokolo' which created fame and introduced her to professional music. In 1961 Masuka wrote a song to pay tribute to Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She continued to release more songs until one of her songs about apartheid laws was banned. She then went into exile where she spent time in Malawi and Tanzania. While in exile, she campaigned for the liberation of people through music. At the time of her death, Dorothy Masuka was based in Yeoville, Johannesburg. She died at her home, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, after suffering from hypertension.

23 September 2021 National Theatre of Somalia re-opens

The National Theatre in Mogadishu opened with film screening attended by thousands. The theatre was destroyed by Islamic militants during the civil war, was restored and again destroyed a second time in 2012 with a suicide bombing.

24 September 1938 Nigerian Central banker Sanusi born

The Governor of Nigeria's Central bank (1999-2004) appointed

by President Obasanjo, Joseph Oladele Sanusi was born in Ondo state, known for stabilizing and steering the country's banking system.

24 September 1957 Sibongile Khumalo born on this day



On this day Sibongile Khumalo was born in Orlando, Soweto. She was one of the most recognized jazz, classical music, opera and traditional music artists in South Africa. She was launched into the limelight in 1993 when she won the Standard Bank Young Artist Award at the Grahamstown Festival. Born into a music family, she studied music and performed at several honoured occasions, including Nelson Mandela's 75th birthday and the 1994 Inauguration. Khumalo received the national Order of Ikhamanga in Silver. The "First Lady of Song" passed away at age 63 on 28 January 2021.

24 September 2008 Motlanthe elected as President

Following the resignation of President Thabo Mbeki, the National Assembly elected Kgalema Motlanthe as the third President of the Republic of South Africa, a position he served in until the elections in 2009.

24 September 2020 Ethiopia starts Bridges programme for Youth employment

Ethiopia started the programme to create 600,000 jobs for young people (80% female), as well as 15,000 small businesses over a period of five years. The programme seeks to train 300,000 young people at Ethiopia's seven industrial parks.

25 September 1974 Viva Frelimo Rallies in SA



The achievement of independence in Mozambique inspired the Black People's Convention (BPC) and the South African Students' Organisation (SASO), to organise a 'Viva Frelimo' rally. If Portuguese colonialism could be defeated in Mozambique, so could settler-colonialism in South Africa. The idea was conceived by the SASO president at the time, Muntu Myeza. These rallies were the only national campaigns to be staged by SASO and it accelerated tension between SASO and the South African government. On the day of the rallies people turned up in large numbers in Durban and Turfloop. Police arrests followed and many BCM/BPC/SASO leaders were arrested, like Absalom Zitulele Cindi, Sathasivan Cooper, Rubin Hare, Sulayman Ahmed Ismail, Mosioua Gerard Patrick Lekota, Maitshie Nchaupé, Aubrey Mokoape, Sivalingam Moodley, Strinivasa Rajoo Moodley, Justice Edward Lindane, Muntu

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Myeza, Pandelani Jeremiah Nefolovhodwe, Nkwenkwe Vincent Nkomo, Gilbert Kaborane, Kaunda Sedibe, and Sadecque Variava. They were subsequently charged under the Terrorism Act, after months in detention.

25 September 1977 Steve Bantu Biko Buried

After his killing by the apartheid regime in detention on 12 September 1977, and attempts to hide what happened, Biko's funeral was the first big political funeral in South Africa since the 1960s. As bus-loads of mourners neared Biko's burial town (King William's Town), they passed Black youths standing solemnly along the road with their clenched fists raised. Prominent white liberals, such as MP Helen Suzman, attended. So did the black American diplomat, Donald McHenry and other international dignitaries. At the funeral, 20 000 people marched and

sang freedom songs. For five hours, speakers eulogised Biko. The Reverend Xundu, the Transkei Anglican priest, who presided over the funeral, appealed to God to take sides with the oppressed to overthrow the system.

25 September 2020 Rocklands declared a National Heritage Site

On 25 September 2020, the Rocklands Community Hall in Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town, was declared a national heritage site by the South African Heritage Resource Agency. The heritage site, legally known as Erf 11553, also encompasses the Memorial Square, the library and the Community Healthcare Centre. The Rocklands Community Hall, built by the City of Cape Town Council in 1981, was the venue of an historic gathering on 20th August 1983 which saw the establishment of the United Democratic



Front (UDF) and signified a turning point in the struggle against Apartheid. The UDF was formed to unite people and organisations across South Africa despite racial, social and religious differences, and called for a united non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa.



INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

19–25 September 2026

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



SEPTEMBER 2026

HERITAGE MONTH

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL **VOTE ANC** 

20 September World Cleanup Day

World Cleanup Day is an annual global social action program aimed at combating the global solid waste problem, including the problem of marine debris. It is coordinated by the global organization **Let's Do It! World**. The headquarters is located in Tallinn, Estonia.

21 September World Alzheimer's Day

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other intellectual abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. It accounts for 50 to 80 percent of dementia cases. It is not a normal part of ageing. Up to 5 per cent of people with the disease have early-onset Alzheimer's (also known as younger-onset), which often appears when someone is in their 40s or 50s. Alzheimer's is a progressive disease, where dementia



SUPPORT, SOLIDARITY

21
SEPTEMBER

WORLD
ALZHEIMER'S DAY

worsens over time. Alzheimer's has no current cure, but treatments for symptoms are available and research continues. If you would like to observe World Alzheimer's Day, wear a purple bracelet or ribbon.

21 September Bibliodiversity Day

Bibliodiversity refers to diversity and inclusion of all voices in writing and publishing, looking at who tells what stories, and who and what gets published.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

There is the famous reference to this issue, when Toni Morrison left Random House publishers in 1983, “their Black authorship decreased by 99.2%”.

22 September World Car Free Day

As populations grow, urbanization increases and with cities without proper public transport, pollution and our carbon footprint loom large. World Car Free day encourages us to just for one day, use public transport, cycle, walk, run to get to work or go to the shops. Just for one day.

23 September International Sign Languages Day



The day promotes the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages. Sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when travelling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

24 September National Heritage Day

September 24th is South African Heritage Day, a day that recognises and celebrates the rich heritage of our nation. This year's commemoration marks 31 years since Heritage Day was first celebrated in post-apartheid South Africa. The day was first declared a public holiday in South Africa in 1996 and, since then, the 24th of September has become a day that encourages South Africans to celebrate and honour our nation's rich cultural traditions, our diverse community and above all, our rich heritage.

24 September World Maritime Day

The theme for 2020 is Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet, with the shipping industry playing a major role in pollution of the oceans. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has adopted and will continue to develop measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the sulphur content of ships' fuel oil, implement the Ballast Water Management Convention, protect the polar regions, reduce marine litter, improve the efficiency of shipping through the electronic exchange of information, meet the challenges of the digitalization of shipping and enhance the participation of women in the maritime community. Over two million seafarers are employed in ships across the world. The African Union has adopted the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS).

24 September World Bollywood Day

The Indian film industry, mainly in Hindi language, that begun in the 1950s is based in Mumbai. The name “Bollywood” was coined during the 1970's. It is India's and world's largest film industry in terms of films produced and released each year. The term Bollywood originated when Indian film industry overtook the Hollywood film industry, producing more than 1000 films a year.

25 September World Rivers Day

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.



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Issued by the African National Congress, **ANC Headquarters**, 54 Pixley ka Isaka Seme Street, Johannesburg, 2001. www.anc1912.org.za



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