



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

9–15 October 2026

Conversations with the **President**



By planting millions of trees we are improving lives and empowering communities

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

IN communities, public spaces and landscapes across the country, millions of new trees are taking root.

Since April this year, more than seven million trees have been planted across all provinces under the Presidential One Billion Trees Campaign. More than two million trees have been planted in the Western Cape alone, with more than one million trees in each of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. It is particularly impressive that more than half a million trees have been planted in the country's driest province, the Northern Cape.

The Presidential One Billion Trees Campaign is part of the existing National Greening Pro-

gramme. We aim to plant one billion trees over the next five years, working in partnership with communities, traditional leaders and the private sector.

Trees and green spaces provide recreation and shade. They help to mitigate the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss. But more than that, this greening campaign is a response to the spatial inequality created by apartheid-era urban planning that saw historically white suburbs lined with trees and green spaces, whereas there was sparse vegetation in the townships.

Addressing and overcoming the geography of inequality we inherited necessitates that greening programmes must

also substantively contribute to advancing food security, rural development and the economic empowerment of women.

The trees that are being planted are mainly indigenous and have been chosen for their suitability to local conditions. Importantly, a number of varieties of fruit trees have been planted, including citrus, avocado trees and grapes.

These fruit trees will add to food security at a household level and support the expansion of community and school food gardens. The surplus from these trees could generate income.

The goal of this intervention would be that a subsistence

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

farmer can then reinvest that income in purchasing additional trees and inputs, and gradually expand into an income-generating enterprise.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Human Settlements to help ensure that a fruit tree is planted with every new subsidised house.

There are already a number of successful projects where tree planting has helped to empower women with livelihood support. One such example is the She Evolves project in the Tsvelopele Local Municipality in the Free State where women have been leading tree planting in the community to provide income.

Another such successful project is the Innesfree Park urban garden in the Sandton CBD in Gauteng. With the support of a local hospitality chain, a mother and daughter team are growing fruit, vegetables and herbs to support local feeding schemes and create employment for women.

Greening programmes are a pathway for skills development that leads to job creation as well as supporting self-employment.

Workers from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) are playing a key role in the campaign, assisting with land preparation, transporting trees to planting sites, planting



and horticultural maintenance. The environmental sector is one of the most successful contributors to the EPWP, providing unemployed South Africans with work opportunities and skills in conservation, water, waste and fire management.

With these skills, young South Africans will be able to use what they have learned to seek employment at nurseries and farms, and start their own businesses in landscaping, tree maintenance, plant production and sale.

The seemingly simple act of

planting a tree has the potential to generate many opportunities into the future, especially for young people who have considered a future in farming but did not know where or how to start.

Another important aspect of this campaign is the deliberate focus on planting indigenous trees.

Large parts of urban and rural South Africa are covered by dense canopies of non-indigenous trees that were planted by former colonial authorities, among other things, to meet

the growing demand for timber.

Many of these trees, including Pretoria's fabled jacarandas, are classified as invasive species. Invasive alien trees put a strain on already scarce surface water, threaten indigenous vegetation and are costly to eradicate. Invasive alien tree species also increase the risk and severity of wildfires, as communities in parts of the Garden Route have experienced over many years.

As government, our environmental policies have been consistent on the need for both the preservation and transfer of indigenous knowledge in the cause of conservation.

The removal of invasive species itself is an economic activity with the potential to generate income. There are already several companies turning alien invasive plants and trees into biomass that is being used in a variety of industrial applications, including green fuel.

The DFFE and South African National Parks have a successful Eco-Furniture Programme that trains EPWP workers to produce school desks, benches and other wood products from cleared invasive alien trees.

Indigenous tree planting, nurturing and cultivation provide opportunities for young people to be trained in seed collection and indigenous horticulture, supporting local ownership of environmental assets and giving them skills and knowledge



that they could use to start their own businesses.

Ultimately, the Presidential One Billion Trees Campaign is aligned with our commitment to the sustainable use of our natural resources and to sustainable development.

Conservation and socio-economic development are not

mutually exclusive. This initiative has the potential to catalyse both small- and large-scale economic activity and job creation.

The momentum that this campaign has gathered is a testament to the power of collective action, with private citizens, businesses, schools and community organisations joining the effort.

I call on those who have not already done so to join the campaign by planting or donating a tree.

Together, we can achieve our goal of planting one billion trees across South Africa over the next five years.



THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AND ACTION AGAINST DISINFORMATION AND MISINFORMATION

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) calls for vigilance and action against disinformation following disingenuous commentary in the public space on the Employment Services Amendment Bill [B16-2026]. This Bill was tabled in the National Assembly in May 2026 to amend the Employment Services Act of 2014, introducing stricter quotas and regulations on the employment of foreign nationals in South Africa and the Constitutional Court judgement in the matter between Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and Minister of Home Affairs.

None of these developments in policy open the floodgates for irregular immigration. On the contrary they create and strengthen processes to document undocumented migrants. The commentary comes at the time when the state is addressing the country's immigration challenges and at a time of the Constitutional Court judgment in *Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town v Minister of Home Affairs*, ruling that the Department of Home Affairs cannot deny people access to the asylum system or reject refugee status solely due to procedural non-compliance. Both these developments need context as the commentary fuels a negative narrative that the State and the courts are promoting the in-

terests and job opportunities of foreign nationals above South Africans.

The Employment Services Amendment Bill seeks to align the country's labour laws with the Immigration and Refugees Acts and to prioritize employment opportunities for the South African citizens and permanent residents. The proposed amendments empower the Minister of Home Affairs to set maximum employment quotas for foreign nationals in specific sectors or occupations, require employers

to verify valid work authorisation documentation, grant labour inspectors powers to enforce compliance alongside immigration laws and impose penalties and fines scaling up for repeated unauthorized employment offenses.

These measures are designed to prevent the employment of foreign nationals and usage of cheap labour by employers against the labour laws of the Republic, a trend that the state is addressing through a number of interventions, which amongst others include stricter border



The ANC has noted the comments in the public space regarding the proposed amendments to the Employment Services Act.

The amendments are for the regulation and prevention of the employment of refugees, asylum seekers, and foreign nationals in the country.

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL **VOTE ANC**  

management and the eliminating corruption within our immigration system.

On the one hand, the Constitutional Court judgment in *Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town v Minister of Home Affairs* ruled that specific procedural provisions of the Refugees Act are unconstitutional and invalid, rather than the Immigration Act itself.

The implications of this judgment is that the Department of Home Affairs cannot deny people access to the asylum system or reject refugee status solely due to procedural non-compliance. The court further ruled that every claim must be assessed on its merits. The decision reinforces the international law principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning an asylum seeker to a country where they face persecution before a proper individual assessment of their claim.

Effectively, the judgment does not direct the state to automatically grant asylum seekers residence or citizenship but merely directs that asylum seekers be accorded hearings as opposed to arbitrary deportations just because they entered through an undesignated border or lacked a 5-day transit visa to be invalid and that every claim must be assessed on its merits.

The ANC notes and respects the judgment of apex court, and calls for citizen's public comment towards the Employment Services Amendment Bill. The public hearings on the Bill close on the 6 November 2026, against a false narrative that the Bill is now law, effective and operational.

In conclusion, the ANC warns against the misrepresentation and distortion of the purpose of the Bill and the Constitutional Court judgement for party political and populist ends as these undermine the legislative processes which are still subject to

public hearings and debate before parliament.

We call for the respect of the independence and judgement of the apex court in the *Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town v Minister of Home Affairs* matter.

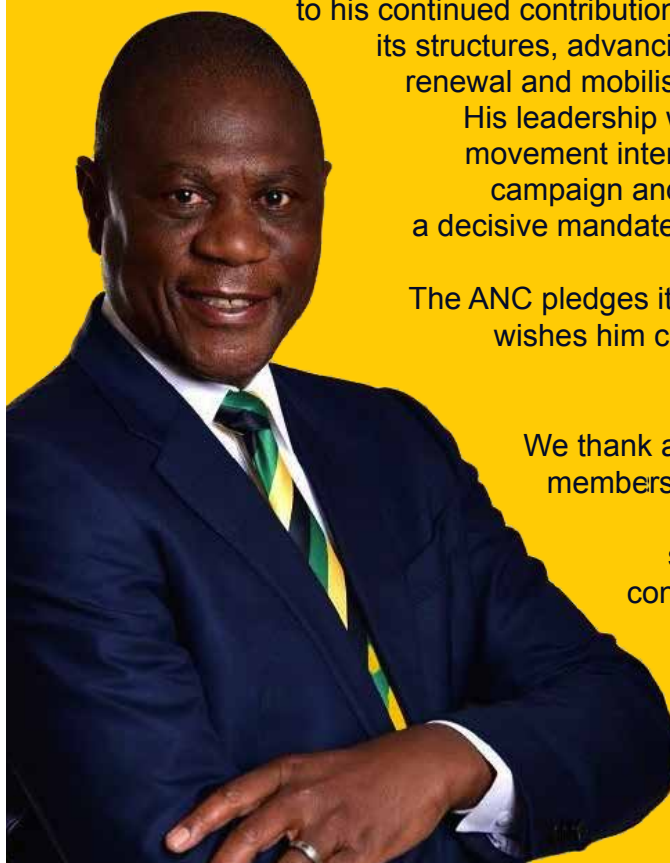
Welcome back Comrade DP Paul Mashatile!

THE African National Congress (ANC) warmly welcomes the return of Deputy President Paul Mashatile to his official duties following his recovery. The ANC is encouraged that the Deputy President has regained his health and is ready to resume his responsibilities in service of the people of South Africa. We wish him continued good health, strength and success as he undertakes his programme of government and political engagements.

As Deputy President Mashatile resumes his organisational and political responsibilities, the ANC looks forward to his continued contribution to strengthening its structures, advancing organisational renewal and mobilising communities. His leadership will be vital as the movement intensifies its election campaign and works to secure a decisive mandate from the people.

The ANC pledges its full support and wishes him continued strength and good health.

We thank all South Africans, members of the ANC, faith communities and stakeholders who conveyed messages of support and kept the Deputy President in their thoughts and prayers during his recovery.



ANC CONDEMNS ALLEGED SOCIAL MEDIA INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST JACINTA NGOBESE-ZUMA

■ By **MAHLENGI BHENGU, ANC National Spokesperson**

THE African National Congress (ANC) condemns in the strongest possible terms the alleged social media remarks attributed to Sello Lemonka Gamba, who is purported to be an ANC supporter, in which he is alleged to have called for the rape and killing of Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma, and subsequently indicated that he stood by those remarks. If accurately attributed to him, such utterances are vile, reprehensible and wholly incompatible with the values, traditions and political culture of the ANC. There can never be political, personal or ideological justification for incitement to rape, murder or any form of violence against another person.

The ANC rejects any attempt by

individuals to associate such conduct with our movement or to use purported support for the ANC as a shield for violent, misogynistic or criminal rhetoric. Whatever disagreements, disputes or differences may exist between Sello Lemonka Gamba and Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma, these can never justify or excuse language that allegedly calls for her rape or killing. No disagreement gives anyone licence to threaten the life, bodily integrity or dignity of another person. Such alleged conduct is particularly reprehensible in a society confronting the persistent scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, and it must be rejected without qualification.

The ANC calls upon the appropriate law-enforcement authorities

to investigate these allegations without fear, favour or prejudice and, where the evidence establishes criminal conduct, to act decisively in accordance with the law. Social media is not a lawless space, and freedom of expression cannot be distorted into a licence to threaten, intimidate or incite violence. Should it be established that the individual concerned is an ANC member, the organisation's internal processes must equally take their course.

The ANC distances itself unequivocally from the alleged remarks and calls upon all its members and supporters to uphold the values of human dignity, non-sexism, non-violence and respect for the rule of law.





LET US CONTINUE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FOR thirty years, democratic local government has been central to changing how government is experienced in communities across South Africa.

In 1994, as South Africans, we inherited a fragmented, racist, patriarchal and unequal system of local government designed to serve some and exclude the majority. Democratic government replaced that system with one democratic municipal system covering the whole country and everyone who lives in it.

That transformation changed the lives of millions of South Africans. It expanded access to basic services, housing, title deeds, internet connectivity and democratic participation.

- Electricity access increased from **57.6% of households to more than 90%**.
- **87.4% of households** have access to piped water and **84%** to improved sanitation.

- More than **one million households** have received title deeds since 1994.
- Internet access increased from **28% in 2010 to 85.6% in 2025**.
- Every community is part of democratic local government, with elected representatives and mechanisms for participation and accountability.

These changes are part of the lived experience of democratic local government and demonstrate the scale of what has been built over thirty years.

At the same time, our record requires us to confront what has not worked. Many communities continue to experience unreliable services, ageing and deteriorating infrastructure, slow implementation and financial pressures.

In some municipalities, corruption, weak leadership and poor administration have undermined delivery.

The 2021 local government election results and the 2024 national and provincial election results sent a clear signal to the ANC. Our communities expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of government performance and demanded better delivery and stronger implementation. Our response is to take that message seriously and improve the quality, reliability and accountability of government.

Our Next Phase of Democratic Municipal Government

Our next stage is not to begin again. It is to build on thirty years of democratic local government, fix what has not worked, maintain what has been built and make our municipalities more capable.

For the next five years, our focus moves from **access to quality, affordability and reliability; from plans to implementation; from weak accountability to**

measurable performance; and from financial distress towards sustainability.

Our programme is centred on municipalities that work for people, provide reliable and affordable services, create local economic opportunities and place communities at the centre of local government.

It is this approach that informs our six Action Areas:

- **Quality Services and Infrastructure that Work for All**
- **Driving Investment, Job Creation and Local Economic Development**
- **Safe, Clean, Healthy and Resilient Communities**
- **Sustainable and People-centred Municipal Finances**
- **Capable, Stable, Ethical and Accountable Local Government**
- **Community Participation and Effective Communication.**

THE SIX ACTION AREAS

1 QUALITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WORK FOR ALL

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Access to basic services has expanded, but many communities still experience unreliable services, ageing infrastructure, water losses, sewer spillages, electricity faults, potholes, poor stormwater management and concerns about affordability.

OUR APPROACH

We are building on the municipal service systems already established by addressing the areas where reliability and maintenance remain a challenge.

This includes repairing ageing

water infrastructure, reducing water losses, addressing sewer spillages and improving wastewater treatment.

It includes stronger electricity distribution, smart metering and faster fault response, as well as protecting municipal infrastructure from theft and damage.

Roads, bridges and stormwater systems must be properly maintained. Human settlements and spatial planning must improve access to services and opportunities.

Billing must be accurate, tariffs fair and Free Basic Services must reach qualifying households. Municipal facilities should also provide reliable internet and public Wi-Fi.

At least 8% of municipal asset value is targeted for maintenance and renewal.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Reliable water, sanitation and electricity, better roads and drainage, faster responses when services fail, better maintained public facilities, affordable basic services and improved access to

information through internet and public Wi-Fi.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track service interruptions and response times, sewer repairs, electricity restoration, pothole repairs, stormwater maintenance, infrastructure maintenance spending, billing and tariff performance and improvements in service reliability.

2 DRIVING INVESTMENT, JOB CREATION AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Unemployment remains high and many communities have limited access to economic opportunities. Municipal land, procurement, infrastructure and business services are not always being used effectively to support local businesses.

OUR APPROACH

We are making municipalities more investment-ready, simplifying business services and strengthening one-stop investment facilitation.



This includes support for manufacturing, agriculture, agro-processing, tourism, fisheries, creative, digital and green industries. Municipalities will support affordable trading spaces, markets, plug-and-play premises and Local Enterprise and Innovation Hubs.

Municipal procurement, land and assets should support local businesses. By 2031, the programme targets 40% procurement from women-owned enterprises, 20% from youth-owned enterprises and 3% from disability-owned enterprises, alongside expanded EPWP and CWP opportunities contributing to one million work, training and enterprise opportunities.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

More opportunities to work, trade and build businesses where people live, with greater opportunities for young people, women, informal traders, workers and persons with disabilities.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track investment facilitated, local procurement, support to SMMEs and informal traders, opportunities created for women, youth and persons with disabilities, work and training opportunities, enterprise hubs and improvements in local economic spaces.

3 SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Communities continue to experience crime, GBVF, violence against children, substance abuse, illegal dumping, poor



lighting, vandalism, infrastructure theft and unsafe public spaces.

OUR APPROACH

We are building on Community Safety Forums and strengthening coordination between municipalities, SAPS, Community Policing Forums, neighbourhood watches, schools, businesses and community structures.

The response includes direct municipal intervention in tackling GBVF, violence against children, substance abuse and drug-related harm.

It also addresses infrastructure theft, vandalism, extortion, waste, environmental health and disaster preparedness. Streetlights, parks, taxi ranks, cemeteries, sports facilities and community halls must be properly maintained.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Cleaner neighbourhoods, safer public spaces, functioning streetlights, better maintained community facilities and stronger local responses to GBVF, violence against children and crime.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track functioning streetlights, waste removal, illegal dumping, Community Safety Forum activity, safety hotspot interventions, public facility maintenance, GBVF and violence-against-children responses, infrastructure theft and vandalism interventions and disaster preparedness.

4 SUSTAINABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED MUNICIPAL FINANCES

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Financial distress can affect service delivery, infrastructure maintenance and municipal planning. Unfunded budgets, billing problems, weak revenue collection and poor expenditure management can weaken municipalities.

OUR APPROACH

We are addressing municipal financial pressures through a better local government funding model, improved financial management, procurement, billing and revenue systems, including greater allocation to municipalities in line with their responsibilities.

Unfunded budgets are targeted for elimination within the first two years.

Qualifying households that cannot afford services must be protected, while municipalities rebuild their own financial, engineering, technical, legal, procurement and project-management capacity.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Municipalities that can plan properly, maintain infrastructure, pay legitimate suppliers and sustain services. Communities should see municipal finances translated into actual delivery in their wards.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track whether budgets are funded, audit and recovery progress, supplier payments, billing and revenue performance, maintenance expenditure and delivery against approved budgets.

5 CAPABLE, STABLE, ETHICAL AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Municipalities struggle when critical posts remain vacant, administration is weak, consequence management is inconsistent and accountability is poor.

OUR APPROACH

We are strengthening political leadership and professional administration.

Senior managers should be appointed on competence, qualifications, experience and integrity, with critical senior management posts targeted for filling within



120 days.

This includes lifestyle audits, consequence management, whistleblower protection, stronger Municipal Public Accounts Committees and follow-up on Auditor-General findings.

All ANC councillors in the next term are expected to sign Public Performance Agreements and ethical commitments and remain accessible to communities.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Communities should know who is responsible for delivery, how performance is assessed and what happens when commitments are not met. Municipalities should have capable administrations that implement decisions and account for public resources.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track critical vacancies, senior management appointments, councillor performance agreements, lifestyle audits, audit findings and corrective action, MPAC oversight, municipal performance reports and consequence-management processes.

6 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

CURRENT CHALLENGE

Communities need accessible ways to participate in municipal planning, report service problems, receive information and follow up on responses.

OUR APPROACH

We are building on ward committees, community structures, public meetings and Mayoral Community Izimbizo.

Councillors are expected to hold monthly ward meetings, maintain accessible contact platforms and report on municipal performance.

A single case-management system should allow communities to report problems through digital and in-person channels, with cases acknowledged within two working days.

Information on municipal budgets, procurement, council decisions, infrastructure, maintenance, service interruptions and performance should be publicly accessible.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Communities should know when ward meetings take place, who their councillor is, where to report a problem, what response to expect and how to see whether the municipality is delivering.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MEASURE PROGRESS

Communities can track monthly ward meetings, quarterly reporting, Mayoral Community Izimbizo, complaints received and resolved, response times, Ward Programme of Action implementation and access to municipal performance information.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The First 100 Days establish the pace of the five-year programme. The emphasis is on visible municipal basics, a clear baseline, ward-level action and early accountability.

The immediate priorities include:

- **Get the basics working:** repair streetlights and potholes, stop water leaks and sewer spills, clear illegal dumping, unblock stormwater, cut overgrown vegetation, clean public spaces and repair road markings and signage.
- **Councillors within reach:** first ward meeting within 30 days, contact details and communication channels, together with a Ward Programme of Action.
- **Tell the truth about the municipality:** within 60 days, publish a State of the Municipality Report covering governance, finances and services, with a costed recovery and delivery plan where required.
- **Get local economies moving:** establish an LED one-

stop desk for projects, sectors, business and investment opportunities and barriers, and pay compliant and legitimate suppliers within 30 days.

- **Indigent support:** activate and update the Indigent Register so qualifying households can access Free Basic Services.
- **Community safety:** convene a Community Safety Forum and establish monitored lighting and camera plans for identified hotspots.
- **Umhlabo Wethu:** publish the municipal land and property register, ward by ward, and connect municipal property use to community planning.
- **Accountability:** every ANC councillor signs a Public Performance Agreement and Pledge of Ethical Conduct and reports against a 100-Day Delivery Scorecard. The ANC's 2026 candidate-selection process also opened space for community participation in identifying councillor and mayoral candidates. The broader programme places continued emphasis on councillors being accessible to residents, holding monthly ward meetings and reporting on performance.

OUR COMMITMENT TO MEASURABLE DELIVERY

What distinguishes our 2026-2031 Manifesto is the link between Our 6 Action priorities, implementation, targets and accountability.

The six Action Areas are supported by a clear reporting cycle:

- **Monthly:** Public ward meetings and reporting on service delivery.
- **Quarterly:** Municipal/Public Delivery Scorecards.
- **Annually:** Manifesto Implementation Report.
- **Mid-term:** Independent review of the six Action Areas in 2028.
- **End of term:** Full 2031 Manifesto Delivery Report showing commitments, delivery, outstanding work and reasons.

The programme therefore provides communities with a clear basis for assessing implementation: what was committed, what has been delivered, what remains outstanding and why.

LET US CONTINUE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.



The role of veterans in carrying the lived memory of struggle

This is an edited version of the welcoming address of the ANC Veterans League Eastern Cape Provincial Chairperson, **CDE HUMPHREY MAXEGWANA**, at the Eastern Cape ANC VL fundraising Gala Dinner, 2 October 2026

TONIGHT, we gather around more than a table. We gather around memory. We gather around sacrifice. We gather around history.

And, perhaps most importantly, we gather around the question of what we do with the legacy entrusted to us. Veterans carry something you cannot get from books.

Veterans carry the lived memory of struggle.

Veterans remember the days when political conviction demanded sacrifice, when service came without guarantees, when many comrades gave of themselves without knowing whether they would ever see the South Africa they imagined.

Because every generation needs somebody who can say: *"I was there. I remember. I know what it cost."*

The fire that brought us here

Every great movement begins with a fire. Not the fire of ambition. Not the fire of personal advancement. But the fire of conviction.

The conviction that injustice is not inevitable, that ordinary people deserve dignity, and that tomorrow can be better than today.



That fire burned in the generations of our Veterans. It carried people through difficult years. It sustained them when the road ahead was uncertain. And it transformed sacrifice into a political movement.

But here is the philosophical question before us: What happens to the fire once the struggle has changed? What happens when yesterday's freedom becomes today's responsibility? What happens when the move-

ment that once fought to enter the institutions of power must now demonstrate what it can do with that power?

That is perhaps one of the greatest tests any liberation movement can face. Because the fire that is required to liberate a people is not necessarily the same fire required to govern them.

Liberation requires courage.

Governance requires discipline.

Liberation requires mobilisation.
Governance requires accountability.

Liberation requires sacrifice.
Governance requires service.

And both require character.

The veteran as the custodian of memory and conscience

This is why the Veterans League's role is so profound. We are not simply custodians of history. We are custodians of political memory and conscience.

Our responsibility is not merely to tell us how difficult yesterday was. It is also to ask whether we are worthy of the opportunities that yesterday's sacrifices created. And sometimes that requires difficult conversations. Because true comradeship does not mean agreeing with one another all the time.

True comradeship means caring enough to tell one another the truth. Sometimes the greatest service a veteran can render to a movement is not applause, but counsel. Not comfort, but correction. Not nostalgia, but wisdom.

Because a movement that cannot correct itself eventually loses the capacity to renew itself. And renewal, comrades, is not simply about changing faces. Renewal is about recovering values, humility, discipline, ethical leadership and recovering the understanding that public office is not a reward. It is a responsibility entrusted to us by the people.

The generational question

Therefore, a conversation must take place between generations.



The younger generation needs the wisdom of veterans, but it also needs their trust. The torch cannot remain forever in the hands of one generation. It must be passed.

And when the torch is passed, it does not mean that the generation receiving it must walk exactly the same road. It means that they must understand why the torch was lit in the first place.

To the younger generation, I would say: Do not inherit the movement's history merely as stories. Inherit its discipline, courage, willingness to sacrifice, and capacity for self-correction. And have the courage to build something worthy of those who came before you. Because every generation receives an unfinished project.

Our responsibility as veterans is not to complete history. Our responsibility is to leave the next generation with greater possibilities than those we inherited.

4 November 2026:

A moment of reflection

On 4 November 2026, South Africans will participate in Local Government Elections. That moment

should cause us to pause. Not simply because elections determine who occupies public office, but because elections remind us of a fundamental democratic truth: Political authority ultimately belongs to the people.

Local government is where democracy becomes personal. It is where a constitutional promise becomes a functioning service. Where a policy becomes a road. Where a budget becomes infrastructure. Where leadership becomes visible in the everyday lives of communities.

And therefore, the question before political leadership is not merely: Who holds office? The deeper question is: What do we do with the trust that office represents? That is where the philosophy of service becomes important.

A councillor must remember the community after the election. A leader must remain accessible after the applause has disappeared. A municipality must account after the campaign promises have been made. Political legitimacy cannot live forever on the strength of history. It must continually be renewed through conduct.

The coming elections therefore offer all of us an opportunity to reflect – not only on political organisation, but on the quality of leadership we want to see in our communities.

And perhaps the Veterans can help us ask the difficult question: Are we producing leaders who understand that power is temporary, but service leaves a legacy?

Reigniting the fire

I want us to reignite the fire. But not the fire of anger, of factionalism nor of personal ambition. I speak of the fire of political purpose. The fire that makes a person serve even when nobody is watching. The fire that makes a leader choose principle over convenience. The fire that makes a councillor return to the community after the election. The fire that makes us understand that leadership is ultimately about people.

We need a fire that produces courage without arrogance, discipline without intolerance, ambition without entitlement, and that produces leadership without losing humility. That is the fire that

must burn again.

Because when the fire of political purpose dies, politics becomes merely about positions. And when politics becomes merely about positions, the people become secondary.

But when the fire burns brightly, office becomes an instrument of service.

What will history say?

One day, history will ask us questions. It will not only ask: Who were the leaders? Who held the positions? Who attended the meetings?

It will ask: Whom did you serve? What did you stand for? What did you change? What did you leave behind? And perhaps the most difficult question of all: Did you keep the fire alive?

Tonight, therefore, is not merely an occasion to look backwards. It is an invitation to look forward. To take yesterday's wisdom into tomorrow's uncertainty. To transform memory into responsibility, experience into mentorship, polit-

ical power into service and history into a foundation upon which another generation can build.

Conclusion

Let us leave this gathering not merely having celebrated the past, but having renewed our commitment to the future. Let us carry forward the fire. Not as a fire that consumes, but as a fire that illuminates. A fire that shows the way. A fire that warms those who have been forgotten. A fire that gives courage to those who have lost hope.

And a fire that reminds those entrusted with leadership that they are, above all else, servants of the people. Because history gave us the torch. Our responsibility is to ensure that it does not go out in our hands.

May the Veterans remain the conscience of our movement.

May the younger generation have the courage to carry the torch. And may our politics once again be animated by that most powerful of ideas: that leadership exists not for itself, but for the people.



A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

VOTE ANC



Long live the revolutionary Alliance!

Message of Support By **COMRADE LUBABALO OSCAR MABUYANE**, to the
SACP RED OCTOBER LAUNCH, Youth Centre, Great Kei, 4 October 2026

I bring you warm revolutionary greetings from your strategic ally, the African National Congress. We are honoured to join you today as you launch the Red October Campaign here in the Eastern Cape, following the invitation extended to the ANC to deliver this message of support.

October occupies a special place in the history of the International Communist and Working-Class Movement. The October Revolution of 1917 represented a decisive moment in world history. It demonstrated that workers and the oppressed could become active makers of history and could contest the organisation and control of political and economic power.

It drew inspiration from earlier revolutionary experiences, particularly the Paris Commune of 1871, which, although surviving for only 72 days, became an important historical experiment in working-class political power. We need not romanticise these historical experiences. Their importance lies in the questions they placed before humanity: Who owns? Who produces? Who accumulates? Who governs? And in whose interests is society organised?

Those questions travelled far beyond Europe. They influenced anti-colonial and national liberation movements throughout the world, including our own liberation struggle. It is for this reason

that, as the ANC, we have always appreciated the enormous intellectual and organisational contribution made by generations of South African communists to our struggle.

We remember Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, Brian Bunting, Joe Slovo and Chris Hani, among many others. They understood that in the concrete South African reality, the national question and the class question could not simply be separated. Colonial dispossession, racial oppression and class exploitation had become historically intertwined. It was partly through

this convergence of African nationalism and working-class politics that our movement ultimately produced the democratic breakthrough of 1994.

Thirty-two years after that historic breakthrough, we must have the courage to confront the political moment in which we find ourselves. The democratic breakthrough of 1994 remains one of the greatest achievements of our people. But we are witnessing its political deconsolidation.

The election of 29 May 2024 fundamentally altered the balance



of political forces in South Africa. For the first time since 1994, the ANC lost its outright parliamentary majority. The political hegemony which the liberation movement had exercised for three decades was broken. That electoral outcome produced the Government of National Unity. We accepted that outcome because we are democrats and because the will of the people must always prevail. But from the perspective of the historical position occupied by the liberation movement since 1994, we must recognise that the necessity for a GNU represents a profound political regression.

The ANC no longer possesses the political power it once commanded. And we must resist the temptation to explain this exclusively through the behaviour of our opponents. Some of our wounds are self-inflicted. Organisational weakness, factionalism, governance challenges, declining municipal capacity and the trust deficit between political organisations and the lived experiences of ordinary people have contributed to the erosion of popular confidence.

History does not grant any political organisation a permanent mandate. Every generation must earn anew the confidence of the people.

This brings us directly to the political moment confronting us today. On 4 November 2026, South Africans return to the polls in the National Local Government Elections. But this election contains a new political development within our own revolutionary movement. The South African Communist Party is contesting state power independently and we accept that as ANC, we must accept what we can not change



The Party is implementing a resolution which it took some years ago to contest elections directly under its own banner. We cannot pretend that this is an insignificant development.

For decades, communists participated in electoral politics through the ANC within the broader strategic framework of the Alliance. That arrangement is now being tested by new political realities. We may disagree about whether independent electoral contestation is the proper tactical response to the present conjuncture.

The SACP has its analysis. The ANC has its analysis. But neither organisation should confuse tactical disagreement with strategic enmity. The ANC continues to regard the SACP as its strategic ally. That is important. Because the State itself is not neutral territory. It is a contested terrain of social and class forces. The Capital contests the State. Workers contest the State.

Different classes and strata seek to shape its institutions, policies, resources and ideological direction. The fundamental question, therefore, is not simply who occupies the state, but in whose interests state power is exercised. That question should remain at

the centre of the relationship between the ANC and the SACP.

We must equally speak candidly about the condition of the ANC as we approach these elections. The ANC enters 4 November in a more vulnerable position than at any previous local-government election since 1994 because it is no longer with us. And that vulnerability has unfortunately been aggravated by our own internal challenges. We must never trivialise such failures as merely administrative.

Organisation is political. Discipline is political. Administrative competence is political. A liberation movement cannot articulate profound theories about the transformation of society and simultaneously fail to execute elementary organisational responsibilities. These are subjective weaknesses. They exist alongside objective weaknesses arising from unemployment, poverty, inequality, deteriorating infrastructure and the difficult material conditions confronting our people.

But our subjective weaknesses must not become an excuse for despair. They must become a source of renewal. The ANC must learn. The SACP must learn. Indeed, the entire Alliance must

learn. Because the fragmentation of progressive forces at precisely the moment when conservative and reactionary forces are reorganising themselves would carry profound historical consequences. It is therefore important that we state our position without ambiguity.

With GNU revelations and experiences, Yes there is an NEC decision on how members must conduct themselves, guiding all ANC members during this period during this difficult period, especially those with dual membership. I think as ANC we should not hound SACP members out of positions they occupy across the state merely because the SACP has decided to contest elections independently as some are also members of the ANC in the own right. It would also misrepresentation of the historical character of the Alliance. People occupying positions of public responsibility must be assessed according to their competence, integrity, performance and commitment to the transformation of society. We must resist transforming contradictions among allies into antagonisms among enemies.

Yes, between now and 4 November, the ANC and SACP will compete for votes in particular communities. There will be political differences. There will be criticism. There will probably be moments of tension. But comrades must exercise political discipline, exercise restraint and avoid deepened contradictions as we will need each other soon. We must never allow electoral competition to degenerate into political hostility that destroys relationships built through generations of struggle.

We have buried Comrades to-

gether. We went to prison together. We went into exile together. We organised underground together. We fought Apartheid together. And we constructed the democratic state together. An election must therefore not suddenly persuade us that we have become historical enemies. We have NDR we are agreeing about, of which we must its logical implementations to the end

The more profound question is what happens after 4 November 2026. The morning after the elections, unemployment will still confront us. Poverty will remain. Inequality will remain. The land question will remain. Municipalities will still need to deliver water, electricity, sanitation and roads. Workers will still confront precarious employment. Young people will still require opportunities.

The structural concentration of wealth in our society will not disappear because votes have been counted. Therefore, after 4 November, the ANC and SACP must have a serious political conversation. That conversation cannot merely concern positions. It cannot simply become: Who becomes Mayor? Who becomes Speaker? Who becomes Chief Whip? Who receives which port-

folio? That would reduce revolutionary politics to the arithmetic of office.

Where electoral outcomes create circumstances in which progressive forces can cooperate in exercising municipal state power, we must first ask whether there is a programme around which we can govern together. What do we intend to do with state power? How do we rebuild municipalities? How do we create employment? How do we confront corruption? How do we strengthen public institutions? How do we protect workers while expanding productive capacity? How do we ensure that local government becomes genuinely developmental? Those questions must precede positions.

Perhaps history is compelling us to confront a question we have postponed for too long: the reconfiguration of the Tripartite Alliance. We have spoken about reconfiguration for many years. The post-4 November political environment may compel us finally to give concrete meaning to that concept. Reconfiguration cannot merely mean changing the seating arrangements in Alliance meetings. It must ask fundamental questions. What is the



strategic purpose of the Alliance in the fourth decade of democracy? What social forces does it represent? How are decisions taken?

How does organised labour exercise meaningful influence? What is the relationship between the SACP and the ANC? What programme binds us together? And, above everything else, what is our common understanding of the National Democratic Revolution under conditions where the ANC no longer possesses electoral hegemony? These are not questions we should fear. They are questions we must confront.

Because unity cannot mean silence. Unity cannot mean the absence of contradiction. And unity certainly cannot require the SACP to stop being communist or the ANC to abandon its character as a broad church of the national liberation movement. Real unity requires sufficient political maturity to manage contradiction without destroying the strategic basis of cooperation.

Ultimately, there is one constituency before whom all of us must account. The future of the ANC will not be determined in ANC meetings. The future of the SACP will not be determined in SACP meetings. The future of the Alliance will not ultimately be determined at Alliance summits. It will be determined in the villages, townships, farms, factories, universities and communities of our country. It will be determined by whether the unemployed young person sees hope. Whether the worker experiences dignity. Whether the pensioner receives services. Whether communities have water. Whether municipalities work. Whether public representatives are honest.



And whether ordinary people continue to believe that progressive politics possesses the capacity to change their material conditions. That is the terrain upon which the real political battle will be fought.

The ANC therefore comes to this Red October Launch conscious of its own weaknesses, respectful of the independent political decisions taken by the SACP but equally determined that electoral contestation must not destroy a strategic relationship forged through struggle. We may enter 4 November under different banners. But on 5 November, history will still confront us with the same South Africa.

And history will ask us a simple question: What did progressive forces do with the political inheritance handed to them by those who came before? Our answer cannot be fragmentation. Our answer cannot be political arrogance. Our answer cannot be nostalgia. Our answer must be renewal. Our answer must be transformation. Our answer must be the reconstruction of a progressive majority rooted among

workers, the poor and the broader mass of our people.

Let Red October therefore remind us not only of the revolutions of the past, but of the unfinished transformation before us.

The ANC remains your strategic ally. The SACP remains part of our Alliance. And whatever configuration emerges after 4 November, we must never lose sight of the historical mission that brought our movements together: the construction of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and socially just South Africa in which political freedom acquires real economic meaning.

Long live the South African Communist Party!

Long live the African National Congress!

Long live the revolutionary Alliance!

Long live the struggle of the workers and the poor!

Amandla!



THE LEGAL SECTOR CODE IS NOT DEAD. **Read the Judgment Before You Bury Transformation**

■ By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

THERE is a message circulating on WhatsApp declaring that the courts have once again overturned BBBEE regulations spearheaded by the DTIC, that the legal profession is the latest victim, and that major white commercial law firms have consolidated themselves to reverse transformation. I understand the anger behind that message because the economic transformation of the legal profession remains unfinished business. But anger is useful only when it knows where to strike. I have therefore read the judgment itself, and the first thing that must be said is that this was not a judgment declaring BBBEE unconstitutional, not a judgment declaring the Legal Sector Code constitutionally impermissible, and certainly not a judicial in-

struction that transformation of the legal profession must stop. The Court found a narrower but important defect: Parliament placed the section 9(1) discretion in the hands of the Minister, and the Minister was therefore required to exercise that discretion himself. He could obtain advice, recommendations and technical assistance, but those processes could not substitute his own statutory judgment.

That distinction changes the entire political meaning of the case. The Minister was not told that he had no power to transform the legal sector. He was told that where Parliament gives him a discretionary power, he must demonstrate that the final evaluative decision was his. That is why I see an obvious analogy

with other constitutional decision making processes where recommendations may reach the President or another office bearer, but the final constitutional decision cannot simply be outsourced to the recommending structure. The recommendation informs; it does not replace. In this case the Court became concerned because Minister Parks Tau's own explanation suggested that he understood certain substantive choices as belonging principally to the legal profession, while he regarded his role as one of giving legal effect to what the sector had settled. The judgment records statements to the effect that particular target setting was "not my space", and the Court considered those statements inconsistent with the independent discretion section 9(1) had entrusted to him.

That is not the end of transformation. It is an instruction to tighten the legal machinery. In fact, the judgment expressly says that the constitutional imperative of transformation and the pressing need to address persistent inequality in the legal profession remain undiminished. That sentence alone should stop anybody from mischievously presenting this case as though the Court had discovered some constitutional prohibition against sector transformation.

The Court did not decide most of the substantive attacks on the Code because, having found the defect in the Minister's exercise of discretion, it considered it inappropriate to pronounce on questions that might arise differently once the decision is properly reconsidered. The matter was therefore sent back to the Minister. The Minister still has the pen. What the Court has effectively demanded is that he use it himself.

That is why my response to Parks Tau would not be retreat. It would be reconstruction. Take every objection raised in the litigation, put it on the table and interrogate it. Take the ownership targets, management targets, procurement provisions, skills development mechanisms, briefing patterns and every deviation from the Generic Codes and ask the difficult question: what evidence justifies this intervention, why this percentage, why this weighting, why this timetable, and why is this measure rationally connected to the statutory objective? Then record the answers.

A transformational instrument that must survive judicial scrutiny cannot rely upon political instinct alone, however legitimate that instinct may be. It needs evidence,

empirical grounding and a decision making record capable of showing, line by line if necessary, that the person empowered by Parliament personally confronted the material before him and reached his own conclusion. That is not surrender to litigation. That is learning how to make transformation harder to litigate out of existence.

My particular interest in this case is sharpened by the presence of Werksmans among the applicants. That interest does not begin from hostility. In fact, it begins from the opposite direction. Werksmans has a documented history of positioning itself within the transformation conversation, including its merger with Nalane Manaka, a black empowerment commercial law firm, and its subsequent public presentation of itself as committed to transformation. I also have my own political and professional memory of engaging around the legal profession at its Sandton offices during a period when Parks Tau was still Executive Mayor of Johannesburg and I was serving in the PPF provincial leadership in Gauteng.

The atmosphere then was not that of an institution presenting itself as hostile to transformation. That is precisely why its later participation in litigation against the promulgation of the Legal Sector Code raises legitimate questions for me. Not accusations manufactured in anger, but questions demanding intellectual answers.

What changed? Was the objection purely administrative and constitutional? Was the concern directed at particular numerical targets? Was it about the departure from the Generic Codes? Was it about the treatment of large commercial firms? Was it about procurement, ownership or management control? The applicants themselves maintained that they were not opposed to transformation and that their challenge concerned the legality of the Minister's exercise of statutory power and substantive features of the Code. The judgment records that position, and intellectual fairness requires that it be acknowledged. But acknowledging that explanation does not require the public to stop asking what the material consequences of the litigation are.



A firm can support transformation in principle and still resist a particular instrument of transformation. The interesting question is therefore not whether Werksmans can call itself transformed. The interesting question is whether the form of transformation it supports reaches the same economic nerve that the Legal Sector Code attempts to reach.

That distinction matters because a favourable BBBEE score cannot by itself answer every question about substantive transformation in the legal profession. The real enquiry must descend beneath the certificate. Who owns meaningful equity? Who sits in management? Who becomes an equity partner? Who inherits institutional clients? Who receives the major infrastructure brief, the banking mandate, the mining transaction, the competition matter, the corporate restructuring, the constitutional case or the billion rand commercial dispute? Who gets exposed to the sophisticated work that creates tomorrow's senior practitioner, managing partner or silk? The judgment itself records the respondents' contention that favourable performance under the Generic Codes had existed alongside continued shortcomings in ownership, management, access to high value work and professional advancement, and that this was part of the justification for a sector specific framework. That is not an ideological side issue. It sits at the heart of what transformation actually means.

This is why the debate about sector targets must be handled with care. A sector target is not merely a number pulled from the political sky. Properly constructed, it is a measurable transformation objective designed around the



structural characteristics of a particular industry or profession.

The legal profession has peculiar institutional features: attorneys, advocates, partnerships, referral work, briefing patterns, public procurement, specialist commercial practices, junior development and access to complex mandates. Those realities may justify a framework more specifically calibrated than the Generic Codes. But once government chooses that route, every intervention must be capable of rational explanation. The stronger the transformative ambition, the stronger the administrative architecture supporting it must be.

For previously disadvantaged practitioners, that distinction is not academic. Entry into the profession is not the same thing as economic participation within it. A profession can become numerically more black while ownership, equity partnership, institutional authority and high value work remain disproportionately concentrated. The judgment itself records evidence and argument about precisely that disconnect between demographic progress and continuing inequality in own-

ership, leadership and economic influence. Transformation therefore cannot end when a black graduate receives an admission certificate.

The real test begins when we ask whether that practitioner can enter the commercial bloodstream of the profession, build expertise, obtain clients, accumulate institutional capital, reach partnership and eventually own part of the institution through which legal economic power is exercised. This is also why I refuse the easy narrative that the judgment represents either the complete defeat of government or the complete victory of those who challenged the Code. The applicants succeeded in having the Minister's promulgation decision reviewed and set aside. That is an important legal victory and should not be disguised. But they did not obtain a judgment declaring the constitutional project of legal sector transformation illegitimate.

The Court did not repeal section 9 of the BBBEE Act. It did not strike down substantive equality. It did not prohibit affirmative transformation measures. It did not tell the Minister that he could

never promulgate a Legal Sector Code. It remitted the decision for reconsideration. That leaves government with work to do, not a grave to dig.

So my posture is neither denial nor retreat. It is the posture of the badger protecting what matters while understanding exactly where the predator is coming from, combined with the agility of the mountain goat that survives not because the mountain is kind, but because it understands the rock better than those watching from below. Government must know this terrain. Every target must have evidence underneath it. Every weighting must have a rational bridge connecting it to the statutory purpose. Every objection must be answered. Every consultation must be genuinely considered. Every administrative step must survive the cold eye of judicial review. Then the Minister must personally stand behind the final decision and be able to say: I considered the evidence, I considered the objections, I considered the alternatives, I considered the constitutional implications, and exercising the authority Parliament entrusted to my office, this is my decision.

That is how the Legal Sector Code must return if the Minister decides, after proper reconsideration, that its measures remain justified. Not weaker be-

cause somebody litigated. Not angrier because government lost. Stronger because government learnt. There is nothing revolutionary about repeating an administrative mistake. The revolutionary discipline lies in correcting it so thoroughly that the next attack encounters not a slogan but a wall of evidence, law and rational decision making.

The structural problem the Code sought to address did not disappear when the judgment was delivered. Black practitioners did not wake up the following morning with equal ownership of major commercial firms.

Black women did not suddenly occupy half the equity partnerships. Historic briefing patterns did not dissolve overnight. High value commercial work did not automatically redistribute itself. The underlying transformation ques-

tion therefore remains alive, and as long as that material inequality remains alive, the constitutional conversation about substantive equality remains alive with it.

That is why I will not help anybody prematurely conduct the funeral of the Legal Sector Code. The Court has not buried transformation. What it has done is force the Minister to approach the mountain again with better footing. That is uncomfortable, but it can also be useful. The answer is not to abandon the climb. The answer is to know the mountain better, tighten the grip, test every foothold and keep moving upward.

No harness. No shortcuts. No administrative laziness. And certainly no retreat from the constitutional obligation to confront the unfinished architecture of inequality.

LEGAL SECTOR CODE

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Seeks to address historical, systemic imbalances by fostering a more diverse, transformed and equitable legal sector.



DIVERSITY

Reflects the rich diversity of our country.



EQUITY

Creates a level playing field for all legal professionals.



TRANSFORMATION

Drives meaningful change in the legal profession.



JUSTICE

Strengthens public trust in a fair and inclusive justice system.



Post the elections campaign, apply for 2027 academic year

■ By **BAYANDA MZONELI**

THIS may be the most inopportune time to raise this, and I deeply regret that I am raising it at this time. With less than a month to the 2026 Local Government Elections, all efforts and focus of the organisation ought to be directed at the campaign, especially in the organisation's twilight. Any attempt to distract candidates and volunteers should be, rightfully, deferred, if not completely ignored. Having said that, it may be perilous for some to ignore the matter raised below.

You may not be aware of, or remember, this, but I wrote something worth your attention, that was published in the **ANC Today Volume 15 No 08, 06-12 March 2015**, titled *"Developing a contingent of cadres with attributes that accord with tasks of the NDR in the second phase."* Though self-citation is frowned upon, the previous article is only referenced because this article is its sequel, and not all readers may have the patience to revisit it before engaging the sequel.

The reason you may not be aware is because, if you missed the publication at the time, the ANC National Executive Committee, that was elected at the 54th National Conference in December 2017, caused, by commission or omission, the cumulative organisational archive contained in the ANC website to disappear in September 2018. Since then no one



has been held accountable, and no effort has been made to restore that archive. What is worse is that there has since been poor archiving of statements and documents since then. The priority appears to be tweeting, and viral video clips, instead of documenting decisions, chronologically, in a central website for ease of referencing.

The main idea from that opinion piece was to highlight that:

- The ANC 53rd National Conference had, in December 2012, declared a Decade of the Cadre, presumably from 2013 to 2023;
- Among others the Decade of the Cadre comprised *"a key focus on the ideological, political, academic and moral training of a critical mass of ANC members"*; and
- That (the) ANC 56th National Conference was still 7 years

away. That should have gave all ANC members enough time to study towards any undergraduate qualification of their choice.

The Decade of the Cadre, in which the ANC members ought to have undergone *"the ideological, political, academic and moral training"* ended in December 2023. As is the custom it is unlikely that anyone would have made an assessment of whether the objectives outlined for the Decade of the Cadre were fulfilled or not. This would especially be the case since, the 2015 article pointed out that some of the objectives set of the Decade of the Cadre were previously set by the 2000 ANC National General Council, and no one accounted for the assessment of implementation of the 2000 ANC NGC. If it had failed, most of those who were in leadership during that failure



were re-elected in subsequent Conferences.

It is worth pointing out that the 2015 article was prompted by the January 2015 ANC NEC Lekgotla, that in its media statement, had bemoaned the skills and qualifications of cadres deployment in municipalities. In that regard, the January 2015 ANC NEC Lekgotla outlined resolutions related to the skills, whose implementation, or lack thereof, may probably not be accounted for.

On Monday, 17 November 2025, the ANC Electoral Committee which is chaired by Comrade Kgalema Motlanthe held a media briefing that, among others, released the ANC's 2026 Local Government Elections Candidate Selection Rules, Guidelines and Procedures.

Among others, the ANC Candidate Selection Guidelines said, *"A minimum requirement to qualify is that candidates must possess a matric qualification and/or have the capacity, experience, education or expertise that will enable them to make a constructive contribution within the*

municipal council. The requirement for a matric qualification may be waived by the Electoral Committee under exceptional circumstances." (par. 2.1) The Guidelines further set a higher threshold for Mayor, Speaker, and Chief Whip, which is, *"Tertiary qualification from an Accredited Institution"* (par 11.2.1.1).

In my opinion, all this is too little, too late. Instead, the ANC, to demonstrate its seriousness about service delivery, and renewal, should have identified progressive engineers with proven experience, and brought them to be Mayoral candidates, in all municipalities that are besieged by engineering problems such as water, electricity and roads. Teams that do not identify and recruit required talent can go twelve years without winning the league. But that is a debate for another day, after relegation.

Pity none of the breakaways, or even opposition parties, are fielding engineers, which would, partly, explain the inevitable imminent low voter turnout. The red, the green, and now the hammer and sickle, have all not convinc-

ingly differentiated themselves from whence they came.

In August 2026, the ANC Electoral Committee issued a directive, presumably for those ANC candidates for whom the requirement for matric qualification was waived. The directive prescribes that the candidates commit to *"acquiring a matric qualification or an accredited qualification at NQF 4 or higher within 12 months of being an ANC councillor."*

A literal interpretation of that ANC Electoral Committee directive would be that the ANC candidates whose matric requirement was waived, would have to have matric or an equivalent qualification by December 2027. Failure to adhere to that commitment may result in the removal as an ANC councillor.

The good news is that for the ANC candidates who do not have matric or equivalent, as well as anyone else who may be in a similar situation and interested in getting a qualification there are options available. The ongoing phasing in of occupational qualifications by the Department of

Higher Education and Training has compounded opportunities, both in terms of access, as well as the quality of the qualification that would be acquired.

As stated earlier, the timing of this article may be inopportune due to the election campaign, but most Community Education and Training (CET) Colleges, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges and other institutions will soon be closing their application window for 2027 academic year. Some of them have already closed. Therefore candidates who do not want to miss the December 2027 deadline of acquiring the matric or equivalent qualification ought to take a couple of days in the month of October to visit a CET or TVET College to get information, and apply to study.

Depending on the circumstances one of the pathways to gain access is through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). There are specified criteria and application process for the RPL access path. Respective accredited institutions should be contacted to get the information, and those who meet the criteria, may apply to the institution of their choice using this pathway. As the terminology says, among others, this

pathway requires relevant work experience, and caters from a particular age cohort. It is available in TVET Colleges as well as universities.

Depending on the circumstances that may have contributed to the candidates being unable to get matric, such as dropping out at matric, there is a pathway for direct access to the National Senior Certificate in some of the CET Colleges.

In addition to CET and TVET Colleges, the National School of Government (NSG) recently got accreditation from the QCTO (Quality Council for Trades and Occupations) to provide the Occupational Certificates at NQF 5 and NQF 6. The closing date for the NSG applications is 31 October 2026.

There is also an opportunity for regional leaders, particularly the Regional Secretaries, to demonstrate leadership by urgently engaging the Colleges within their region, to package the most up to date and relevant information, including the deadlines, in the most accessible format for their candidates who may need to apply for the 2027 academic year. The information, packaged in a brochure, could empower more

than just the ANC candidates. Furthermore, the NSFAS applications for 2027 academic year will be closing on 31 October 2026. The ANC candidates and community members who qualify may apply to Colleges, and to NSFAS as well.

The suggestion for regional leadership to engage institutions urgently is aimed at ensuring that information is available and ANC candidates, and the public who need the training, act timeously. It is not aimed at attempting to get special treatment for ANC candidates, as that is guaranteed to fail.

Inevitably, the December 2027 deadline, to get matric, for ANC councillors, who got a waiver, will coincide with the ANC 56th National Conference. That risks the matric deadline red line being turned green, since those who would wish to be re-elected may not want to upset Conference voting delegates.

As the ANC 54th National Conference Strategy and Tactics foretold, *"Bland reassurances that are then negated by the very conduct of leaders and members will worsen the decline; and, among the people, they will merely generate irreverent humor."*



**LET'S CONTINUE
BUILDING BETTER
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

04 NOVEMBER 2026 **VOTE ANC**

BEYOND POLITICAL ELITISM: When the Terrain of the Struggle Changed

PART 1

The Revolutionary Alliance was built to manage a struggle. The democratic breakthrough created a new terrain. The question is whether we successfully adapted to it.

■ By **MOJALEFA NALE**

DR Zamani Saul's recently published document on the collapse of COSATU's 15th National Congress deserves engagement, not dismissal. His central proposition – that political elitism has progressively detached sections of trade-union leadership from the workers they represent – touches a real nerve in the liberation movement.

But perhaps the diagnosis starts too late.

If political elitism has become sufficiently pronounced to paralyse the highest decision-making body of the country's largest trade-union federation, we must ask a larger question: **how did the**

Revolutionary Alliance allow matters to reach this point?

The problem is bigger than COSATU. It predates the SACP's decision to contest elections independently. It cannot be reduced to personalities competing for leadership. Somewhere along the road, we lost step in the management of the struggle.

The first place to look is at the terrain itself.

THE ALLIANCE WAS BUILT FOR A DIFFERENT TERRAIN

The Revolutionary Alliance was never conceived as an electoral convenience between friendly

organisations. It was an architecture for prosecuting a revolution born out of struggle.

The ANC carried responsibility for leading the National Democratic Revolution. The working class was a leading motive force. The SACP brought its particular ideological and organisational contribution to working-class struggle and the socialist objective. The trade-union movement organised workers at the point of production.

The Alliance partners were – and remain – distinct formations sharing common strategic terrain.

That distinction matters.

Historically, leadership of the ANC meant more than presiding over ANC structures. Its leadership was felt across the different theatres of struggle. Its highest structures brought together leading cadres from different traditions and components of the liberation movement. Strategic questions were ventilated there. Contradictions were confronted there. Policy differences were processed politically. Once direction had been agreed, the movement could pronounce and mobilise its forces around a common programme.



The Alliance was never without contradictions.

Its strength was its capacity to manage them without losing sight of the mission.

Then the terrain changed.

The democratic breakthrough fundamentally altered the material conditions under which the liberation movement operated. Liberation politics had demanded banning, prison, exile and, for many, death. Democratic power introduced Parliament, legislatures, municipalities, ministries, executive authority, salaries, budgets, procurement systems, board appointments and influence over enormous public resources.

There was nothing inherently illegitimate about this. The attainment of political power was itself an objective of the struggle.

But political leadership had now acquired material value.

This presented the movement with a new revolutionary challenge: **How do you exercise state power without allowing state power to remake the movement?**

That question has never been adequately answered.

WHEN LEADERSHIP BECOMES AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

How do you deploy cadres without creating a political labour market?

How do you improve the circumstances of those who sacrificed for freedom without converting sacrifice into entitlement?



How do you contest leadership democratically when leadership carries material reward?

These were not abstract questions. They went to the heart of the new political order.

The movement recognised the dangers. It wrote about them, debated them and produced instruments such as *Through the Eye of the Needle*. Careerism, factionalism, patronage and corruption became recurring themes in organisational reports and conference resolutions.

Yet the tendencies spread.

This is the contradiction we must confront.

Political elitism cannot therefore convincingly be located predominantly in trade-union leadership. It found entry across the liberation movement. Its manifestations and degrees differed, and many cadres continued – and continue – to serve with integrity.

But the tendency became sufficiently widespread to alter organisational culture.

Leadership increasingly came with status, access and material

possibility.

A branch BEC could become an entry point into a political career. An REC or PEC could influence deployment. Membership of an NEC could carry considerable political influence. Councillorships, mayoral offices, legislatures, Parliament, MEC positions, ministries, union offices and institutional boards became part of an ecosystem in which political advancement could materially transform an individual's life.

Leadership consequently acquired two possible meanings.

For some, it remained an opportunity to serve. For others, it became an opportunity to arrive. The danger begins when the second overwhelms the first.

FROM SERVICE TO ACCESS

This is where political elitism must be understood not simply as a moral failing of individual leaders but as a product of a changing political environment.

When political office provides access to resources, influence and social mobility, leadership contests inevitably acquire greater stakes.

The struggle for office can then become a struggle over access.

And once access becomes important, factionalism finds fertile ground.

Factionalism does not arrive fully formed. It develops when organisational structures become instruments through which political advantage can be accumulated, protected and reproduced.

Members begin to ask not simply: What does the organisation require?

They ask: Who is with us?

The question of political capability can be displaced by the question of political loyalty.

The organisation begins to change.

A leadership contest that should determine who is best equipped to advance the mission becomes a contest over who controls the machinery through which influence and opportunity are distributed.

The danger is that the organisation can remain formally intact while its political culture changes underneath it.

The structures remain.

The constitutions remain.

The conferences continue.

But the meaning of organisational participation begins to shift.

THE RISE OF THE CONFERENCE POLITICIAN

This creates another danger: the emergence of the highly skilled conference activist who is poorly

equipped for the struggle itself.

Someone may know how to win a branch without knowing how to build one; how to count delegates without necessarily understanding the balance of social forces; how to mobilise against another faction without knowing how to mobilise society behind the programme of the organisation.

Populism can then compete with capability.

Loyalty can compete with merit.

Factional arithmetic can compete with political consciousness.

The organisation becomes extraordinarily busy – but increasingly busy with itself.

This is not simply an internal organisational problem.

A liberation movement exists for a purpose beyond its own institutional survival. Its structures are means, not ends.

When organisational energy is increasingly consumed by leadership contests, succession battles, deployment struggles and factional positioning, the political mission inevitably suffers.

The unemployed young person cannot eat factional victory.

A community without water cannot drink a successful slate.

A worker facing retrenchment receives no protection because one leadership grouping defeated another.

People experience politics materially.

When political organisations become consumed by themselves, society progressively detaches from them.

And when an organisation stops spending its time on the historical mission for which people supported it, people eventually stop spending their political loyalty on the organisation.

THE QUESTION WE MUST NOW ASK

The democratic breakthrough was one of the greatest achievements of the liberation struggle.

But victory changed the conditions of struggle.

The movement mastered extraordinarily difficult terrains: ille-



gality, underground organisation, prison, exile, armed struggle, mass mobilisation, international solidarity and negotiation.

The democratic order presented another terrain altogether.

The central question was no longer only how to win political power.

It was how to exercise political power without allowing political power to transform the character of the movement.

Could the movement deploy cadres without creating a political labour market?

Could it materially improve the circumstances of its leaders without producing political elitism?

Could it conduct democratic leadership contests without insti-



tutionalising factions?

Could it preserve the primacy of service when political office became materially rewarding?

These questions were not peripheral after 1994. They became central questions of the revolution.

And perhaps this is where we began to lose step.

But the consequences did not stop at the level of political lead-

ership.

As political factionalism deepened, another strategic pillar of the Alliance came under pressure: the unity and organisation of the working class itself.

That is where the COSATU crisis becomes more than a trade-union story.

It becomes a story about what happened to the management of the Alliance itself.



4 NOVEMBER

VOTE ANC



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10–16 October 2026

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

10 October 1963**United Nations Calls for Release of all Political prisoners**

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

10 October 1989**De Klerk announces release of 8 Robben Islanders**

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

10 October 1999**Phakisa Freeway opens**

The Phakisa Freeway located in Welkom, Free State, opened on 10 October 1999. The Phakisa Freeway combined the traditional oval and road course. Since inauguration, the racecourse

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

10 October 2003**Oil pipeline opened in Chad**

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



“

Those who conduct themselves with morality, integrity and consistency need not fear the forces of inhumanity and cruelty.

NELSON MANDELA

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 October 2005

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



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

11 October 1886

Standard Bank opens branch in Johannesburg

Standard Bank was established in Port Elizabeth in 1862, then known as The Standard Bank of British South Africa. It started doing business in a tent in Johannesburg, and then known as Ferreira's Camp, in 1886, when it became the first bank to open a branch on the Witwatersrand gold fields. The second branch

in Johannesburg was opened in Eloff Street on 1 November 1901. In 1959 it moved its head office from Pretoria to Johannesburg and in 1970 it took ownership of a prestigious new head office building at 78 Fox Street. The bank has grown to span 17 African countries and 16 countries across South East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The bank now boasts a multi-million Standard Bank Centre head office located in Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

11 October 1954

Malan unveils Paul Kruger on Church Square



President of the former Afrikaner Republic of the Transvaal, Paul Kruger's bronze statue was sculpted by artist Anton Van Wouw in 1896, commissioned by industrialist, Sammy Marks. The statue was finally installed at Church Square after it had been previously installed at Prince's Park and later moved to the Pretoria Station. It was unveiled by then Prime Minister, Dr DF Malan on 11 October 1954. The square was initially used as a market place and sports field. In 1855, the city's first church was built on the site, hence the name Church square. Today the square attracts scores of tourists from all over the world. It is surrounded by historical buildings that boast beautiful architecture

with the statue positioned as a central feature. There has been call since the Rhodes Must Fall movement for the removal of the Kruger statue. During the 2021 local government elections, the ANC held its Manifesto launch at Church Square.

11 October 1955

Artist Tony Nkotsi born

Anthony Molebatsi Nkotsi, South African artist and the head of the Printmaking Department of the Johannesburg Art Foundation in 1988, was born in Johannesburg. During his schooling years he would spend any money that his mother gave him on art materials and spent his Saturdays at informal art classes in Orlando, Soweto. Here he was exposed to contemporary South African art and was particularly impressed by a large drawing by Dumile Feni. His involvement in the student uprisings of 1976 saw him being detained. On his release he attended art classes at the Mofolo Art Centre where he met Dumisani Mabaso and Gordon Gabashane who had then recently graduated from Rorke's Drift. Together with Mabaso he founded Skuzo, a printmaking studio in Johannesburg in 1983 and the Hamman-skraal Art Project, north of Pretoria. His well-known work includes *Portrait of a Man* (Biko).



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11 October 1978

Global Anti-Apartheid campaigners recognised

At a special meeting of the General Assembly, the United Nations gave awards to the following seven persons in recognition of their contribution to the international campaign against apartheid: Reverend Canon L. John Collins (UK); Michael Manley (Jamaica); Murtala Mohamed (Nigeria); Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt); Jawaharlal Nehru (India); Olof Palme (Sweden) and Paul Robeson (USA)

12 October 1968

Equatorial Guinea gains independence from Spain



The colonial history of Equatorial Guinea dates back to 1471 when Portuguese explorers descended on the country. On their way to India, Portuguese explorers 'discovered' the island of Bioko, and later colonized the islands of Fernando Poo and Annobon. They retained control of Equatorial Guinea until 1778, when the territory was ceded to Spain in exchange for land in South America. When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1820, rebel forces took control of the colony. The mainland of Equatorial Guinea became a Spanish colony in 1900. With increasing nationalist sentiment and escalating pressure from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the journey to independence was underway. On 12 October 1968,

Equatorial Guinea became an independent state with Francisco Macias Nguema as the first President.

12 October 1991

Nelson Mandela on ANC Nationalisation Policy

The African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela stated that his party was prepared to abandon its long-held policy of nationalisation if the business community could provide an alternative, which would redress the economic imbalances in the country. He further stated that nationalisation did not mean that the private sector will be excluded from certain areas of business and reiterated that the ANC welcomes dialogue with the business sector to ensure growth and equal distribution.

12 October 1995

Legislation approving Local Elections passed

An emergency session of the democratic Parliament on October 12, 1995, approved legislation to permit local elections to be held on November 1. This was in line with ruling by the Constitutional Court, necessitating the holding of elections before December, 1995. The Election Task Group, responsible for organising the elections, announced that in areas where electoral boundaries had not been settled, namely KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, the voters would not go to the polls on November 1, as disputes were still pending. The two provinces held their first local elections in 1996.

12 October 2000

TRC hears testimony of Ladybrand Four

Umkhonto we Size cadres Joyce 'Betty Boom' Koekanyetswe, Nomasonto Mashiya and



Tax Sejaname were abducted by members of the then Orange Freestate security branch in Lesotho and held on a farm in Ladybrand, 18 kms from Maseru in December 1988. Betty Boom was a Commander and highly trained MK cadre as well as a committee member of the SACP. Nomasonto Mashiya was abducted with her one-year old baby but the police returned the baby to her (Mashiya's) parents in the Free State. Not much is known about Tax Sejaname's affiliations or abduction. Mbulelo 'Khaya Kasibe (KK)' Ngono was involved in a shoot-out with the security forces in Lesotho in 1987, but managed to escape only to be abducted in 1988 in Maseru by the same security branch who abducted Betty Boom, Nomasonto Mashiya and Tax Sejaname. The four MK cadres were held at a farm and came to be known as the Ladybrand Four. During the TRC hearings starting this day, the security police applying for amnesty claimed that the entire unit was recruited as informers, and dropped back in Lesotho, but could produce no evidence to back this up and the TRC rejected their claims, ruling in its final report that the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Ladybrand Four were killed and their bodies buried, since none of them were seen or heard from after their abduction in 1988.

13 October 1881 First electric lights in Adderley Street, Cape Town

Adderley Street is possibly the most historically rich street in Cape Town. It gets its name from the man who vehemently opposed a proposal by the British to turn Cape Town into a convict colony, Charles B. Adderley. On 13 October 1881, the street got its first electric lights installed. The street is a main attraction for tourists and is in close proximity to the Old Slave Lodge Museum, Groote Kerk (the oldest church in South Africa) and the Company Gardens. Adderley street was renamed Nelson Mandela Avenue in 2001.

13 October 1962 Helen Joseph placed under house arrest

Former political activist, Helen Joseph, often fell victim to the draconian apartheid legislations. She became the first person to be put under house arrest under the Sabotage Act, introduced by the newly appointed Minister of Justice, B.J. Voster. The house arrest conditions included a ban on leaving her house at night and over weekends, and also on receiving visitors.



13 October 1987 SA blamed for Harare bombing

South Africa was blamed for a massive bomb blast in Harare, Zimbabwe in which several people were injured. Zimbabwe had had a long relationship with the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, dating back to the Huange (Wankie) and Sipolilo military campaigns of the 1960s. South African covert forces were suspected of having planted the bomb with the aim of killing members of the liberation movement living in exile there.

13 October 1990 First Gay Pride March held in South Africa



On 13 October 1990, the first South African Lesbian and Gay Pride march was held in Johannesburg. It was also the first Pride March on the African continent and acted as both a gay pride event and an anti-Apartheid march. The march was organised by the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) and attracted a crowd of about 800 people. Speakers at the event included Beverly Ditsie, Simon Nkoli and Justice Edwin Cameron.

14 October 1906 Muslim Brotherhood founder born

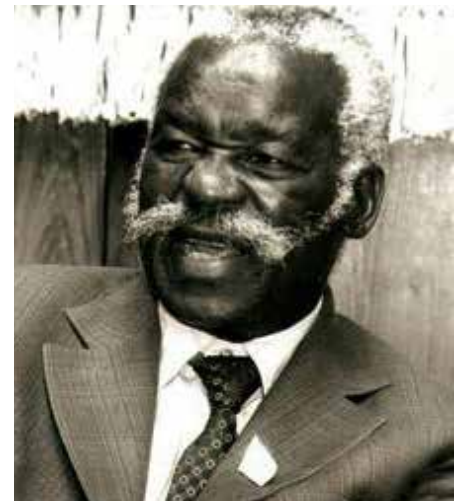
Hassan al-Banna was a teacher and Imam, and founder of the Muslim Brotherhood in Mahmoudyah, Egypt. He originally sought change through reform

rather than revolution, urging Arab countries to rise up against colonialism. He was killed in 1949.

14 October 1931 Pretoria becomes a City

On 14 October 1931, Pretoria achieved official city status. The initial town was named in 1855 by Marthinus Pretorius, a leader of the Voortrekkers who named it after his father Andries Pretorius, who was involved in the Battle of Blood River. Pretoria became the Administrative Capital of the Union of South Africa, formed in 1910 with the merger of the Transvaal Colony (former Boer Republic of the ZAR), the Orange Free State Colony (former Boer Republic of the Orange Free State), the Cape Colony and Natal Colony. After 1994, the city remained the administrative capital, and was renamed Tshwane.

14 October 1983 Moses Mabhida receives awards



Moses Mbheki Mabhida, trade unionist, politician and Umkhonto we Sizwe commander, was awarded the Soviet Order of the People and the Order of the People's Republic of Bulgaria First Class on his sixtieth birthday. He travelled extensively and was highly respected around

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

the globe, in particular by trade unionists and socialists. Mabhi-da, a self-educated man, was steeped in the Marxist-Leninist ideology and tradition.

14 October 1988

Naguib Mahfouz receives Nobel Prize for Literature

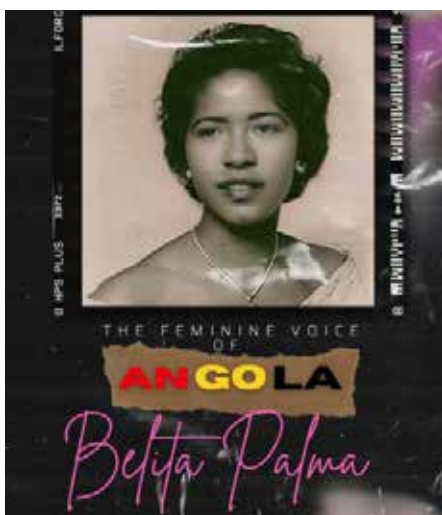


Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz, focusing in his writings on existentialist themes, and with many of his novels made into film, was announced as the 1988 Nobel Laureate for Literature.

15 October 1932

Belita Palma born

Isabel Salomé Benedito de Palma, best known as Belita Palma, was born on this day. Belita, an Angolan singer, used song to inspire the struggle against colonialism in her country. She was the lead singer of the group N'gola Ritmos. She passed away in 1988.



15 October 1938

Fela Kuti born



Nigerian and African music icon and activist, Fela Kuti was born on this day in Abekuta, Nigeria. A pioneer of Afrobeat, he achieved huge success with his band Africa 70, fusing Yoruba vocalization and rhythms with funk and jazz.

15 October 1985

Trojan Horse massacre in Athlone, Cape Town



In Athlone, Cape Town, the area bordered by Klipfontein Road, Belgravia Road, Thornton Road and Alexander Sinton High School was a gathering place for anti-apartheid protests, particularly students. On 15 October 1985, members of the security forces shot and killed three young people who were part of student demonstrations against apartheid. A South African Railways truck, with armed police men hidden drove down Thornton Road in the middle of a student protest.

The police with guns jumped out and opened fire, killing three young people, Jonathan Claasen (21), Shaun Magmoed (15), Michael Miranda (11) and injuring several others.

15 October 1989

Five Rivonia Trialists released

On 15 October 1989, five of the eight African National Congress (ANC) long term political prisoners were released from Robben Island. Among the leaders set free were Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Elias Motsoaledi. Three of the eight prisoners who were released before and after 1989 were, Dennis Goldberg (1985), Govan Mbeki (5 November 1987) and Nelson Mandela (11 February 1990). They were arrested on 11 July 1963 when security police raided Lilliesleaf Farm, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

15 October 1993

Walus and Derby-Lewis sentenced to death for Hani assassination

Presiding Judge C.F. Eloff sentenced Polish immigrant and supporter of the Neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), Janusz Walus, and Conservative Party (CP) politician Clive Derby-Lewis to death for assassinating the South African Communist Party (SACP) leader, Chris Hani. They were found guilty the previous day with Gaye Derby-Lewis, Clive's wife, acquitted. Their sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment after the abolition of the death penalty when a democratic government took over.

16 October 1939

Charlotte Maxeke passes on

Charlotte Maxeke (7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939), a pioneer in

Isithwalandwe / Seaparankoe
Charlotte Maxeke

7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939

”

This work is not for ourselves – kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you.



many fields, the first black woman to earn a Bachelor's of Science degree, attended the ANC founding Congress in 1912, and went on to form the Bantu Women's League, died in Johannesburg on this day at the age of 65. She was honoured as 'Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa' at a meeting of the All-African Convention in December 1935 by Dr. A.B. Xuma.

16 October 1952
Nkosi Albert Luthuli
elected ANC
President-General

Albert Luthuli was elected the president-general on 16 October 1952 at the annual congress of the ANC. Following his election, Luthuli was served banning orders by the apartheid regime, and in 1956 was arrested and charged with treason. Despite the treason charge being dropped, Luthuli was slapped with another

5-year ban. In 1961, Luthuli was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Luthuli's enormous contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa is without dispute. He has been lauded as one of the great-

est patriots in South African history and the national 'Order of Luthuli' was named after him, the highest award for contributions to democracy, human rights, justice and peace.


Isithwalandwe / Seaparankoe
Nkosi Albert Luthuli

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

10–16 October 2026

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


OCTOBER O.R. TAMBO MONTH

OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO

BORN 27 OCTOBER 1917

LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE ANC

FOUNDER MEMBER

AND FIRST NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE ANCYL

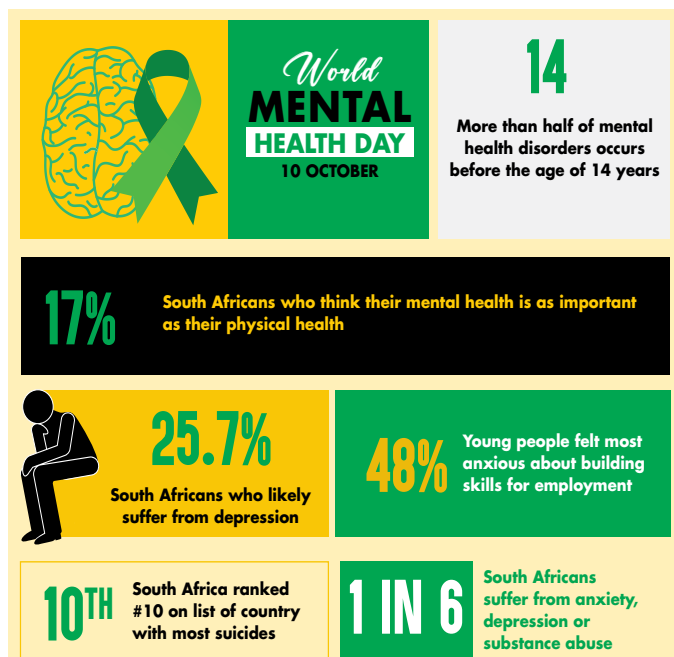
A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

VOTE ANC



10 October**World Mental Health Day**

Raising awareness of mental health issues and treatment is important to encourage well-being and



prevent suicides. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many experience mental health challenges due to isolation, fear and grief of losing loved ones. The day encourages people to care for themselves and to care for others.

10 October**World Homeless Day**

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

10 October**World Hospice and Palliative Care Day**

Hospice care (at home or in a specialized institution) is provided when a patient no longer respond to treatment and their last days made as comfortable as possible, whilst palliative care is to assist

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

with serious conditions that may not always be fatal, but still impacts on the patient's quality of life, mainly elderly persons. The year 2026 marks 12 years since the World Health Assembly (WHO's Governing Body) passed the only stand-alone resolution on palliative care, calling for all countries to "*strengthen palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course.*" World Hospice and Palliative Care Day takes place on the second Saturday of October every year. It is a unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world.

11 October

International Day of the Girl Child



Celebrated every year on 11 October, International Day of the Girl Child is a global moment to celebrate girls everywhere, amplifying their voices, actions and leadership. It belongs to everyone who cares about girls and their rights. On this day, we come together to recognize and advocate for the full spectrum of girls' rights. This year's theme ***End child marriage and invest in girls' rights***, was developed through consultations with girls, girls' organizations and girl-led networks as well as civil society organizations and United Nations partners. Together, they called for urgent action to end child marriage and invest in girls' rights. Child marriage remains one of the most widespread violations of girls' rights, denying millions of girls the chance to stay in school, protect their health, live free from violence and fulfil their potential. It can have severe and lasting consequences for girls' physical and mental health, increasing risks of social isolation, depression and emotional distress at a time when self-harm remains one of the leading causes of death among adolescent girls aged 15-19 globally.

12 October

World Arthritis day

One of the most common illnesses, it refers to a large number of conditions that cause inflammation of the joints. World Arthritis Day was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) and is celebrated each year on 12 October.

People with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) from around the world can join together to make their voices heard on this day. The aims of World Arthritis Day are to:

- raise awareness of RMDs amongst the medical community, people with RMDs and the general public;
- influence public policy by making decision-makers aware of the burden of RMDs and the steps which can be taken to ease it;
- ensure all people with RMDs and their caregivers are aware of the vast support network available to them.

13 October

International Day for Disaster Reduction

The anniversary of this day started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The commemoration provides an opportunity to strengthen awareness and understanding of disaster risks, promote household preparedness, improve early warning systems and encourage inclusive participation in disaster risk reduction planning and decision making. The theme for 2026 is ***"Resilience Starts at Home"***. This theme recognises that the home is both the primary site where disaster impacts are felt and the frontline of resilience-building. It calls on all actors: governments, the private sector, civil society, organisations of persons with disabilities, women's groups, youth networks, diverse community leaders and households themselves, to take concrete actions to reduce disaster risk, where it matters most.

14 October

World Standards Day

Thousands of experts, especially those from organizations like the International Electrotechnical Commission (I.E.C.), the International Telecommunication Union (I.T.U.), and the International Standards Organization (I.S.O.), are involved in the creation of common global standards, to encourage cooperation. They create voluntary technical agreements that are published as international standards. World Standards Day is a celebration of their teamwork and its impact on our interconnected world. It encourages us to value the efforts of those who work behind the scenes to ensure that products and processes meet universal criteria, making our global marketplace more efficient and connected.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

14 October

World Sight Day

Across the world, there are 2.2 billion people with problems of eyesight, including 91 million children. World Sight day advocates for good eye sight, and caring for our eyes. 90% of people experiencing sight loss are from developing countries. Get your eyes tested regularly.

15 October

International Day of Rural Women



As the world faces an increasingly critical need to act against climate change, the important role that rural women and girls play in building resilience is unquestionable. Rural women and girls are leaders in agriculture, food security and nutrition, land, managing natural resource management and unpaid and domestic care work. They are at the front-line when agriculture and natural resources are threatened. One third of women are employed in agriculture. (Source: www.unwomen.org)

15 October

Global Handwashing Day

A global advocacy day raises awareness about the importance of handwashing with soap as fundamental to good health and development. Across the world only 60% of the population has access to a basic handwashing facility; in least developed countries, only 28% of people have access to basic handwashing facilities; and there are 17 countries where more than 10 million people lack handwashing facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, hand washing with soap was one of the basic measures to stop the spread of infections and germs.

15 October

World Students Day

The day is celebrated to value students of all ages who dedicate themselves to learning, whatever the field. The day is in honour of the late Indian

aerospace scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a consummate educationist who believed teachers and students were the builders of society. He famously said: *“Dream, Dream, Dream, Dreams transform into thoughts. And thoughts result in action.”*

15 October

World White Cane Day

Poor or loss of sight impact on mobility, and the white cane is the most recognisable symbol of the loss of sight. The white cane was introduced to be safer for blind people to be more visible to motorists and others.

16 October

World Food Day

World Food Day highlights the plight of 870 million undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas where their main source of income is agriculture. Global warming and the biofuel boom are now threatening to push the number of hungry even higher. The day also aims to promote healthy diets. This year theme is **Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow**. Forward-thinking solutions, combined with traditional knowledge and inclusive approaches, can help ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, diverse, safe, and nutritious foods, while safeguarding the planet for future generations.

What can you do?

Everyday choices matter. By choosing nutritious, diverse diets and reducing food waste, we can help shape a more sustainable agrifood system. At the same time, we can support the protection of soils, water, and biodiversity, and stay informed. Greater awareness of how food is produced and distributed strengthens these choices at the individual, household, community and national levels. The choices we make every day shape the world we live in.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE PLAN PILLAR 1



**For all your service delivery issues,
call toll free number or send an email or
WhatsApp to:**



basic.services@anc1912.org.za



+27 81 698 8522 / +27 81 698 8523



080 030 1912 (Toll free number)

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



**2026: The Year of Decisive Action
to Fix Local Government and
Transform the Economy**

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



Connect with ANC Today and be part of the
conversation via our social media platforms.

CONNECT WITH US

Communications@anc1912.org.za
011 376 1000
● www.anc1912.org.za

Visit our interactive ANC Website
● www.anc1912.org.za

● Follow us on @MyANC
● Follow Us @MyANC Twitter page
● Follow @myanc_ on Instagram
● View @MyANC on YouTube