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The African National Congress extends a heartfelt THANK YOU to all Members, Supporters, Volunteers and Voters for entrusting us with their vote.

We reaffirm our commitment to implement our Local Government Election Manifesto.

The work continues. Aluta Continua.

LET'S CONTINUE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES, TOGETHER

THE ANC REJECTS THE WEAPONISATION OF AGOA AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) rejects the United States administration's announced withdrawal of South Africa's AGOA eligibility from 1 January 2027. We will not allow economic pressure to dictate our foreign policy or force us to abandon the responsibility to reverse colonial and apartheid injustices.

AGOA provides tariff preferences; its withdrawal does not close the American market or mean economic collapse. Claims of catastrophic job losses confuse the broader United States trade relationship with exposure to AGOA preferences. Nevertheless, government must protect affected workers and industries, strengthen local production and expand alternative markets.

Land reform, Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and employment equity are democratic instruments of redress. Their gains, though incomplete, were hard won. Abandoning transformation would entrench apartheid's economic inheritance and strip political freedom of economic substance.

We condemn campaigns by AfriForum, Solidarity and the Democratic Alliance against transformation, which have contributed to international pressure on South Africa. The announcement's timing during special voting, alongside economic misinformation, deepens concern about attempts to intimidate voters and undermine democratic choices.

Our history of resistance, the Freedom Charter and the Constitution demand that we defend sovereignty, equality and economic justice. We honour those who sacrificed for liberation and the progressive Americans who stood against apartheid.

The ANC supports diplomacy and mutually beneficial trade with the United States.

We will not surrender transformation for preferential market access. AGOA may be withdrawn; our struggle for economic emancipation will continue.

We will not be bullied.





A VOICE FROM AMERICA

Statement by Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member **Richard E. Neal** following President Trump's announcement of the intention to terminate South Africa from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) trade preference programme:

FOR 26 years, AGOA has been the cornerstone of a profound economic partnership between the U.S. and sub-Saharan African countries. Together, we've expanded trade, promoted job creation and worker rights, and strengthened democratic institutions. For the Trump Administration to abandon South Africa and strip them of that progress and opportunity over a debunked fixation on anti-apartheid efforts is unconscionable. It's yet another trade decision grounded in grievance that flies in the face of what responsible policy should be.

The Administration owes the American people a more thorough explanation as to why South Africa was removed from AGOA and what steps South Africa can take to be reinstated to the program. Livelihoods, businesses, and U.S. credibility are on the line.

The power of our trade laws shouldn't be twisted so Trump can further policies based on biased accusations made by those in his orbit looking to settle scores.

The last thing our trade policy needs, and families and businesses at home can afford, is more Trump chaos that shakes our economy, puts investment at risk, and erodes America's standing on the continent.

The ANC Cannot Sell the Soul of Our Nation for Opportunism:

AGOA Is Not Worth South Africa's Sovereignty

By **MZWANDILE MASINA**

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa has consistently articulated South Africa's commitment to an independent foreign policy, one that enables our country to engage with partners across both the Global North and Global South on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and shared interests, rather than coercion or external pressure.

This approach balances the realities of national security, economic development and sovereignty with the principles that have historically shaped South Africa's international outlook: human rights, solidarity, non-alignment, multilateralism, diplomacy and the sovereign right of nations to determine their own destiny.

It is against this backdrop that President Donald Trump's announcement of the imminent termination of South Africa's benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) on 1 January 2027 must be considered.

AGOA has undoubtedly delivered economic benefits to South Africa and other eligible African economies. But no trade arrangement, however beneficial, should require South Africa to compromise its sovereignty, abandon its transformation agenda or surrender its right to determine its domestic and foreign policies.



Understanding AGOA and the Relationship that Preceded it

AGOA is a landmark United States trade preference programme introduced in May 2000 under President Bill Clinton as part of the Trade and Development Act of 2000.

Before AGOA, trade between South Africa and the United States was conducted through established international trade arrangements and earlier U.S. preference programmes. These included the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which provided non-reciprocal, duty-free treatment for certain eligible products. Its coverage was, however, more restrictive and subject to competitive-need limitations and periodic congressional renewal.

Most goods traded between South Africa and the United States were otherwise governed by World Trade Organisation Most-Favoured-Nation tariffs, rather than the expanded duty-free preferences that AGOA subsequently introduced for selected manufacturing and agricultural products, including automobiles, textiles and certain agricultural goods.

The broader historical context is equally important. During the 1980s, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 imposed substantial restrictions on trade and investment with apartheid

South Africa. Relations between the two countries were progressively normalised following South Africa's democratic transition in 1994. This new era of engagement ultimately led to the U.S.–South Africa Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 1999, which was later updated in 2012.

AGOA therefore did not create economic relations between South Africa and the United States. It expanded preferential access within a bilateral economic relationship that already existed.

From Aid to Trade

At its inception, AGOA represented an important shift in the United States' relationship with Africa, placing greater emphasis on trade and investment rather than traditional development assistance.

The programme granted eligible sub-Saharan African countries non-reciprocal, duty-free access to the U.S. market for thousands of products.

That access, however, has always been conditional.

Participating countries have been required to demonstrate continuing progress in areas such as market-oriented economic policies, the rule of law, political pluralism, human rights and the removal of barriers to U.S. trade and investment.

Originally scheduled to expire in 2008, AGOA has subsequently been extended several times by the U.S. Congress, including a ten-year extension in 2015 and, most recently, an extension through to January 2027.

Country eligibility is reviewed periodically. Over the years, countries including Ethiopia, Uganda, Gabon and Niger have lost or had their eligibility suspended for various reasons relating to governance, human rights or policy concerns. South Africa must therefore recognise that preferential market access has always existed within a broader framework of U.S. economic and foreign-policy considerations.

That reality raises a fundamental question: how far should South Africa be prepared to go to retain preferential access to the U.S. market?



AGOA Has Value, but at What Cost?

There is no credible argument that AGOA has been economically irrelevant.

Across the continent, it has helped support regional value chains in industries such as textiles, apparel, agriculture and automotive manufacturing. Preferential access to the American market has reduced tariff costs for exporters, encouraged investment and supported jobs.

South Africa has historically been one of the programme's largest beneficiaries, accounting for a substantial share of AGOA-related exports over its 25-year lifespan. But recognising AGOA's economic contribution does not mean that South Africa should elevate it above its national interest.

The scale of South Africa's dependence on AGOA must also be understood in context.

South African exports to the United States under AGOA declined significantly to approximately US$1.7 billion in 2025, representing a sharp decrease from approximately US$4 billion in 2014. This occurred against the backdrop of considerable trade disruption, including additional U.S. automotive tariffs and uncertainty surrounding the programme.

According to the figures cited by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, goods exported using AGOA preferences represented approximately 10% of South Africa's total exports to the United States in 2025, compared with approximately 28% in 2024.

AGOA exports represented roughly 1% of South Africa's total exports globally.

At the same time, overall bilateral trade between South Africa and the United States reached approximately US$28.8 billion in 2025.

The implication is significant: the overwhelming majority of economic exchange between these two countries already takes place outside AGOA preferences.

This does not mean that withdrawal from AGOA would be painless.

The impact would be concentrated in important sectors, particularly automotive manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing, where businesses, workers and communities dependent on export value chains could face genuine consequences. Government must therefore prepare credible measures to protect vulnerable industries, diversify export destinations and deepen alternative markets.

But economic vulnerability cannot become an instrument through which another country determines South Africa's domestic or foreign policy.

Our National Interest Cannot Be Negotiated Away

South Africa's national interest rests on five fundamental pillars: national sovereignty, territorial integrity, the well-being and security of our citizens, economic prosperity, and the pursuit of a better Africa and a better world.

Trade policy must serve these objectives, not subordinate them.

Suggestions that the ANC-led government should compromise its transformation programme in exchange for favourable trade relations strike at the heart of our constitutional and developmental project.

We cannot accept a proposition, whether explicit or implicit, that preferential market access must be purchased by reversing South Africa's land reform programme, weakening labour protections, dismantling Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, abandoning other legitimate redress measures, altering agricultural policy principally to accommodate foreign commercial interests, or surrendering our independent foreign-policy positions.

These are matters for South Africans to determine through our democratic institutions and constitutional processes.

Our sovereignty cannot depend on whether another country agrees with the choices made by our people and their elected government.

Neither should disagreement with the United States be confused with hostility towards the United States.

South Africa should continue pursuing constructive, mutually beneficial relations with Washington.

The United States remains an important trading and investment partner, and there is every reason for the two countries to maintain mature diplomatic and economic engagement.

But genuine partnership requires mutual respect.

It cannot mean that one side retains the right to prescribe the domestic or foreign policy choices of the other.

Transformation Is Not a Bargaining Chip

This question goes beyond AGOA.

For South Africa, transformation is rooted in the unfinished work of overcoming the economic and social consequences of colonialism and apartheid.

Land reform, employment equity, empowerment and other redress measures exist within a historical reality in which the ownership of land, capital and economic opportunity was systematically structured along racial lines.

These policies may legitimately be debated, improved, reviewed and, where necessary, corrected. That is the responsibility of South Africans through Parliament, government, the courts and democratic public debate.

But they cannot become bargaining chips in negotiations with foreign powers.

The ANC cannot abandon the transformation agenda because doing so might make relations with a powerful trading partner more comfortable.

That would amount to exchanging long-term national purpose for short-term economic expediency.

Africa Must Build Its Own Economic Resilience

The uncertainty surrounding AGOA should also serve as a strategic warning to South Africa and the wider continent.

Africa cannot indefinitely build its industrial future around preferential access programmes whose terms, duration and eligibility are ultimately determined elsewhere.

This moment should accelerate South Africa's efforts to diversify its export markets, strengthen intra-African trade, deepen regional value chains and make full use of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area.

South Africa must simultaneously deepen economic partnerships across Africa and with markets in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere, while preserving constructive relations with the United States.

Strategic autonomy does not mean isolation.

It means building sufficient economic resilience so that disagreement with any single global power does not become an existential threat to our economy.

South Africa's Sovereignty Is Not for Sale

South Africa should continue engaging the United States diplomatically and economically. Where differences exist, they should be addressed through dialogue, negotiation and mutual respect.

We must defend our exporters, protect jobs, support industries exposed to changing trade conditions and continue pursuing access to major global markets.

But there must be a line that South Africa will not cross.

We cannot trade away our sovereignty.

We cannot mortgage our independent foreign policy.

We cannot abandon the responsibility to address the continuing consequences of apartheid simply to preserve preferential access to another country's market.

And we cannot allow economic pressure, wherever it originates, to determine who South Africa may regard as its partners, what positions it may take internationally, or how it chooses to confront the inequalities within its own society.

AGOA has benefited South Africa, and losing those benefits would carry costs that should neither be dismissed nor trivialised. But the price of retaining AGOA cannot be the surrender of our national interest.

Trade preferences are temporary. Sovereignty is permanent.

The ANC carries a responsibility greater than securing access to any single market. It has a responsibility to protect the dignity, sovereignty and democratic choices of the South African people while continuing the unfinished project of building a more equal society.

That responsibility cannot be exchanged for temporary economic advantage.

South Africa welcomes partnership. We welcome trade. We welcome investment. We welcome constructive engagement with the United States and with all nations.

But South Africa's sovereignty is not for sale.

And on that principle, we must remain resolute.

Mzwandile Masina *is an ANC NEC Member and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition.*



SOUTH AFRICA SHALL RISE LIKE THE PHOENIX:
After the Fiercest Storm, the Sun Shall Rise Again

By **STAN ITSHEGETSENG**

THERE comes a moment in the life of a nation when adversity ceases to be merely a threat and becomes a test of its character. South Africa is standing at such a moment, confronted by the prospect of losing preferential access to the American market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, while the political winds blowing from Washington remind us of an uncomfortable truth: a country that depends excessively upon decisions taken elsewhere will forever find its economic confidence vulnerable to the temperament of foreign governments.

The reported announcement by the administration of United States President Donald Trump of its intention to terminate South Africa's AGOA eligibility from 1 January 2027 has understandably unsettled our economic landscape. Exporters are anxious, workers are concerned, investors are examining their exposure, and political commentators have rushed to pronounce judgment upon our country's future. Some have already begun speaking as though the gates of economic heaven have been permanently closed and South Africa must now approach Washington with a begging bowl, accompanied by the appropriate facial expression of diplomatic desperation.

Hei banna! Since when did Washington become the birthplace of South African hope? Since when did the future of Africa become the personal property of an American president? We must never underestimate the seriousness of economic disruption, particularly when livelihoods and export industries are at stake, but neither should we confuse a difficult season with the end of our national journey. A storm may shake the foundations of a house, but it does not automatically extinguish the determination of the people who built it.

South Africa has survived colonial conquest, land dispossession, apartheid, political violence and generations of economic exclusion. We are not strangers to adversity. Our history is littered with moments when powerful people believed they had finally exhausted the capacity of Africans to resist, rebuild and imagine a different future. Yet we continued to rise, not because history was generous to us, but because surrender was never an acceptable inheritance to leave our children.

South Africa shall rise like the phoenix, not because the flames have spared us, but because our history has taught us how to survive the fire. However, resurrection cannot become another excuse for romanticising suffering. The phoenix may symbolise renewal, but the reconstruction of an economy requires considerably more than beautiful metaphors. It requires functioning



institutions, industrial investment, competent leadership and the courage to confront our own failures with the same determination with which we challenge external pressure.



Mzansi is our home, not a temporary address

There is a fundamental truth that must guide our response. For millions of Black South Africans whose ancestors endured generations of dispossession, South Africa is not a temporary residence from which we can simply withdraw when economic conditions become uncomfortable. This is our ancestral home. Our grandparents are buried here, our parents struggled here, our children are growing up here, and our grandchildren must one day build their futures here. We cannot relocate our collective national destiny whenever international politics becomes unfriendly.

Some people have the resources, foreign citizenship or international connections to pursue opportunities elsewhere. That is their right, and it does not diminish their belonging to South Africa. But the destiny of a nation cannot be built upon the possibility of departure. For those of us whose lives, histories and hopes are rooted in this soil, the responsibility is unavoidable. We must make Mzansi work, not because the world owes us sympathy, but because our children deserve a functioning country.

I refuse to accept that the Black majority, having endured centuries of dispossession, must remain permanent spectators in an economy built upon the resources and labour of this land. Equally, I refuse to accept that the correction of historical injustice requires the exclusion of fellow South Africans who are prepared to contribute to a common future. Our Constitution belongs to all who live in South Africa, and our economic reconstruction must mobilise the talents of all our people while deliberately addressing the inequalities inherited from our past.

The African future must increasingly be shaped by African initiative, African institutions, African investment and African productive capacity. This does not mean rejecting international cooperation. It means recognising that cooperation becomes more meaningful when nations possess the ability to negotiate from positions of competence and confidence rather than permanent vulnerability.

We cannot outsource our national destiny to people who do not have to live with the consequences of our failure.

The ANC, the Freedom Charter and the unfinished business of economic liberation

My political understanding of economic transformation remains anchored in the historical aspirations of the African National Congress and the Freedom Charter. The declaration that the people shall share in the country's wealth was never intended to become a ceremonial sentence repeated at political anniversaries while the structure of economic opportunity remained substantially unchanged. It expressed a demand for the transformation of ownership, participation and the material conditions of ordinary people.

The ANC's commitment to Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment, employment equity and industrial development emerged from the recognition that political equality could not, by itself, reverse generations of exclusion from land, capital, management, skilled employment and productive enterprise. That historical responsibility remains legitimate. Yet those of us who continue to support the ANC's transformation agenda must resist the temptation to treat historical legitimacy as a substitute for present performance.

We cannot invoke the sacrifices of Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Albertina Sisulu and countless ordinary freedom fighters while tolerating corruption, deteriorating infrastructure,

wasteful expenditure and public institutions that cannot fulfil their responsibilities. The liberation movement's greatest tribute to its founders must be the quality of the society its policies help to build. A revolutionary organisation cannot demand accountability from its historical opponents while treating accountability within its own institutions as an act of political betrayal.

The real test of transformation is whether more Black South Africans are establishing sustainable industrial enterprises, whether township businesses are entering productive supply chains, whether young people are acquiring technical skills, whether our minerals are increasingly beneficiated domestically and whether our infrastructure supports investment and employment. These are not questions of political disloyalty. They are questions of revolutionary responsibility.

For those of us who support the ANC, the answer cannot simply be to remind voters what the movement achieved in 1994. That achievement was historic, but the responsibilities of government did not end with the adoption of our democratic Constitution. The ANC must demonstrate that its developmental vision can produce capable institutions, expand economic participation and improve the daily lives of citizens. It must earn confidence through delivery, not presume that the memory of liberation guarantees it indefinitely.

The liberation struggle opened the gates of political freedom. Economic transformation must ensure that our people can walk through those gates into a productive and dignified future.

Business leadership: different hymn books, one South Africa

I have participated actively in the Black Business Council, the Black Management Forum and the Progressive Professionals Forum. I remain a member of the National Executive Committee of the PPF, an organisation whose formation I contributed to alongside other progressive professionals. I know something about the debates that shaped these formations, and I also know that some people with whom we once shared common aspirations now singing from different hymn books. That is their democratic right, but the question confronting us is whether our political differences have become more important than the future of the country we all claim to love.



Business Leadership South Africa has emphasised investment confidence, infrastructure reform, competitiveness and diversified trading relationships. The Black Business Council has defended Black economic participation, ownership, localisation and industrialisation. The Black Management Forum has challenged the reduction of transformation to superficial compliance exercises that fail to produce meaningful economic change. The Progressive Professionals Forum has emphasised the contribution of professional expertise to constitutional transformation and national development.

These organisations do not hold identical positions, nor should we pretend that they do. But there is sufficient common ground to begin a serious national conversation about rebuilding South Africa's productive capacity. We need investment and transformation, Black ownership and commercial competence, professional expertise and accountable institutions, industrial development and responsible public finance. These objectives are not mutually exclusive unless we deliberately turn them into ideological enemies.

I refuse to accept that economic transformation must be sacrificed to attract investment. Equally, I refuse to accept that transformation can succeed through ownership arrangements that do not create viable businesses, jobs or productive assets. We must

confront both failures. A country cannot manufacture prosperity through ideological quarrels alone.

What is the point of arguing about who should occupy the front seat when the economic vehicle is standing on bricks without wheels? Some of our political and business leaders have perfected the art of fighting over the steering wheel while nobody has bothered to establish whether the engine still works. The passengers are growing old, the tyres have disappeared, and the conductor continues announcing that the journey will begin shortly. Mara, comrades, at what point do we stop debating the seating arrangements and repair the vehicle?

The unemployed graduate in Soweto is not interested in whether our economic recovery programme has received the blessing of every faction. The small manufacturer in Ekurhuleni cannot postpone paying employees until business organisations have achieved ideological harmony. We must bring our differences into serious debate while recognising that South Africa's productive future is larger than our organisational rivalries.

We may sing from different hymn books, but we must not forget that we are responsible for the same South Africa.

My argument did not begin with Trump

There is a reason I insist that the chronology of public debate matters. Many of my published articles are researched responses to arguments advanced by other writers, political commentators and public figures. I examine their claims, interrogate the historical record, consider the relevant economic facts and publish my response. I do not pretend that I originated every debate, but I accept responsibility for the reasoning and conclusions I advance.

On 19 October 2026, I published a researched rebuttal to circulating commentary concerning Sasol, PetroSA, petroleum refining, strategic fuel reserves and fuel prices. That article examined Sasol's historical ownership, the 2008 Inzalo empowerment transaction, PetroSA's state ownership, the former SAPREF refinery and South Africa's petroleum infrastructure. It challenged historical distortions and questioned whether our strategic energy assets were being managed and developed in ways that strengthened national productive capacity.

I also recalled how friends and I purchased Sasol shares for our children. I personally bought shares for my son because I wanted him to experience something previous generations had been systematically denied: an opportunity to participate in the ownership of productive economic assets. That was not an abstract political slogan or an anecdote manufactured to decorate an argument. It was a parent's modest attempt to invest in a different future.

During October 2026, I also wrote about South Africa's industrial development, China's Belt and Road Initiative, Mobicel's locally assembled mobile phones and the vehicle development initiative associated with Brandt Radical Vehicles in Bloemfontein. On 29 October, I published a critical response concerning United States Ambassador Leo Brent Bozell III. These interventions preceded the latest AGOA announcement and form part of an established public discussion about economic sovereignty, industrialisation and South Africa's relationship with powerful international partners.

Readers are entitled to disagree with my conclusions. Indeed, rigorous disagreement is essential to intellectual progress. But disagreement should engage the substance of the argument rather than replace analysis with speculation about how it was prepared.

The history of an argument can be examined through its dates, documents, sources and public record. Its merit must ultimately be judged through the quality of its evidence and reasoning.

Bozell, Trump and the Limits of Diplomatic Arrogance

I have previously questioned the conduct of United States Ambassador Leo Brent Bozell III because I was concerned that diplomatic engagement appeared increasingly entangled with public pressure over South Africa's domestic policy choices. I used the metaphor of a Trojan horse to express that political concern. It was a metaphor, not an assertion that covert misconduct had been established, and the distinction matters because political criticism must remain anchored in intellectual honesty.

The United States is entitled to advance its interests, just as South Africa is entitled to defend its own. But diplomatic representation does not confer authority to determine another country's domestic policies or dictate how its democratic institutions should exercise their constitutional responsibilities.



The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations establishes the framework within which diplomatic representatives operate. Article 9 permits a receiving state to declare a diplomat persona non grata, while Article 41 addresses the duty to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state and not interfere in its internal affairs. I have argued that South Africa should be prepared to consider lawful diplomatic remedies where conduct is judged incompatible with the responsibilities of an accredited representative. Such decisions belong to government and must be based upon evidence and proper diplomatic assessment, not physical confrontation or emotional theatre.

The larger issue is sovereignty. Our constitutional transformation policies are not gifts from Washington. They arise from our history, our Constitution and our democratic processes. They must be defended, improved and implemented effectively because they serve legitimate national objectives. At the same time, sovereignty must never become an excuse for refusing dialogue, ignoring economic realities or dismissing the legitimate concerns of trading partners.

South Africa should negotiate firmly, engage respectfully and protect its interests intelligently. There is no contradiction between defending constitutional transformation and maintaining constructive international relations. The contradiction arises when cooperation is interpreted as obedience, or when national pride becomes an excuse for economic recklessness.

A sovereign nation must possess the confidence to disagree without losing the wisdom to cooperate.

From the ashes to the factory floor: ***Mzansi must stop admiring the fire and start rebuilding the house***

The phoenix is a magnificent symbol of resurrection, but even the most beautiful bird rising from the ashes cannot manufacture a cellphone, rehabilitate a petroleum refinery, repair a railway line or put bread on the table of an unemployed young person in Orlando, Alexandra, Daveyton or KwaMashu. Those things require human intelligence, investment, technical competence, functioning institutions and political determination that survives long after the television cameras have departed. We must therefore resist the temptation to turn national resilience into another inspirational speech that leaves the material conditions of our people untouched.

South Africa has never suffered from a shortage of eloquent politicians or impressive policy documents. Our problem has too often been the distance between promises made behind polished conference tables and the reality confronting a worker whose factory has closed, a small manufacturer whose electricity supply is unreliable, or a graduate whose qualifications have become decorations on the wall of an overcrowded family home.

Hei banna! Some of our comrades can explain industrialisation in seven languages, quote every revolutionary from Karl Marx to Amílcar Cabral, and recite the Freedom Charter backwards while standing on one leg. But ask them to identify a functioning production line created by their latest industrial programme, and suddenly the conversation becomes a complicated journey through committees, feasibility studies, interdepartmental consultations and strategic stakeholder engagements. Eish, mara, comrades, the factory is still closed! The young people are still unemployed, and the railway wagon is still waiting for a locomotive that has apparently joined the struggle for early retirement. Revolutionary vocabulary is important, but it cannot substitute for revolutionary competence.

The first responsibility of government must be to protect the workers and enterprises exposed

to the threatened loss of AGOA preferences. This cannot be settled through diplomatic insults or patriotic declarations. It requires a detailed assessment of the industries, export contracts and jobs at risk, particularly where preferential market access has supported production and employment. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, National Treasury, development finance institutions, organised business and labour should establish a coordinated response that identifies vulnerable exporters and examines appropriate trade finance, export insurance, market diversification and worker-support measures.

Such assistance must be targeted, financially responsible and subject to transparent conditions. It would be indefensible to allow viable enterprises to collapse because government was too slow to act, just as it would be irresponsible to use the crisis as an excuse to subsidise businesses with no credible prospect of recovery. We must negotiate with the United States wherever constructive engagement can protect our interests, but negotiation should not require abandoning our constitutional transformation objectives. A government that speaks loudly about sovereignty while quietly allowing avoidable job losses has misunderstood the meaning of national dignity.

Protecting existing industries is only the beginning. We must confront the infrastructure failures that undermine the competitiveness of the entire economy. South Africa cannot reasonably expect manufacturers to compete internationally when electricity interruptions, freight delays, deteriorating municipal infrastructure and unreliable water supply increase production costs. Our economic recovery must therefore place electricity generation and transmission, freight rail, ports, water infrastructure and municipal services at the centre of industrial planning.

Eskom, Transnet, relevant departments, municipalities and private operators must be assessed against measurable improvements in service delivery rather than the number of recovery plans they announce. The ideological argument about public and private participation must be informed by evidence, public accountability and the national interest. I am not interested in a railway line celebrated as a revolutionary achievement while no train moves along it. A locomotive does not ask whether the cargo belongs to a capitalist, a socialist or a member of the local branch executive committee. Its responsibility is to move the goods, preferably before the customers have grown old waiting for delivery.

Public procurement offers another opportunity that South Africa has not exploited with sufficient strategic discipline. Government purchases substantial quantities of goods and services, yet we do not consistently examine whether this expenditure could support competitive domestic manufacturing and broaden participation in productive industries. This is why I previously raised the example of Mobicel and locally assembled mobile devices. If a South African product satisfies the necessary standards of quality, cybersecurity, durability, technical performance and cost, why should it not receive serious consideration through lawful public procurement?

The same question applies to furniture, uniforms, school equipment, machinery, electronic devices and components used in public infrastructure. Section 217 of the Constitution requires procurement to be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective, and these principles must be respected. Localisation cannot become a convenient hiding place for inflated invoices, political favouritism or products that collapse before the warranty expires. We must develop local industries capable of competing on quality and price while using constitutionally permissible measures to address historical exclusion and support industrial development.

There is something profoundly absurd about a country that celebrates industrialisation at conferences while treating imported products as automatic symbols of sophistication. A public official may carry a device worth more than the monthly income of several unemployed households, yet deliver a passionate speech about supporting local enterprise. Mara, chief, where is the connection between your sermon and your shopping basket? Nobody is suggesting that public institutions must purchase inferior products in the name of patriotism. We are saying that public expenditure should be examined with the seriousness of a nation attempting to develop its productive capacity.

Where domestic manufacturers are not yet competitive, government and industry should investigate whether the obstacles concern financing, technology, production scale, certification, skills or access to components. Those obstacles must become the subject of practical industrial interventions rather than another opportunity to declare that South African businesses are not ready.

The phoenix, the mountain goat and the courage to continue

I have always admired the resilience of the mountain goat and the ibex. These remarkable creatures navigate difficult terrain, steep cliffs and narrow ledges with extraordinary balance and persistence. Their strength does not lie in demanding that the mountain become flat. It lies in their ability to navigate the mountain as it is.

There is a lesson here for South Africa. We cannot command every international economic storm to disappear. We cannot prevent foreign governments from changing their policies. We cannot guarantee that every investment will succeed or that every industrial programme will produce immediate results. But we can strengthen our footing, improve our institutions, invest in our people, restore viable industries, confront corruption and build new enterprises. When one economic route becomes difficult, we can search for another without abandoning the summit.

The phoenix represents renewal.

The mountain goat represents perseverance. South Africa needs both. We require the courage to rise from adversity and the discipline to continue climbing.

The struggle against apartheid demonstrated the extraordinary capacity of South Africans to organise, sacrifice and pursue a common purpose. The next chapter requires that same seriousness in economic development, not because every citizen must agree politically, but because our future depends upon functioning institutions, productive enterprise and expanding opportunity.



After the fiercest storm, there shall be calm

I return to the truth with which I began. Mzansi is our home. It is not a temporary political experiment, nor is it a piece of economic real estate that can be abandoned when its prospects become difficult. It is the land of our ancestors, the inheritance of our children and the common responsibility of everyone who calls it home.

We have survived the fire of colonialism, climbed the mountains of apartheid and endured the storms of economic exclusion. Now we confront another difficult season, carrying the uncertainty of international trade pressure and the familiar temptation to surrender our confidence to the decisions of foreign powers. Some may look beyond our borders for reassurance, while others may place their hopes in the political fortunes of foreign presidents. But our hope must be planted here, in the soil of South Africa, not because we reject the world, but because we accept responsibility for our place within it.

The phoenix does not negotiate with the ashes. It rises. The mountain goat does not demand that the mountain become flat. It climbs. And South Africa must not wait for the world to become gentle before rebuilding its economy.

Our political freedom was won through extraordinary sacrifice. Our economic future will require extraordinary effort. It will require capable government, responsible business, skilled professionals, organised workers, innovative entrepreneurs and citizens willing to demand accountability. It will require the ANC and every other political formation to be judged not only by what they promise, but by what they deliver. It will require those of us committed to transformation to demonstrate that justice and economic competence can advance together.

Above all, it will require faith in our own capacity to build. Not blind faith, and certainly not faith without evidence, but the confidence that comes from understanding our history, recognising our capabilities and accepting responsibility for our future.

We have no other South Africa waiting somewhere beyond the horizon. This is our home, our responsibility and our mountain to climb. When the storm has passed, our children will not ask

how loudly we condemned the wind. They will ask what we repaired, what we built, what we preserved and what we left behind for them.

And I return once more to the memory of purchasing Sasol shares for my son. That modest investment represented a parent's belief that the next generation should inherit more than the stories of what their ancestors were denied. They should inherit functioning institutions, productive enterprises, meaningful ownership and opportunities to build lives of dignity. That remains the measure of the South Africa I want to see.

After the fiercest storm, there shall be calm. After the darkest night, there shall be dawn. And from the ashes of adversity, Mzansi shall rise again, not through miracles, foreign pity or political slogans, but through our own labour, intellect, industries, determination and collective commitment to a better South Africa.

South Africa shall rise like the phoenix. But this time, we must ensure that our economic foundations rise with us, that the factories produce, that the trains move, that the young people work, and that the promise of freedom becomes something our children can hold in their hands rather than merely hear in our speeches. We did not endure centuries of dispossession to become permanent tenants of somebody else's economic imagination. We fought for the right to shape our own destiny, and the responsibility to fulfil that promise now belongs to us. Mzansi is not waiting for a saviour. Mzansi is waiting for its people to build.

Amandla! Awethu!



2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS:

Epoch of Dirty Politicking and Vicious Disinformation and Misinformation Campaign Against the ANC

By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

THE road towards the 2026 local government elections (LGE) was riddled with a lot of challenges against the ANC. The odds were stacked against the ANC, and the dice loaded against it. Now that the elections have been done and dusted, it is perhaps time to take stock of what actually transpired during the election campaigns. Some of the decisions not to vote for the ANC were based on deliberate lies that should not be left unchallenged. It is humbling to note that despite all the disinformation and misinformation campaign, people nevertheless still managed to vote for the ANC in disregard of propaganda machinery against it.

South Africa is priding itself of having conducted free and fair elections in the past elections since the dawn of democracy. The IEC is expected to continue maintaining the high ethical standard. It is legally obliged to ensure compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct, and never allow the electoral results to be brought into disrepute.

For the 2026 LGE, the media has relentlessly been overtly and covertly decampaigning the ANC in all fronts. Most journalists and

instant political analysts have blatantly not been objective, but vigorously pushing a narrative that would ultimately influence the outcomes of the elections against the ANC. For whatever reason, many journalists betrayed their journalistic ethical standards and practices in favour of propaganda machinery against the ANC. How does disinformation and misinformation about any of the participating political parties in the 2026 LGE contribute towards *"free and fair"* elections? There was a lot of negative reporting about the ANC by sponsored media, misleading the most gullible amongst us.

Throughout the election campaigns, as the LGE were drawing nearer, there were all sorts of lies about the ANC to woo the voters, especially the undecided. People were fed lies and fake news on daily basis about the failures of the ANC government. Others were telling themselves lies about the ANC until they believed in their own lies. Print, electronic and social media platforms were abuzz with all sorts of disinformation and misinformation, and fake messages calculated to damage the image of the ANC or influence the outcome of the elections.



For instance, on 3 November 2026 around 11.00, just the day before the LGE on 4 November 2026, SAfm commentator, Jo-Anne Joseph, engaged on a tirade against the ANC on her radio show. She went out of her way to unfairly and wrongfully criticize the ANC governance on a public radio station. That was grossly unprofessional, unethical, and unwarranted for SABC radio host or commentator. She misused her position on national public media platforms like SAfm to deliberately decampaign the ANC, whilst espousing her subjective and obviously biased views, trying to persuade listeners against the ANC. She was at the same time supporting or embracing the views of those listeners who were advocating her obviously biased specific narrative against the ANC.

She earlier interviewed one gentleman whom she referred to as the *"award-winning journalist",* one Nicolas Bauer or so, who was supposed to be an independent analyst, but was in no way neutral. His analysis was anything but objective, let alone ethical. To the delight of his host and some of the listeners who shared his biased analysis, he was just dishing out full-scale propaganda against the ANC, which was calculated to influence the outcome of the elections to be held the following day. Those listeners who held different views, trying to come to the defence of the ANC, were dealt with harshly and ridiculed.

There is a saying that, *"Ignorance is bliss",* but there is honestly nothing blissful about ignorance. People deliberately peddled lies, misinformation and disinformation about the ANC, and the gullible ones easily fell to those tricks. What people do not know is that a vote against the ANC is a vote for oppression and indignation of Africans. Abstaining from voting is just as good as voting for the same repressive and racist parties. Apartheid apologists and beneficiaries who claim to have enjoyed life under apartheid are not only lying through their teeth, but also misleading those who were either not there during apartheid era or just suffering from amnesia. It is disingenuous to lie with a straight face that things were better during apartheid, because it was the worst form of systemic discrimination against Blacks, Africans in particular, that was even declared a crime against humanity by the UN. Therefore, those who are honest and know the pain of living in apartheid regime would never dare compare the ANC-led democratic dispensation, with its flaws and all, to apartheid.

For many people, especially those in the rural areas, there was no electricity and running water. There were just no taps to complain about. There were no water cuts or rationing to complain about. Loadshedding and/or power failures were strange phenomena. Today people are talking about dry taps - a temporary inconvenience whilst the government is maintaining water and sanitation infrastructure. When people complain about potholes, it should not be forgotten that there were no tarred roads at all.

Many people who lived under apartheid know the pain of going to bed with empty stomach. There were no social security or relief grants. There were no government-built schools, especially in the rural areas. Poor and uneducated as they were, black parents made individual contributions to build schools for their children.

Those who have suffered the worst form of exploitation and indignity under apartheid cannot imagine anything good outside the ANC. Therefore, defeat of the ANC in the elections is not just a matter of life and death, but something much more important than that. Not everyone suffered the inhumane pain and suffering under the repressive apartheid regime. There is a song by Jimmy Cliff that says, *"Who feels it, knows it".* Therefore, you would not feel it if you do not know it.

With all challenges experienced by the democratic dispensation under the ANC government, no black person, African in particular, of sound mind, with at least one functioning brain cell, could ever say that he/she is worse off under the democratic dispensation than he/she was under apartheid, because that would be a lie, or, at most, displaying signs of mental health issues that need immediate attention. Amid all the challenges, it is only a fool who cannot see the achievements of the ANC-led government since the dawn of democracy in 1994, that is being insulted and ridiculed.

On service delivery, the ANC government inherited serious service delivery backlog. Besides, service delivery is itself a process, not a once-off incident. The government is chasing a moving target, with the population that has grown exponentially since the dawn of democracy, not forgetting immigrants' population - legal and/or illegal, who also contribute immensely on the state's inability to provide for the nation, because they were not budgeted for. Moreover, maintenance of infrastructure is also dependent on the availability of funds. Given the opportunity and resources,



much more would still be rolled out by the ANC.

However, some of the dirty tricks to turn the electorate against the ANC during campaigning, such as sabotage of infrastructure, actually borders along the lines of criminality. This could perhaps just be a strange coincidence, but we would not know until fully investigated, because there seems to have been sabotage in as far as sudden acute water shortages throughout the country is concerned, coupled with suspected poisoning in places like Bronkhorstspruit, and the spike in electricity outages in some parts of the country.

Sabotage is another form of high treason, especially if citizens have to be subjected to inconveniences of acute water shortages and poisoning that leads to gastrointestinal illnesses, and persistent electricity outages due to vandalism, theft, arson and malicious damage to infrastructure, just to fuel misinformation and disinformation against the ANC in quest for votes. The idea was to sow hatred and mistrust amongst the voters in the ANC. That is diabolic and criminal, and should be thoroughly investigated.

Was the sudden spike in electricity outages and water shortages throughout the country not deliberate and related to dirty politicking, i.e. political campaigns by certain individuals and/or political parties trying to outvote others out of power? Wasn't it sabotage, which is a serious criminal offence? These were some of the deliberate campaigns to embarrass the government and to set the leading party up for failure and ridicule by the gullible people who are not able to read the situation carefully due to their analytical limitations.

They seem to have been just mere electioneering gimmicks by those desperate political parties with the intention to embarrass and/or to unseat the ANC at all levels of governance. There is a strong feeling that these monkey tricks will not continue after the elections, because the evil intentions would have been accomplished by then.

This is the instance in which one wishes the country really had intelligent crime intelligence that would pursue the matter further without fear and favour. If our intelligence was indeed intelligent, some people would definitely face charges for economic sabotage and/or high treason after the LGE.

In conclusion, with all its shortcomings, it is only a fool who can deny that the ANC gave South Africans freedom that they enjoy, but take for granted today. Those wishing to see the backside of the ANC within the South African body politics should be careful that their dreams could eventually be realised. Peter Tosh sings, *"You don't miss your water until your well runs dry".*

INITIAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ELECTIONS

By **RAVIN SINGH**

THEY say it is not over until the fat lady sings. These are initial reflections, and the results are still coming in. But the CSIR predictive model may well be the fat lady this time around. Unless, of course, I am proved wrong later today or in the days to come.

There is no need for despondency or disillusionment. The people have spoken, either by voting or by staying away in large numbers. We must listen to what they are saying.

And clearly, political parties are not listening enough.

I am not particularly interested in other political parties, but let me spare a moment for the DA.

They will claim this as a triumph, point to some growth in townships and celebrate retaining their traditional base. But there is a contradiction here.

The DA likes to parade its non-racial credentials. But giving people of colour access to a political party, even in numbers that outnumber its traditional base, does not necessarily mean that they have the power to change its policies.

Having the numbers and having political power are two different things.

The debate around Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment is instructive. The DA wants to repeal B-BBEE and replace it with its own approach to economic inclusion.



Of course B-BBEE has serious shortcomings, but the concentration of wealth, ownership and economic power inherited from apartheid remains a reality.

For me, non-racialism must involve changing those material conditions. It cannot simply be about the racial composition of a party.

Can the DA fundamentally change its economic outlook while retaining a traditional base whose interests are tied to existing patterns of privilege?

Now, back to my own party.

We need to rediscover what it means to be a mass party. And perhaps we should begin with those four words in the Freedom Charter.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN.

We repeat them often enough. But what do they mean in practice?

Surely it means much more than asking people to vote every five years. It means people having a real say in decisions that affect their lives. It means organising people, listening to them and working with them to change their conditions.

Somewhere along the way, we have changed our relationship with the people. We increasingly behave as though government and politicians deliver services and communities are there to receive them.

That relationship must change. People must be involved in

determining priorities, making decisions and holding those in power accountable.

And we must genuinely listen. Not arrive in communities with ready-made answers and then call that consultation.

Immediately after the 2021 local government elections, I wrote that we needed to humble ourselves. I made some very simple suggestions.

Lose the blue lights.

Lose the large entourages, bag carriers and umbrella holders.

Lose the holding areas and separate eating arrangements.

Stop speaking down to people. Listen.

Ask your aides to stop the endless *"Minister this"* and *"Minister that"* outside government settings. Be one amongst other comrades. It will not diminish your leadership.

Stop arriving late at meetings unless this has been agreed with the organisers. Stop arriving uninvited and expecting to be ushered to the front.

Stop trying to out-Herman Herman's bigotry or out-EFF the EFF's politics.

And above all, just do your job and do it well.

Five years later, I still believe these things matter.

We have begun making some changes, and those should be acknowledged. The step-aside rule was an important development in confronting serious allegations and charges of corruption within our own ranks.

Some of those who became alienated from the movement, including people affected by accountability processes, have since found political homes in the Zuma party and elsewhere. Not everyone who left did so because of corruption, but we should not underestimate the significance of confronting these problems, even when it produces divisions and costs us support.

This too provides an objective basis for rebuilding.

But there is far more to do. We must confront the culture of entitlement, the obsession with positions, the distance between leaders and ordinary members, and the belief that holding public office somehow places one above the people.



Humility must be reflected in how we conduct ourselves, how we use public resources, how we treat people and whether we actually do the work we were elected or appointed to do.

In the run-up to these elections, I heard the word "accountability" repeated endlessly by the commentariat and certain elements within NGOs and civil society. Not all, of course. It has become something of a buzzword, although very few explain what they actually mean by it.

For us in the ANC, accountability must mean that those elected or appointed to positions of responsibility answer to the people, explain their decisions, account for public resources and deliver on their responsibilities.

It means being accessible, listening to communities, admitting mistakes, correcting failures and facing consequences when they abuse their positions or fail to do their jobs.

And we must go beyond the minimum statutory requirements for public participation and reporting. Staying in touch with the people, reporting back, listening and being answerable must be an ongoing part of our political work, not something we do to comply with legislation or when elections approach.

And then there are the missing voters.

The numbers will become clearer as more results come in. But we

have known for some years that there is a large body of missing voters, people who no longer turn out to vote.

I suspect many of them still have an affinity with the ANC. They have not necessarily abandoned the movement or its history. They are deeply disappointed because their daily problems are not being addressed.

We should not be fishing in someone else's pond when so many of our own people have simply stopped voting.

The missing voters entered our political discourse some years ago. We have spoken about them endlessly. But how many have we actually found? How many have we brought back into active political life?

Very few, I suspect.

We need to find that missing middle. And finding them means more than persuading them to vote on election day. It means understanding why they withdrew, listening to their grievances and giving them a reason to participate again.

And progressive forces are not simply individual academics or small groupings on the left, however loudly they proclaim their ideological purity.

If we genuinely want to rebuild progressive politics, we must go to the missing voters.

There is political consciousness and sophistication among people who have chosen to stay away from the polls. Many understand the contradictions, are deeply disappointed and have made a conscious decision not to vote.



That is where we must engage, listen and organise, rather than swim around in the cesspool of ideological purity and endless debates among people who have little connection with the masses.

This is where our political work must begin.

And that conversation must also involve progressive forces on the left. Genuine discussions about the future of progressive politics, the economy, inequality, unemployment, poverty and the struggles of working people.

I am not talking about that experiment a few months ago when certain elements on the left announced that they were building a left front. Announcing a front is easy. Building organisations rooted among the people is something else altogether.

And please, let us not confuse the commentariat with the people.

We must avoid being drawn into all these town hall debates, mayoral fight shows and other spectacles imported from the supposedly superior American electoral system.

Much of this is theatre for the cameras, driven by personalities and those with the money to fund these productions.

We must return directly to the people, unmediated.

Elections are not won on social media. We have never depended on the commentariat or the mass media to do our political work. We built our movement through organising, direct engagement, meetings, listening and being part of people's daily struggles.

And I have very little interest in the football-style commentary that increasingly passes for political analysis.

The banter, the cheering, the mocking of those who lost and the triumphalism of those who won.

Political parties are not football teams. Politics is not a spectator sport where supporters celebrate a victory, ridicule the opposition and wait for the next match.

We are dealing with people's lives, livelihoods, dignity and futures. There are far more serious questions to confront.

And there are lessons from elsewhere.

Even when Lula was in prison, the Workers' Party and progressive forces in Brazil continued organising. Lula returned to the presidency in 2022.

In the United States, progressive elements within the Democratic Party, although I would hardly describe the Democrats themselves as a progressive party, have continued to organise despite setbacks and the strength of the right wing.

They understand that political struggles are fought over the long term.

There is a lesson here for some of the so-called left in South Africa, who seem more interested in moralising, passing judgement and demonstrating their ideological purity than doing the difficult work of organising people and building mass movements.

And I would not worry too much about those who cannot see beyond their noses and speak as though electoral decline is some irreversible historical process.

There is enough evidence from around the world to show that electoral decline can be arrested and reversed.

Look at the Workers' Party in Brazil, Labour in Britain and the socialists in Spain. Different circumstances, different political systems, but all useful experiences to study.

And then there is the fashionable argument that all liberation movements inevitably decline and collapse. As though history follows some predetermined script.

The Indian National Congress lost power in 1977, returned in 1980, suffered further defeats, returned to government and has experienced further setbacks and recoveries. Liberation movements in southern Africa have followed different paths too.

We should study these experiences rather than turn them into convenient slogans.

There is no historical law that says a liberation movement must inevitably collapse. Nor is there any guarantee that it will recover.

It depends on what it does, how it responds to changing conditions and whether it is prepared to confront its own weaknesses.

Elections are periodic tests. Victories can be temporary. Setbacks can be temporary too.

There is no reason to treat any election as the end of history.

And we must not lose sight of something important.

We still have a national footprint. We are present in every ward, in every part of the country. In some places our roots are deep. In others they have weakened considerably.

But that gives us an objective basis to rebuild.

We should also recognise the contribution of SADTU to the ANC's election campaign and the recent victories of SASCO in SRC elections at tertiary institutions.

These are reminders that organised progressive forces remain active among workers and students. They provide another objective basis on which to rebuild.

The ANC does not need lone voices on the left lecturing it about how to rebuild. It needs to strengthen its relationships with organised constituencies, reconnect with communities and do the difficult political work.

The issue is the quality of that presence.

What are our structures doing between elections? Are they organising people? Are they part of the daily struggles of communities? Are they listening? Are they helping people organise around their own needs? Or do they become active only when there is an election?

These are the questions we must ask ourselves.

And we must understand that elections are also shaped by material conditions.



The economy matters.

Employment matters. Real wages matter.

The cost of living matters. Whether people have water, electricity, decent roads, functioning public services and some hope for their children matters.

We cannot expect organisational structures, however extensive, to compensate for deteriorating living conditions.

We have a national organisational foundation. But we must improve its quality, rebuild our relationship with communities and address the material conditions that shape people's lives.

And we must stop treating people as though they owe us their votes because of our history.

Our history matters enormously. But it places an obligation on us to remain true to the aspirations that gave birth to the movement.

The people have not disappeared. Their needs have not disappeared. Their aspirations have not disappeared.

Many have simply chosen not to vote. That too is a political message, and we must take it seriously.

There is no need for despair, nor for the endless moralising and football commentary.

There is work to do. A great deal of it.

And that work begins among the people, where it has always belonged.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN.



LULA WON. THE MARKETS WERE DISMAYED. THE PEOPLE WERE NOT.

By **JAY NAIDOO**

THE Economist greeted Lula's extraordinary victory in Brazil with a revealing headline:
"Markets are dismayed by Lula's surprise win and for good reason."

Read those words carefully. Markets are dismayed.

But what are *"markets"?*

They do not have children. They do not go hungry. They do not live in a favela. They do not stand in a line at a public hospital. They do not worry about whether there will be food on the table tomorrow.

People do. And millions of those people just voted. Perhaps the more important question is not why markets are dismayed.

It is: Why are so many ordinary people celebrating?

Because something extraordinary happened in Brazil.

Lula lost the first round. The political establishment could already smell his defeat.

Then Brazil's young people did something that should make every political party in the world pay attention.

They organised. They went into the streets. They organised through universities and communities. They flooded social media. They spoke to their parents and grandparents. They built a digital movement capable of competing with the enormous right-wing machine that had dominated that terrain.

VIEWPOINT



A WhatsApp movement called *"Lula's Army"* grew to more than 10 million participants. Between the first and second rounds, 14.1 million additional Brazilians came out to vote. Lula overturned the first-round result and won more than 64 million votes.

This was not simply an election campaign. It was a reminder that democracy can still come alive when people take ownership of it. And especially when young people do.

Across much of the world, young people have become disenchanted with politics.

Who can blame them?

They have grown up watching democracy captured by money. They have watched political parties promise change and deliver inequality. They have watched corporations become richer than countries. They have watched billionaires acquire extraordinary influence over governments, media, technology and increasingly the infrastructure of artificial intelligence.

They are told that this is freedom. They are told that this is democracy. But increasingly they understand that there is another struggle underneath our elections. It is a struggle over what kind of future humanity is building.

One future is being constructed by an extraordinary concentration of wealth and technological power.

In that future, a tiny oligarchic class can accumulate more money than it could spend in a thousand lifetimes. It can own the platforms through which we communicate, the algorithms that increasingly mediate what we see, the data centres that will power artificial intelligence, and even the rockets designed to carry human beings away from Earth.

The rest of us have no rocket. We have no Planet B. We are staying here. Our children are staying here.

Our grandchildren are staying here.

And that is why Lula's simple language matters.

He has repeatedly returned politics to something elemental: human dignity. Can a family eat?

Can a worker live? Can a child learn? Can an elderly person receive care? Can people have a roof over their heads?

Can every human being sit down to nutritious food three times a day?

These are not revolutionary demands. They are the minimum requirements of civilisation.

Yet in an economic system that has normalised billionaires while millions go hungry, apparently even demanding three meals a day becomes radical.

That is the divide exposed by The Economist's headline. On one side stands the abstraction called *"the market."*

On the other stands a human being.

I know which side I am on.

This is also why Lula's victory matters far beyond Brazil.

The young Brazilians who poured into the streets were not defending some perfect political establishment. Lula himself inherits contradictions, compromises and enormous challenges. Brazil remains deeply unequal. Its Congress remains strongly conservative. No single election abolishes oligarchic power.

But those young people demonstrated something immensely important. Disillusionment does not have to end in apathy. It can become organisation. Anger can become participation.

A mobile phone does not have to be merely a machine for consuming entertainment. It can become an organising tool.

A generation written off as disengaged can suddenly become the protagonist of history.

That lesson reaches far beyond Brazil. Because young people everywhere are beginning to understand that the future being de-



signed for them is not inevitable.

They can refuse it. They can organise. They can vote.

They can occupy the democratic space abandoned by institutions that have lost their trust.
And they can demand that politics return to its most basic purpose: the protection of life.

That, ultimately, is what I see in Lula. Not a messiah. Not a perfect politician.

A human face in politics.

A man who came from poverty, who understands hunger, and who still speaks about government in terms an ordinary mother or father understands:

Will my children eat?

Against that stands another vision of civilisation, the billionaire as our highest aspiration; wealth without limits; technology without democratic accountability; artificial intelligence concentrated in private hands; ecological destruction treated as an externality; and escape from the consequences available only to those rich enough to contemplate leaving the planet.

I reject that future. I suspect millions of young Brazilians rejected something of it too. And perhaps that is why the word “dismayed” tells us much more than The Economist intended.

Markets were dismayed. But democracy woke up.

Young people organised. Millions returned to the ballot box. And an 80-year-old former metalworker was carried back into office partly by a generation young enough to be his grandchildren.

There is something beautiful in that. The old man and the young generation met in the streets of Brazil.

One carried memory. The other carried the future.

And together they reminded us of something the oligarchs would prefer us to forget:

There are more of us than there are of them.

And when we organise, history can still change direction.



Interparty Cooperation amid Geopolitical Instability

Experts from the intervention by **Cde Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma** on behalf of the African National Congress at the **Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum** held in Moscow on 29 October 2026

GEOPOLITICAL instability is not only felt by politicians and governments. The public feels it in the price of food, fuel, and other basic necessities. It is felt by workers when working hours are reduced, when they are retrenched or when production stops. A young graduate confronts it when an economy under pressure cannot create opportunities for employment.



The public expects solutions from political parties, especially those who are governing parties.

Inter-party cooperation amidst geopolitical instability is crucial in the defence of sovereign choices, advancement of peace and development. Peace is important, especially in developing countries because there can be no development without peace and equally, we cannot sustain peace without development. We stand with the people of Sudan in their demand for peace, civilian protection, and humanitarian assistance.

Our relationship should be strong enough to sustain dialogue even under pressure and to undertake coordinated action when necessary.

As the ANC, we understand and value inter-party solidarity. During apartheid, the government oppressed the majority of the people with the support of the western countries. The Soviet Union, Africa, Cuba, and many other friends across the world supported and sacrificed for us. At this point in time, solidarity with Cuba, Palestine, Iran, and Sahrawi is crucial. Why are we not campaigning for the release and return of the President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores in the same way that the world campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners?

So as the ANC we regard international solidarity a continuing political responsibility. The ANC supports an equitable, multipolar order grounded in sovereignty, international law, peaceful resolution of disputes, coupled with the eradication of poverty and inequality.

Africa through Agenda 2063 is building the Africa we want, which is integrated, peaceful and prosperous, driven by its own citizens especially women and youth and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. Let's work together to ensure that Africa stops exporting raw materials so that it can get sufficient revenue to build schools, railways and infrastructure so that it becomes a major manufacturing hub. Africa must work together to beneficiate our minerals and to grow our own food. Africa can feed itself and feed the world.

By 2050 one in four people of the world will be African and the majority young, so it is important to skill the youth.

Let us stand together in solidarity so that no people must defend their freedom alone.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7–13 November 2026

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

7 November 1917
Helen Suzman is born



Doyen of South African liberalism, politician and anti-apartheid activist, Helen Suzman, was born in Germiston, South Africa on this day. During her 36 years in the whites-only Parliament she used every opportunity to speak out against discriminatory legislation. She entered politics when she represented the United Party (UP) in Parliament in 1953. Six years later she founded the Progressive Party (PP) and became its sole representative in Parliament. As a Member of Parliament she was able to visit prisons, among them Robben Island, where she inspected the living conditions of prisoners. In the course of her career the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard awarded her honorary doctorates; she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978 and in 1980, the Medallion of Heroism. The Helen Suzman Foundation was established to promote liberal democracy in South Africa.

7 November 1989
Namibians to vote for a constituent assembly

Voters went to the polls from 7-11 November to vote for a Constituent Assembly in the first non-racial and democratic elections in South-West Africa/Namibia. The Constituent Assembly was to draw up a new constitution for the territory as a sovereign state. More than 97% of the registered voters voted. The South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) won the election overwhelmingly.

7 November 1994
Former MK members dismissed from SANDF

The government discharged 2,221 trainees who had gone absent without leave in October from the newly instituted South African National Defence Force (SANDF). After they were released, Defence Minister Johannes (Joe) Modise set midnight, 6 November, as deadline for their return. More than 4000 trainees complied with the minister's deadline and returned to camp. The trainees cited their unhappiness with the slow pace of integration into the SANDF and conditions in the camp. All the dismissed recruits were former members of the armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) of the African National Congress (ANC). Those who failed to return, were viewed as deserters who missed an opportunity to remain in the SANDF.

8 November 1887
The Johannesburg Stock Exchange established

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

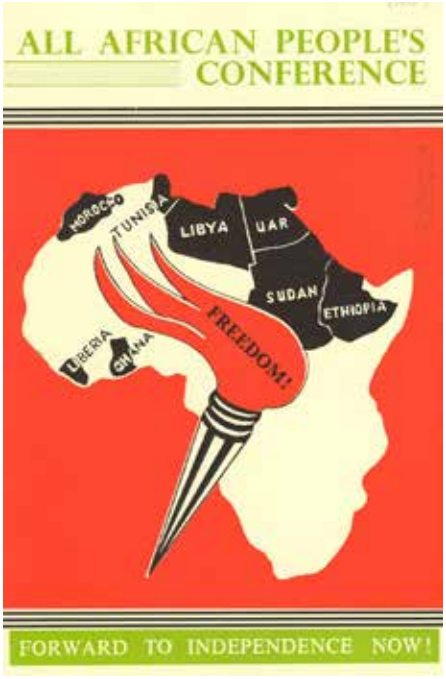
8 November 1922
Heart doctor Chris Barnard born

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

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

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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

8 November 1974

Olympic Swimmer Penny Heyns born

Penelope Heyns, was born on the 8th of November 1974 in Springs, Transvaal. Her parents later moved to the Natal South Coast. She attended Doon Heights Primary and Amanzimtoti High, where she excelled in both academics and in athletics. At the age of 13 she became the swim team captain at school. In 1992 she was the youngest member of the South African Olympic team at the Barcelona Games. While she did not win any medals, she did attract attention. She was offered an athletic scholarship from the University of Nebraska, were she later earned her Degree in Psychology. She was also a member of the South African squad at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, where she won a bronze medal in the 200 m breaststroke event. Heyns continued her swimming career and was asked to represent the USA in the Olympic games but she decided instead to represent her native South Africans in the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. She won both the 100m and 200m breaststroke event and this made her the only woman in the history of the Olympic games to do so. In 1999 she set four world records. Penny Heyns established herself as perhaps the world's greatest female breaststroker of all time, breaking 14 individual world records during her career. In the year 2000 Penny announced her retirement from swimming.



8 November 2014

African Union organise Africa Against Ebola roundtable

The Ebola crisis in West Africa, especially Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone saw the WHO declaring a 'public health emergency.' Shortly thereafter, the African Union Peace and Security Council resolved to deploy a joint humanitarian/military mission of volunteers (ASEOWA) to the three countries, to assist with tackling the pandemic. After a joint visit by AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, UN Economic Commission Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes and African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka to the three countries in October 2014, Dlamini Zuma wrote to all African Presidents, requesting them to provide more health workers to strengthen ASEOWA. On 8 November 2014, the AU Commission Chairperson, with UNECA and the AfDB convened the Africa against Ebola roundtable at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the private sector. At this roundtable, the private sector pledged 32 million USD towards the additional deployment of African health workers. By December 2014, 178 Nigerian health workers, 187 Ethiopian health workers, and 81 health workers from the DRC joined the ASEOWA contingent in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. On the 9th of January 2015, 170 health workers joined the ASEOWA team from Kenya. The ASEOWA contingent in the three countries played a critical role in supporting the health departments and communities of the three AU member states to bring the pandemic under control.

(Source: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/30999-doc-factsheetasof26jan2015.pdf)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

9 November 2008
Mama Africa, Miriam Makeba passes on



South African singer Miriam Makeba dies at the age of 76 after a 30 minute performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed 'Mama Africa', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the music industry in the 1950s singing for the Cuban Brothers, the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959 Makeba starred in the anti-apartheid documentary Come Back, after which she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn while she was outside the country, leading to her stay in exile in London. When her mother died in 1960 she could not return for her funeral because her passport had been revoked. In 1963 Makeba testified before the United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her of her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcasters in South Africa. Makeba lived in numerous countries such as the United States of America, France, Guinea and Belgium; and whilst in exile, she received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, whilst being denied a South African passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid in various forums. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing career. In 2005, Makeba announced her retirement from the mainstream music industry but she continued to make appearances and to do smaller performances.

9 November 2004
Mbeki and entourage welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out on the streets to greet President Thabo Mbeki and the rest of his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.

10 November 1871
Stanley found Livingston at Ujiji, Tanzania

David Livingstone (1913-1973) was a Scottish missionary and explorer, also known as an anti-slavery advocate, whilst promoting British colonial and economic expansion in Africa. His first postings were in Southern Africa, which he abandoned to travel, convert and explore and map the rivers or highways of the continent. He left the London Missionary Society and was appointed as Her Majesty Queen Victoria's consul, paving the way for explorations across the continent. He is credited with being the first European to "discover" the Mosi-o-Tunya ("the smoke that thunders") waterfalls, which he named Victoria Falls. In 1886 he returned to Africa, this time seeking the origins of the river Nile, starting his journey in Zanzibar. After many tribulations, he ended in Ujiji, Tanzania, gravely ill. Livingston by then lost contact with Europe, and New York Herald newspaper sent journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley to try and find Livingstone. He found him in the town of Ujiji on 10 November 1871, and greeted him with the now famous words: *"Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"*

10 November 1985
Dr JS Moroka passed on

Dr James Sebe Mokoka, a medical doctor, politician, and great-grandson of Chief Moroka I of the Barolong Boo Moroka in Thaba Nchu died in his village of Ratlou. He was an active member of the African National Congress and in 1949 he became its president until 1952.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 November 2002
Mass grave found near SADF base in Namibia

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

10 November 1995
Ken Saro-Wiwa is executed



Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa studied English at the Government College Umuahia. He took up a post as a Civil Administrator during the Nigerian Civil War and wrote a novel based on his experiences. In 1973, after serving as Regional Commissioner for Education in the River State Cabinet, he was dismissed for his support of Ogoni autonomy, and Saro Wiwa became a member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). A major issue faced by the Ogoni people, which MOSOP campaigned around, was that of the crude oil extraction in the region. Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government for several months, without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 11 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Law suits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered $15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions.

10 November 2006
Red Location Museum opens

The museum was opened in Gqeberha to the public on 10 November 2006 as a tribute to the struggle against Apartheid. It is situated in a shack settlement that is one of the oldest townships in Port Elizabeth. It was designed by the award winner Architect Joe Noero and derived its name from a series of corrugated iron barracks buildings, which were rusted a deep red colour. These were part of a Boer concentration camp in Uitenhage and moved in 1900's, to Red Location, where the first urban Black families settled. It became a site of struggle during the years of Apartheid. The Museum also comprises an Auditorium, Library, art gallery, offices, a Memorial space to commemorate the local heroes of the struggle, and an adjoining tomb where Raymond Mhlaba and Govan Mbeki, national struggle heroes and Izithwalandwe, are buried.

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

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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11 November 1914
Judge Taslim Olawale Elias born



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

11 November 1933
Miriam Tlali born



Miriam Tlali (1933–2017) was a South African novelist and the first black woman in the country to publish an English Language novel, Muriel at the Metropolitan (1975). She was born in Doornfontein and grew up in Sophiatown. She applied to study at the University of Witwatersrand, but was refused because she was black, and went on to study in Lesotho. She completed her first book in 1969, but only managed to publish it in 1975, and it was banned in 1979. She was co-founder of ***Staffrider*** magazine, and penned a regular column called *"Soweto Speaks"*. Tlali went on to lecture in the USA, where she wrote her second novel, ***Amandla*** (1980) about the Soweto uprising. In an interview with Barbara Boswell in 2006, *"Tlali recalled being brutally beaten in her home in Soweto by police on several occasions. During those years, she would wrap her manuscripts-in-progress in plastic shopping bags at the end of each day, and bury them in her back yard to avoid police confiscating them during raids."* Mme Tlali passed away in 2017, after receiving many rewards for her contribution to literature and publishing.

11 November 1935
Dr Esther Mahlangu born



Dr Esther Mahlangu is a South African artist best known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings that reference her Ndebele heritage. She was born on 11 November 1935 on a farm near Middleburg in Mpumalanga. Mam Esther was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the University of Johannesburg, 9 April 2018. She painted her geometric patterns on a BMW 525i in 1991 and was invited to decorate the inside of a Rollys Royce Phantom. In 2006 Mam Esther was confered the Order of Ikhamanga, silver class by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Today Mam Esther's work is represented in private, corporate and public galleries around the world. Her village home in Mpumalanga is inundated with visitors from around the world, keen to explore her complex approach to wall decoration. Even at the age of 75, she is involved in sustainable development in her community and trains young women in this art of their forebears.

11 November 1956
President Edgar Lungu born



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

11 November 1975
Angola gains independence from Portugal

Angola becomes independent after 14 years of armed resistance

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimiento Popular de Liberación de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Due to political differences amongst the parties that signed the agreement, civil war broke out. The MPLA which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, and UNITA which went to war was supported by South Africa and the USA. The independence of Angola paved way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military training. For instance, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) established bases in Angola. In 1976 the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola.

11 November 1992

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11 November 1996

Malawi Stock Exchange opens

The first national stock exchange opened in Blantyre, the industrial and commercial capital of Malawi on this day. On the first day of business, 2300 Malawians bought stocks in the first company to be listed, the National Insurance Company. Today, The MSE also runs two other market platforms, namely, the Alternative Capital Market (to raise capital for small and medium-sized companies at lower cost) and the Debt Market. Today, there are over 30 stock exchanges across the continent. These include three regional exchanges: the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM), based in Côte d'Ivoire; the East Africa Exchange, based in Rwanda; and the Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de l'Afrique Centrale (BVMAC) in Gabon.

11 November 2018

New bank headquarters dominates Addis skies

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

11 November 2020

Magician Wian van den Berg becomes Tik Tok legend

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

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

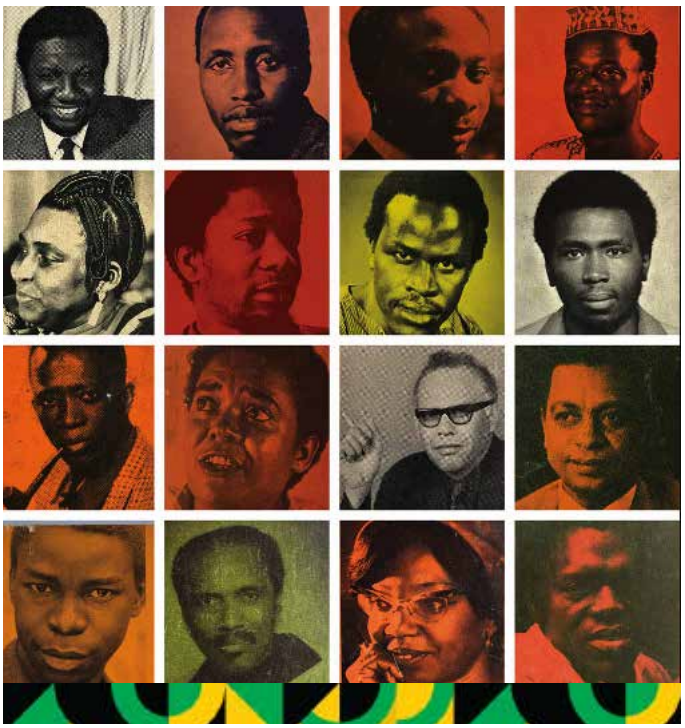
7–13 November 2026

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

7 November

International African Writer's Day

In 1991, the Conference of African Ministers of Education and Culture, meeting in Cotonou, Benin, resolved to establish 7 November, the day on which PAWA was founded, as International African Writers' Day, which is now celebrated throughout the continent. International African Writers' Day is dedicated to recognizing the contribution of African literature to world culture.



9 November

Visit an Art Museum Day

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

10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development



World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.

10 November

International Accounting Day

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



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