



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

14 – 20 June 2024

Conversations with the **President**



STATEMENT OF INTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

Preamble

1. South Africa has made strides since 1994 toward establishing a non-racial, non-sexist, united and democratic society and improving the lives of all who live in it. We are building a democratic state guided by a progressive Constitution and a system of institutions that aim to translate the values of the Constitution into practice.
2. The 2024 national and provincial election was highly contested and, at times, divisive. The results of the election have the potential to foment further political and social fragmentation. Relatively low levels of voter turnout and registration suggest growing alienation from the political system.
3. At this historic juncture, we must act to ensure stability and peace, tackling the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, entrench our Constitutional democracy and the rule of law, and to build a South Africa for all its people.
4. The people of South Africa expect us to work together as political parties to achieve these objectives, and to usher in a new era of peace, justice and prosperity for all.
5. It is in this context that we, as Political Parties, that participated in the 2024 Elections and received seats in the national and provincial legislatures, pledge to cooperate through a voluntary Government of National Unity (GNU).
6. The GNU2024 shall include cooperation in both the Executive and the Legislature.
7. The parties reaffirm our collective commitment to the founding values of the Constitution and to the preamble to the Constitution, which reads:
“We, the people of South Africa. Recognize the injustices of our past. Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land. Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country, and Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity. We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic, ...”

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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE GNU

8. All parties to the GNU commit to uphold the following fundamental principles:
 - 8.1 Respect for the Constitution, the Bill of Rights in its entirety, a united South Africa and the rule of law.
 - 8.2 Non-racialism and non-sexism.
 - 8.3 Social justice, redress and equity, and the alleviation of poverty.
 - 8.4 Human dignity and the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights.
 - 8.5 Nation-building, social cohesion and unity in diversity.
 - 8.6 Peace, stability and safe communities, especially for women and children.
 - 8.7 Accountability, transparency and community participation in government.
 - 8.8 Evidence-based policy and decision-making.
 - 8.9 A professional, merit-based, non-partisan, developmental public service that puts people first.
 - 8.10 Integrity, good governance and accountable leadership.
9. All parties that form part of the GNU commit to these principles.
10. The GNU is constituted in the interest of all South Africans. This Statement of Intent will therefore be a public document to ensure accountability and foster

trust between the electorate and the political parties that form part of the GNU.

BASIC MINIMUM PROGRAMME OF PRIORITIES

11. As Parties to this GNU, we agree that the 7th administration should focus on the following priorities:
 - 11.1 Rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the promotion of fixed capital investment and industrialization, job creation, transformation, livelihood support, land reform, infrastructure development, structural reforms and transformational change, fiscal sustainability, and the sustainable use of our national resources and endowments. Macro-economic management must support national development goals in a sustainable manner.
 - 11.2 Creating a more just society by tackling poverty, spatial inequalities, food security and the high cost of living, providing a social safety net, improving access to and the quality of, basic services, and protecting workers' rights.
 - 11.3 Stabilising local government, effective cooperative governance, the assignment of appropriate responsibilities to different spheres of government and review of the role of traditional leadership in the governance framework.

- 11.4 Investing in people through education, skills development and affordable quality health care.
- 11.5 Building state capacity and creating a professional, merit-based, corruption-free and developmental public service. Restructuring and improving state-owned entities to meet national development goals.
- 11.6 Strengthening law enforcement agencies to address crime, corruption and gender-based violence, as well as strengthening national security capabilities.
- 11.7 Strengthening the effectiveness of Parliament in respect of its legislative and oversight functions.
- 11.8 Strengthening social cohesion, nation-building and democratic participation, and undertaking common programmes against racism, sexism, tribalism and other forms of intolerance.
- 11.9 Foreign policy based on human rights, constitutionalism, the national interest, solidarity, peaceful resolution of conflicts, to achieve the African Agenda 2063, South-South, North-South and African cooperation, multilateralism and a just, peaceful and equitable world.
12. Parties commit to an all-inclusive National Dialogue process - with parties, civil society, labour, business and other sectors - to discuss these and other critical

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challenges facing the nation. The National Dialogue process will seek to develop a national social compact that enables the country to meet the aspirations of the National Development Plan.

13. The parties to this GNU Statement of Intent shall, following the formation of the GNU, hold a Lekgotla (Strategic Session) to develop an agreed policy agenda, which shall include policy priorities for the GNU.

MODALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

14. Parties will work together in good faith and seek to build consensus on the formation of government where no party has an outright majority, on the basis of the above shared values and minimum programme, and in the interest of all South Africa's people.
15. Parties will cooperate with each other in respect of the executive and/or legislature activities to advance these shared goals.
16. The Government of National Unity shall be constituted in a manner that reflects genuine inclusiveness of political parties that are party to this Statement of Intent and are represented in the National Assembly broadly taking into account the number of seats parties have in the National Assembly and the need to advance the National Interest. The President shall, in constituting the Executive, take into account the electoral outcomes.
17. Whilst recognizing the President's prerogative to appoint Members of the Executive, such appointments should be done in consultation with the Leaders of the respective Parties of the Members considered for appointment.
18. The GNU shall take decisions in accordance with the established practice of consensus. Where no consensus is possible, the principle of sufficient consensus shall apply.
19. Sufficient consensus exists when;
 - 19.1 All parties have had the opportunity to express their views;
 - 19.2 Despite reasonable attempts to resolve disagreements, and find common ground, there is no general consensus;
 - 19.3 Parties to the GNU representing 60% of seats in the National Assembly agree; and
 - 19.4 Any party that disagrees has been able to formally record their objections.
20. The Parties to the GNU shall also establish dispute resolution or deadlock breaking mechanisms, in instances where sufficient consensus is not reached. Parties should raise disputes within the mechanisms created for this purpose.
21. The parties recognize established Government and Cabinet protocols in decision-making and the formulation of the Budget.
22. This GNU Statement of Intent and Modalities may guide approaches to provincial government in the interests of effective, stable and responsive governance which meet the needs of the people in a province.
23. Parties to this agreement will form a GNU Consultations Council that will be responsible for consultations and monitoring progress on the minimum programme of the Government of National Unity, and alignment of the 7th administration's programme, its resourcing and implementation mechanisms.
24. The parties to this statement of Intent agree that when the committees of Parliament are constituted; the spirit of a Parliament of National Unity shall be implemented to enable parties that are a part of the GNU to be accorded leadership positions of some committees. In this regard the parties agree that the IFP shall be elected to the position of Chair of Chairs.
25. In keeping with the spirit of an inclusive GNU, it is agreed that the composition shall be discussed and agreed amongst the existing parties, whenever parties desire to be part of the GNU.
26. Amendments to this document must be agreed to by sufficient consensus.

14 June 2024

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ANC WELCOMES THE ELECTIONS OF THE **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES** OF THE 7th DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT.



OVER the last few days, following a significant election result, South Africa showed the resilience of our democracy.

The legislatures of all 9 provinces are now established with members sworn in and Speakers and Deputy Speakers elected.

Most significantly the 9 provincial legislatures elected Premiers in a democratic process to lead government in their provinces in the 7th Administration, with the African National Congress (ANC) leading 7 out of 9 provinces. The ANC continues to lead the governments of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State,

North West, Eastern Cape and the Northern Cape.

In two provinces we have governments of provincial unity, in Gauteng led by the ANC and in KwaZulu-Natal led by the IFP. The DA continues to lead the Western Cape.

Having reached broad consensus on the Government of National Unity, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces elected the leadership of Parliament.

The ANC congratulates Comrade Thoko Didiza on her election as Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane as Chairperson of

the National Council of Provinces and Dr Annelie Lotriet as the Deputy Speaker. We are confident that they will perform their duties capably and diligently.

Comrade Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected the President of the Republic of South Africa with 83% support from members of the National Assembly.

This overwhelming support for President Ramaphosa represents a vote of confidence in the resilience and stability of our democracy.

The ANC congratulates Comrade Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on his election as President

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of the Republic. His election reflects the tremendous confidence of South Africans across society in his leadership and in his ability to lead the country into a new era.

The results of yesterday's elections of leadership for two critical arms of state (legislatures and executive) affirms the ANC's initiative to advocate for the coming together in a Government of National Unity in the interests of all South Africa.

The parties working together to take forward an inclusive Government of National Unity, have embraced a 'Statement of Intent of the 2024 Government of National Unity', which outlines foundational principles, a basic minimum programme of priorities, and modalities of the GNU. Parties continue to make inputs into the GNU Statement of Intent, in order to reflect the broad consensus that should characterise its formation and modalities

The Statement of Intent categorically places the needs of the South African people first, as



expressed in the proposed Minimum Programme for the 7th administration, including the focus on economic inclusion, industrialisation, transformation and job creation, protection of workers' and women's rights, improving and extending basic services and tackling the high cost of living, investing in people through education, skills and health; the fight against corruption and crime, and progressive foreign policy that reflects our national values and interests.

Above all, parties to the GNU agrees that as we enter the next decade of freedom, we must work together and move decisively to tackle the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, as a precondition for a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The parties have made a commitment to an all-inclusive National Dialogue process with parties, civil society, labour, business and other sectors to discuss critical challenges facing the nation. The National Dialogue process will seek to develop a national



social compact that enables the country to meet the overarching aspirations of the National Development Plan, to eliminate poverty and significantly reduce inequality towards 2030.

The ANC in the coming days will continue engagements with all parties as we move towards the steps to form the government of national unity. As has already been announced, the President will be inaugurated on 19 June 2024 and there-after will announce an inclusive GNU Cabinet.

All these positive developments of the past two days have brought huge relief and a renewed sense of hope across the length and breadth of our beloved country, South Africa. We have demonstrated that we are ready to set aside our political differences, find innovative ways to work together in the interest of our nation and our people as a whole.

We will do more and better together.

ON THE STATEMENT OF INTENT OF THE 2024 GNU

■ By **DR KENNETH CREAMER**

THE Statement of Intent of the 2024 GNU secures a number of important points of principle for the ANC. For example, the agreement's basic minimum programme commits to "protecting workers' rights" and "providing a social safety net". The agreement also favours a "foreign policy based on human rights constitutionalism, the national interest ... [and] multilateralism".

These commitments will make it easier for the ANC to sell the GNU to its voters, as the commitments are explicitly in line with ANC policy and will allay fears that workers' rights, social grants and a principled foreign policy will be rolled back as a result of working with the DA, IFP and other parties.

It is helpful that the minimum programme of the GNU is forward looking, rather than being terrain upon which to fight ideological battles. It commits to making interventions to lift the performance of the South African economy, crowd-in investment, create jobs and improve service delivery.

The pressure will be on the ANC to show its voters and allies that



President Nelson Mandela led the way with the establishment of the first Government of National Unity in 1994.

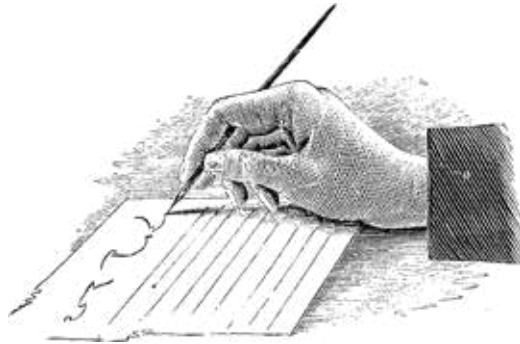
the GNU is the correct strategy to turn the South African economy around and create better opportunities for ordinary people.

There will be forces trying to pull the GNU to the right – with the aim of protecting historical privilege and resisting change. And there will be forces pulling to the left – with populist slogans that are likely to be economically destructive and lead to increased levels of poverty and unemploy-

ment.

Given these risks, the GNU will have to chart a course where it can unite sufficient political support for sound economic policies capable of driving a sustained period of inclusive growth.

At this critical moment, we need political leadership that can put the interests of South Africans first. The GNU appears to be a step in this direction.



OPEN LETTER TO THE LEADERSHIP AND DEPLOYED COMRADES OF THE ANC

■ By **ORAPELENG MATSHEDISO**

FIRST and foremost, I congratulate all comrades of the ANC who have been deployed to Provincial Legislatures, National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and National Parliament. In few days or weeks to come, some of you might be deployed as President, Deputy President, Chairpersons of Portfolios, as Premiers, MECs, Speakers, Ministers or Deputy Ministers. Others would serve at various executives within the state and state entities. So, I profusely urge you to recall that the ANC at its 2017 Policy Conference stated that *“it is foreign to our movement (ANC) for comrades to see deployment as a source of material benefit rather than the reason to serve the people”*.

You should always be *“analytically alert”* because you would be serving under a completely different environment compared to



during the previous sixth administrations. It is a difficult period for the ANC. Therefore, the ANC needs deployed cadres who'd concretely analyse the political situation in the country, and comprehensively interpret the current moment and the challenges confronting both country and the ANC as they prosecute their assigned tasks. There is a need for an emergence of a cadre who can

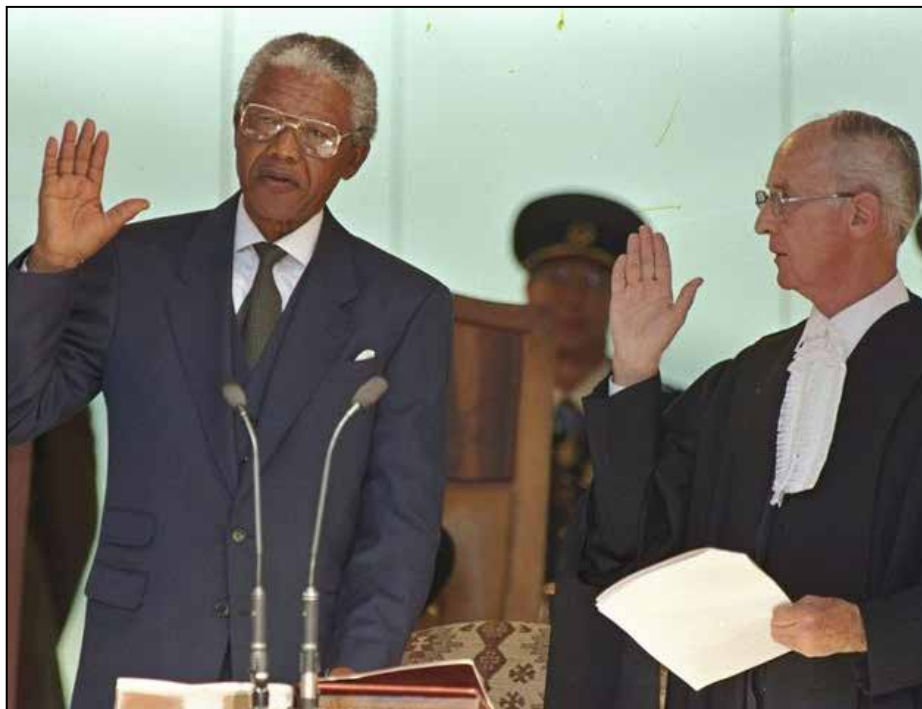
internalise and practicalise the principles of service to the people within the context of Government of National Unity (GNU) or possibly Coalition Government (CG). Your actions and characters will either affirm or dismiss what former President Thabo Mbeki said in 2005 that: *“The matter of the cadres of the movement has always been an important part of what constitutes the ANC, of*

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what defines the ANC. And those cadres have changed over time”.

And indeed, when the ANC was formed in 1912, it needed and had cadres such as Pixley ka Isaka Seme and the collective leadership to articulate the bigger picture (vision) and the reasons for ANC’s existence to the delegates and South Africans. After that conference, the movement needed cadres who could entrench the ANC into the society and make it a true *“instrument of liberation in the hands of the people”*. Solomon Plaatje and the then President John Dube emerged as cadres of the epoch to lead the collective in executing that daunting task. In fact, at different epochs the ANC has faced set-backs, betrayals to the revolution and compromises to the interest of disenfranchised masses. Along the way there were challenges, failures and successes as cadres executed the tasks of different moments. Again, after the ANC adopted the 1949 Programme of action that came up as a result of the emergence of new radical cadres within the ANC Youth league (ANCYL) in 1940s.

Yet again, that programme of action required new cadres of the time in a form of volunteers to effectively implement it. Despite the apartheid repression, the ANC’s successful implementation of the 1949 programme led to 1952 defiance campaign and massive involvement of the people in the activities and the work of the ANC. I contend that the rigorous involvement of the masses, particularly the working class and the poor into the ANC at that time, assisted to entrench it into the political psychology of the people as a trusted leader of



society and the dependable disciplined force of the left.

After the ANC was banned in 1960s, there was a need for cadres of a particular type to rise within the ranks of congress movement, and those cadres rose to the occasion with courage and determination to die or be arrested in defence of the people’s movement and revolution.

In the 1970s and 80s, when many of the cadres of the people’s revolution were killed, banned, exiled and arrested, there was a need for a new cadre that could mobilise and carry a torch of hope for freedom. Those cadres emerged through the formation of United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983.

Subsequent to the unbanning of political parties and the negotiations known as CODESA that led to the formation of the then GNU, the organisation needed its cadres who could carefully read the political situation of that time.

Those comrades had to manage

the transition through the application of “strategic consistency and tactical flexibility” which led to ANC’s ascendancy to the position of being a major governing party in South Africa. Thereafter, new cadres were needed in a form of genuine midwives of social transformation for the prosecution of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR). The revolution that was and still envisaged to ensure that the previously disenfranchised masses of the people whom in the main are the working class and the poor become the primary beneficiaries of the revolutionary victory after the democratic breakthrough of 1994.

Today it is sad that the ANC’s electoral support has declined to below 50% because of the range of issues known to all of us, including, the failure of the leaders and deployed comrades of the ANC to concretely understand the 2017 policy conference statement that *“when our people protest against unethical behaviour of our leadership (and deployed cadres), they do so not out of*

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hatred but from feeling betrayed as they expect better and higher standards from revolutionaries (cadres)”.

As you would be deployed and assigned responsibilities in the state and government, know that the people of South Africa “expect better and higher standards” from you as cadres of the ANC. And as a consequence of the envisaged GNU or possibly CG, you are requested to trust the wisdom of the leadership and respect the decision of your organisation, wherever you are deployed please accept.

This is a moment wherein the ANC more than ever needs disciplined and committed cadres who understand that the future of the nation and the ANC is at stake.

I vividly remember that in 2005, former President Thabo Mbeki once indicated that he had a meeting with number of the then Director Generals (DGs), who were apparently complaining that as a President, he had appointed cadres who were political juniors as Ministers and Deputy Ministers instead of them.

In his response to those DGs, former President Mbeki said there must be an understanding that “as cadres of the movement (ANC) we are necessarily deployed in many different fields. The fact that somebody serves as MP, the other as a Minister and the other one as a DG does not mean that one is superior to the other. The challenges of leading the machinery of state are as important as the challenges of leading the legislatures. And therefore, the idea that you are a lesser cadre, a lesser comrade, lesser than the Minister if you are

DG, represents a fundamental misunderstanding of what we are taking about”.

Go out there and represent the ANC and serve the people very well with a clearer understanding that you are deployed by the ANC to serves its mandate as a dependable representative of the people and trusted leader of the society.

I also hope and trust that, the leadership of ANC, as they navigate through the uncharted paths of negotiating for the formation of GNU, will never enter into any agreement that would compromise the ANC’s historic position as the dependable ally of the working class and the poor, because any decision that stands to compromises the interests of the previously disenfranchised masses of our people, and seek to preserve the white monopoly privileges would possibly lead to

the end of the tripartite plus one alliance of COSATU, ANC, SANCO and SACP.

It’s a matter of historic fact the ANC without the alliance will be weaker and would possibly become a neo-liberal organisation that would abandon the working class and the poor.

I agree with Dr David Mohale and Prof Vusi Gumede in their article in the City Press of the past Sunday, that “*the future of desired stable and democratic South Africa depends primarily on the resolution of ownership patterns. Democracy should be understood in its relation to development; it must empower the people to live and lead lives they value, without which it becomes a farce*”.

Orapeleng Matshediso is an ANC Member in North West (Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Region).

Thank You

The African National Congress (ANC) wishes to extend its gratitude to each and every South African for coming out in their numbers to exercise their much fought for democratic right to vote.

A special word of thanks must go to the ANC volunteers, who worked tirelessly to bring out the vote and to ensure a strong showing for the ANC in the election.

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The Impact of a Coalition Government on Socio-Political Developments in SA:

NAVIGATING CRISES AND IDEOLOGICAL BATTLES

■ By **MIKATEKO BENEDICT PHALANE**

South Africa, often dubbed as the “rainbow nation,” has a vibrant yet tumultuous political landscape. Since the end of apartheid in 1994, the African National Congress (ANC) has been the dominant force steering the country’s socio-political trajectory. However, cracks within the ANC, combined with rising dissatisfaction among South African citizens, have opened the possibility for coalition governments to become a more common phenomenon in its political arena. This shift heralds significant implications for the country’s socio-political developments, especially considering South Africa’s emerging and deepening crises and the battle of ideas among various political role players.

Understanding Coalition Governments

A coalition government comprises representatives from different political parties working together to form a majority in legislative houses. This type of government



often emerges in parliamentary systems where no single party manages to secure an outright majority, necessitating collaboration and compromise among parties with often divergent views. In the context of South Africa, a coalition government can result from closely contested elections and fragmented voter allegiances. Notably, the increasing fragmentation within the ANC and growing support for opposition parties like the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Economic Freedom Fighters

(EFF) make coalitions a likely scenario in the near future.

Historical Context and Present Political Landscape

To comprehend the potential impact of coalition governments in South Africa, it’s essential to understand the historical and current political landscape. Post-apartheid, the ANC enjoyed a near-absolute grip on power, anchored by its legacy as a liber-

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ation movement. However, several issues have gradually eroded its stronghold, including:

1. Corruption and Governance Issues: The ANC has been marred by numerous corruption scandals, most notably the allegations of state capture during Jacob Zuma's presidency. These issues have led to a loss of public trust and confidence in the ANC's ability to govern effectively.

2. Service Delivery and Economic Challenges: Widespread unemployment, slow economic growth, and persistent inequalities have further fueled discontent. Inadequate service delivery concerning health, education, and utilities have also contributed to public dissatisfaction.

3. Internal Divisions: Factionalism within the ANC has resulted in policy inconsistencies and indecisiveness. Various factions vie for control, often prioritizing internal power struggles over national interests.

As the ANC's popularity wanes, opposition parties like the DA and EFF have gained ground, though they too face challenges in courting a broad spectrum of voters. The DA primarily appeals to urban and middle-class constituents, while the EFF's radical leftist agenda attracts many disenfranchised and economically marginalized citizens.

The Role of Coalition Governments

Coalition governments can signify a new era of collaborative politics, but they can also bring heightened complexities and challenges to governance. The impact of coalition governments on South Africa's socio-politi-



cal landscape can be examined through several lenses:

1. Policy Formulation and Implementation: A coalition government requires consensus-building among different parties to create and implement policies. This can lead to more balanced and representative policymaking, as diverse viewpoints and interests need to be considered. However, it can also result in watered-down policies due to the need for compromise, potentially stalling significant reforms.

2. Stability and Governance: Stability is a critical factor in effective governance. Coalition governments can either stabilize by uniting different factions or destabilize due to inherent fragility and risks of breakdowns. The necessity for constant negotiation and the probability of disagreements can lead to legislative gridlocks or frequent changes in government, hindering long-term strategic planning.

3. Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges: A coalition government can promote inclusive growth and more equitable social policies by integrating diverse socio-economic perspectives. Coa-

lition partners might pressure the government to prioritize urgent issues like unemployment, poverty, and inequality. However, diverse economic ideologies within the coalition can also hinder decisive action and lead to fragmented social policies that fail to address core issues effectively.

4. Political Accountability and Anti-Corruption Measures: Coalition governments may enhance political accountability as each party needs to maintain integrity to retain public support and uphold coalition agreements. The presence of multiple parties in the government might increase scrutiny and reduce opportunities for corrupt practices. However, coalition arrangements might also involve questionable compromises and power-sharing agreements that could perpetuate patronage and corruption.

5. Public Trust and Electoral Participation: The formation of coalition governments can either restore public trust and optimism in the political system or deepen disillusionment if perceived as chaotic or ineffective. Successful coalitions can foster democratic participation by illustrating the potential for collaborative gover-

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nance, while failure can reinforce cynicism towards the political process and deter voter turnout.

The Socio-Political Dynamics of Coalition Governments

1. Power Dynamics and Factionalism: Understanding the intricate power dynamics within coalition governments is crucial. In South Africa, where personality politics and factional allegiances play significant roles, coalition governments will likely witness complex interactions among diverse political heads. Managing egos and balancing influence among coalition partners require astute political maneuvering and exceptional leadership, often lacking in fragmented political environments.

2. Ideological Battles and Policy Direction: The ideological spectrum among potential coalition partners in South Africa is vast. The DA's liberal market-oriented policies contrast sharply with the EFF's socialist agenda advocating for nationalization of

key industries and land expropriation without compensation. Reconciling such divergent ideologies within a coalition could lead to compromises that dilute the effectiveness of policies aimed at addressing pressing societal issues.

3. Impact on Foreign Policy and International Relations: Coalition governments might also influence South Africa's foreign policy direction. Different parties bringing varied perspectives to international relations could either enrich the nation's diplomatic strategy or create incoherence in foreign policy initiatives. Balancing between non-alignment, African unity, and global economic partnerships would become a delicate act requiring cohesive strategy formulation.

Emerging and Deepening Crises

1. Economic Instability and Unemployment: South Africa grapples with deep-rooted economic challenges, including structural unemployment and sluggish GDP

growth. The ability of a coalition government to engineer robust economic recovery would depend on its policy coherence and execution efficacy. Diverse economic agendas might either enrich policy discourse or create impasses that hinder swift economic strategies.

2. Social Inequality and Public Discontent: Inequality in wealth distribution, access to opportunities, and social services remains a critical challenge. Coalition governments must prioritize social justice while balancing growth imperatives. Ensuring equitable distribution of resources amidst political contestations will test the coalition's ability to address socio-economic grievances effectively.

3. Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development: South Africa's struggle with service delivery, especially in health, education, and utilities, demands an integrated and efficient approach. Coalition governments must streamline their efforts to enhance infrastructure development and improve service stan-



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dards across the country. Ensuring accountability and effective collaboration among coalition partners is essential for achieving these objectives.

The Ideological Battle of Political Role Players

1. The ANC's Struggle for Unity and Relevance: The ANC's legacy as the dominant liberation movement faces stern tests from internal factionalism and diminishing public trust. The party's efforts to maintain unity while addressing governance challenges will significantly impact its role in potential coalitions. Failure to present a cohesive front could undermine its influence and bargaining power in coalition arrangements.

2. The DA's Central Role in Coalition Politics: The DA's liberal policies and governance track record position it as a crucial player in coalition politics. However, its ability to appeal to a broader electorate and bring diverse political entities together will determine its effectiveness in coalition formations. Balancing ideological consistency with practical coalition agreements will be pivotal.

3. The EFF's Radical Approach and Populist Appeal: The EFF's radical leftist agenda and populist rhetoric present a unique challenge to coalition dynamics. Incorporating the EFF's demands within a pragmatic governance framework will be a delicate task. The party's focus on land reform, nationalization, and economic redistribution will test coalition partners' ability to reconcile radical reforms with economic stability.

4. Smaller Parties and Their Influence: Smaller parties, representing specific regional, eth-



nic, or ideological interests, will play crucial roles in coalition governments. Their ability to punch above their weight and influence policy directions will depend on strategic alliances and the leverage they hold in coalition negotiations. These parties' contributions can enrich policy discourse and ensure diverse representation in governance.

Conclusion

The potential for coalition governments in South Africa signals a transformative phase in its socio-political landscape. While coalition governments offer an opportunity for inclusive and collaborative governance, they also present significant challenges regarding policy coherence, stability, and effective crisis management. The emerging and deepening crises in South Africa necessitate robust and unified approaches to address economic, social, and governance challenges effectively.

Navigating the ideological battles among the ANC, DA, EFF, and smaller parties will be crucial in

shaping the country's political future. Success in coalition governance requires visionary leadership, mutual respect among partners, and an unwavering commitment to the national interest. South Africa's journey towards a stable, inclusive, and prosperous society hinges on the ability of its political actors to rise above partisan divides and craft a collective vision that resonates with the aspirations of its diverse citizenry.

Ultimately, the impact of coalition governments on South Africa's socio-political developments will be determined by the interplay of ideological integrity, practical governance, and the relentless pursuit of social justice and economic prosperity. The road ahead is fraught with challenges, but it also offers immense possibilities for fostering a more equitable and cohesive South African society.

Mikateko Benedict Phalane is a Branch Executive Committee member of the African National Congress Ward 10 Branch and ANCYL Mamelodi ZTT Deputy Convener.

Fronts, Coalitions and Governments of National Unity

■ By **MOJALEFA NALE**

A broad front and a coalition are both political alliances, but they differ in their scope, purpose, and composition:

Broad Front:

- A broad front is a loose alliance of political parties, organizations, and interest groups united around a shared goal or ideology.
- It's often formed to address a specific issue or challenge, like a social movement or a political crisis.
- The parties and groups within a broad front may have differing views on other issues, but they put aside their differences to achieve a common objective.
- A broad front is often more inclusive and diverse, with a focus on building a wide consensus.

Coalition:

- A coalition is a more formal alliance of political parties that work together to govern or achieve a specific goal.
- Coalitions are often formed after elections, when no single party has a majority, and they must work together to form a government.
- Coalition partners typically share a common agenda and make compromises to achieve their goals.

- Coalitions are often more exclusive and require a higher level of agreement and cooperation among the parties involved.

To summarize:

- A broad front is a loose, inclusive alliance focused on a specific issue or goal.
- A coalition is a more formal, exclusive partnership aimed at governing or achieving a specific objective.

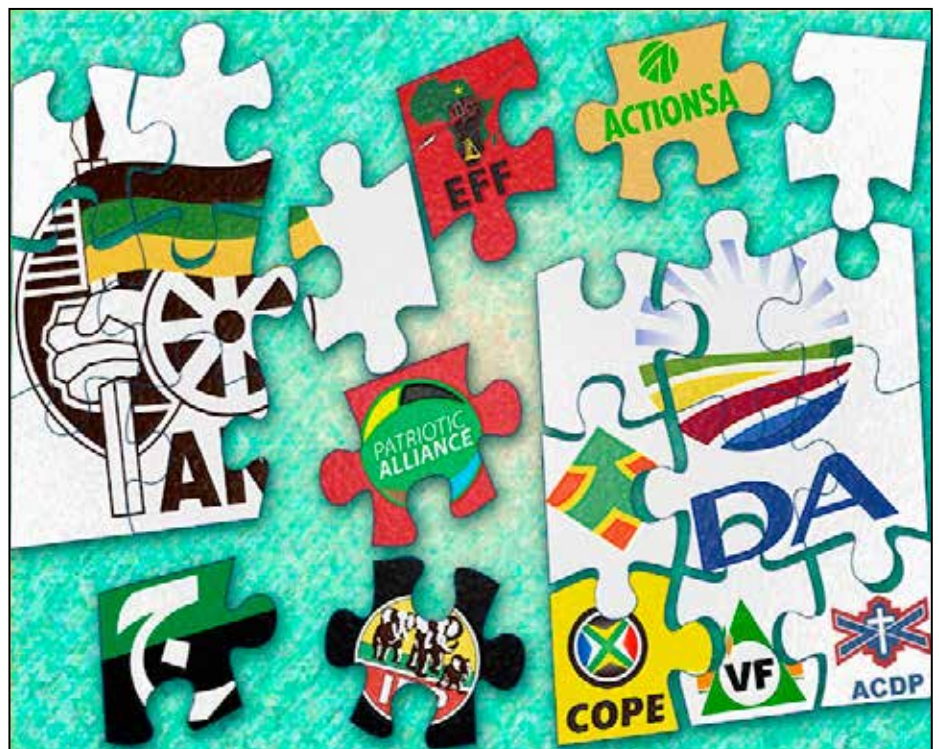
A Government of National Unity (GNU) is a political arrangement where different political parties or groups come together to form a

government, often in times of crisis or political instability. The goal of a GNU is to:

1. Promote national unity and stability;
2. Address pressing issues or challenges;
3. Foster cooperation and consensus-building among political rivals.

Characteristics of a GNU:

1. **Inclusive:** Represents a broad range of political parties and interests
2. **Coalition government:** Parties share power and decision-making responsibilities
3. **Temporary:** Typically formed



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing a sitting of Parliament



- for a specific period or purpose.
4. **Goal-oriented:** Focuses on addressing specific challenges or achieving specific objectives

GNUs are often formed in response to:

1. Political crises or conflicts;
2. Economic or social emergencies;
3. Post-conflict or post-authoritarian transitions; or
4. National crises, such as natural disasters or pandemics

The benefits of a GNU include:

1. Promoting stability and unity;
2. Encouraging dialogue and cooperation;
3. Addressing pressing national issues;
4. Building trust and consensus among political rivals.

However, GNUs can also face challenges, such as:

1. Differing ideologies and interests;

2. Power struggles and conflicts;
3. Difficulty in making decisions;
4. Limited duration and uncertain legacy.

Examples of Governments of National Unity include:

1. South Africa's GNU (1994-1999) after apartheid.
2. Kenya's GNU (2008-2013) after post-election violence.
3. Zimbabwe's GNU (2009-2013) after political crisis.
4. Lebanon's GNU (2020-present) amidst political and economic crisis.

The ANC Manifesto is our programme for the next five years in pursuance of implementation of the strategy and tactics.

Governance was and remains a platform from which we will drive this pursuit. Given that the situation has changed in that we do not have the majority we enjoyed in the last 30 years, we need to adapt our tactics. GNU is an appropriate maneuver to advance

the discourse we started 30 years ago since it could be a temporary measure for the next five years.

Identifying key objectives in the Manifesto and place those in a check list tick similar objectives from those of the opposition, we will be able determine which parties share common goals with us.

We can also be able to check differences in approaches to achieve our goals. If there is agreement on objectives as contained in the manifestos, the focus of engagement will be limited to the how part. It could in this areas where there could be fierce debates.

If we take land issue as an example. We will differ with parties like EFF, so shall we with DA, PAC and IFP. Could there be a consensus on this one and if not, is there a room to compromise on the approach and not land issue as one of the fundamental objectives in the next five years.

GNU: THE BETTER DEVIL FOR SOUTH AFRICA

■ By **MOJAKI KEOABETSOE MOJAKI**

WE need to unpack what Government of National Unity (GNU) entails and see if it is feasible and sustainable in our context.

In an abnormally normal environment, that is, when a country is in a national crisis such as war, natural disaster, pandemic outbreak or Instability due to socio-political situation, GNU comes in handy to prioritize national survival.

GNU can be described as a government of consensus. It is a government that limits opposition on strategic initiatives to bring national cohesion and prosperity.

GNU is mainly formed by major political parties that failed to enhance majority vote and yet are contesting minorities with potential to form coalition with other least voted parties to contest and isolate each other (parties with high minority but without majority. If two are in such position they may woo other smaller parties to outsmart each other and form a coalition government).

GNU, as against coalition government, forces cooperation and consensus based on addressing national issues. Major parties in a multiparty parliament have to work and involve parties representing minorities in a parliament



irrespective of the number of seats they have.

South Africa is at a crossroads. The ANC has not amassed enough votes to form a government. The DA remains the second largest political party but still far from leading any coalition given the prevailing socio-political environment.

The EFF and MKP combined are a force to reckon with but far below to even be considered as leader of any new government. And a combined strength of all other parties remain meaningless without these four (ANC, DA,

EFF and MKP). Thus, the solution rests with an All-inclusive government if building a nation is the primary objective.

We have no choice but to agree that GNU is the better devil. Our agreement on this should not cloud the pragmatic reality that there are two forces at play here. The Progressive and the Retrogressive. And this means a lot of compromise and consensus.

In the same vein, we should not overlook the historical reality of the parties involved and how such will play out when this better devil is carried out.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The ANC is currently painted wrongly by its own members in particular. The ANC is not a black party. This is not in its constitution and guiding documents and policies. Thus, it doesn't represent the black voice but remains the mouthpiece of African Nation. (Read my article on **What and Who is an African**).

The DA on the other hand remains a party that aims at promoting racial competency. It believes in individual prosperity and protection of the minority rights. It does that conscious of the fact that economic power is still in the hands of the chosen few in the white community. This is commensurate with the apartheid regime's policy.

The EFF presents itself as an ultra-left radical group that is more vociferous than the PAC of Robert Sobukwe and Potlako Leballo. EFF is a militant party without discipline. And militancy without discipline is anarchy. It is therefore a party of disrespectful anarchists. Anarchists can't be trusted because what they say is influenced by emotions and not reasoning.

The MKP, though a new player, is a cult party. It is composed of disgruntled ANC members who are pinned in protecting and defending themselves from justice and social balances. All it needs is based on what Jacob Zuma wants. And we all know what he wants.

There are other significant smaller parties like the Patriotic Alliance, IFP, Action-SA whose policies are comprehensible yet impractical to a certain extent.

These are the realities of our situation. And now the question



is: How will GNU be effective in South Africa?

Bear in mind, this is not the same as GNU of 1994. It has nothing to do with building trust amongst racial groups, confidence in the process of national unity or socioeconomic stabilization. This envisaged GNU aims at:

- Socio-political stability
- Service delivery to the nation.
- Consolidation of political forces.

It is therefore more of a platform for the Battle of ideas and supremacy of intellectual capacity to impress the voters in the next elections. All it can achieve is political tolerance and consensus on matters of national interest. For it to succeed, it must satisfy the voters by improving livelihoods through socio-economic development. Anything short of that, it is likely to collapse.

Reality points at various issues.

- Majority of the people in the Progressive Forces do not want anything to do with DA in any form of government.
- Most ANC members on the ground do not trust MKP as led by Jacob Zuma.

- The attitude of EFF is abhorred by majority and they feel it will derail progress.
- MKP hates ANC leaders in particular and aren't willing to join forces with the ANC unless it address the concerns of Zuma.

These are critical impediments which need careful consideration and management. We need to bury our personal and individual feelings and focus on the main picture: a prosperous, stable and cohesive nation.

For GNU to yield any fruits, I think what is needed to be done is to have participatory democracy in structures of all role players. The ANC must consult and engage extensively and consistently with its structures and Alliance partners.

Personally I strongly believe that GNU under current conditions is the better devil. Let no horse be left out of the barn.

My name is Mojaki Keoabetsoe Mojaki and I write what I like and like what I write.

THE STRATEGIC MISCALCULATION OF JACOB ZUMA AND THE MK PARTY

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

IN the run-up to the elections on 29 May 2024, many within the MK Party claimed that Jacob Zuma established the party as an external force to the ANC. This was supposedly a strategic move to use electoral strength as leverage to oust ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa. The plan hinged on reducing ANC support below 50%, thus positioning the MK Party to bargain with the ANC by offering electoral percentage support in exchange for Ramaphosa's removal. Zuma, still aggrieved by his recall from the presidency in 2018—a move he attributes to Ramaphosa—has made it his mission to see Ramaphosa's downfall.

The moment of perceived triumph came on Saturday afternoon. Zuma made a grand entrance at the IEC results centre, surrounded by journalists eager to capture his return to the political limelight. Buoyed by the election results, he, alongside 26 smaller parties that underperformed, issued a veiled threat to the IEC, demanding that results not be released the next day or face unspecified trouble. However, this initial excitement quickly dissipated. It soon became evident that the election results did not



deliver the knockout punch Zuma and his RET (Radical Economic Transformation) allies within the ANC had hoped for. The ANC still had enough support to form a government without the MK Party's backing.

This realization was a significant setback. Without the anticipated leverage, Zuma's plan to force Ramaphosa out of office hit a major roadblock. The MK Party and its supporters quickly shifted gears, launching a misinformation campaign on social media. They argued for an ANC/MK/EFF coalition government and framed a potential ANC/DA coalition as a

betrayal of black South Africans. Prominent figures within the RET faction, who had been largely absent during the ANC campaign, resurfaced, presenting themselves as knowledgeable commentators who invoked the legacy of the anti-apartheid struggle to argue against collaborating with a "white party."

This narrative, however, conveniently ignored historical facts. Besides the constitutionally mandated Government of National Unity in 1994, the ANC in 2005 incorporated the National Party—its former adversary and the architect of apartheid—into its fold.

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This historical amnesia undermines the MK Party's credibility and highlights their selective interpretation of the ANC's legacy.

The final blow to the MK Party's strategy came during the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on 6 June 2024. The NEC decided to pursue a united government, effectively sidelining the MK Party's demands. Although the MK Party has not formally rejected the NEC's decision, their previous accusations that the ANC was "selling out the revolution" by considering a coalition with the DA indicate that rejection is inevitable.

So, what now for Jacob Zuma

and his MK Party? The failure to leverage electoral results as planned leaves them in a precarious position. Zuma's political maneuvering, while initially promising, has hit a formidable obstacle. The MK Party must reassess its strategy and objectives in light of these developments. Without significant leverage, their influence within the broader political landscape diminishes.

For Zuma, the personal vendetta against Ramaphosa has overshadowed broader strategic considerations. The MK Party's inability to adapt to the new political reality suggests a need for introspection and perhaps a re-defined purpose beyond the immediate goal of unseating Rama-

phosa. In the complex game of politics, Zuma and his followers must either evolve or risk becoming irrelevant.

In conclusion, while bold, the MK Party's recent electoral strategy has faltered against the resilient structures of the ANC. The dream of using electoral strength to force a leadership change within the ANC remains unfulfilled. For Jacob Zuma and his followers, the path forward is uncertain, requiring a critical reassessment of their political ambitions and methods. The ultimate lesson here is that strategic miscalculations can have long-lasting repercussions in the intricate chessboard of politics.

Amandla!



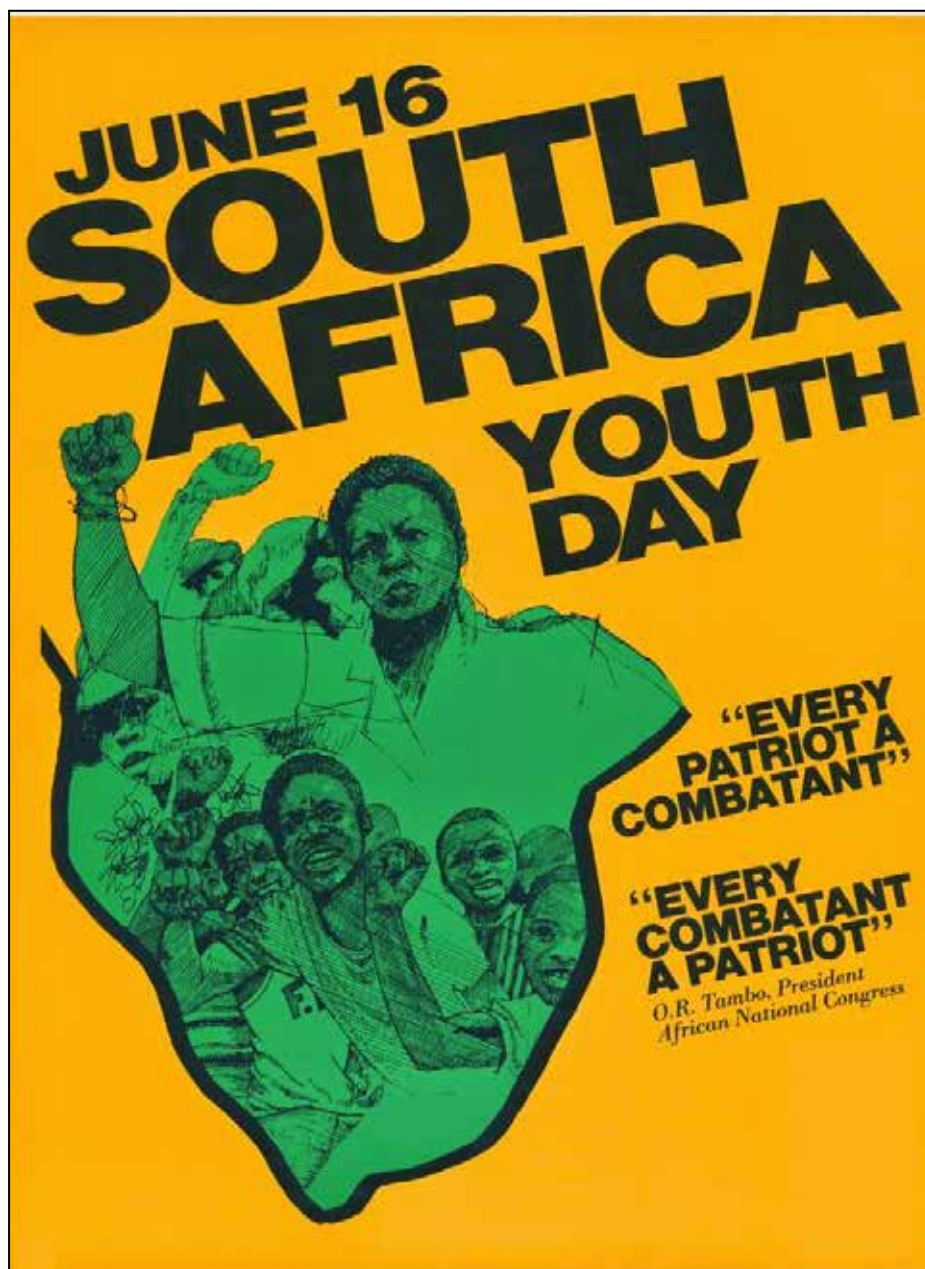
South African Youth Day

16 June: The significance of June 16 to South Africa's Revolutionary Struggle

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

ON 16 June 1976, the Soweto uprising began when more than 20,000 learners marched against the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in black secondary schools. It all started as a peaceful protest, but ended in violence, tears, blood and the death of a 13-year-old boy, Hector Peterson. The uprising then escalated into a nation-wide revolt, revitalising the struggle for liberation in South Africa. Apart from the language issue, students also demanded an education on par with that provided for white students. Youth Day marks not just the sacrifices made by the youth of that day, but also those children that defied “Bantu Education” and took up arms in the struggle for freedom. Thousands of students were exiled in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland Tanzania.

The Soweto uprising was significant for a number of reasons. First it was proof that the struggle of the oppressed people cannot be vanquished forever. It only suffers setbacks. Second, the rebellion, as it escalated and spread through the length and breadth of the country was an example of how an event like the



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imposition of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction became a spark that started what became a prairie fire of resistance, an inferno challenging every aspect of white minority rule. Third, the Soweto uprising was yet more proof that the white minority was a giant standing on clay feet.

The uprising dramatised the maturing of socio-political contradictions that had been gestating since the extra-parliamentary struggles of the 1950's and 1960's had been contained. In

the years following the Sharpeville massacres, and especially in the discovery at Rivonia of the High Command of the Congress Alliance, the white minority regime seemed to have achieved final victory over the African National Congress (ANC) and other organisations. But by the late 1960's there was renewal of political ferment. The Black Consciousness Movement was born, and the "spontaneous" labour strikes that began in Durban in 1973 where a demonstration that the Black working class had

reached a qualitative new stage. What happened in Soweto in 1976 can be usefully conceptualised along four dimensions. First was the underlying structural dislocation in the political economy of South Africa. Second, were the social classes that characterised South African society as they had evolved ever since South Africa was constituted as an independent political entity in 1910. Thirdly, South Africa's "active past", more specifically the class alignments that had combined in active struggles, had shaped its political terrain. Fourth, were the specific triggering events that shattered social stability or at least began to strain the social order in such a way as to call its permanence into question. Of defining importance was the response of the power bloc, especially the splits that occurred as the various factions in the ruling class scrambled to secure their interests.

Conflicts and contradictions grew within ruling class circles, including disenchantment among sections of the bourgeoisie with the restrictions apartheid imposed on the exploitation of black labour, thus exposing the inability of the white minority regime to develop a strategy adequate to the crisis. The reserves, the pass laws, the migrant labour system, the influx control laws which had worked so well to create a docile labour force, which made the country a heaven for transnational capital, had become constraints. The labour strikes that began in Durban in 1973 were a concrete expression that the black working class had reached a qualitatively new stage. The changing regional context, with the liberation of Angola and Mozambique, made worse the dilemma of the white minority regime.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

15 – 21 June 2024

Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives, Africa Today/Yesterday and The Africa Factbook (2020)

15 June 1860 First nursing school opened

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

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

During the Second Conference of Independent African States held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a resolution calling for sanctions against South Africa was passed on this day. The Conference called upon its members to cut diplomatic relations or refrain from establishing diplomatic relations, as the case may be, to close African ports to all vessels flying the South African flag, to enact legislation prohibiting their ships from entering South African ports, to boycott all South African goods, to refuse landing and passage facilities to all aircrafts belonging to the Government and companies registered under the laws of the Union of South Africa and to prohibit all South African aircraft from flying over the airspace of the Independent African States. The history of international pressure for sanctions against South Africa dates back to December 1958 when the All African Peoples' Conference in Accra, Ghana called on all countries to impose economic sanctions

against the Union of South Africa in protest against apartheid.

16 June 1976 Students in Soweto march against imposition of Afrikaans

Students marched from Morris Isaacson High in Soweto to protest against the introduction of Afrikaans as a language of instruction in schools. This sparked off violent response from the police, the killing of young student Hector Peterson, and a country wide

student uprising which forever changed events in South Africa. After 1994, following lobbying by youth and student organisations, the day was declared as South African Youth Day, a public holiday, annually commemorating the bravery of the 1976 generation.

16 June 1983 Rev James Calata born

African National Congress (ANC) leader and Anglican clergyman, James Arthur Calata, died in Cra-



Soweto Youth Uprising

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

ANC LIVES! ANC LEADS!



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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

16 June 2009 BRICS formed



The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. Shortly afterwards, in September 2006, the group was formalised as BRIC during the 1st

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

17 June 1916 Trade unionist Sarah Carneson born

Sarah Carneson (née Rubin) was born in Johannesburg, by parents who were founders of the Communist Party of South Africa. She also joined the Young Communist League at the age of 18, went on to teach at the Party night schools for workers and was banned in 1950 under the Suppression of Communism Act. She worked full-time for the League Against Facism and War, and later in the CPSA Johannesburg offices. She later moved to Durban, where she became involved in the trade union movement, she organised workers in the sugar, tobacco

and transport sectors. After her marriage, she moved to Cape Town and became secretary of the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union (SAR-HWU) in 1949. Banned and arrested several times, she went into exile in 1968, again working in the trade union movement. On return to South Africa in 1991, her family settled in Cape Town, and remained active in the SACP and ANC. Sarah Carneson passed on 30 October 2015 in Cape Town at the age of 99.

17 June 1959 Cato Manor protests begin

Under the Group Areas Act, a proclamation was made in 1959 that "In Cato Manor, Natal; 25,798 Indians, 2,107 Coloureds and 28,298 Africans would be shifted. Indians will lose 2,891 acres of land and 2,444 dwellings valued at £1,685,350. Coloureds and Africans will lose over 70 acres of land and 133 dwellings valued at £25,940". The protests in Cato Manor began on 17 June 1959, when a demonstration of African women forced their way into a beer hall, destroying beer and drinking utensils and beating men who were drinking there. The women were led by Florence Mkhize and Dorothy Nyembe, and were dispersed by the police. It spread to become long months of protests against the forced removals.

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

The whites-only Parliament voted to repeal some of the key laws that formed the foundation of apartheid, namely the Population Register Act of 1950 (that stripped the majority of black South Afri-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

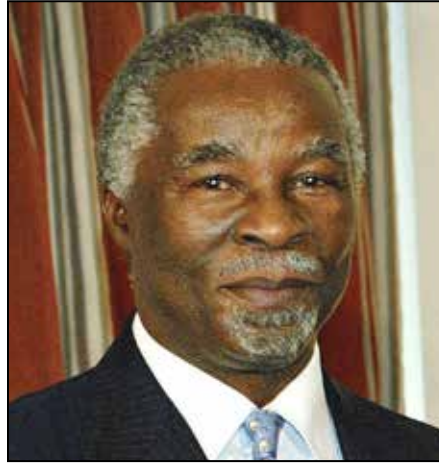
cans of citizenship, with citizenship supposed to be only in the bantustans); the Group Areas Act and the Land Act (which together with Bantustan acts, preserved 87% of land for whites); and the Separate Amenities Acts, which segregated amenities – from public toilets, benches, beaches, cinemas, shops, sports facilities, transport facilities, hospitals, etc – between whites and blacks. This was seen as part of the process of removing the legal basis of apartheid.

17 June 1992 Boipatong Massacre



As part of the third force violence, sponsored by the regime at the time, approximately 300 armed residents of the Inkatha-aligned Kwamadala hostel shot and hacked their way through the Black township of Boipatong (Johannesburg), leaving forty-six people dead and scores injured, including women and children. At the time, it was said that the attack was organised by the Third Force, a conservative element of the police force and government colluding with members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to destabilise the country and disrupt the Convention for Democratic South Africa (Codesa). The ANC suspended its participation in the negotiations indefinitely and withdrew from CODESA, blaming FW. De Klerk, for not doing enough to stop the violence.

18 June 1942 ANC President Thabo Mbeki born



Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki was born in Idutywa in Transkei on June 18 1942. Both his parents, Ephainette and Govan Mbeki were ANC and CPSA activists. The young Mbeki joined the ANC Youth League at the age of 14 and became active in student politics. After his schooling at Lovedale Academy was interrupted by a strike in 1959, he completed his studies at home. He later moved to Britain where he completed a Masters degree in economics at Sussex University. During the years of apartheid, he played a major role in turning the international media against the system. After South Africa's first democratic election in April 1994, Mbeki became deputy president Mbeki, was elected President of South Africa on 14 June 1999 and was inaugurated as President on 16 June 1999. Mbeki played a major role in the African continent, through his commitment to the African renaissance, his involvement in resolutions of conflicts, the adoption of NEPAD and the launch of the African Union in 2002. Mbeki resigned from the presidency in 2008, just a few months before he was to complete his second term of office. He is the patron of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and

the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute.

18 June 1995 Angolan national team plane crash

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

18 June 2000 First Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace agreement signed

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

19 June 1904 Arrival of Chinese workers in South Africa

A labour shortage at the gold mines on the Rand resulted in the importation of Chinese labour in 1904. This situation, in part, was the result of the Anglo-Boer War (South African War) of 1899-1902, that had displaced large numbers of the indigenous population. The development of the Gold mining industry was also one of Milner's plans to further development in South Africa in the post Anglo-Boer War years. On the 19 June 1904, the first Chinese labourers thus arrived at the Witwatersrand. Between 1904 and 1910 there were almost 64,000 Chinese working on the Witwatersrand gold mines near Johannesburg. This measure

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was very successful in increasing the production of gold from mining, but in the long run it faced stiff resistance from White labour that considered the Chinese unfair competition in terms of skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

19 June 1913 1913 Land Act Passed



The Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913) was passed to allocate only about 7% of arable land to Africans and leave the more fertile land for whites. This law incorporated territorial segregation into legislation for the first time since Union in 1910. The law created reserves for Blacks and prohibited the sale of territory in white areas to Blacks and vice versa. An annexure designated the territory initially allocated to Blacks, with a provision that a commission was to investigate the matter further for a more realistic delimitation. In effect, over 80% went to White people, who made up less than 20% of the population. The Act stipulated that Black people could live outside the reserves only if they could prove that they were in employment.

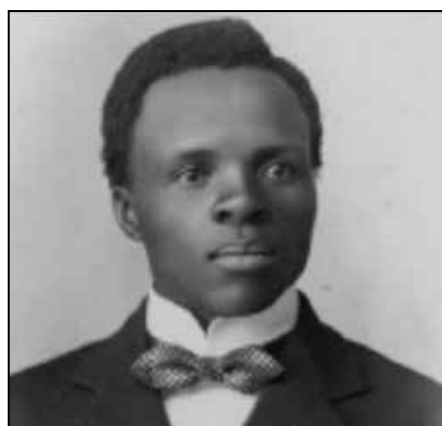
19 June 1925 Secretary General Alfred Nzo born

Alfred Bapethuxolo Nzo was born in Benoni. He was the longest serving Secretary General of the ANC, from 1969 to 1991. He was



also South Africa's first Minister of Foreign Affairs (1994-1999). He passed on in January 2000.

19 June 1932 Sol Plaatje passed on



Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje was a South African writer, linguist, translator and political leader. Plaatje died of pneumonia at the age of 55 while on a trip to Johannesburg. He was a prolific journalist and writer and in 1912 became first secretary-general of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), which in 1923 became the African National Congress (ANC). Plaatje's contributions to literature include the widely acclaimed book, *Native life in South Africa* documenting the experiences of black farmers forced off the land following the passing of the Land Act in 1913. He also translated Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, Ju-

lius Caesar, and *Much Ado about Nothing* into Setswana.

19 June 1959 Extension of University Education Act

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

20 June 1950 Disbanding of Communist Party announced

Sam Kahn, leader of the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) and natives' representative in parliament, announced in parliament that the party had disbanded. The announcement was made a few days before the Suppression of Communism Act, No. 44 of 1950 was approved in parliament in June 1950 and came into force on 17 July of that year. In 1950, the Communist Party

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had about 2 000 members, of which about three-fourths were Africans. After the disbanding of the CPSA, more than a thousand communists joined the African National Congress (ANC).

20 June 1955

Artist Dumisani Mabaso born



Dumisani Abraham Mabaso, South African artist, was born in Soweto. From childhood until 1974 he received art education at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Dube, and also for 2 years studied art at the Mofolo Arts Centre, Soweto. He completed a course at Rorke's Drift after an interruption of nearly 2 years, when he taught at the YWCA. Mabaso is also a musician and director of a recording studio in Soweto. He exhibited in South Africa and in five group shows in the USA.

20 June 2018

Activist and MEC Joyce Mashamba passed away
ANC, ANCWL and SAPC activist and leader cde Joyce Mashamba passed away. She was one of the longest serving MECs in Limpopo, and at the time of her death was MEC for Agriculture and Rural development. She also held portfolios of education, sports



arts and culture, safety and society and social development.

21 June 1936

Artist Lionel Davis born in District Six

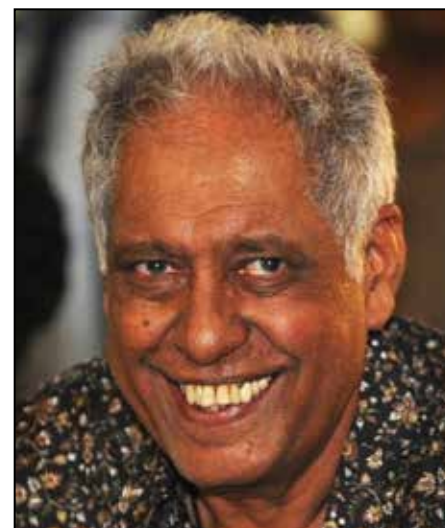


Artist Lionel Davis was born in District Six, Cape Town, becoming involved in the anti-apartheid struggle after attending night school classes, joining the Non-European Unity Movement and the African Peoples Democratic Union of South Africa (APDUSA). He was arrested for his activism and served a prison sentence on Robben Island from 1964 to 1971, where he completed his Matric. Upon his release, he was served with a banning order that kept him under house arrest until 1976. He joined the Cape Arts Project (CAP) for art classes in 1978, continuing his art education at Rorke's Drift in KZN where he got a diploma, followed by a BA degree in Fine

Arts at UCT. He returned to CAP where he worked with community, student, labour and youth organisations, including the UDF and COSATU, to produce media (t-shirts, posters, etc), with his unique artistic flare. His own art grazed books and posters. He has exhibited in South Africa and other parts of the world, always continuing with arts education, especially for children. He later joined the Robben Island museum, and whilst retired, continues with his art.

21 June 1939

Essop Pahad born



Dr. Essop Goolam Pahad, former Minister in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa was born in Schweizer-Reneke, Western Transvaal (now North-West Province). He is an alumnus of both the University of Witwatersrand and Sussex University. He joined the Transvaal Indian Congress Youth League in 1958, and was arrested in 1962 for organising an illegal strike following the banning of the ANC, was banned for five years in 1964 and went into exile, where he joined the SACP. He represented the SACP on the editorial council of the World Marxist Review. After 1994, he was elected to the ANC

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NEC, and became Minister in the Presidency during the Mbeiki Presidency. He carried out a wide range of political duties as designated by the President and had specific responsibility for the Office on the Rights of the Child (ORC), Office on the Status of Disabled People (OSPD), Office on the Status of Women (OSW), the National Youth Commission and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). Pahad was on the Board of the SA 2010 World Cup Local Organising Committee, chaired the board of the South Africa/Mali Timbuktu Manuscripts Trust as well as chair of the board of trustees of the South African Democracy Education Trust (SADET). In 2008 he founded The Thinker and served as its editor, until it was taken over by Wits University in 2019.

21 June 1974 Johanna Cornelius, trade unionist, dies.

Johanna Cornelius was born in

Lichtenberg in 1912 in an Afrikaans family. She came to Johannesburg to work in a clothing factory as a machinist in the 1920's. She joined the Garment Workers Union (GAWU), and was arrested during a strike in 1932. She spent a month in the Soviet Union in 1933 as a union delegate, became a full time organizer for GAWU in 1935 and elected President in the same year. She was accused of being a communist for organizing black workers, but this did not deter her from organizing all workers in GAWU. In 1952, she took over as Secretary General of GAWU.

21 June 1989 Albertina Sisulu addresses London Anti-Apartheid rally

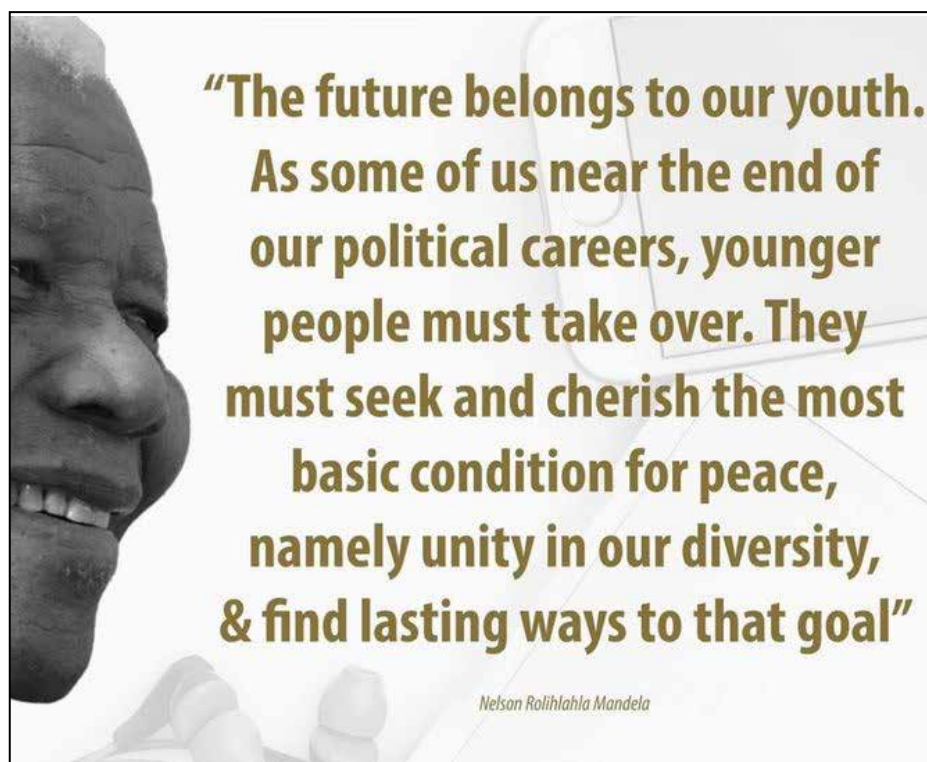
For her very first trip abroad, Albertina Sisulu was accompanied by her Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) comrades, Sister Bernard Ncube and Jessie Duarte. The group was later joined by United Democrat-



ic Front (UDF) leaders; Curnick Ndlovu, Azhar Cachalia and Titus Mafolo, and the SA delegation visited four countries; Sweden, France, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA). The delegation held their meetings in the United Kingdom at the Anti-apartheid Movement headquarters; there they met with Neil Kinnock and other members of the Labour Party as well as religious organisations. Ma Sisulu addressed a rally held in London on 21 June 1989 to protest against Margaret Thatcher and F.W. de Klerk's imminent meeting. Thatcher was the then British Prime Minister. Sisulu proclaimed *"De Klerk needs more money, he needs more loans from your banks, to keep apartheid going - to pay the army and buy arms. He is asking Western countries to help the Nats stay in power."*

21 June 1992. ANC suspends Negotiations after Boipatong Massacre

The ANC suspended negotiations after the Boipatong massacre, amongst the most brutal in third force violence that wrecked the country since late 1980s and escalating as the negotiations unfolded.



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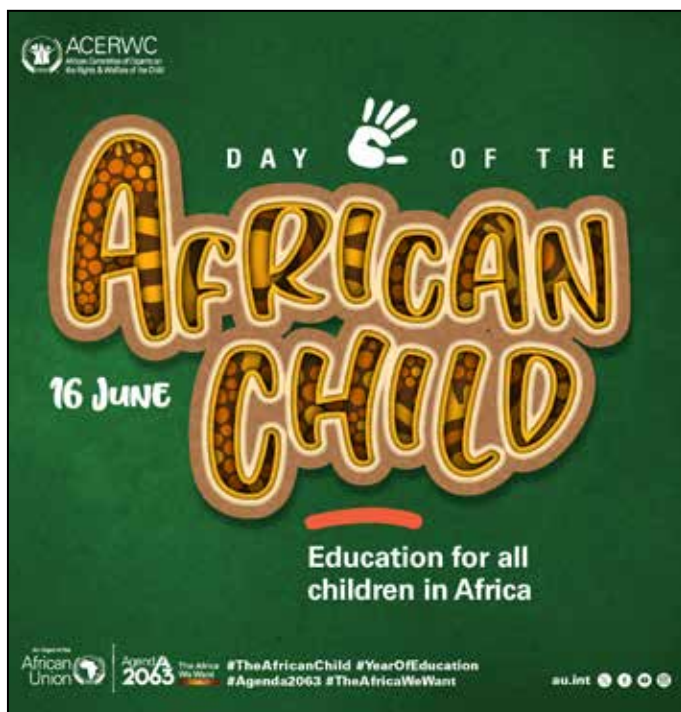
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

15 – 21 June 2024

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

16 June

African Union Day of the African Child



This day was adopted in 2011 by the African Union Heads of State and Government, to focus attention each year on the situation of children in Africa. It coincides with the celebration of the contribution of youth and students to the struggle in South Africa. The AU has an African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children. It has been ratified by 41 countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan and South Sudan are the only four countries that have not signed the Charter. The 2024 AU theme is *“Education for all in Africa”*.

16 June

International Family Remittances Day

This day is observed by the United Nations, to draw attention to how migrants (internal and international) contribute to their families. According to the UN, “the day recognizes the contribution of over 200



million to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most. South Africa’s also has its own history of the migrant system, where men and women left home to find jobs in cities and on mines and send money home to their families. Since 1994, more and more people have migrated to the cities, and also send money home to their families in rural areas. Some South Africans – nurses, teachers and other professions – also work outside of the country and send money home. This day celebrates their contribution to their families.

17 June

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

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

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

18 June

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

Gastronomy refers to the food we eat, where it's grown, processed and how we prepare it. Agriculture and agro-processing play an important role in our life, because we all have to eat. Both have an impact on our health and on the planet. The food we eat and how it is prepared is also influenced by culture, and changes in our lifestyle. In the past, we used to eat less processed food, eating what we grew locally, without much processing. This has changed, introducing new challenges like obesity. Governments and international organisations have intervened in two main ways. Firstly, by insisting that foods are labeled for our safety, so we know what is in our food, and if it is harmful. For example, government recently introduced legislation to force producers to find a simpler way of showing how much sugar is in the food that we buy. There are

also national and global rules about labeling where food comes from. We have a Buy South Africa campaign, to support local jobs and businesses. Imported food may sometimes be cheaper, but it is better to support local producers, because the food does not have to have so much preservatives to make it last longer. This also means we must support local food gardens in communities and schools. The other issue is about country of origin and protecting it as part of preserving of culture. Not too long ago, we had to fight a legal battle with someone in another continent who wanted to claim Rooibos tea as their own and prevent us from using the name. The African continent has lots of indigenous plants and food, but we must find a way of protecting and promoting these, as part of our heritage.

18 June

International Day to Counter Hate Speech

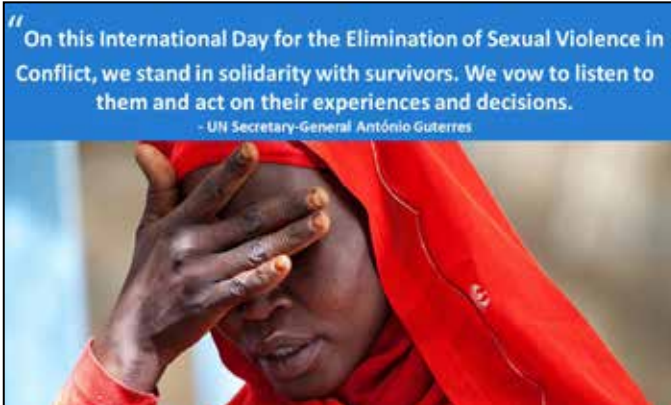
Hate speech is on the rise worldwide with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm to those affected. Hate speech not only affects the specific individuals and groups targeted, but societies at large. The devastating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



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 June

International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict



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

19–25 June.

African Space Week

In 2013, the African Union adopted the Africa Agenda 2063 as the main compass to guide its strategic focus for the following 50 years. The African scientific community has developed Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) as the scientific implementation leg of the Agenda 2063. Both STISA-24 and Agenda 2063 underscore the critical role of space in addressing development challenges, and hence identified an African Outer Space programme as one of the flagships. This is also well reflected in the pillars of STISA-2024, and since then the African Union has developed the African Space Policy, the African Space strategy, the Statute for the establishment of an African Space Agency and the choice of the Republic of Egypt to host the African Space Agency. The African Space Week aims to strengthen intra-African and international collaboration in space activities; and to nurture competencies of African space managers, experts, researchers, professionals and students from public and private sectors as well as civil society including youth and women in space domains.

20 June

World Refugee Day

Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. The UN High Commission for Refugees reported in 2019, 3 countries contributing 57% of refugees in the world – Syria (6.3m), Afghanistan (2.6m) and South Sudan (2.4m). South Africa provides home to 89,588 refugees in 2019, mainly from Somalia, DRC, Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi and Zimbabwe. The 3 countries that host the most refugees in the world are: Turkey (3.4m), Uganda (1.4m) and Pakistan (1.4m). There are also over 5.7 million Palestinian refugees outside of their motherland since the establishment of the state Israel in 1948. Palestinian refugees now span four generations. This year, World Refugee Day focuses on solidarity with refugees – **for a world where refugees are welcomed**. Refugees need our solidarity now more than ever. Solidarity means keeping our doors open, celebrating their strengths and achievements, and reflecting on the challenges they face. Solidarity with people forced to flee also means finding solutions to their plight – ending conflicts so they can return home in safety, ensuring they have opportunities to thrive in the communities that have welcomed them, and providing countries with the resources they need to include and support refugees.

20 June

International Tennis Day

International Tennis Day is an annual celebration to raise the profile and catalyze interest in the game of tennis – real tennis, court tennis, jeu de paume. Founded in 2014, International Tennis Day is supported by national tennis governing bodies and associations in the world. The aim is to motivate current players and to mobilize new ones who have not played tennis before.

21 June

World Yoga Day

Yoga as a physical, mental and spiritual practice started in India, and is now being practiced worldwide. This practice aims at making an individual’s physical, mental and spiritual health better. This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is **“Yoga for Women Empowerment”**.