



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

21 – 27 June 2024



Conversations with the
President

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN



ADDRESS BY **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION,
19 JUNE 2024 UNION BUILDINGS, TSHWANE

TODAY, we gather under this vast Highveld sky at the seat of our government, the Union Buildings, to witness before all South Africans and our honoured guests from various countries on our beloved continent and from far afield a fundamental rite of our democracy.

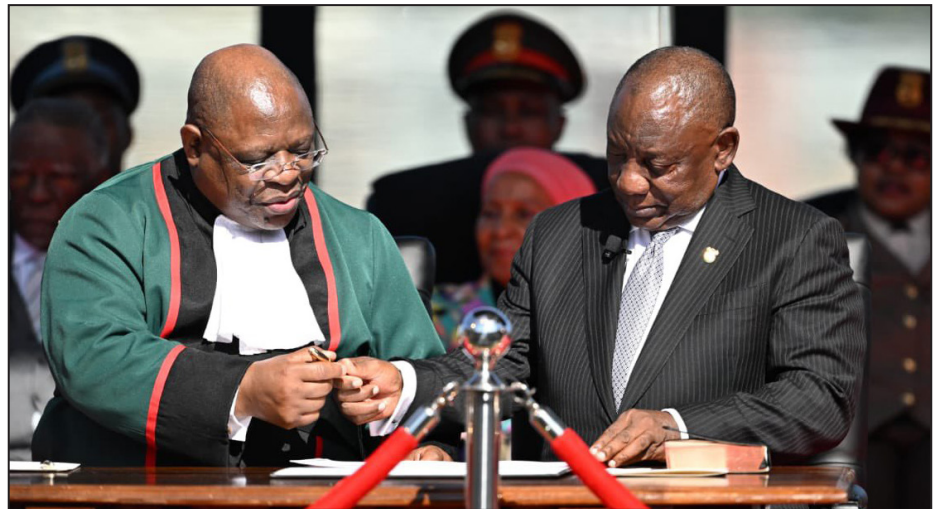
In our brilliant diversity, we gather to affirm our solemn conviction that this country belongs to all who live in it, as articulated in the Freedom Charter almost seventy years ago.

We gather here, as people born of the same soil across our nine provinces that make up a unitary South Africa, determined that by our deeds we shall heal the divisions of our past, and overcome the ongoing inequalities and hardships of the present.

We declare for all to know that neither discord nor dissent shall cause us to cast aside that which calls us to build a united, free, just, equal and prosperous nation. On this day, we assert by solemn oath the will of the people of this land.

We affirm our unwavering fidelity to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which is based on the enduring vision and values of the Freedom Charter.

As the leadership of this diverse nation, we have a sacred duty to



unite the people of South Africa.

We affirm that history has placed on our shoulders the responsibility to transform our country into a non-racial and non-sexist society.

We affirm our determination to build a more equal and caring society.

We affirm our resolute quest to build a growing and inclusive economy that offers opportunities and livelihoods to all people.

We rededicate ourselves to the task of democratic renewal and social and economic transformation so that no one is left behind.

And so, as we enter another era in the life of our nation, the resilience of our democracy has once more been tested and the people have spoken loudly that they choose peace and democracy over violent, undemocratic and unconstitutional methods.

In their multitude, in voices that are many and diverse, the people of South Africa have voted and made known their wishes, their concerns and their expectations.

We accept and respect the results of the elections and we once again say the people have spoken. Their will shall be done without any doubt or question.

The voters of South Africa did not give any single party the full mandate to govern our country alone.

They have directed us to work together to address their plight and realise their aspirations.

They have expressed their appreciation of the progress in many areas of their lives over the past 30 years of democracy.

They have also been unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in some of the areas in

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which we have failed them.

They want a transformed, growing and inclusive economy that creates jobs for millions of job seekers and offer business opportunities to all entrepreneurs in our nation – women and men, young and old.

The people have been clear about what they want. They want a South Africa in which all may find shelter in our democratic Constitution and may find protection in our courts.

They have described a country in which all may rise above the circumstances of their birth, nurtured by loving families, aided by a caring state and empowered by initiative, will and hard work.

Through their votes they have made clear that they want the basic necessities of a life that is comfortable, happy, healthy and secure.

Through their votes they asserted that they want enough food to eat. Water that is clean. Affordable electricity that is available at all times.

They want decent homes that keep out the wind, the rain and the cold. They want well-maintained roads and street lights that work.

The people of South Africa have asked no more than to be properly cared for when they are sick, they want the young to be taught well, for the elderly to be cared for, and for those without work to work.

The people of South Africa have spoken about the land they want to farm, about the businesses they want to run, about the things

and products they want to make, about the skills they want to learn.

They have spoken of their desire to be safe in their homes, on the street, in their cities, in their villages and on their farms.

The people have demanded an end to the theft of public funds and the capture of the state.

Above all, the people of South Africa have stressed that they are impatient with political bickering and the endless blame game among politicians and political parties.

They want us to put their needs and aspirations first and they want us to work together for the sake of our country.

Today I stand before you as your humble servant to say we have heard you.

As the President of the Republic, I will work with everyone to reach out and work with every political party and sector that is willing to contribute to finding solutions to the challenges our country faces as we transition to a new decade of freedom.

Thirty years have passed since we turned our back on racial tyranny and embraced an open and democratic society. We have made great strides in building a new society that is founded on strong democratic institutions and universal freedoms.

We have built a transformed public service, an independent judiciary, a competitive electoral system, a sophisticated economy, a vibrant and free media, and a robust civil society.

And yet despite this progress, our society remains deeply unequal and highly polarised. There are toxic cleavages and an incipient social fragmentation that can easily turn into instability.

The lines drawn by our history, between black and white, between man and woman, between suburbs and townships, between urban and rural, between the wealthy and the poor, remain etched in our landscape. In places, these lines may have faded, but they have not disappeared.

We are citizens of one country and yet we occupy different



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worlds, separated by high walls and great distances.

We are divided between those who have jobs and those who do not work; between those who have the means to build and enjoy a comfortable life and those who do not.

And so today is no ordinary day. It is a moment of fundamental consequence in the life of our nation. It is a moment when we must choose to either move forward together or risk losing all we have built.

In this moment we must choose to move forward; to close the distances between South Africans and to build a more equal society; to translate the promise of our Constitution and the vision of the Freedom Charter into a reality for all.

This moment requires extraordinary courage and leadership. It requires a common mission to safeguard national unity, peace, stability, inclusive economic growth, non-racialism and

non-sexism.

Through the ballots that they have cast, the people of South Africa have made plain their expectation that the leaders of our country should work together.

They have directed their representatives to put aside animosity and dissent, to abandon narrow interests, and to pursue together only that which benefits the nation.

As leaders, as political parties, we are called upon to work in partnership towards a growing economy, better jobs, safer communities and a government that works for its people.

From across the political spectrum, parties have answered that call.

Understanding that no party can govern alone and make laws alone, these parties have agreed to work in partnership, to employ their talents for the good of the country and the progress of its people.

Together, they have resolved to

establish a government of national unity to pursue a common programme of fundamental and lasting change.

The formation of a government of national unity is a moment of profound significance. It is the beginning of a new era.

As the leaders of this country came together in a government of national unity 30 years ago to forge a common future and build a united nation, the parties in the government of national unity of today have agreed to work together to address the most pressing challenges before our nation.

The parties have adopted a Statement of Intent, in which they have committed to pursue rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; to create a more just society by tackling poverty; to safeguard the rights of workers; to stabilise government and to build state capacity.

The parties have made a commitment to invest in South Africa's people through quality education and health care; to address crime and corruption; to strengthen social cohesion and build a united nation; and, to pursue a foreign policy based on human rights, solidarity and peace.

As South Africans, we must each do what we can to achieve this mission. We will invite all parties, civil society, labour, business and other formations to a National Dialogue on the critical challenges facing the nation.

We will seek, as we have done at so many important moments in our history, to forge a social compact to realise the aspirations of our National Development Plan.

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As individuals, as families, as communities and in our many formations, let us draw on our every strength to turn our dream for a better South African into reality.

Even as we are united in our diversity, we are a people of deep and abiding faith.

We pray for our nation, for our spirits to be lifted, and for our fortunes to be restored.

We owe this noble mission our courage. We must be brave and we must be bold.

This is a new tide that heralds progress, transformation and deep, fundamental change.

We look to this rising tide with optimism and hope.

We must reject every attempt to divide or distract us, to sow doubt or cynicism, or to turn us against one another.

Those who seek to stand in our way, those who seek to inflame tensions, will not succeed, be-

cause South Africans are resolute.

Those who seek to undermine our institutions will fail, because democracy lives in the hearts of our people and never be dislodged.

Nothing will distract us from serving the people and advancing their interests.

Now is the time to move forward. Together, we will do more and better. Now is the time to assemble all our capabilities and to direct all our energies to answer the call of the people of South Africa. We dare not linger, we dare not rest, until we have created jobs for those who need them; until there is enough food on every table; until every person in every town, city, village and farm receives the basic services they need for a decent life.

We dare not rest until the women of South Africa are free from the social, cultural and economic constraints that hold back their progress.

We cannot rest until criminals are off our streets and the drugs are out of our communities; until men no longer perpetrate violence against women and children; until those who steal from the people are held to account.

We dare not rest while our communities are ravaged by flood, fire and drought. Together, we will confront the threat of a rapidly warming planet.

We will accept our responsibility to respond to climate change in a manner that is ambitious, just and inclusive. We do this for the sake of this generation and all those that will follow.

We will build a government that is capable and honest.

Together, we will work to promote multilateralism for a fairer, more equal, more just and more compassionate world, founded on solidarity and universal human rights.

We will join hands with our brothers and sisters across our be-



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loved continent Africa to find peace, to achieve stability, to advance development.

Through the African Continental Free Trade Area, through the construction of roads, and rail lines, factories and power stations, Africa will embark on a new age of production and commerce.

Today, I make a solemn commitment to be a President for all South Africans; to defend our Constitution and protect our democracy; to work with all those who share the dream of a better life for all; to care for the poor and the vulnerable, and to support all those who are in need; and to make our country stronger, more resilient, more equal and united.

This is the dream that the poet Sandile Dikeni describes in his work *'Love Poem for my Country'*:

My country is for health and wealth

See the blue of the sea

And beneath the jewels of fish

Deep under the bowels of soil

Hear the golden voice of a miner's praise for my country

My country is for unity

*Feel the millions
See their passion
Their hands are joined together
And there is hope in their eyes
On this day, our hands are joined together.
We are united. We are full of hope.*

May God bless South Africa and protect its people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika.

Hosi katekisa Afrika.



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Congratulations to the President of the ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa, on your inauguration as President of South Africa.

May your second term bring unity to the 7th Administration, prosperity, and a better life for our people.



**LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER.**



ANC VETERANS' LEAGUE WELCOMES THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AGREEMENT

■ By **ANC VETERANS LEAGUE PRESIDENT SNUKI ZIKALALA**

THE South African people and its leadership have again shown that we can be exceptional. In the face of an election result in which no party received a majority, we have navigated stormy seas and reached the shoreline. While more work is needed to reach our final destination of establishing viable and sustainable national and provincial government, the Veterans' League believes that we are steering the ship on the right path.

On behalf of the Veterans League, I want to express our wholehearted support and congratulations to Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on his re-election as President of the country. We also extend our congratulations to the office bearers of Parliament: Thoko Didiza as Speaker, Annelie Lotriet as Deputy Speaker, and Mdumiseni Ntuli as Chief Whip.

Further congratulations and well wishes are extended to the Provincial Premiers and Speakers who were elected across the nine provinces of our country. We are pleased by the significant number of women who have been elected into senior legislative positions, including that in Limpopo, the Premier, Speaker and Deputy



Speaker are all women.

Today, a significant milestone in South African exceptionalism was achieved: the agreement on a Statement of Intent to establish a Government of National Unity (GNU).

We welcome the contents of this document, which commits to principles of respect for the constitution, the rule of law, non-racialism and non-sexism, good governance, a more just society, and a foreign policy that will create a just, peaceful, and equitable world. These principles, we believe, will not impede the fulfilment of the national democratic

revolution.

The Statement of Intent demonstrates that the political parties involved do not see the GNU as merely a marriage of convenience or seek to use the GNU to advance ideological positions. Instead, it commits to interventions to improve the South African economy, create jobs and improve service delivery.

Hard work now needs to be done to develop a minimum programme that all parties can agree on and that will move our nation forward. This will give the ANC the opportunity to continue serving the people, and together,

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we can do more.

At the same time, we recognise that the GNU is a contested terrain, and we need to guard against forces within the GNU and outside of it that do not believe that they can gain from inclusive economic growth and nation-building. These include those who peddle racist views and false narratives and would like state capture and looting of state assets to continue.

In the context of the setback that the ANC as a political party achieved in the national and provincial elections, the Veterans' League believe thorough introspection is needed. The election results showed us that the agenda of renewal needs to be intensified. The processes to address ANC members who have brought the organisation into disrepute must continue. So must the work of political education, building branches and building a modern political party infrastructure.

Realising that the principles and ambitions of the GNU Statement of Intent is the work of all of us, not just the political leadership we have elected, as the Veterans League, we are committed to providing guidance and holding accountable the political representatives who have been sworn in. We will mobilise veterans' political and technical skills to support the NEC and PECs as they navigate the stormy waters ahead.

As we commemorate Youth Month, in memory of the sacrifices that the young people of 1976 – the generation of lions – made, let us wish the GNU well as it seeks to strengthen our democracy.



It's a number's game: ANC'S OPTIONS AFTER LOSING ITS MAJORITY DURING THE ELECTIONS

■ By **NKENKE KEKANA**

AFTER the 2024 elections came the second birthing of the government of national unity (GNU).

The ANC needed 200 MPs or more to form a government, pass legislation and pass the budget. It has less than the required number to achieve these immediate objectives.

The ANC had to identify the best approach to form a stable government that would enable it to continue governing the country, having received 40% and short of a majority of votes to form a government alone.

Three options were considered: a **GNU**, a **grand coalition** and a **minority government**. The ANC opted for a GNU and invited other

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parties with seats in the National Assembly to the negotiation table.

The majority of parties met the ANC delegation. In the subsequent discussions, before the first sitting of the National Assembly, the EFF, ATM and MKP rejected a GNU approach.

ActionSA also rejected working with the ANC.

A document, titled *Draft Statement of Intent of the 2024 Government of National Unity*, was circulated to parties that met with the ANC delegation to discuss a working arrangement in the legislature.

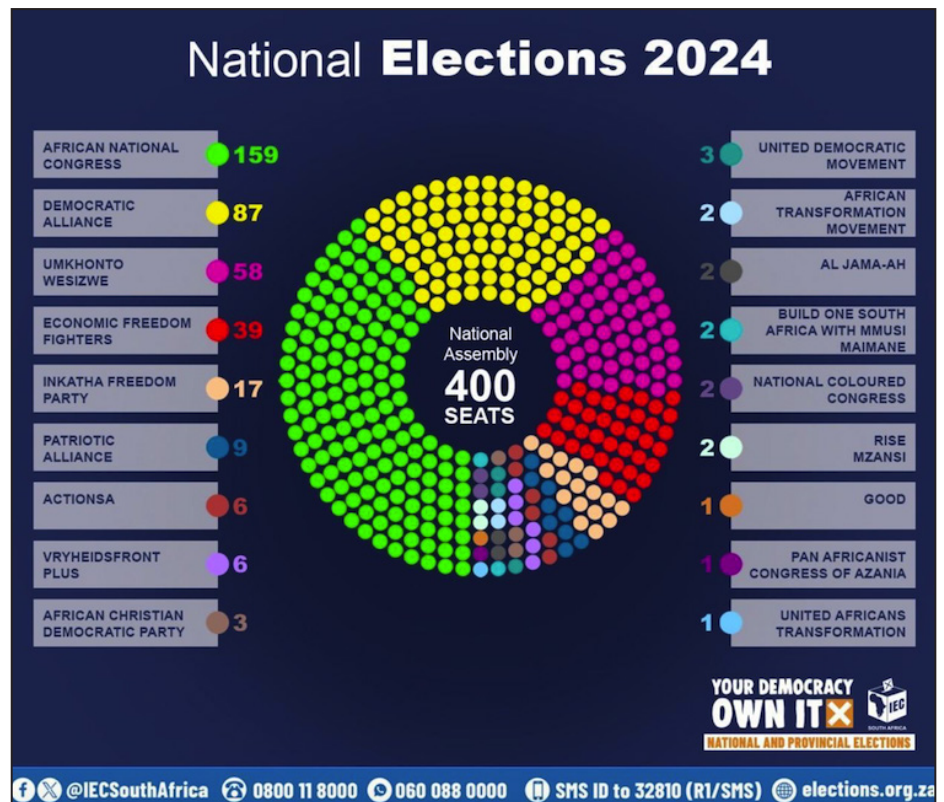
The options the ANC had

The following are the various permutations available to the ANC, which played out in the days and hours before the first sitting of the National Assembly.

Broad GNU: This entailed a working relationship between the ANC, DA, IFP, PA, GOOD, FF Plus, Al-Jama-ah, PAC and UTA. It would have meant the ANC received 283 votes. But Al-Jama-ah and the FF Plus indicated that they could not work with the DA, but would support the vote for President Cyril Ramaphosa. Other smaller parties abstained.

GNU: This entailed a working relationship between the ANC, DA, IFP, PA and GOOD. It included a commitment to the GNU before voting, although the DA indicated that it could not work with the PA.

Grand Coalition: The third option was a grand coalition between the ANC, DA and IFP. The DA and the IFP had a voting pact together. Another option for a grand coalition was one between



the ANC, MKP and the EFF, which would have ensured 259 votes in the National Assembly.

However, this iteration – the so-called “revolutionary” or “doomsday government pact” was difficult to see through. The MKP decided not to attend the legislature and also called for the removal of the ANC president, Cyril Ramaphosa.

A third iteration of the grand coalition option was a tie-up between the ANC and the EFF, which would have ensured only a slim majority, with 209 votes in Parliament. But the EFF’s post-election utterances suggested that they would work with the ANC in order to “finish it off”.

Other smaller parties, excluding the so-called progressive caucus, rejected the EFF.

One other grand coalition scenario was the “grand (un)coalition”, which would have included

the EFF, MKP, DA and IFP. This was an unlikely coalition because these parties do not agree with each other on fundamental principles. It also could not be ruled out that the EFF and perhaps the MKP would have voted for a DA presidential candidate – as the EFF had done in 2016 and 2021. When all is said and done, the hour of reckoning was fast approaching.

The DA, IFP, PA, and GOOD committed to voting with the ANC to elect an ANC speaker and president, and the DA/IFP put up a DA deputy speaker.

Clearly, it could not be business as usual. The ANC’s lack of a majority not only at the national level, but also in the key provinces of KZN and Gauteng, required a sober assessment of what was practically possible to set up new administrations.

To continue to hold the strategic centre, the ANC must compro-

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mise – “every zigzag turn in history is a compromise” – and what the electorate had dished for us required a sober approach and the correct reading of the balance of forces prevailing.

An ostrich’s view would have buried the hope of a better tomorrow for our people.

The bottom line

The ANC will form a government of national unity and invite leaders from other political parties to be a part of the Cabinet and/or serve as deputy ministers.

It remains the prerogative of the president to assign responsibilities to individual members of Parliament to serve in the Cabinet and the executive as a whole.

The customary consultation approach within the ANC and the alliance will continue, and it will be extended to other GNU parties too.

The ANC can no longer run the legislature as it did in the past.

For any National Assembly decision, including the election of portfolio committee chairs, a consultation process must supersede – a hung legislature is upon us.

Rules of the National Assembly must be amended accordingly.

It will be a rough ride, but the ANC will continue to lead society, guided by its policies, while building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous country.

Nkenke Kekana is an ANC NEC member and the chairperson of the NEC Sub-Committee on Communication.

A LEAF OUT SOUTH AFRICA’S HISTORY

Remembering Isithwalandwe Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu

21 June 1989

■ By **CASTRO KWELA**

MAMA Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu was a political activist, nurse and community activist, and also one of the high-pro-

file leaders of anti-apartheid resistance in South Africa. She was born on 21 October 1918 into the Thethiwe family in a village called Xolobe in the Tsomo district of



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the Transkei in the Eastern Cape.

In 1926 she began primary school in Xolobe village where she was a model student. Her commitment earned her a bursary to complete her high-school education at the prestigious Mariazell College in Matatiele. In 1940, while she was a trainee nurse in the 'non-European' wing of the then Johannesburg General Hospital (now Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital), she encountered racism directly. At the time it was common for black nurses to experience discrimination. This sparked her political consciousness, which further developed when she met Walter Sisulu in 1941; a young militant man who was also a member of the African National Congress (ANC).

In 1944 Albertina Sisulu was the only woman to attend the launching conference of the ANC Youth League. The couple got married on 15 July 1944 and were blessed with five children – Max, Mlungisi, Zwelakhe, Lindiwe and Nonkululeko (Nkuli). She stood side by side with her husband who was at the centre of the Defiance Campaign of 1952, including the Congress of the People 1955 and other major political campaigns of the 1950s.

These activities led to her husband being arrested and charged in the landmark 1956-1961 Treason Trial, where 157 leaders of the ANC were arrested country wide. In mid-1955, Mama Sisulu was also active in the campaign against the introduction of Bantu Education; a system of inferior education for African children. In protest against the imposition of Bantu Education, the Sisulu family's Orlando West home was one of the many places used as a classroom until the apartheid



government made it illegal to run unregistered schools.

In 1948 she joined the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) and was the founding member of the national executive of the Federation of South African Women. She helped organise and participated in the historic demonstration of 9 August 1956, when

over 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the apartheid government ruling that all African women had to carry passes.

In 1958 Mama Sisulu was among the hundreds of women who were arrested in Johannesburg for marching in protest against new pass laws. She spent six

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agonizing weeks in jail, unable to breastfeed her 10-month-old baby, Nkuli. Defended by Nelson Mandela, the women were tried and found not guilty of refusing to carry passes.

In 1963 she was again arrested a few months after her husband went underground. She was the first woman to be detained under the notorious 90-Days Act, which gave the Minister of Police and senior police officials the power to imprison any person “incommunicado” without trial for 90 days. In 1964 Mama Sisulu received the first of a series of banning orders, after Tata Sisulu was sentenced at Rivonia. She was banned for 18 years, longer than any other person in South Africa.

In July 1981 her banning order expired. In 1983 she was arrested and detained in solitary confinement. She was charged with furthering the aims of the ANC at the funeral of ANC activist Rose Mbele, and she was subsequently sentenced to four years in prison. In 1983 she was also elected co-president of the United Democratic Front while in jail, a powerful umbrella body of anti-apartheid and civic organisa-



tions aligned to the ANC.

For her very first trip abroad in 1987, Albertina Sisulu was accompanied by her Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) comrades, Sister Bernard Ncube and Jessie Duarte. This was after Sisulu had received her passport which was valid for only 31 days. The group was later joined by United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders; Curnick Ndlovu, Azhar Cachalia and Titus Mafolo. The delegation’s expedition was primarily to call for increased sanctions on the apartheid government.

The apartheid government was guilty of human rights abuses and persecution of anti-apartheid ac-

tivists in the form of assassinations, detentions, bombings and bannings. The group visited four countries; Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The delegation held their meetings in the United Kingdom at the Anti-apartheid Movement headquarters; there they met with Neil Kinnock the then leader of the British Labour Party and other members of the Labour Party as well as religious organisations and leaders. The main issues that the delegation discussed during their meetings were that of then President F.W. de Klerk’s governance, which they believed to have disregarded the welfare of South Africans and the call for sanctions.

Mam 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.”



In 2018 South Africa celebrated the centenary of the life of Mama Sisulu and several commemorative events have been planned in her honour. The theme for the centenary is: “100 Years of Albertina Sisulu, A Woman of Fortitude”, in recognition of her courage, discipline, integrity and love for her country. In 2019, Mam Sisulu was bestowed with the highest honour Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe, in recognition of the immense contribution she had made to the struggle against the abominable system of apartheid.

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UNDERSTANDING THE 2024 GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY (GNU)



TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

Parties are still being engaged on participation in the GNU and the Statement of Intent. The following parties have already signed: ANC, DA, GOOD, IFP, Patriotic Alliance



PROVINCES

- ANC leads provincial governments in Limpopo, E Cape, North West, Free State, Mpumalanga and N Cape.
- DA leads provincial government in W Cape.
- Gauteng and KZN: Governments of Provincial Unity based on their elections outcomes.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES



- Constitution and Rule of Law
- Non-racialism and non-sexism.
- Social justice, redress and equity, alleviation of poverty.
- Human dignity and progressive realisation of socio-economic rights.
- Nation-building, social cohesion and unity in diversity.
- Peace, stability and safe communities, especially for women and children.
- Accountability, transparency and community participation in government.
- Evidence-based policy and decision-making.
- Professional, merit-based, non-partisan, developmental public service that puts people first.
- Integrity, good governance and accountable leadership



**LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER.**



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UNDERSTANDING THE 2024 GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY (GNU)

MINIMUM PROGRAMME

- **Economic:** rapid inclusive and sustainable growth, fixed investment, job creation, transformation, land reform, industrialization, infrastructure development
- A just society that tackles poverty, spatial inequalities, food security, high cost of living, provides social safety net, quality basic services and protect workers rights.
- Stable and effective local government and cooperative governance, role of traditional leadership.
- Invest in people through quality education and health care
- Build state capacity and a developmental, corruption-free public services, and state owned entities meeting national development goals
- Strengthen law enforcement to fight crime, corruption, GBV
- Social cohesion, nation-building and participation, programs against racism, sexism and other intolerances.
- Foreign policy based on human rights, African Agenda 2063, solidarity, peaceful resolution of conflicts, national interest, multilateralism and a better world.



NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Inclusive of all sectors of society towards a social compact to tackle inequality, poverty and unemployment.



MODALITIES OF THE GNU

- Inclusion in government and legislatures by parties to the GNU.
- Decisions by consensus, if not sufficient consensus and conflict resolution mechanism
- President's prerogative to appoint Cabinet, consultations with leaders of GNU parties.
- Existing protocols on government decision-making and the Budget.
- GNU is not exclusive. Parties not part of GNU are still welcome.



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TOGETHER.**



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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22 – 28 June 2024

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

22 June 2005 First woman Deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka appointed



South Africa's first female Deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was appointed to Cabinet by President Thabo Mbeki. Mlambo-Ngcuka's education, activism and experience made her uniquely suitable for this position. During her tenure as Deputy President, she played a key role in government programmes to attract scarce skills, engaging with business to encourage investments, advocating for women in business and industry, and the promotion of education (2005-2008). Prior to her appointment, she served as a Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry (1996-1999); Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005); and a Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Public Service and Administration Portfolio Committee in 1994. In 2013, she was appointed as Executive Director of UN Women and UN Under-Secretary General. She holds a Master's of

Philosophy degree in Educational Planning and Policy (2003); a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and Education from the National University of Lesotho (NUL) 1980 and studied Gender Policy and Planning Development at Planning Unit of the University College of London in 1988.

22 June 1998 Shark attack

A white killer shark at Gonubie Point, Eastern Cape coast mutilated 20-year old Anton de Vos. De Vos died the following afternoon from his injuries. According to sharkattackdata.com, there were over 157 shark attacks in the Eastern Cape between 1900 and 2015; 23 of them fatal, mainly people swimming or diving. Total shark attacks in South Africa for the same period were about 566. South Africa has about 98 different species of sharks in its coastal waters.

23 June 1994 South Africa rejoins the United Nations



South Africa was readmitted to the United Nations by resolution of the General Assembly, recalling resolution 48/285 and inviting it to resume its seat at the UNGA. The General Assembly also waved UN fees owed by South Africa from 30 September 1974 to 23 June 1994.

23 June 1956 Nasser elected as President of Egypt

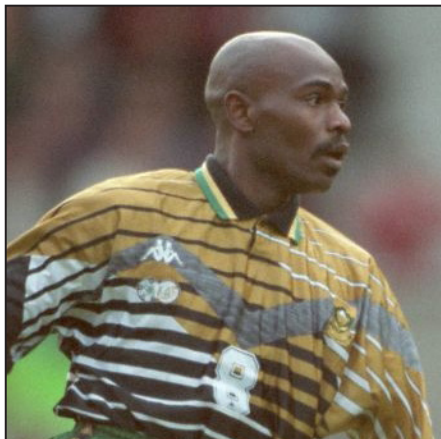


General Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected as President of Egypt, a position he held until his death in 1970. Nasser is known for building the Aswan Dam on the Nile, providing electricity to large parts of Egypt, annexing the Suez Canal as a national asset, the industrialization of Egypt, the creation of a middle class and women's rights. He was one of the founders of the Organisation of African Unity OAU, (now the African Union) and active in affairs of the Arab region, advocating for its self-determination. He fought two wars against Israel and mediated in the Jordan civil war.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 June 1969

Football legend Innocent Buthelezi born



Innocent Linda Buthelezi, SA soccer icon and midfielder was born in Johannesburg. During his illustrious career he played professional football for such teams as Jomo Cosmos, Kaizer Chiefs, Karabükspor, Orlando Pirates, Mamelodi Sundowns and SuperSport United. He represented South Africa in 27 Bafana Bafana games, and was part of the team that won the African Cup of Nations in 1996.

23 June 2000

Huge Oil spill as MV Treasurer sunk near Dassen and Robben Islands

The MV Treasurer, a ship that transported iron ore between Brazil and China sank between Dassen Island and Robben Island off the coast of South Africa, spilling over 1300 tons of bunkers oil. The two islands are home to the second and third largest colonies of penguins in the world. Over 20,000 contaminated penguins were rescued and cleaned in a united endeavour by an effort coordinated by the International Bird Rescue response team, working with other not for profit, government, environmentalists and citizens, and over 19,000 penguins had to be

relocated to prevent them from getting contaminated. Six years earlier, another 10,000 penguins were oiled when another iron ore carrier sunk near Cape Town.

24 June 1908

Educationist Godfrey Nakene born

Educationist and school principal, Godfrey Nakene, in whose honour Orlando High School was renamed Nakene High School, was born in Ga-Ramokgopa, Pietersburg district. Nakene became one of the first Black students to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Witwatersrand. He was also the first principal of Orlando High School. He died in January 1983 on his farm Kameelrivier in Groblersdal district. The University of Limpopo (Turfloop campus) bestowed a Doctorate in education posthumously for his contribution to education in South Africa.

24 June 1995

South Africa wins the Rugby World Cup



The Springboks beat New Zealand in the World Cup Rugby final at Ellis Park Stadium, to win the Rugby World Cup. This was the first to be hosted by South Africa since the end of apartheid, and President Mandela played an important role in the tourna-

ment, wearing the Springbok jersey and handed over the trophy to Captain Francois Du Plessis. The movie *Invictus* is based on events of the World Cup.

24 June 1981

Sun City opens for Business

International tourist attraction, Sun City in the North West Province was opened by business mogul Sol Kerzner, with a performance by Frank Sinatra. It has been expanded a number of times, including the addition of the Palace of the Lost City, an artificial beach and other attractions. The movie *Blended*, starring Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler was shot in Sun City in 2013.

24 June 1984

Kenyan long distance champion Priscah Jeptoo born

Long distance runner Priscah Jeptoo is ranked third in the world in long distance running. She only began competing in top competitions in 2008 but has achieved so much in such a short space of time. Jeptoo was runner up in the World Championships in Athletics in 2011 and third in the 2012 London Olympics. So far, Jeptoo has claimed victory in marathons in Paris, Turin and London. In 2011 she took part in the Discovery Kenya Cross Country Marathon and won. In 2013 she once again claimed victory in the 2013 London Marathon.

25 June 1959

Potato boycott launched

The South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) launched a potato boycott to protest the inhuman conditions suffered by

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

workers on potato farms in Bethal in the Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga). The inhuman and slave treatment by farmers was exposed by newspapers like *The New Age* and *Drum* magazine. The potato boycott lasted for four months and was highly successful, with farmers having to negotiate with leaders of the boycott for it to be called off.

25 June 1975 Mozambique gains Independence

Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal, which colonised it since the 16 century. The liberation movement FRELIMO was formed in 1962, under the leadership of Eduardo Mondlane, and after his death in 1969, was led by Samora Machel who became the first President of an independent Mozambique.

25 June 1980 Helen Joseph banned



Helen Joseph on this day was served with a further two-year banning order. A social worker, Joseph was also a member of the Garment Workers Union and a founder of the South African Congress of Democrats, and as delegate read out one of the clauses of the Freedom Charter at the Congress of the People in 1955. A founder member of FED-

SAW, Mam Helen, along with Lillian Ngoyi, Raheema Mohamed and Sophie de Bruyn, was one of the leaders of the 1956 Women's March. She is author of three books, *If This Be Treason* about the 1956 Treason Trial, *Tomorrow's Sun*, in which she documented her 8,000 mile search for people banished to remote regions; and her autobiography, *Side by Side*.

26 June 1945 United Nations Charter adopted

The United Nations Charter was adopted in San Francisco by the United Nations Conference on International Organisations. The preamble to the charter was based on a draft which South African premier General Jan Smuts had prepared. Governments and a number of non-government organisations, including the Lions

Clubs International, received invitations to assist in the drafting of a charter. It was signed by the fifty countries represented at the conference. Poland, which was not present at the conference but which had a reserved place, added its name later to bring the total of "original" signatories to 51. The Charter came into effect on the 24th of October 1945 after it was ratified by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely the Republic of China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, and the United States. The Statute of the International Court of Justice became an integral part of the Charter.

26 June 1955 Congress of the People held in Kliptown

One of the largest policy gatherings took place, with delegates from all over the country, to draft

FREEDOM CHARTER 69TH ANNIVERSARY
26 JUNE 2024

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN

SACP COSATU SANCO

THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH

THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

112TH ANNIVERSARY
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

ANC

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

the Freedom Charter, after a campaign to collect demands from South Africans from all walks of life. The police tried to stop the event, held in Kliptown, Johannesburg from taking place, stopping people from leaving by train and buses, surrounding the venue, but this did not stop the organisers. The National Action Committee that organised the Congress of the People consisted of the ANC, the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), the Coloured People's Organisation, the South African Indian Congress and the Congress of Democrats. At the event, "the various clauses of the Charter were introduced. There was an opportunity for impromptu speeches from delegates present, and the clauses were then read out and acclaimed by a show of hands. The three thousand delegates who gathered at Kliptown on 25 and 26 June 1955 were workers, peasants, intellectuals, women, youth and students of all races and colours." During the Congress of the People, the highest ANC award Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe was bestowed on Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr Yusuf Dadoo and Bishop Trevor Huddleston.

26 June 1952

Defiance Campaign starts

The campaign by the Congress Alliance led by the ANC to defy apartheid laws begins. In major South African cities, people performed acts of defiance and civil disobedience.

26 June 1960

Madagascar independence

The island state of Madagascar, with five million people at the time gains independence from France. Its capital is Antananarivo.

26 June 1961

Ghana imposed total ban on trade with apartheid South Africa

Ghana, under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah who gained its independence in 1957, imposed a total ban on imports from apartheid South Africa and South West Africa (now Namibia).

26 June 1967

Doctor Khumalo born



Star midfielder of Kaizer Chiefs and Bafana Bafana was born on this day in Soweto. During the 1990s, he led Chiefs to three South African league championship titles and five knock out trophies. Doctor Khumalo scored 90 goals in the 397 league and cup games for Chiefs. He was named SA Footballer of the Year in 1992.

26 June 1977

Last French colony in Africa to gain independence



Djibouti, part of the Horn of Africa, is the last French colony to gain independence, after being colonized by France as part of French Somaliland. After the war with Eritrea, which made Ethiopia landlocked, Djibouti became the main export port for Ethiopia, with a rail line and roads from Addis Ababa to Djibouti City. Given its strategic location in the Red Sea and near the Suez Canal, connecting Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Djibouti is also home to military bases by the US, China, Saudi Arabia, the UK, France, Italy and Japan.

27 June 1925

Jazz legend Kippie Moeketsi born

The father of South African Jazz, saxophonist Kippie Moeketsi is born in Johannesburg on this day.

27 June 1951

Musician David Kramer born on this day

The South African singer, songwriter, playwright and director was born on this day. He is especially well-known for his musicals with Taliep Petersen about the Coloured communities and the ways in which he fought Apartheid through the arts. Kramer was born in Worcester, where he completed school and went on to do a degree in textile design in Leeds. He started his music career in the late 1970s, mainly performing his satirical songs on university campuses and small towns. His album Bakgat (1980) was banned by the SABC. Kramer and Petersen collaborated for the first time with musical District Six in 1987.

27 June 1967

World's first ATM

The automatic teller machine

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

(ATM), dispensing cash. The world's first ATM arrived at a bank in London on 27 June 1967. It was invented by John Shepherd-Barron. Sweden, Japan and the USA have all been working on similar technologies. In the USA, Luther George Simjian is credited with the invention of the bankograph machine.

27 June 1961 Nigerian feminist Amina Mohammed born



Nigerian diplomat, minister and feminist was born in Liverpool, England, playing a key role in the crafting of the UN development goals and agenda. From 2017 to present she served as UN Deputy Secretary General.

27 June 1971 Ghana imposed total ban on exports to Apartheid South Africa

The government of Ghana, led by Kwame Nkrumah imposed a total ban on the export of all Ghanaian produce to South Africa and South West Africa, as a protest against apartheid. Ghana was one of the first African states to call on South African government to abolish its apartheid policy.

27 June 1986 Zwelakhe Sisulu abducted

Zwelakhe Sisulu, activist, journalist, founder and editor of the New Nation newspaper was abducted from his home in Soweto by four white men wearing balaclavas. He was also a founder of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA). In 1981 he was arrested under the Terrorism Act, detained without trial, tortured and released after 251 days. Five years later, on 27 June 1986, when he was the editor of the New Nation, Sisulu was abducted at his home in Soweto. Then Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok later confirmed that the men who abducted him were police and that they had detained him. He was released 721 days later on 2 December 1988.

27 June 2014 AU Members states signs Malabo Declaration

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the African Union Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), member states sign the Malabo Declaration, recommitting to prioritise agriculture in national development agendas, end hunger and triple intra-African trade in agricultural goods and services by 2025.

28 June 1984 Assassination of Jeanette Schoon and daughter

Jeanette Schoon and her daughter Katryn (age 6) were killed by a letter bomb in Lubango, Angola. Schoon was an activist of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), and vice president of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) in 1972. She was part of the group that founded the West-



ern Province Workers' Advice Bureau in 1973. She moved to Johannesburg in 1974, became a founder of the Industrial Aid Society, later working as an archivist for the South African Institute of Race of Relations collecting information on trade unions and leaders of the labour movement. She was arrested under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act in 1976, after which her family went into exile, settling first in Botswana and then Angola. The letter bomb was delivered by apartheid spy Craig Williamson, pretending to be a family friend. The younger Schoon son, Fritz (age 3), was also in the house when the bomb went off, but was not injured. Williamson received amnesty from the TRC for the murders.

28 June 2002 COSATU and TAC table HIV Treatment plan in NEDLAC




THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On 28 June 2002 the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) tabled a national HIV/AIDS treatment plan in the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac). This was intended to allow Cosatu to declare a dispute with government and business should there be no agreement reached in Nedlac on the implementation of the treatment plan. A key aspect of the plan involved making antiretroviral drugs available in the public health sector for those with HIV.

28 June 2011 Artist Ronald Harrison passed on

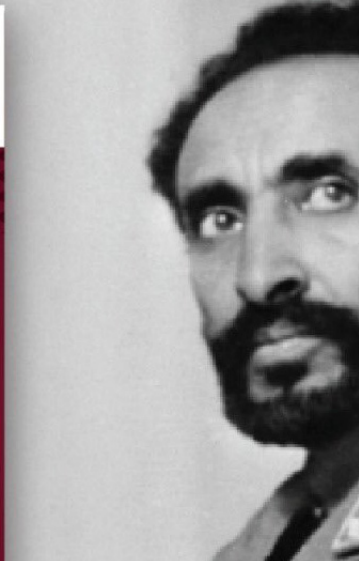
Ronald Harrison, artist born in Athlone, Cape Town died of cancer, just before he was to exhibit his latest work. Harrison was famous for his painting *Black Christ*

African Union 

“


The task on which we have embarked, the making of Africa, will not wait. We must act, to shape and mould the future and leave our imprint on events as they slip past into history.

- Haile Selassie



done in 1962, where he depicted Nkosi Albert Luthuli as Jesus, with apartheid leaders Verwoerd and John Vorster as Roman soldiers who crucified him. The painting not only challenged the apartheid system, but also the notion that Jesus was white. Harrison was arrested and the paint-

ing banned. The painting was smuggled to the United Kingdom and was only returned in 1997, now hosted in the South African National Gallery. Besides numerous exhibitions, Harrison also wrote a book, *The Black Christ. A Journey to Freedom* in 2006, published by David Phillips.



“

We believe that South Africa belongs to all the people who live in it, and not to one group, be it black or white.”

NELSON MANDELA

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

22 – 28 June 2024

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

23 June

African Public Service Day



Africa Public Service Day is an event entrenched in the African Union calendar. It originates from the conference of African Ministers for Public or Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994. It was agreed at this conference that 23 June should be celebrated annually as Africa Public Service Day (APSD) to recognise the value and virtue of service to the community. It is also a platform to reflect and share practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent. The Pan-African Ministers' agreed that the 23rd June of every year should be celebrated as APSD through annual national and biennial continental events as part of the continental strategy to boost public administration programmes, public sector performance and governance as well as recognise the value and virtue of service to the community. It aims to discover innovations, reward excellence in the public sector, motivate public servants to further promote innovation, enhance professionalism in the public service, raise the image of public service, enhance trust in government, collect, document and share best practices for possible replication within a country as well as across the African Continent.

23 June

International Widows Day

International Widows Day is a global awareness day that takes place annually on 23rd June. The day was launched by the United Nations in 2010 to raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses. In many countries with traditional societies, women find themselves left in poverty when their husband dies. In some countries, these women find themselves denied of inheritance and land rights, evicted from their homes, ostracised and abused. The children of widows also often find themselves affected, withdrawn from school and more vulnerable to abuse, especially in the case of girls. International Widows Day works to encourage action in achieving full rights for widows, highlighting the need for more research and statistics into violence, discrimination and poverty suffered by widows and develop policies and programmes to address the problem. The ultimate goal of the day is to develop resources and policy to empower widows and allow them to have access to education, work, healthcare and lives free of violence and abuse. Enabling them to create a life for themselves and their children following the death of their husband and ending a cycle of poverty and abuse.

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 23 JUNE

It is not a day we celebrate, it is a day of honoring and bringing awareness to the real issues of widowhood.

Every day is Widow's Day to a widow. There is not one moment that passes that is not observed by a widow's heart and mind.

Grief never ends. Love NEVER dies. Missing him forever.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 June

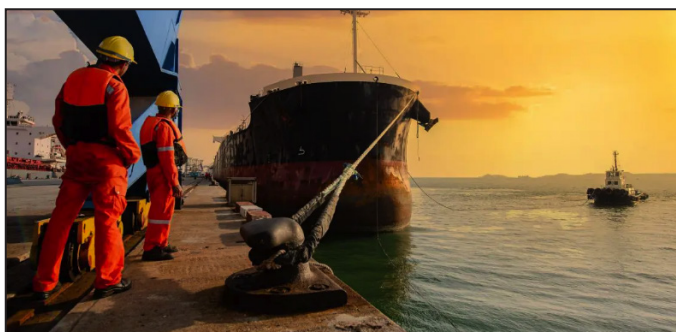
UN Public Service Day



The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Public administration – the cornerstone of governments' work-plays an essential and critical role in improving people's lives. Reinventing public administration is a positive and necessary way forward. Without public administration modernization and transformation to adapt to today's needs, realizing a better future for all will be impossible. Where capable administrations are lacking, governments are incapacitated; and where governments are incapacitated, sustainable development falls short.

25 June.

Day of the Seafarer



The Day of the Seafarer is a global observance that seeks to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of seafarers, who form the backbone of the maritime industry. This occasion fosters appreciation for the crucial role seafarers play in international shipping and trade, along with the inherent challenges and risks they face in their profession. By raising awareness about the seafaring community and promoting better working conditions, this event aims to ensure a thriving global maritime sector that nurtures the well-being of its skilled work-

force. With its extensive coastline and deep-rooted maritime traditions, South Africa has a unique bond with the world of seafaring, making the Day of the Seafarer particularly relevant for the nation. Established in 2010 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), this special day serves as a reminder to all South Africans of the importance of their maritime heritage and the profound impact the seafaring community has on the country's economic growth and prosperity. South Africa's intrinsic connection to the seas, along with its rich maritime history, results in a natural affinity towards honoring and supporting the seafarers who contribute immensely to national and international maritime affairs. In South Africa, the Day of the Seafarer is marked by various activities that showcase the nation's respect and appreciation for its maritime professionals. These may include events such as educational workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions, and maritime exhibits, offering a window into the diverse and exciting world of seafaring. Workplaces and institutions may also engage in campaigns acknowledging the efforts of their seafaring employees, amplifying the significance of this memorable occasion. Observed each year on the 25th of June, the Day of the Seafarer echoes South Africa's steadfast connection to the ocean and the many individuals who work to keep its seafaring spirit alive.

25 June

Goats Cheese Day

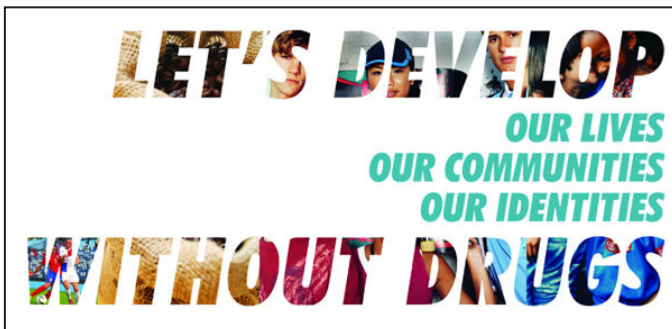
When we think of dairy products, we mainly think of cows, but goat milk and its by-products have been around, especially in areas where goats were more plentiful than cattle, like the Middle East and Mediterranean. They were amongst the first animals domesticated for their milk and meat. Goat cheese (or chev re) have been made more than 8000 years ago and the first documented evidence of humans making goat cheese was in Poland more than 7500 years ago. Goat cheese is a good source of selenium, usually only found in seafoods; it has more minerals and fewer calories than cow milk. Goats are also more environmentally friendly, since they are smaller, and require less space and food, and they happily eat foraged desert scrub, weeds, trees, shrubs, and aromatic herbs.

26 June

International Day Against Drug Abuse and trafficking in Illicit Drugs.

The United Nations General Assembly in 1987 de-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



cided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

26 June International Day in support of Victims of Torture



Torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. Despite the absolute prohibition of torture under international law, torture persists in all regions of the world. 26 June is an opportunity to call on all stakeholders, including UN Member States, civil society and individuals everywhere to unite in support of the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have been victims of torture and those who are still tortured today.

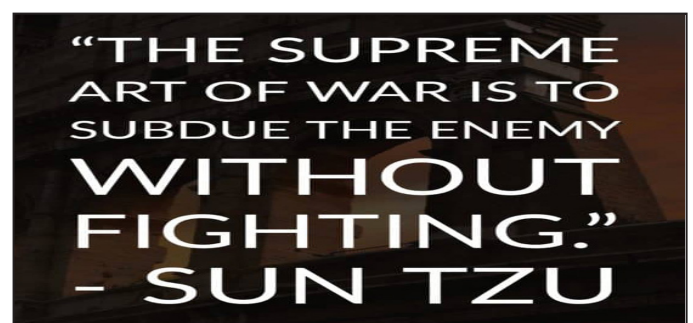
27 June World Small Business Day



Formal and informal micro, small and medium enterprises make up over 90% of all firms and account, on average, for 70% of total employment and 50% of GDP. As such, they are key actors in achieving a green recovery. The Brookings Institute identifies five key opportunities for business in Africa: (a) a fast-growing and urbanizing population; (b) Africa is industrializing, and manufacturing (from agro-processing, automobiles to mineral beneficiation and is expected to double in the coming decade; (c) the continent is pushing to close its infrastructure backlog, from transport to energy to ICT, as well as social infrastructure; (d) there are innovations, home-grown and imported, to unleash its agricultural and resource wealth; and (e) the potential provided by increased digital and mobile access.

28 June International Body Piercing Day

The day celebrates all forms of body piercing, which is practiced in cultures across the world. The earliest known body piercing was in a stone relief found in Iraq, dated around the 9th century BCE. The day is celebrated on the birthday of Jim Ward, an American credited with being the father of the modern body piercing movement, pioneering many jewelry designs.



X-WORD

THE FREEDOM CHARTER

ADOPTED AT THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE,
KLIPTOWN, ON 26 JUNE 1955

■ THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

■ ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

■ THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

■ THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

■ ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!

■ ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

■ THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

■ THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

■ THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

■ THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

ACROSS

- 2. ... belongs to all who live in it, black and white.
- 4. The People shall ...
- 7. All ... Groups shall have Equal Rights.
- 8. Until we have won our ...
- 12. Document preceded the Freedom Charter in 1954.
- 14. No ... can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people.
- 16. There Shall be ..., Security and Comfort.
- 17. The ... Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It.

DOWN

- 1. All Shall Enjoy Equal ...
- 3. We, the ... of South Africa declare for all our country and the world to know.
- 5. The People shall share in the Country's ...
- 6. Our people have been robbed of their ... to land, liberty and peace.
- 9. These ... we shall fight for, side by side, throughout our lives.
- 10. There Shall be ... and Security.
- 11. There Shall be ... and Friendship.
- 13. The ... of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened.
- 15. All Shall be ... Before the Law.

WORD BANK

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|------------------|
| Women's Charter | People | South Africa | government |
| birthright | Govern | National | Wealth |
| Land | Equal | Human Rights | Work |
| Doors | Houses | Peace | Freedoms Liberty |

THE FREEDOM CHARTER

Adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, on 26 June 1955

We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

- that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;
- that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
- that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
- that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;
- And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together equals, countrymen and brothers adopt this Freedom Charter;
- And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

The People Shall Govern!

All National Groups Shall have Equal Rights!

The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!

The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!

All Shall be Equal Before the Law!

All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!

There Shall be Work and Security!

The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!

There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!

There Shall be Peace and Friendship!



Let all people who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:

**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR,
SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES,
UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.**