



# ANC TODAY

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7 – 13 June 2024



Conversations with the  
**President**

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING,  
SOUTH AFRICA**



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

**VOTE ANC**

African National Congress



ANC



**A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL**

# A Government of National Unity is the most viable, most effective and most powerful way of meeting the expectations of all South Africans at this particular moment

CLOSING REMARKS BY **ANC PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

TO THE SPECIAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 6 JUNE 2024 BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE, EKURHULENI

**W**E have reached the conclusion of this special meeting of the National Executive Committee, where we reflected on the outcomes of the 2024 elections and the immediate tasks of our movement.

Before I share with you the outcome of our deliberations allow me to take this opportunity to express the condolences of the National Executive Committee to families who have lost loved ones during the recent extreme weather events in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

We remain deeply concerned about the genocide taking place in Gaza, where atrocities against civilians continue to cause great hardship and loss of life. We condemn the recent bombing of a school in a refugee centre and facilities housing displaced people. We call on the international community to act now to end the genocide that is being perpetrated against the Palestinian people.



This NEC meeting has just concluded a full day of discussion on the election outcomes and the way ahead.

We have recognised that the people of South Africa have made their wishes known in free and fair elections.

We accept the outcome of these elections as the will of the people of South Africa.

The ANC has emerged from

these elections as the largest political party in the country.

We are humbled by the confidence that the people of South Africa have shown in the ANC. We now say as the NEC, that we have heard their concerns, frustrations and aspirations.

The 40 percent vote for the ANC is a recognition that the ANC remains pivotal in the country's search for a way forward, and that there can be no solution



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without the ANC.

That places a responsibility on the ANC to ensure that there is unity, stability, peace and progress in South Africa.

During the course of the discussion, we have looked at several different scenarios for setting up government, as the ANC cannot set up government without co-operating with others.

The discussions have been constructive and thoroughgoing, and have enabled us to emerge with a unified consensus position.

This NEC meeting has provided clear direction on the work we must do over the next few days and weeks to establish national and provincial governments that are stable, effective and advance the interests of the South African people as a whole.

The ANC acknowledges that we are at a moment of fundamental consequence in the life of our nation. Our country requires extraordinary leadership and courage to plot a way forward.

We must act with speed to safeguard national unity, peace, stability, inclusive economic growth, non-racialism and non-sexism.

We will ensure the continuation of a progressive agenda of social and economic transformation in our country.

We have therefore agreed that we will invite political parties to form a Government of National Unity as the best option to move our country forward.

The modalities of the Govern-



ment of National Unity will take into account the conditions prevailing at this moment in our country's history.

The purpose of this Government of National Unity must be first and foremost to tackle the pressing issues that South Africans want to be addressed.

These issues include job creation and inclusive economic growth, the high cost of living, service delivery, crime and corruption.

The NEC has agreed that this moment calls for the broadest unity of the people of South Africa. This moment also calls for multi-party cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration if

we are to overcome the severe challenges that confront our country.

From the results of these elections, it is clear that South Africans expect their leaders to work together to meet their needs. They expect us to find common ground, to overcome our differences, and to act and work together for the good of everyone. We are committed to ensuring that a Government of National Unity has the means and the ability to build an inclusive economy, create jobs, end corruption, tackle crime and improve the provision of services.

In establishing a Government of National Unity, we would be building on a rich history of coop-

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### DOWN MEMORY LANE



President Nelson Mandela, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and leaders from the other parties that constituted the first Government of National Unity in 1994.

eration across divides of politics and ideology.

We would be drawing on an experience with which South Africans are familiar, and which served our country well at a time of great difficulty and division.

Thirty years after the achievement of democracy in 1994, we are once again called upon as political parties to come together to forge a common future for our country.

But it is not only political parties that need to come together.

We believe that there is a need for a National Dialogue, which brings together all parties, all social partners and all sections of society to seek consensus on the actions required to take the country forward.

Such a National Dialogue will enhance our pressing task of rebuilding social cohesion in a

fractured society following a particularly toxic and divisive election campaign.

With regard to the practicalities of the way forward, the NEC has benefited from a report on the preliminary engagements our task team has had with various political parties.

We have already held constructive discussions with the Democratic Alliance, Economic Freedom Fighters, Inkatha Freedom Party, National Freedom Party and Patriotic Alliance.

We have also engaged with our Alliance partners to brief them on the process and will continue to seek their invaluable views and guidance.

The ANC has entered these discussions with an open mind and a commitment to speak to all parties that have a stated intention to advance the interests of the people.

As the NEC, we have already agreed, in April 2023, on certain principles that should guide our approach to collaborating with other parties in coalitions.

These principles are based on advancing the building of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous nation.

We further said that any such agreement must be based on a common minimum programme that focuses on measurable targets for economic growth and inclusion, service delivery and development.

All partners must commit to shared values, nation-building and social cohesion. These values include respect for the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the rule of law, social justice and equity, human dignity, non-racialism and non-sexism.

These values also include sta-



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bility, accountability, transparency, integrity, community participation and good governance.

Agreements between parties should be in writing. They should be public, transparent and include measures for holding parties accountable.

Our approach to how provincial governments are formed where we do not have an outright majority will be guided by these same principles.

The ANC notes that we have ideological and political differences with several parties in our political landscape. However, we will not preclude the possibility of working with any party so long as it is in the public interest and it is keeping with the principles that I have articulated.

Guided by these principles, understanding the needs of the country, and appreciating the expressed will of the people, this NEC has agreed to seek agreement among parties on the formation of a Government of National Unity.

This NEC has therefore mandated our negotiating task team to proceed to engage parties on this proposal.

They will also reach out to a broader range of parties to enrich the process and promote inclusiveness.

We have directed the task team, under the guidance of the National Officials and National Working Committee, to devel-



op in greater detail the modalities, principles and governance framework to guide all the parties to the Government of National Unity to ensure that it is coherent and effective and serves the people of South Africa.

We have agreed as this NEC that it is both necessary and strategic that we act in a manner that seeks to unite the broadest range of social forces and isolate those that seek to cause chaos, instability and division.

As the ANC, we will be reaching out to formations across society to build a shared programme for social and economic change.

In the coming days, we will be convening meetings of ANC structures to discuss the conduct and outcomes of the election, the immediate priorities and the way forward.

As the election results emerged last week, there was a measure of fear that the outcomes would lead to fragmentation and instability.

Following election campaigns that tended towards polarisation,

there was a measure of fear that South Africans would not be able to work together.

There was a fear that the transformation of our society would be disrupted and that our efforts to rebuild the economy would be derailed.

Yet, as this NEC has determined, the outcome of this election presents an opportunity to forge a more inclusive, more cooperative approach to governance.

It presents an opportunity to bring political parties and social partners together to address the challenges that concern South Africans.

A Government of National Unity is the most viable, most effective and most powerful way of meeting the expectations of all South Africans at this particular moment.

We are called upon as this leadership and as a movement to give effect to the will and the wishes of the voters of this country.

As I conclude, allow me to extend, on behalf of the NEC, our sincere thanks to the ANC volunteers, deployees, veterans and stalwarts, who worked tirelessly to reach voters across the country and to bring out the vote.

We also extend our thanks to the people of South Africa, who turned out in their millions to vote and to reaffirm their confidence in democracy and the future of our country.

# LET THE PEOPLE BE THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION

■ By **MAC MAHARAJ**

**T**HE people have spoken. The elections results place our country at a critical juncture. The results are a combination of the people's frustration and disappointment, a sense of marginalisation, the need to punish the ANC, and a yearning for change as a harbinger of hope.

At the same time, the 40% vote for the ANC is a recognition that the ANC remains pivotal in the country's search for a way forward. There is not solution without the ANC.

This presents all of us with an enormous challenge.

This is another moment in our history that demands strategic thinking and tactical acumen. Strategic thinking requires steadfastness to principle and goals. Tactical acumen calls for flexibility adapted to the terrain and circumstance.

It is natural, and to be expected, that the political parties should engage each other in order to find a governance arrangement. Understandably, this has been the focus of all the political formations, media reports and the opinions of influencers and analysts.

Speaking at the national results

OUTCOME OF 2024 ELECTIONS

## ANC SG FIKILE MBALULA

**//** While the ANC has won the most votes in this election, the results show a significant decline in the ANC support from previous elections. While there are several factors that have contributed to the decline in support, the results send a clear message to the ANC. We wish to assure the people of South Africa that we have heard them. We have heard their concerns, their frustrations and their dissatisfaction. **//**





The Year Of United Action  
 To Defend Our Freedom  
 And Advance A Better Life For All  
**FORWARD TO A DECISIVE VICTORY**



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu House, HQ

centre on Sunday, both the President of South Africa and the Secretary General of the ANC spoke in measured tones. While the President urged the country, the Secretary General committed the ANC, to act on the basis of advancing the interests of the country as a whole.

Such affirmation was most welcome and necessary.

It is legitimate for different forma-

tions representing different interests to put their interests on the table.

But the ANC needs to do so in the interests of the country as a whole. This approach enabled the ANC to emerge as the leader of the democratic forces during the struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

It remains the litmus test for any formation that seeks to play a



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leading role in the democratic era. It is only on the basis of addressing the interests of all that we will be able to bring hope and trust to the country. The era of coalition politics demands that the ANC stays unfalteringly the champion of the interests of all the people.

Unless the notion of national interests is fleshed out and finds concrete expression in whatever arrangements are made with regard to governance mechanisms, we as citizens will not have a measuring rod with which we can assess these arrangements and hold parties involved to account.

This contribution asks itself the question: what is or should be the role of an ordinary member of the ANC, as an activist or just simply as a citizen of South Africa? How can we, individually and collectively, help focus the minds of the organised political formations?

The answer lies in concretising the notion of the national interest of South Africa at this current conjuncture.

Our Constitution was adopted on 11 October 1996 by the Constitutional Assembly constituted of

delegates elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Eighty-five per cent of the 490 delegates voted in its favour. The ten members of the Freedom Front abstained and the two members of the ACDP voted against adoption. Only the IFP remained outside the process and therefore did not vote. The deliberations stretched over two years.

This renders the Constitution of 1996 the most credible and legitimate embodiment of the aspirations of our nation-in-the-making. The need to ensure the interest of all who live in South Africa required that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and the anchor for the rule of law to prevail.

What kind of society grounded on these foundational principles does the Constitution require us to build?

The founders of our Constitution committed us to build a society based on the principle that everyone is equal before the law, that everyone has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law, and that equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms.

Embedded in our Constitution is the requirement of a non-racial and non-sexist society. It enjoins us to improve systematically the quality of life of all citizens, free the potential of each person, and build a united and democratic South Africa.

In this context it is noteworthy that the Constitution states that “to promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.”

These objectives, which are aligned to the vision of the Freedom Charter, defined the journey we embarked on in this democratic era. Notwithstanding the pot holes we have encountered, we have managed to keep our eyes focussed on this vision.

We are far from achieving these goals. Whatever manoeuvring political parties do, the configurations they arrive at must be measured by whether their commitments and actions advance the realisation of a society based on these foundational values and goals. This injunction should apply to whatever form cooperation

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between the elected parties and representatives.

Deliverables in this regard over the next five years should be made public so that citizens can assess whether the promises made are pie-in-the-sky undertakings or are capable of realisation in the five year term of the next administration.

It is clear that in order to advance towards the type of society envisaged, it is crucial that there should be stable governance arrangements which eschew opportunistic distribution of political office. Recent experiences with regard to forms of coalition governance in numerous municipalities tell us how not to do it.

We cannot expect to improve the quality of life of the people unless the next administration undertakes practical measures to address the infrastructure backlogs with regard to energy, transport, water, sanitation, education and health care.

It also means that the parastatals which have suffered so previously under poor management and state capture have to begin to function, have to be equipped with competent individuals, to make these parastatals perform the role that they are expected to.

All of which leads us inexorably to tighten up and bring urgency to rooting out corruption in our society.

These are critical elements that are part and parcel of setting our country on a growth path, without which any hopes of addressing job creation and inequality become a mirage.

With these common goals that

spell out the crucial elements of the national interest and spell out a principled approach, negotiations between the political parties should identify areas on which they share a common commitment. Areas and issues where there is disagreement should be put aside leaving each party the right to espouse its specific position through parliament.

The areas of common concern and cooperation should be made public in the form of an implementation agreement with annual goals within a five year programme of action. This will ensure that the parties to the agreement account annually to parliament and as the public we can assess whether we are on track to meet the strategic goals as well as the adjustments needed to keep the process of change and development on track.

Unity of purpose grounded on the interest of the entire nation is critical.

Transparency thus becomes the name of the game. That is the pathway to rebuilding hope and trust among the people. Let us act in ways that enable the people to own and participate in our democracy.

Once more the ANC is challenged to show the way forward.

One comment on the current focus of forms of coalitions. There is a tendency to look at appropriate configurations at the national level and then go down the provinces. The provincial results suggest that the focus of negotiations with the other parties should be on Gauteng and KZN and from there proceed to national arrangements.

### OUTCOME OF 2024 ELECTIONS

## ANC SG FIKILE MBALULA

“ The ANC has also achieved a decisive majority in six provinces. The ANC thanks all those who voted for the organisation, who showed confidence in our concerted efforts to get our country back on a path to prosperity for all and for supporting our efforts to rid the ANC of corrupt elements as part of our renewal process. ”

The Year Of United Action  
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**FORWARD TO A DECISIVE VICTORY**

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ



# A Letter to My Late Comrades – 30 Years and Counting

■ By **ANDILE LUNGISA**

**M**Y Dear Comrades, today I write to you with appreciation and satisfaction in my heart as I reflect on the 1994 project's continuous success. This mammoth task, which we began with fear, optimism and dedication, has actually traversed the path of the new South Africa, with notable milestones along the way.

As I look back on the negotiated breakthrough that paved the way for our nation's transition to democracy, I am filled with awe at how it continues to shape our country today. The absence of a descent into civil war stands as a testament to the wisdom and courage of those who came before us. The foundation laid by your sacrifices and struggles has enabled us to build a nation that values peace, unity, and justice above all else.

The nation-building project that you initiated has borne fruit in the form of many achievements, both politically and sociologically. Our democracy stands as a beacon of hope for others around the world, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, progress and reconciliation are possible. The strides we have made in education, healthcare, and economic development are a testament to the vision you had for a better future for all South Africans.



Our movement proudly continues the hard work that you so tirelessly fought for, honouring your memory by striving for a more just and equal society every day.

Your legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of those who continue to fight for freedom and equality.

It gives me immense pleasure when we traverse the next chapter in the promises given to the people, promises that have grown and blossomed into genuine, tangible realities. The movement you spearheaded has not only endured but flourished, bringing about transformative change across our nation.

One of the most significant milestones has been the development of TEFSAS into NSFAS, enabling countless young South Africans to access higher education and pursue their dreams. The dream of free education, once a distant hope, is now a reality for many, thanks to your unwavering commitment to equal opportunity and empowerment.

The strides we have made in providing adequate housing for millions of citizens are a testament to our dedication to improving the lives of all South Africans. Through innovative urban planning and community engagement, we have been able to

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address the housing crisis and create vibrant, sustainable communities that offer a sense of pride and belonging. We commit to continue doing more, together.

On the global stage, South Africa continues to play a leading role in shaping the future of our world. Milestones such as our involvement in BRICS and the transformation of the AU from the OAU stand as a symbol of our commitment to fostering cooperation and unity among nations. Our presence in forums like the G7 highlights our influence and vision for a more equitable and prosperous world for all. Despite the challenges we face, the legacy you left us with continues to inspire progress and transformation on a scale that is truly remarkable.

Our participation in initiatives such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and NEPAD exemplifies our enduring commitment to good governance, accountability, and sustainable development across the African continent. Through these platforms, we

have been able to foster partnerships, share best practices, and work towards a brighter future for all Africans.

Our movement continues to pride itself with improving the quality of life for all our people, having overwhelmingly increased our Anti Retroviral (ARV) rollout post 2008, as well as further decreasing cases of mother to child transmission. Today, South Africa prides itself in running one of the most successful HIV/AIDS infection and treatment management in Africa.

Through our caring Government, we saw a massive vaccination roll out that saw our country successfully reach herd immunity. Today we reflect and say it's been 4 years since defeating the virus, and the rebuilding of our economy and communities continues.

Despite facing criticism and accusations of selling out, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to the principles of the Freedom Charter. Milestones

such as the National Health Insurance (NHI) coming to life are a testament to our dedication to achieving universal healthcare and addressing the systemic inequalities that have plagued our healthcare system for too long. The NHI represents a significant step towards realizing the vision of a truly equitable and just society for all.

Our contributions to the sports, arts and culture scene have not gone unnoticed on the global stage. Artists like Black Coffee, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Trevor Noah, Laduma, Tyla, Amapiano, and The Parlotones have become iconic figures. Penny Heyns, Gold medal winner of the 100m breaststroke 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games opened the road for many athletes to win medals at the Olympics.

Our country has made history by winning the Rugby World Cup four times, and hosting the Rugby World Cup in 1995. We hosted the historic 2010 Soccer World Cup and the 2022 Women's Af-



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rica Cup of Nations (WAFCON), showcasing the creativity, talent, and diversity of our nation to the world. Their success serves as a testament to the richness of our culture and the boundless potential of our people to captivate audiences near and far.

One moment of immense pride came when a young black boy from Zwide led our beloved Springboks to victory in the World Cup, not once but twice. His success on the field resonated with people across the country, serving as a powerful reminder of the power of determination, resilience, and unity.

Furthermore, our achievements in sports, science, technology, and innovation continue to set us apart on the global stage. From our dominance in rugby and cricket to our groundbreaking research in renewable energy and exploration, South Africa is a force to be reckoned with in many spheres.

Comrades Peter Mokaba, Sheya Kulati, Parks, Mankahlane, Wang Sigila, Babalwa Ntabeni, Xola Nene, Claude Qavane, Singiso Magaqa, Castro More, Andile Nkuhlu, Zama De Vos, Tebogo Sikisi, Sipiwo Zuma, Bobo Mofokeng, Oscar Dondashe, Mandla Mabuza, Anna Madontsela, Webster Makhubu, Mthandazo Ngobeni, Kgomo Masebelane, Musa Malinga, Tisha Vanga, Siyabulela Lufele, Mcebisi Thandi, Molefe Thamaga, Xolile Jona, Yolanda Guma, Castro FS, Jonathan Snyman, Sipiwo Rwentela, Vusi Mhlongo, Wandile Mkhize, Xolani Pizza Sifali, Scara Njadayi, Ayanda Nkuhlu, Magumbatha, Bongani Molo, Ndura Ngceba, Jento Blouw, Thanduxolo Nobhongoza, Thabo Mdukiswa, Kgots Motloug, Bonisile No-

bowu Nesi, Nkosifikile Ngqomo, Matsobane Chuene, Momelezi Mbedla, Xola Ngcangca, Buyile Matiwane, Bavelile Hlongwa, George Masango, Sandra Balozi, Simiso Nkwanyana, Robert Mathebula, Liyanda Maphanga, Kgomo Mose, Mzoxolo Peter... Our movement continues to offer itself to our people, remaining unashamedly bias to our values of the Freedom Charter. We continue to feel your presence.

We continue to build on the foundation you laid. We are honoured and remain committed to the journey towards a more just, equal, and prosperous South Africa. Your legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of those who continue to fight for freedom and equality.

Your legacy lives on in every achievement, every milestone, and every dream realized. As we look to the future, we must hold on to the vision and values that have guided us thus far. Your leadership, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the cause of freedom and equality continue to inspire us to reach greater heights and build a nation that we can all be proud of. Che Guevara once said, *"The true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love."* We have demonstrated this great feeling of love on the 29 May 2024 as we defended our freedom by voting for the African National Congress.

***Aluta Continua, Hasta La Victoria Siempre.***



# WE WERE MADE FOR THESE TIMES...

■ By **RUBY MARKS**

**L**IKE many of you, I cast my vote on May 29. And as always, I voted with my hope, and not with my fear. The outcome of the elections is far from what I hoped for, and I quickly fell into such a mood of despair. It is a despair that many feels across most political parties-and an uncertainty experienced by the many that may not even have voted for one reason or another.

It is not easy to accept an outcome that is not what you expected. But as a diplomat, I guess I am fortunate that I've been able to have a ringside seat from which to observe the seismic shifts in the rest of the world towards increasing fundamentalism, the emergence of right wing governments, and the pushback on rights for minorities with increasing intolerance towards the rights of the marginalised in our society-women, the LGBTQI+ community, the homeless - all of this coupled with countries in the west who are pushing against multilateralism, and a fracturing of governments in countries in the north that had been bastions (of sorts) of social democracy and some liberalism.

That view into a splintering of the world as we used to know it prepared me somewhat for what



happened with our elections. But even as it prepared me, I was still taken aback by it. You see, I believed in the exceptionalism of South Africa as if that would somehow insulate us from what was happening in the rest of the world. But of course we are not insulated from the world.

You only have to look at the increasing alliances between right wing conservative parties across the world including SA to see that influence! And so where does that leave progressive forces that remain committed to building a better SA and a better world? Do we give in to a sense of helplessness and despair? Or do we remind ourselves that we have been in this place before-in fact, few

countries know this landscape of hope and despair better than us who emerged from apartheid after grueling negotiations amongst parties that seemed worlds apart from each other. And yet we were able to find common ground. And so the work that we are doing means that we have to recognise the areas of challenge within own country, and within ourselves, and still seek out and acknowledge the positive, see our problems as real and solvable, and create what Kaethe Weingarten calls "reasonable hope".

I want to invite you to consider how this concept of "reasonable hope" might be a way in which we can look for the positives in our country's progress, and so



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help to create hope and a sense of active agency to push for collective change across difference with those we work with, as we seek out the positive as well as the negative. We need this collective country assessment now more than ever in this fractured, post-election moment, because we are called upon to make our own contribution that will help heal our country, and we cannot do that from a place of pessimism and despair. Because we are also called upon to channel our people's frustration, their sadness, their anger into active work that will impact positively on those aspects of society where there are challenges. Because unless we do this, the work that we do at the level of the personal to hold onto 'reasonable hope' will be de-linked from the level of the political where we need to work even harder than ever before to restore hope amongst our people.

What we are called upon to do now is to hold onto to a sense of reasonable hope based on the successes of the past so that we can build a bridge towards each other based on common principles of the SA we want to create, instead of a fence of despair and helplessness that will separates us further. The work that we are required to do now requires us to maintain that sense of reasonable hope, and instilling that in those that we work with. And to remember that the future is indeed open and uncertain. But above all, it is influenceable.

I am reminded of a wonderful piece written by Clarissa Pinkola Estes called **"We Were Made for These Times"**. She wrote, "My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who



*are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people. You are right in your assessments. The lustre and hubris some have aspired to while endorsing acts so heinous against children, elders, everyday people, the poor, the unguarded, the helpless, is breath-taking. Yet, I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement."*

And she continues: *"In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails. We are needed, that is all we can know"*.

And she ends with, *"There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair*

*many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate. The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for"*.

And so my reasonable hope for all of us is that we hold onto hope while doing the work that needs to be done to heal our country together, and for those of us who are part of the ANC, to heal our organization.

Because reasonable hope, like Ubuntu, is relational. It happens between and amongst people where it is held and shared. And as that community of reasonable hope grows across our communities and our country, it becomes part of a galvanising energy that will lead to healing and change at a personal and a political level - together and united in the interest of our country.

**A luta continua!**

# Time for South Africans to forge a new social compact

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

**T**HERE is nothing like a deadline to focus the mind and today there is no larger deadline focusing the nation's mind than that of the constitutionally required June 17 convening of the National Assembly of newly elected MPs and the election of the speaker of the National Assembly and president.

The moment SA finds itself in requires maturity by all the political parties and leaders so that whatever path is chosen – be it a government of national unity, a coalition government or confidence and supply arrangement – it is done in the interest of all of SA, not that of some race or ethnic group, region, class or individual.

Leaders such as Thabo Mbeki and Cyril Ramaphosa have been talking of the need for a national dialogue after the elections. This will need going back to the drawing board and deciding how we can arrive at a social compact as we did in 1994 and what should it be made up of.

Among the earliest, clearest research on social compacting was conducted in 2014 by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (Mistra) for the National Planning Commission (NPC). There, Mistra argued that a social compact consists of “a core agreement among various socie-



*tal role players and their government that outlines the rights and duties of each party”. It “requires elements of social partnership; it can only succeed in the context of social dialogue; and the processes of forging it would entail some level of collective bargaining”.*

A social compact is not just a Kumbaya moment, where we make vague commitments to some distant Shangri-La. In fact, as the late Malawian economist and London School of Economics Professor Thandika Mkandawire said, it “refers to the institutionalisation of consultation and co-operation on economic policy involving representation from the state, capital, labour and other organisations of civil society”.

According to a 2013 report of the International Labour Organisation, “in Western Europe so-

cial pacts have been a preferred route in areas of economic and social policies”, and more recently, to facilitate the adjustment of national economies to external shocks such as loss of competitiveness or economic/monetary integration”.

The Republic of Ireland’s successful experience, which saw it being dubbed the “Celtic Tiger”, was based on a social pact premised on a developmental approach and included trade unions and employer organisations bargaining hard to reach wage agreements, as well as a number of civic associations to help shape new forms of governance.

Three key elements we should weigh in on are:

Who should be the conveners of the national dialogue: it’s prefer-



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able that there is a collective of patriots such as Thuli Madonsele, Dikgang Moseneke, Graca Machel, Ela Gandhi, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, possibly convened by Mbeki.

Who should participate in the dialogue: all parties represented in parliament, as well as the widest possible involvement of the trade union movement, business leaders and civil society organisations.

What should be the basis of the dialogue: its starting point should be two instruments which have enjoyed widespread support — the constitution adopted in 1996 and the 2012 National Development Plan supported by all parliamentary parties.

The latter has been reviewed by the NPC (which I serve on) and which has resulted in a call to action to get us closer to the Vision 2030 targets. It notes that to achieve elimination of poverty, and the reduction of inequality and unemployment we need economic, social, and environmental fundamentals to be in place. This means an economy that not only grows at the requisite pace but draws in those excluded from the benefits of economic growth.

Priorities identified include labour absorbing strategies, an education system producing a quality workforce, a comprehensive social protection system, a professional public service, a capable state, a functional universal public health system, efficient infrastructure services, and the transition to a low carbon economy.

Whoever was the author of the phrase “no crisis should go to waste”, it’s a phrase which should inspire us to find the best way forward for South Africa.



# The ANC's Performance in the Elections: A CALL TO ACTION

■ By **PENUEL MADUNA**

**A**S the votes were being counted, it became clear that the African National Congress (ANC) has received a significant blow, securing only 40.25% of the national vote, 34.55% in Gauteng, and failing to secure a majority in the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. This is a stark reminder that many people of South Africa have rejected the ANC.

The reasons for this rejection are multifaceted. Firstly, the leadership of the ANC has become

elitist, disconnected from the living conditions of the people. Our leaders are often seen driving luxury cars, dressing in expensive clothing, and living in mansions, while our people suffer in poverty, unemployment, and inadequate access to basic services such as healthcare and education.

As noted in the ANC's **Strategy and Tactics** document (paragraph 153):

*“Yet in this period, many negative tendencies have crept into*

## CURRENT AFFAIRS



*the conduct of ANC members and leaders. Political incumbency has resulted in a situation in which public representatives of the motive forces are socially elevated from the mass of the people, thus creating 'social distance' between the leaders and their constituents. Incumbency also means access to powerful instruments of state and massive resources. This creates fertile ground for corruption and a vicious cycle of illicit mutual dependence between some private and public sector elites."*

The way the ANC conducts its internal elections is also a cause for concern. Talent is often overlooked in favor of mediocrity, and leaders are elected based on patronage rather than capability. This has resulted in a leadership that is not reflective of society's needs.

Going to conferences, outcomes are usually pre-determined in favour of patronage. Leaders are elected on the basis of who they align with and pledge their loyalty to, rather than capability. We have seen this in the ANC itself and even in its leagues. The past

year, we have seen congresses of the ANC Youth League and ANC Women's League where the leadership of the ANC dictated who must lead, forcing their favourites down the throats of thousands of delegates representing their branches. Those imposed leaders do not appeal to the society, hence we find ourselves with an ANC NEC that cannot unite and lead society, an ANC Youth League that cannot champion the interests of young people while rallying them towards the banner of the ANC, and an ANC Women's League that cannot galvanize women behind the banner of the ANC.

As the Strategy and Tactics document also acknowledges:

*"Gate-keeping, money politics and fraud characterise most ANC electoral processes."*

Furthermore, the conduct of frontline public servants has contributed to the erosion of trust in government. Every day, our people are treated with disdain and disrespect in government institutions, reflecting a lack of accountability and competence.

Our deployees in government have failed to effectively serve our communities, with collapsing medical facilities, unsafe schools, and inadequate road infrastructure. Millions of Rands are taken back to treasury, or worse, misused, while our people continue to suffer. Corruption continues to plague our organization, with leaders accused of corruption being treated differently based on their factional alignments.

To regain the trust of our people, we need to take decisive action against those who fail in their roles. We need to rebuild the ANC and ensure that our leadership is accountable, competent, and reflective of society's needs.

***\*The journey may be long; and the effort required much greater. But the struggle continues, and victory is certain\*.***  
ANC Strategy and Tactics

*Part 2 of this article will explore the solutions to these challenges.*

**Penuel Maduna** is Deputy Chairperson Gilbert Msikinya Branch and writes in his personal capacity.



# In celebrating COSAS's anniversary, we must protect our national democratic project

■ By **ANCYL President, TLHOLOGELO COLLEN MALATJI**

**T**HE Congress of South African Students (COSAS) has left a significant impact on our society both before and after apartheid. COSAS recently celebrated its 45th anniversary, marking its journey through various phases of struggle. I believe that its continued existence can help the ANC redefine itself in the current post-election context.

Our ANC has faced an electoral decline, which some interpret as a sign of South Africans' discontent due to the high cost of living, poverty, and high unemployment rates. However, as we commemorate the anniversary of COSAS, we must reflect on our ideological and political positioning for the next five years.

For the past 45 years, COSAS has fought against national oppression and persistently continued its battle against inequality, poverty, and unemployment through its advocacy in basic education. Its voice is also an integral part of the ANCYL, steering both the ANCYL and the ANC toward the economic liberation of South Africa after the 30th anniversary of the democratic breakthrough. South Africa is marred

**This day in history, forty-five years ago in Wilgerspruit, a young and fearless giant of our revolution was born.**

**The best tribute we can pay to the different generations of courageous young activists of COSAS and to honour their collective memory is to ensure that we keep their proud legacy and revolutionary vision alive.**

**Long live COSAS, Long live!**

by the prevalence of systemic racial poverty and inequality, which is especially evident in educational institutions.

Our country's education system still needs to be transformed to reflect our social realities, meaning we must address social inequality. Within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

region, South Africa remains the most unequal society, with a Gini coefficient of around 0.67, the highest in both the world and Africa.

While some progress has been made since the dawn of democracy, the education system remains characterized by racialized inequality and segregated

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

schooling. Free quality education is still inaccessible to youth in black working-class and rural communities.

Our ANC is charting the way forward after elections, facing results that pose a significant threat to the ANC's hold on state power, the essential vehicle for ushering social transformation in our country. COSAS, as a student movement dedicated to fighting for historically oppressed people, plays a crucial role in this ongoing struggle for the class liberation.

Our leaders in the ANC must learn from the lived experience of Ephraim Mogale, the first President of COSAS, who was driven by the principles of non-racism and democracy. As we commemorate the anniversary of COSAS, it is crucial for our leaders to emulate Ephraim Mogale's selfless leadership, prioritizing the needs of South Africans.

Students played a critical role in the liberation process of this country, and the ANC has laid a solid foundation for the youth by providing free basic education and higher education through NSFAS. However, despite these efforts, the youth of South Africa face significant challenges, including an unemployment crisis and marginalization. Many young people, particularly from townships and rural areas, are excluded from the economic base and fall victim to substance abuse. It is imperative that we address these issues to ensure the inclusion and empowerment of our young population.

Being a student of COSAS means learning to confront and challenge the injustices in our society. One of the central struggles is the fight for quality, deco-



lonial education, grounded in the principles of the National Democratic Revolution. This revolution aims to build an equitable society based on the objectives of the Freedom Charter.

To ensure that the relentless work of Ephraim Mogale is not in vain, we must uphold the high standards exemplified by the congress women and men. We must also educate society about the dangers of narrow native nationalism and ethnic resurgence, such as those represented by MK-Party. Our objective as the ANC is to foster nation-building by uniting all South Africans to achieve national democratic society.

COSAS must continue to fight for the unity of South Africans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or class. Mobilizing votes based on ethnicity or tribalism undermines the ANC's objectives of dismantling the colonial legacy, including ethnic chauvinism. The formation of MK-Party represents a counterrevolutionary stance, as it

seeks to undermine the national identity project promoted by the ANC through the National Democratic Revolution.

After the elections, the ANC must protect the history and heritage of COSAS. This can be achieved by safeguarding against racial or ethnic insurgence and continuing to unite different ethnic, racial, and religious groups in the interest of building a national democratic state. The manifestation of ethnic mobilization or regionalism is inherently divisive to the nation and must be actively countered to preserve national unity.

The focus of the country's agenda should be on transforming our economy, just as the people of South Africa and the ANC have addressed the issue of national oppression. However, it is evident that this issue has not been fully resolved, as the politics of tribalism persist. South Africa should inherently reject tribalism based on its historical experience with colonization and apartheid.

In conclusion, at the current stage of South Africa's development, our challenges lie in redefining the nature of people's democracies in alignment with nation-building efforts. However, there is growing concern about a potential convergence leading to the formation of the MK-Party alongside the resurgence of ethnic mobilization, which could further divide our country. This highlights the insufficient efforts by the ANC to address ethnic divisions, necessitating a concerted effort to redefine South Africa through the National Democratic Revolution. We must mobilize society to reject tribal politics at all costs, as this is crucial for protecting the history and heritage of COSAS.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7 – 14 June 2024

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

### 7 June 1914

#### Father of Nigerian Church music made Master of Music

Thomas King Ekuyandoyo Phillips, is made organist and Master of Music at the Cathedral Church of Christ in Lagos. He composed two solo works based on local folks songs, and his 1953 book Yoruba Music was the first study of African music by a university trained African musicologist. Phillips did a baccalaureate degree of music at Trinity College in London.

### 7 June 1917

#### Addis-Djibouti railroad inaugurated

The railroad between Addis Ababa and Djibouti is inaugurated, boosting Ethiopian trade by providing the land-locked country a rail route to the sea.

### 7 June 1942

#### Muammar Gaddafi born



Former President of Libya (1969-2011) was born on this day in

Qasr Abu Hadi. A nationalist who pursued the goal of an independent Libya, as a united Arab republic, came to power through a coup d'état. Committed to socialism and nationalism, he ruled in accordance with his Third International Theory, contained in his simplified Green Book, first published in 1975. Gaddafi also played an important role in the African continent, and in the formation of the African Union, in the context of the Grand Debate about African unity. In 2011, NATO invaded Libya, and Gaddafi was killed during the invasion in 2011.

### 7 June 1951

#### Pixley ka Isaka Seme passed on



Pixley ka Isaka Seme died in Johannesburg on 7 June 1951. He was a political activist, journalist, lawyer and a co-founder of the African National Congress (ANC). His funeral service was conducted by the bishop of Johannesburg, Ambrose Reeves, on 17 June.

Tributes were made by, among others, Chief Albert Luthuli, A. B. Xuma, Z. K. Matthews and D. D. T. Jabavu, a representative of the Swazi monarch and the secretary of native affairs. When a tombstone was unveiled at his grave in 1984 Mangosuthu Buthelezi spoke.

### 7 June 1953

#### Johnny Clegg born

Johnny Clegg, renowned South African and global music icon was born in England in 1953 to an English father and a Zimbabwean mother. He left England for Zimbabwe where he lived until the age of seven. He and his mother immigrated to South Africa following her marriage to a South African Journalist. Owing to his step father's job as a crime reporter, Clegg became exposed to township life when he would accompany him on assignments. It was at this stage that Clegg met Sipho Mchunu, the man who would later become his music partner, when they formed the band Juluka.

### 7 June 1981.

#### July's People published

South African Nobel Literature Laureate, Nadine Gordimer (1923-2014) published her highly acclaimed novel, *July's People*, about a white family seeking refuge in their former worker's rural village in the midst of a civil war.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**8 June 1948**

### **George Orwell's 1984 published**

George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984, was published in England on this day. The novel is set in a future dark ages of totalitarianism, the use of the African continent as a battle ground for western and eastern superpowers, fighting proxy wars and wars of conquest.

**8 June 1960**

### **Augustine Neto arrested**

Angolan activist Antonio Agostinho Neto, president of the MPLA was arrested by Portuguese authorities. His medical patients and supporters marched to seek his release. The police fired on unarmed demonstrators, killing 30 protesters, in an event known as the Massacre of Icolo e Bengo.

**8 June 1963**

### **Naledi High School founded**



Naledi High School, the site where historic anti-Bantu Education student uprisings were first felt, commemorated 50th anniversary on 8 June 2013. On 8 June 1976, security police arrived at Naledi High School and attempted to arrest the leader of the local branch of the South African Students Movement (SASM), Enos Ngutshane. In retaliation, students stoned the police and burned their car. The students were unhappy about being compelled to use Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. On 16 June 1976, unrest broke out at Naledi

High School and Tsietsi Mashinini led the peaceful protest of learners in Soweto, in what became known as the June 16 uprising.

**8 June 1988**

### **Four ANC cadres killed near Piet Retief**

On 8 June 1988, Surendra Lenny Naidu, Lindiwe Mthembu, Makhozi Nyoka and Nontsikelelo Cothoza, all African National Congress (ANC) members were shot dead when their car was ambushed at Piet Retief on the eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga) border. Eugene de Kock appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in connection with their murder.

**8 June 1998**

### **General Sani Abacha of Nigeria died**

General Sani Abacha, the 10th President of Nigeria died at the Presidential palace in Abuja, allegedly from poison, though no autopsy was committed. Abacha was the first soldier in Nigeria to reach General level, without skipping a single rank. He was Minister of Defense when he seized power from a transitional government in 1993. Abacha's rule saw significant growth of the Nigeria economy (ending privatization, reducing inflation rate from 54% to 8.5%, investing in road infrastructure, reforming the insurance industry to support SMMEs), but also by political crisis such as the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa under his leadership.

**8 June 2019**

### **Gautrain starts journey**

The express commuter light rail train, known as Gautrain is opened to the public, the initial phase, including from OR Tambo



International Airport to Tshwane runs for 8 kilometer.

**9 June 1953**

### **Calestous Juma born**

Professor Calestous Juma (1953-2017) Pan African economist, scientist and academic was born in Port Victoria, Kenya. He was noted for his work on sustainable development, technologies and developing economies, and wrote a number of books on various topics. His most notable work is titled 'The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa.'

**9 June 1967**

### **Military service becomes compulsory for White men**

The Defence Amendment Bill, designed to make military service compulsory for White young men, was passed on 9 June 1967 - with the support of the opposition. Conscription was instituted in South Africa in the form of 9 months of service for all white males between the ages of 17 and 65 years old. Conscripts became members of the South African Defence Force (SADF), or the South African Police (SAP). They were used to enforce the government's stance against liberation movements, anti-apartheid activists and the 'communist threat'. In 1972, conscription (national service) was increased from



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

9 months to 1 year, as well as 19 days of service annually for 5 years as part of the Citizen Force. The End Conscription Campaign was formed in 1983 to campaign against white conscription and to call for troops out of the townships and from neighbouring countries.

### 9 June 1983

#### **MK cadres executed**

On 9 June 1983, uMkhonto we-Sizwe (MK) operatives, Jerry Mosolodi, Terry Mogoerane and Thabo Motaung were executed for their part in a hit on Wonderboom police station. The ANC declared the execution a crime against humanity and defended the attack on the police station as an act of liberation. It called for the MK operatives to be treated as prisoners of war under the protection of the Geneva Convention.

### 9 June 1994

#### **Waku Kungo School bombing**

As the Angolan civil war drew to an end, government planes mistakenly bombed a school in Waku Kungo in the mistaken belief that it was a UNITA base, killing 89 children.

### 9 June 2011

#### **85% of Kilimanjaro snow cover disappeared**

Measurements show that 85% of snow cover of Mount Kilimanjaro has disappeared since the first measurement taken a century before in October 1912.

### 10 June 1921

#### **Anti-colonial Young Kikuyu Association formed**

Father of Kenyan nationalism, Harry Thuku forms the Young Kikuyu Association to oppose Brit-

ish colonialism and return stolen lands to Africans. He changed the name to the East African Association to unite Kenyans.

### 10 June 1906

#### **Chief Bambatha killed**



The Bambatha Rebellion of 1906 was led by Bambatha ka Mancinza (c. 1860–1906?), leader of the Zondi clan of the Zulu people, who lived in the Mpanza Valley (now a district near Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal) against British rule and taxation in the Colony of Natal, South Africa. On 10 June, a large militia from Durban, Johannesburg and the Cape under Colonel McKenzie engaged the Bambatha troops along the Mome stream near the Nkandla forest. In a half-hour's engagement, Bambatha's followers were massacred, and nearly 600 lives were shed. Bambatha's body was decapitated. Several influential chiefs continued resistance in the Lower Thukela River area until July, but the rebellion was effectively crushed. Over the next six months 5 000 dissidents were arrested, tried and some eventually served life sentences.

### 10 June 1962.

#### **Science fiction author Ahmed Khaled Tawfik born**

Ahmed Khaled Tawfik Farrag was an Egyptian author and a

physician who wrote more than 200 books, in both Egyptian Arabic and Classical Arabic. He was the first contemporary writer of horror and science fiction in the Arabic speaking world and also the first writer to explore the medical thriller genre. Tawfik is considered by many to have been one of the most influential writers of his time.

### 10 June 1983

#### **Bloukrans Bridge opens**

The Bloukrans Bridge, joining Eastern and Western Cape, previously reached through the Bloukrans pass opens on this day. The 216 high metre bridge is the world's highest single-span bridge, and known for bungee jumping.

### 10 June 1990

#### **Miriam Makeba returns after 31 years in exile**



After spending 31 years in exile, living across Africa and the world and a fierce campaigner against apartheid, Mam Miriam Makeba returned home on this day, after the unbanning of organisations. Her music became synonymous with the South African struggle for freedom, and after her return home, she continued her music career and activism, until she passed on at a concert in 2008. Her music remains amongst the African and global classics.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**10 June 2016**

### **Dar es Salaam introduced bus rapid transit system**

The Tanzanian city of Dar es Salaam introduced a fleet of 18-meter long buses to ease traffic congestion on the capital's roads, where commuters would spend up to eight hours in traffic. The bus rapid transport system which was introduced in 6 phases, started in 2012. Nearly 180,000 daily commuters used the system by 2017, with the 140 Golden Dragon buses

**11 June 1892**

### **Sherlock Holmes star born in Johannesburg**

Actor Basil Rathbone, one of the movies greatest Sherlock Holmes was born in Johannesburg. The family fled to Britain when the Boers in the Transvaal Republic accused his father of being a spy. Rathbone became a Shakespearian actor before venturing to Hollywood.

**11 June 1912**

### **Midwife Pauline Berthé born**

Malian midwife and pioneer in women's health, Pauline Berthé was born in Sikasso, French Sudan. She also practiced in Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire and in 1972 was awarded Mali's highest National Order.

**11 June 1932**

### **Athol Fugard born**

South African director, actor and writer, considered amongst the country's greatest playwrights was born in Middleburg, Eastern Cape. Fugard grew up in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) and is known for his anti-apartheid work such as Boesman and Lena (1969), Master Harold and

the Boys (1982) and Sizwe Bansi is Dead.

**11 June 1953**

### **Chuka Massacre**

British captured and executed 20 people suspected of being Mau Mau fighters in Chuka, Kenya. No one was ever held accountable for the massacre.

**11 June 1963**

### **African Women's Development Fund founder born**



Nigerian feminist activist, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi was born on this day in Liverpool, England. She co-founded the African Women's Development Fund, which to date trained over 6000 women across the continent. Most went on to occupy senior positions in their countries.

**11 June 1963**

### **President Tshisekedi born**

President of the DRC, Felix Tshisekedi was born on this day in Kinshasa. A member of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDSP) since his youth, he was elected in 2018, marking the end of the Kabila government which ruled the country since 1997, the first peaceful transition of power in the country.

**11 June 1988**

### **British Anti-Apartheid Movement hosts Mandela Concert**

On 11 June 1988, the British Anti-Apartheid Movement (BAAM) held an 11-hour rock concert at Wembley Stadium in London to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela on his 70th birthday on the 18th of July. Peter Gabriel delivered his anti-apartheid anthem Biko. Whitney Houston, Phil Collins, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Simple Minds, Eurythmics and Dire Straits also performed. 72,000 people went to the concert and it was broadcast live on BBC-2 to sixty different countries with an estimated audience of a billion people.

**11 June 1977**

### **Police arrest Student leader Dan Montsitsi**



Almost a year after the June 16 Soweto Student Uprising, Security Police announced the arrest of Soweto Students' Representative Council (SSRC) leader Dan Sechaba Montsitsi. Four NUSAS members were also arrested for the same reason, namely plans to commemorate the Soweto uprisings. Dan Montsitsi went on to become a leader of the civic and mass movement, and a member of parliament after 1994. He passed on in August 2021.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 11 June 2010

#### Opening game of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa

Opening of the FIFA Soccer World Cup Finals in 2010, the first to be held in Africa, with the match between South Africa and Mexico (1:1 draw). Later that day France played against Uruguay in the second match of the day, also with a draw and no goals.

### 12 June 1917

#### Ansuyah Ratipul Singh, medical doctor, community worker, poet born

On 12 June 1917, Dr Ansuyah Ratipul Singh, medical doctor, novelist and community worker, was born in Durban. She moved to London where she completed her degree in Medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1944. In 1946, Dr Singh returned to South Africa and became involved in the Passive Resistance Movement in Durban. She published numerous professional articles. Although Dr Singh was known for her medical work, she was also known as a novelist and the author of two three-act plays; with *Behold the Earth Mourns* (1961) her most well-known. Dr Singh also lectured widely to students on a range of topics ranging from health and family planning, to the arts and the role of women in the Indian community. Dr Singh was also an accomplished pianist, and a talented amateur dramatist. She continued her medical work until her death in 1979.

### 12 June 1963

#### Coldest day in Pretoria

The coldest day in Pretoria in recent history was on 12 June 1963. The temperatures plummeted to a minimum of -3, 6 and a maximum

of 7, 5 degrees Centigrade. It had been a 110 years since temperatures were that low and it has never been as cold since.

### 12 June 1964

#### Rivonia Trial judgment delivered

The Rivonia trial, which changed the course of South African history, judgment was delivered on this day. Eight of the accused Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Andrew Mlangeni, Dennis Goldberg, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and James Kantor were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Pretoria Supreme Court. The accused may have received the death penalty, but for a national and global campaign to prevent this.

### 12 June 2005

#### Rain Queen Makobo Modjadji VI passes on



On 12 June 2005, Rain Queen Makobo Modjadji VI died in a hospital in Polokwane, Limpopo Province. Rain Queen Modjadji VI is a direct descendent of one of the royal houses of Monomotapa, which ruled over the Zimbabwean people in the 15th and 16th century. Rain Queen Modjadji VI began her reign in April 2003 when she succeeded her grandmother Mokope Modjadji V. Makobo Modjadji VI

is the first Rain Queen to have received formal education, and went on to complete high school. The legend of the Rain Queen has been told for centuries, as even Shaka Zulu is said to have asked for her blessing. As the name suggests, the Rain Queen is responsible for bringing rain, and directs an annual rainmaking ceremony in her royal compound. The legend of the Rain Queen was also popularized by the books 'King Solomon's Mines' and 'She' by author H. Rider Haggard, which drew the world's attention to the role of the Rain Queen of the Balobedu people.

### 13 June 1964

#### Nelson Mandela and fellow Rivonia Trialists arrived on Robben Island



Nelson Mandela arrives on Robben Island to start his lifelong sentence, along with fellow Rivonia trialists – Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni. Dennis Goldberg was separated from the group because he was white, and served his sentence in Pretoria.

### 13 June 1912

#### South Africa Defense Act paves way for Union defense force

The South Africa Defense Act was passed, and the Union De-

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

fense Forces (UDF) formed, integrating forces from the two British colonies and two Boer Republic that formed the Union of SA in 1910. This was the forerunner of the South African Defense Force and after 1994, the non-racial and non-sexist SANDF.

### 14 June 1898 France signs the Niger Convention

The convention was an agreement between France and Britain about the portioning of West Africa. The partitioning mostly defines borders in the West African region today. These decisions determined the borders between former British or French colonies of Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Benin (formerly Dahomey). Sometimes borders divided relatives and people who had previously belonged to the same ethno-linguistic groups. A person who fell on the French side

of Nigeria-Dahomey border, for example, might have learned French as a second language and migrated to the colonial capital Cotonou. Her cousin on the Nigerian side of the border, on the other hand, may have learned English as a second language, and migrated to the Nigerian colonial capital of Lagos.

### 14 June 1985 Artist Thami Mnyele assassinated



On this day, graphic artist, activist and member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Thamsanqa (Thami) Mnyele was shot and killed by the South African government in Gaborone, Botswana where he was in exile. In Gaborone Thami participated in the anti-apartheid cultural organisation, the MEDU Art Ensemble. After killing him, the apartheid agents confiscated his work and soon after displayed it on national television as evidence of his so-called terrorist activities. His works have not yet been recovered.

### 14 June 1977 Afrikaans Language Monument

The 'Afrikaanse Taal Monument' (Monument of the Afrikaans language) near Paarl, is handed to the state. The idea of monument to the Afrikaans language was first raised in 1942, a local committee was established to raise funds for it, but it only came to fruition when taken over by the whites only Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging (ATKV) in 1963. The Paarl municipality provided the land (83 hectares) for free for this purpose, building started in 1972 and was completed in 1974. The design of the Taal monument represents the diversity of the origins of Afrikaans, as well as the symbolism of a bridge between Europe and Africa. The monument today also symbolises the debate and challenge by black South Africans who spoke the language, pointing towards the influences of indigenous languages and the Malay language to Afrikaans, in addition to its Dutch origins. After 1994, the monument remained part of South Africa's national monuments.



### Thabo Mbeki is elected President

Thabo Mbeki became the second President of South Africa and succeeds Nelson Mandela, with Jacob Zuma becoming Deputy President. During his inaugural speech Mbeki said the following: "As the sun continues to rise to banish the darkness of the long years of colonialism and apartheid, what the new light over our land must show is a nation diligently at work to create a better life for itself."



**ANC LIVES! ANC LEADS!**



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

8 – 14 June 2024

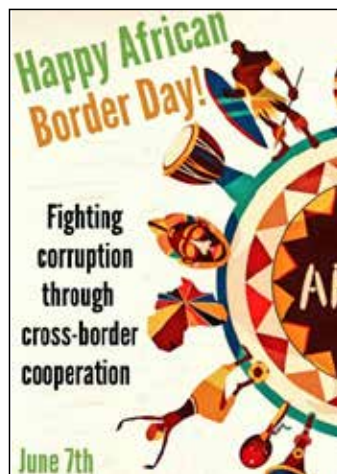
Source: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.au.int](http://www.au.int), *The Africa Fact Book (2020)*, [www.daysoftheyear.com](http://www.daysoftheyear.com)



### 7 June

#### Africa Border Day

A year after the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was formed in 1963, it adopted a resolution where countries agreed to “the principle of the respect of borders existing on achievement of national independence”, in order to prevent costly border wars between newly independent countries. These borders were of course largely based on colonial borders decided at the Berlin conference, and are therefore often arbitrary, dividing villages, communities and peoples. As a result, although there was AU agreement on the principle, in practice there has been a number of border dispute between countries, which had to be resolved either through mediation or settled through the International Court of Justice. In 2007 the African Union Ministers in charge of Border issues adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on the African Union Border Programme, which became a section within the Peace and Security Department. The same declaration designated 7 June as African Border Day, with the aim to ‘transforming African borders from barriers to bridges.’



### 7 June

#### World Food Safety Day



This day was adopted by the UN in 2018, to draw awareness about food safety. This year’s Food Safety Day theme, “**Food Safety: prepare for the unexpected**” will draw attention to food safety incidents. We tend to leave decisions about what goes into our food to those who manufacture food, and because they are about profits, they do not warn consumers about what’s in the food we buy and eat, for example pesticides on fruit and vegetables, or hormones in meat. Governments play a role by regulating food security and forcing food manufacturers to provide consumer information on our products. The UN also publishes general food safety information on this day.

### 8 June

#### World Oceans Day

During the Rio Earth Summit, participants and activists advocated for World Oceans Day, to raise awareness about also protecting the oceans as an

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

integral part of our planet's ecosystems. In 2008, the UN thus declared 8 June as World Oceans Day. Oceans and seas contribute to the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat especially proteins, and critical part of the biosphere. The theme for 2024 is **"Catalyzing Action for our Oceans and Climate."** By growing the movement through transformative collaboration, we aim to create not only a healthy blue planet, but also a more just, equitable and sustainable society. On the continent, the organization Women In Maritime (WIM Africa) brings women together to advocate around these issues.



### 11 June World Knit in Public Day

Although we now buy most of our jerseys and woolen clothes ready-made, knitting remains a creative way for thousands across the world to make something with their own hands. Knitting is

not only creative, but also relaxing and World Knit in Public Day bring together knitters, men and women, young and old, to share their love of knitting. South Africans use this day to also do the "67 blankets for Madiba", to contribute warm knitted blankets to homeless people.

### 12 June World Day against Child Labour

This day emerged out of the work of the International Labour Organisation to discourage child labour across the world. The theme for 2024 is **"Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour"**, as an estimated 168 million children globally are required to work.

### 13 June World Albinism Awareness Day

People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide. Albinism is still profoundly misunderstood, socially and medically. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization



and social exclusion. This leads to various forms of stigma and discrimination. In some communities, erroneous beliefs and myths, heavily influenced by superstition, put the security and lives of persons with albinism at constant risk. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. One of the most prominent South African persons living with Albinism was ANC leader from the North West, Reverend OJ Tselapedi.

### 14 June World Blood Donor Day

This day is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to celebrate people who regularly donate blood and the role that they play in health systems. According to the WHO, very few seconds, someone, somewhere, needs blood; and transfusions of blood and blood products save millions of lives every year. Blood and blood products are essential to care for women with pregnancy and childbirth associated bleeding; children with severe anemia due to malaria and malnutrition; patients with blood and bone marrow disorders, inherited disorders





## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

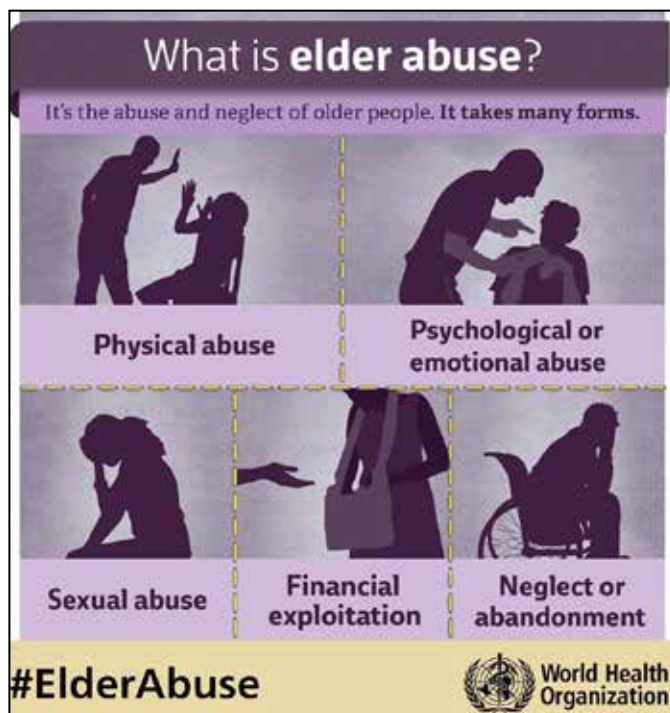
of hemoglobin and immune deficiency conditions; people with traumatic injuries in emergencies, disasters and accidents; and patients undergoing advanced medical and surgical procedures.

### 14 June

#### UN World Day Against Elder Abuse

Around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse and rates of abuse may be higher for older people living in institutions than in the community. Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. It is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. South Africa also has more older people, with life expectancy up from 54 years in 2006 to 64 years in 2018. There are now about 4.8 million South Africans over the age of 60 in a population of 57.7 million people (StatsSA, Midyear Population Estimates, 2018). In 2011, more than half of elderly persons lived in extended households, and in the same year, about 19.9% of households were headed by an elderly person. Institutions like the SA Human Rights Commission and NGO's work with the elderly, to protect their rights.

Sources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/elderabuse/> and StatsSA



### JUNE

#### Youth Month



The commemoration of the 1976 falls on 16 June, but the whole month is used to focus on the issues of South Africa's 19.1 million young people. The challenges they face are many – mass unemployment, education, drugs, but they continue to show remarkable resilience, activism, innovation and optimism about the future of the country.

### JUNE

#### Global Pride Month



Started in the USA in commemoration of the Stonewall riots, when the police in 1969 raided the Stonewall Inn pub in New York, arresting and abusing lesbian and gay patrons. This spurred protests and is annually commemorated as part of the struggle for the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. South Africa celebrates its Pride Month in October.