



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President

ELECTRICITY MILESTONE GIVES US ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO MORE

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST Friday marked 100 days since South Africa last experienced load shedding. This is the longest continuous period without load shedding since 2020.

While this is a welcome milestone, it is not a reason to relax. Our electricity system remains vulnerable and we cannot yet rule out a possibility of further load shedding.

Rather, this milestone provides encouragement for us to do more and to work faster to ensure a secure supply of electricity now and into the future.

We have seen real progress in the implementation of the Energy Action Plan, which we initiated in July 2022, and are now

witnessing some of the results of the cooperation between government, business and other social partners.

Thanks to the diligent implementation by Eskom of its Generation Operational Recovery Plan as well as a stepped up maintenance schedule, there has been a marked improvement in the performance of the power stations that produce the bulk of South Africa's electricity.

Eskom last week successfully commissioned Unit 5 at the Kusile power station, adding an additional 800 MW to the grid. This follows the power utility's work to return three units at Kusile to service ahead of schedule.

The improvement in the reliabil-

ity of power supply has been a relief for households, who have been able to go about their daily lives without the inconvenience of loadshedding. It has also been a great relief for businesses.

The latest consumer confidence index compiled by the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) found that the suspension of load shedding was a factor that contributed towards increased consumer confidence in the second quarter of this year.

This improvement is also a boost to the national economy, which is reliant on the availability and reliability of electricity supply for growth.

There is cause for optimism that business and investor confidence will improve.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

Earlier this month steelmaker Arcelor-Mittal announced that it would not go ahead with plans to close its operations in Newcastle and Vereeniging, citing improvements in the country's electricity and logistics situations as among the factors behind its decision.

In its April Monetary Policy Review, the South African Reserve Bank noted that *"as electricity supply improves gradually, underpinned by the ongoing private investment in renewable energy generation and increased maintenance by Eskom"*, South Africa's near and medium-term outlook for growth is set to increase.

The Reserve Bank underscored the importance of the full implementation of energy and logistics sector reforms if growth is to improve.

We are committed to continue and complete the far-reaching structural reforms we started during the sixth administration to resolve the immediate electricity supply challenges and lay the groundwork for energy security



into the future.

These reforms included the removal of the licensing threshold for new power generation projects, tax incentives for rooftop solar, opening more bid windows for renewable energy projects, and improving Eskom's operational viability.

The latest milestone reached in the structural reform journey is the commencement of trading last week of the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTSA), which will own and operate the country's national electricity transmission system. This forms part of the reforms we have been driving to estab-

lish an electricity market that will enable competition, secure supply and revolutionise the energy sector.

As the Government of National Unity begins its work, we will sustain this momentum.

For us to continue to implement the Energy Action Plan and support the hard-working management and staff of Eskom, who are day by day helping to bring us out of this crisis, we must all pull in the same direction.

By focusing on the broader picture and by scaling up what has already been achieved, we are in a far better position to achieve the task we have set ourselves: to end load shedding and achieve an energy-secure future.

We have reached 100 days without load shedding by working together.

This should encourage us to redouble our efforts and to strengthen the collaboration between all stakeholders in both the public and private sectors.



ANC STATEMENT ON

RECENT ELECTIONS IN EUROPE AND THE PRESENT GLOBAL CHALLENGES

THE African National Congress (ANC) congratulates the people of the United Kingdom and France for their respective successful elections in the past week. We send a special word of congratulations to the Labour Party in the United Kingdom and the New Popular Front in France.

The new administrations in the UK and France will assume office in the context of an international situation that is fraught with major geopolitical tensions and further humanitarian risks attached to those. Poverty and inequality have been persistent and are putting strain on democratic politics the world over. Multilateralism is under immense pressure but is more needed now than before, albeit in a renewed sense.

The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, especially the inability of multilateral bodies and great powers to end these, animate a larger crisis of an international order that is lacking a common moral vision for humanity and highlight a dire need for visionary leaders to step up and pull humanity from the brink.

The South African government has been unrelenting in the fight to defend the cause of peace, justice, solidarity and multilateralism in the international arena. Our unwavering commitment to a rules-based international order,

justice and international law are expressed in our recent case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Our defense of the people of Palestine is at the same time an assertion of the rights and sovereignty of all oppressed peoples worldwide. Our position is a strong call for a global fight for human rights and the right to self-determination; as well as a categorical rejection of wars of aggression as legitimate means of solving political problems.

The global situation currently demands a fundamental rethink on the part of European leaders on how they wish to engage with the world and be received. Ongoing discussions about climate justice and the distribution of climate responsibility between the developed and developing nations are amongst the pressing challenges of our time. The major issue is how developed states should meaningfully shoulder the greatest responsibility for climate change, considering the known history of the combined but uneven development of the world.

Similarly, the recent developments in the Sahel region of Africa raise important questions for European governments, especially the new French administration, to consider with respect to their foreign policy approaches. A new global consensus for peace must be forged and ought to address itself to the root causes of

conflict. The unfolding humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where brute force and displacement continue to devastate communities, exemplifies such conflict whose roots - the exploitation of natural resources in a manner that undermines local development - require attention.

Therefore, we hope that the electoral victories of parties who claim a commitment to progressive politics will be reflected in the actions of those states; acting internally and outwardly to safeguard social justice, equality, and other progressive values. The policy posture of the new administrations must inspire hope for a global shift towards a more just and equitable world, consistent with the ANC's vision for a better Africa and better world. They must signal a pushback against the rising tide of right-wing nationalism, unilateralism, anti-immigrant sentiment and xenophobic impulses sweeping across the globe.

The ANC remains committed to the principles of progressive internationalism, human rights, social justice and an end to the politics of war. We are open to global partnerships and cooperation that uphold these values and will eagerly work with all those who share in them.

Let's do more, together.

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THE EPIC JOURNEY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

■ Speech by **ANC 1st Deputy Secretary General, Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane**, on the occasion of unveiling of the names of key Norwegian antiapartheid activists on Freedom Park's **"Wall of Names"**, as well as to the viewing of the exhibition: **"African Independence. Norwegian Solidarity."**, Freedom Park, Pretoria, 10 July 2024

IT IS with a sense of profound honour and privilege that we are gathered here, as we collectively look back and take pride on the epic journey of international solidarity between the people of South Africa and the people of Norway.

It is only befitting that the sacrifices that the heroes and heroines of our struggle must be indelibly inscribed into the annals of our history, lest as many would caution, that history repeats itself. And in this sense,

we echo President Nelson Mandela's famous clarion call on the occasion of his inauguration in 1994, that **"Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another."**

It was the international community such as the pivotal role played by the people and government of Norway that gave us hope that one day we too shall be free, that we would cease to be what Mandela characterised

as the *"skunk of the world"*.

We could not therefore miss this important occasion when the names of those who sacrificed their lives for us to be free are to be duly honoured and accordingly be inscribed in these monumental walls of the Freedom Park, dedicated to the legacy of our political freedom and democracy.

We are delighted that the keynote speaker is none other than the former President of the Re-



public of Mozambique, President Chissano, whose own lived memory bears testament to the meaning of solidarity for a free and democratic world. We will never forget the battle of Matola in Mozambique, in as much as we would never forget the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola, and all other battles and sacrifices for our freedom and democracy.

What these names that are being honoured here today represent is the true meaning of solidarity, unblemished by the theories that justify the domination of one people by another such as Nazism and apartheid, not just in words but through action.

This event takes place when the meaning of solidarity is increasingly being blurred by a world that continues to be underpinned by the lack of respect of the very values upon which we pledged solidarity one with

another for a free and democratic South Africa as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are astonished when some suggest that we have veered as the ANC and as a country, from our historical progressive stances on various matters of international conflict, when all we sought was justice irrespective of racial, religious, national or geopolitical interests.

In this regard, we will continue to advocate for a free world, which means respect for the autonomous self-determination of the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba and all other oppressed people. We will continue to lobby the international community for peaceful resolution of conflicts, such as those that have led to the genocide in Gaza, as well as ending the Russia / Ukraine conflict.

We believe that it is our com-

mon duty to take stock on the meaning of solidarity, which often suffer casualty on the expediencies of racial, gender, national and geopolitical domination.

In conclusion, one takes this opportunity to re-iterate our gratitude as the ANC, to the people and government of Norway, and in this we echo President Mandela's profound words as quoted in the very letter of your invite to this august event, and I quote: *"Now that South Africa has achieved its freedom, we shall always remember Norway's example of extending to the whole world the values of a caring society. We commit ourselves to working with Norway for peace, democracy and equitable international relations."*

We profoundly thank you for inviting us to this august accession!

Aluta Continua!

GUESSWORK AND ASSUMPTIONS HAVE NO PLACE IN POLICY MAKING

■ **Budget Debate Speech** (2024/2025) Delivered By **Minister Khumbudzo Ntshaveni**
on the occasion of the **Stats SA Budget Vote**, 11 July 2024, Cape Town

IT IS my honour to present the Budget Vote 14 for the outer year of the 2019-2024 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as we conclude work started in the 6th Administration and consolidate a programme for the Seventh Administration under a Government of National Unity.

I share this occasion with a new and young Deputy Minister, Honourable Nonceba Mhlauli, which is a demonstration of continuity, change, and inter-generational leadership, *'living together in perfect harmony'*, as Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney sang.

It is also an honour to make this presentation in the year in which we are reflecting on 30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth in the life of a nation that remains engaged in overcoming the impact of centuries of colonialism and decades of apartheid exclusionary rule. It was the work of Statistics South Africa that gave this country and the world a snapshot of the progress this country has made and the challenges which remain since 1994 through the Census 2022 Results.

As we commence with work of the 7th Administration and the next



30 years of our freedom, it will be important to address the challenges that still confront us with greater performance and momentum. Guesswork and assumptions have no place in the task at hand.

Instead, it is statistical data and information that will give us insights into the nation's needs and achievements and will help us monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of government policies and programmes. For us, it is fundamental to declare that Data Drives Development.

Therefore, understanding and managing the data ecosystem is crucial

for the country to harness the full potential of data, make informed decisions, and adapt to evolving business landscapes. This will be achieved through collaboration, partnerships and platforms. Stats SA must continue to lead in the South African data ecosystem, to ensure that the data gap is closed.

Those of us who have followed StatsSA products releases would agree with me that statistical data is indicating that our economy is three times larger and many times more inclusive and diversified than it was 30 years ago; millions of citizens have been lifted out of poverty, and employment has more than

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doubled. Despite this progress, millions remain unemployed, in particular, the youth who are caught in structural unemployment where the qualifications they possess are not relevant for the job market nor self-employment.

For South Africa to reach its developmental goals as espoused in the National Development Plan (NDP), there is a need to use data and statistical information to not only improve the performance of government, but all of society. Therefore, there cannot be a spectator sport for the nation – we're all in this together, as *Cast – High School Musical* sang.

As a government that considers itself to be located within our communities and society, we will work with all sectors to secure the growth, security and prosperity all of us wish to enjoy in our lifetime and into the future.

Therefore, StatsSA will be one of our key institutional assets on this

quest for a better future. This asset, Stats SA, is a jewel in the crown of the capacity of the state and its rigour and integrity is globally respected. Stats SA itself has a productive, inter-generational mix of experience and institutional memory alongside the energy and innovation that comes with a cohort of statisticians and other professionals who were born and educated in this democratic dispensation.

The insights developed by Stats SA are a model of democratic transparency in action: statistical information is available at all levels of society including business, government, academia, Parliament, civil society, schools and the public at large – including millions of users around the world who can access our numbers and narratives online.

For the richness of Stats SA's outputs, we are deeply indebted to the millions of South Africans who trustingly and graciously share their information and time with us so we can have numerical picture of the

nation as it goes about living and working.

Stats SA's 2024/25 Work Programme reflects our drive to deliver the statistics that the country needs and can apply to build a better South Africa.

A key strategic deliverable of this is the legislative reform with the Statistics Amendment Bill which was finalised by the 6th Administration and passed by the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces in May 2024. It now awaits Presidential assent.

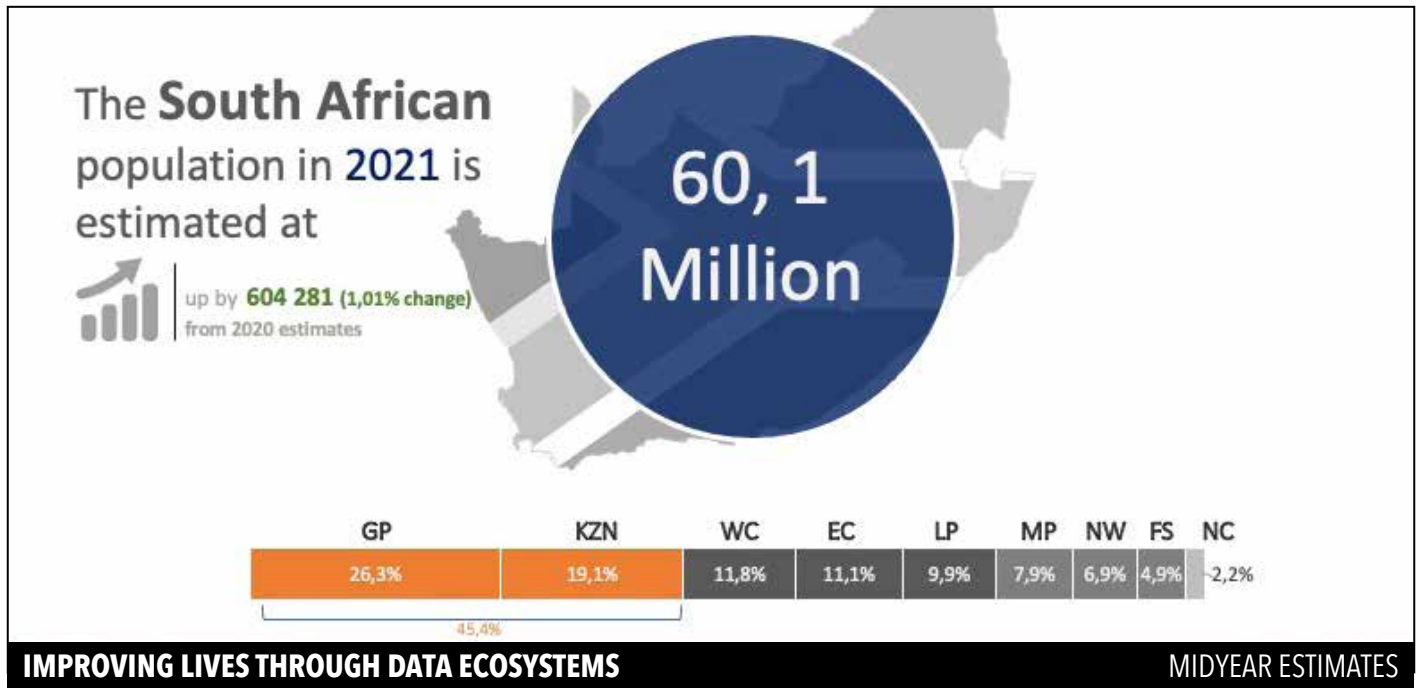
Stats SA delivered the results of the first digital census to the nation in October 2023. The population census offers us the most comprehensive set of statistical information to the lowest geographic level.

Allow me to quote the President of the Republic of South Africa, his Excellency Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, at the launch of Census 2022 results where he said: **"Data**

Census 2022 fieldworkers



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from the Census informs the planning, budgeting and policy making work of government at the most fundamental level, furthermore one of our priorities in a capable, ethical developmental state is to ensure that policy making is evidence-driven”.

Stats SA has embarked on a comprehensive dissemination process to inform each province and district of the Census 2022 results. Various thematic reports based on the census data will be released during 2024 to better inform policy and decision-making.

I encourage all of us to use this data to get to know the needs of our constituencies and to use the information to improve the lives of our people.

As a country we are still faced with the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment. As policy-makers, we need to know and understand the scale, the characteristics and the root cause of the challenges that face us.

To this end, I am pleased to inform the House that Stats SA has completed the data collection phase of

the Income and Expenditure survey that collects data on the poverty situation in the country. The results of the survey will be published in the 3rd quarter of 2024.

Under the 2024/25 Work Programme, Stats SA plans to re-engineer the household survey programme through the introduction of a continuous population survey that aims to integrate various household surveys to improve efficiency and effectiveness of data collection. This modular survey will provide lower-level data on specific themes to inform the district development model.

I am also pleased to announce that as part of the economic statistics suite, Stats SA will publish for the first time the official Residential Property Price Index for South Africa during 2024/25.

Stats SA has set an ambitious 5-year strategic plan with a long-term horizon and vision of Improving lives through data ecosystems.

The strategy path is guided by four strategic outcomes to elevate statistical development in this country,

namely:

- **Insightful data** – providing statistical products and outputs that meets the needs of users that brings deeper insight for informed decisions.
- **Creating an Agile operating model** where business operations are lean, efficient and flexible in order to remain stable in turbulent times.
- **Creating an Interconnected statistical system** where people, systems and technology are interconnected.
- Lastly, **Transforming the capability of the organisation and the statistics system** at large. Building a workforce that is fit for the future is a critical priority for the organisation.

The 2024/25 Work Programme is the final performance plan to deliver on the 5-year Strategic Plan that was tabled in 2020. The organisation has continued to fulfil its mandate for the last four years despite significant disruptions, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and tight financial conditions, to name a few.

We need to continue to support

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Stats SA and ensure it plays a pivotal role in providing critical socio-economic data that informs decision making across government and business broadly.

Official statistics must remain free from any interference on statistical methods applied, to data collection, and the content and timing of releases. Our official statistics must be planned, collected and disseminated without prejudice, fear or favour. Our standing as a nation — and as a country — is intertwined with the successful and democratic uptake of statistics.

I therefore implore this House to become ambassadors of Stats SA's work and to continue to be ardent users of official statistics.

We are aware of the budget constraints that all government departments currently face, but we cannot allow it to negatively impact the publication of information crucial to policy and planning. To this end, Stats SA continues to embrace the use of technology in easing both the collection and dissemination of statistics. Over the medium-term, the organisation will be looking at innovative ways of integrating administrative data into the overall system of statistics, to ensure that the data gap can be filled cost-effectively.

The Compensation of Employees budget allocation remains a challenge. We will continue to engage National Treasury to see how best we can stabilise the funding.

The Public Finance Management Act, section 27, compels the Minister to annually table this budget and it is my honour to deliver Vote 14. The MTEF is R2.65 billion in 2024/25; and R 2.75 billion and R2.89 billion in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years respective-

ly. We request Parliament to support the budget vote of Statistics South Africa.

As a country that is fully integrated into global society, we know that digital forces are transforming our world in the digital economy. This disruption will lead to emerging new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), with connected devices and smart chatbots to the metaverse where citizens are connected and interact with government and themselves seamlessly. Harnessing AI to solve South Africa's problems requires embracing it from an African perspective.

Disruptions can propel a nation to new levels of efficiency that can change the lives of the poor and disenfranchised. When such opportunities present itself, the test to the nation's strength is how its leadership acts with agility to attend to the challenges at hand.

To enable long-term, sustainable, and inclusive growth, we must work together as a nation as we strengthen our resilience to propel beyond what was possible before.

The StatsSA demonstrated this resilience and agility, when it adopted a digital census when confronted

with the COVID-19 pandemic when the alternative was to abandon the census count like many other countries did.

As previously stated, the importance of numbers to harness leadership's ability to lead in a new era cannot be overstated. It is more important than ever that our thinking, planning and policy responses be informed by reliable evidence to achieve better outcomes for this nation in a transformed digital era.

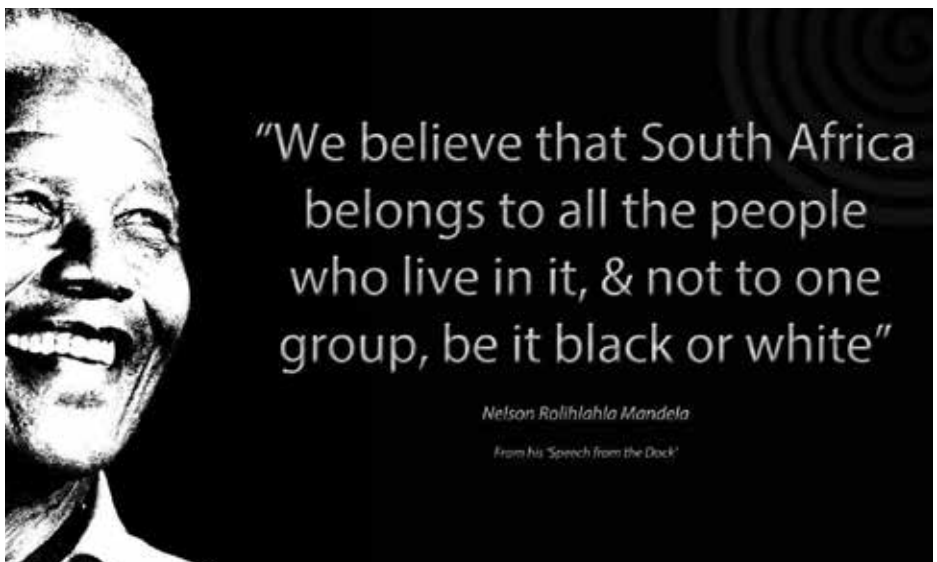
I want to take this opportunity to — Thank the Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the Select Committee on Health and Social Services; Thank the staff and leadership of Stats SA, under the charge of the Statistician-General, Risenga Muleleke and the South African Statistics Council who continue to deliver on the mandate of Stats SA.

As I say Thank You, let me invite all of us to make continued and greater use of Stats SA insights to understand and participate in the ever-unfolding story of our country.

Ndi a livhuwa

Hakhensa – inkomo

Kea leboga.



Unpacking the ANC: Navigating the Shifting Political Landscape Post-2024

■ By **MIKATEKO BENEDICT PHALANE**

IN the recent May elections of 2024, the African National Congress (ANC) faced a significant electoral decline, sparking discussions on the evolving dynamics within the party and the implications for black voters in South Africa.

To understand these shifts, it is crucial to revisit the founding principles of the ANC and analyze how they have shaped the party's trajectory over the years.

Founding Principles of the African National Congress

The ANC was founded in 1912 with a vision to unite the people of South Africa, particularly the black population, in their struggle against racial oppression and discrimination. Central to its founding principles were the ideals of non-racialism, democracy, equality, and the pursuit of social justice. The party played a pivotal role in the fight against apartheid, ultimately leading to the establishment of a democratic South Africa in 1994.

However, in the post-apartheid era, the ANC has grappled with challenges related to governance, corruption, and service delivery, leading to a decline in public trust and support.



The party's dominance in South African politics has faced increasing competition from other political parties, especially those that have emerged as 'alternative voices advocating for change and accountability'.

The 2024 Electoral Outcomes and the Impact on Black Voters: The 2024 elections marked a turning point for the ANC, as the party experienced a decline in electoral support, losing significant ground to opposition parties. This decline can be attributed to various factors, including disillusionment among voters due to corruption scandals, economic challenges, and a desire for fresh leadership and ideas.

The changing dynamics within the ANC have also influenced black voters' perceptions and voting behavior. Many black voters who traditionally supported the ANC have started to question the party's ability to deliver on its promises and address pressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and job creation.

As a result, some voters have shifted their allegiance to other parties that they believe better represent their interests and aspirations.

Moving Forward: Navigating a New Political Landscape

In light of the 2024 electoral decline,

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the ANC faces a critical juncture in redefining its identity and reclaiming the trust of voters, especially within the black community.

The party must prioritize transparency, accountability, and effective governance to rebuild its credibility and relevance in a rapidly changing political landscape.

At the same time, black voters play a crucial role in shaping the future of South Africa's democracy. As they continue to demand better representation, services, and opportunities, political parties must listen to their concerns and engage meaningfully with their needs and aspirations.

Building a more inclusive and equitable society requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, and ordinary citizens.

Conclusion

The 2024 electoral decline of the ANC highlights the complexities and challenges facing South Africa's political landscape. By reflecting on the party's founding principles and the evolving dynamics within the black voting bloc, we can gain valuable insights into the path forward for a more inclusive, democratic, and responsive political system.

As the country navigates these changes, it is essential to uphold the values of unity, equality, and justice that have long been at the heart of the ANC's vision for a better South Africa.

Mikateko Benedict Phalane is Deputy Convener of ANCYL ZTT Mamelodi and BEC member of the ANC Ward 10. He writes in his personal capacity.



POPULISM – A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

“DON'T ever open it”, warned Zeus as Pandora got the best of herself. The Government of National Unity (GNU) is a Pandora's Box, everyone curious of its contents, eliciting noise, and some cheap victory over the work of the 6th administration and the 30 years of ANC rule.

Gayton Mackenzie of the Patriotic Alliance fired the first salvo, followed by Dean MacPherson, then Schreiber, both from the Democratic Alliance. These Ministers are part of the unity government established for the good of the country, common trajectory and purpose of development and prosperity. In a new com-

plex milieu where no party mastered majority, the territory is uncharted, with its new and unique problems, and teething problems which cause consternation and discomfort on the tapestry of the body politic of the GNU, its intent, letter and spirit.

The release of reports of the 6th administration is an act of populism and cheap politicking, given the check and balances and the oversight role of Parliament, the annual reports of government department for the purposes of accountability and transparency.

Firstly, to deal with Mackenzie, his assertions of corruption in the allocation and distribution of funds to the creative industry in the pe-

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riod of the COVID pandemic, the shunning of Makhadzi and the exclusion of super fans is problematic. This cowboy approach elicited the ire of the African National Youth League (ANCYL) an important sector of society and part of the ANC.

“Tell no lies, claim no easy victories and mask no difficulties” so said Cabral. This is what is playing out in the public space, each jostling for popularity and relevance, ingratiating themselves with the populace as they build their respective party brands, inimical fractious to the spirit of the GNU, and national unity and interests. Gun toting and with a lasso in hand, McKenzie is playing to the gallery, inconsiderate of the plight of the creative industry in the testing times of the debilitating COVID pandemic which destroyed livelihoods. The anger and reaction of the ANCYL are the first signs of the cracks of the foundations upon which the GNU is pillared.

MacPherson further complicates matters, deliberately ignoring the sterling work of Minister Patricia de Lille, the Nkandla debacle, leases across the world and in the country, unaccounted properties and acts of corruption. Or perhaps the courtesy to consult with her colleagues in the framework of cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations. Instead, just like McKenzie, he ascended the populist dais, claiming easy victories as if acts of corruption were today’s revelation, deliberately ignoring the work of the 6th administration.

In light of his acts, relations have hardened by MacPherson.

As if these are not enough, Schreiber reveals acts of impropriety

in the issuance of visas, suggesting a deliberate scheme under the leadership of the ANC. Facts are stubborn. Whilst at the helm of the Department of Home Affairs, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi initiated and gazetted an investigation into the visa issue, publicized on national television for all to see, including the Democratic Alliance.

All these are emblematic of the deep seated challenges within the GNU, and the difficulties within cannot be masked for the purpose of the GNU, no matter its fragility. When it comes to clean governance, accountability and transparency, the GNU agrees on the fight against corruption. But to assume that the ANC is some sort of a secret society that ruled with impunity without subjecting itself to parliamentary processes of accountability is both disingenuous and misleading to the public.

At worst, this is damaging to the GNU and the public’s trust in the ability of partners to the unity government to advance development in a manner that is seamless for the common benefit of society and not sectarian politics.

These create a crisis for the GNU, and a complex environment for President Ramaphosa to manage conflict and relations for the smooth running of government in a manner that is collaborative and not competitive. The GNU is in a neonate stage and needs to be nurtured to address the exigencies of the state.

The principles and values of the GNU are collaboration, common vision, aspirations of the people and the imperatives of the developmental state. In view of its gargantuan challenges, the country cannot afford to prevaricate.

These acts of mistrust threaten the fibre of the GNU and the unitary character of the state, impacts on the speedy delivery of services in a manner that is coordinated, collaborative and based on a common vision of meaningful change, transformation and our quest to build a non-racial society as a drastic departure from fragmented politics and anti-transformation pushback seen during the election period of campaigning.

As parliament debates budgets, these need to be done in a manner that is complementary to the entire work of government, not in a manner that is disjointed and competitive, elevating one department above the rest as if South Africa is federal. The GNU is not a party-based government, but an inclusive government representative of diverse voices and competing yet reconcilable interests for the prosperity of the nation.

It is important to state that there is no party Minister in the GNU or a separate policy distinct from the policy of government. All these ministers are GNU ministers bound by protocol, subject to the Constitution and government policy and not some sort of machismo displayed by these ministers as if they are above the GNU. That is politically puerile and dangerous to national unity and the future of the GNU.

We heed Cabral’s counsel when he says **“hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories...”**

I guess that Pandora had heeded Zeus’ warning.

HISTORY

A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

Nelson Mandela Addresses the Pan-African Freedom Movement of East, Central and Southern Africa

Addis Ababa February 1962

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

IN December 1962, the ANC leadership decided to accept an invitation from the Pan-African Freedom Movement of East, Central and Southern Africa (PAFMECSA), a forerunner of the Organisation of African Unity, to send a delegation to a conference to be held in Ethiopia early in February 1962. ANC President-General Albert Luthuli authorised Nelson Mandela to represent the organisation.

Mandela slipped out of South Africa via Bechuanaland (Botswana) in the second week of January. During the next six months, often accompanied by Oliver Tambo and Robert Resha, he visited 14 independent African countries, meeting many heads of state and gaining experience in the art of diplomacy. His objectives were two-fold: to burnish the image of the ANC in independent Africa, and to obtain military training opportunities, money, and political support for Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the military wing of the ANC.

On 2 February, at the start of the PAFMECSA conference, Emper-



or Haile Selassie I, opening the proceedings, specifically mentioned South Africa, saying he felt the need for new methods in the struggle for the liberation of African countries still fighting for their freedom. PAFMECSA aimed to draw together the independent states of Africa and promote the liberation movement on the continent. Nelson Mandela was scheduled to speak after the Emperor, as the first speaker the following morning.

In his speech, Mandela reviewed the history of the freedom struggle in South Africa and listed the brutal massacres that had been committed against the African people, from Bulhoek in 1921, when the army and police killed 183 unarmed peasants, to Sharpeville 40 years later. Mandela thanked the assembled nations for exerting pressure on South Africa, citing in particular Ghana, Nigeria and Tanganyika, who spearheaded the successful

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drive to oust South Africa from the British Commonwealth. Mandela retraced the birth of Umkhonto we Sizwe, explaining that all opportunities for peaceful struggle had been closed to the people.

Referring to the ANC's shift in policy he said: *"a leadership commits a crime against its own people if it hesitates to sharpen its political weapons where they have become less effective."* When he added that *"On the night of 16 December last year, a whole of South Africa vibrated under the heavy blows of Umkhonto we Sizwe,"* the Ugandan chief Minister exclaimed, *"Give it to them again."*

Nelson Mandela then began to relate his own experiences, having for the last ten months lived in his own country as an outlaw away from family and friends. When he was compelled to lead this sort of life, he made a public statement in which he announced that he would not leave the country but would continue working underground. According to Mandela, *"I meant and I will honour that undertaking."*

The announcement that he would return to South Africa was met with loud cheers. The fact that the ANC was encouraged to speak first so that PAFMECSA could evaluate the South African cause and decide how much support to give it was reassuring. There was a natural reluctance among many African states to support violent struggles elsewhere, but the speech persuaded people that freedom fighters in South Africa had no alternative but to take up arms. Emphasizing this point, Mandela remarked:

"Finally, dear friends, I should assure you that the African people

of South Africa, notwithstanding fears persecution and untold suffering, in their ever-increasing courage will not for one single moment be diverted from the historic mission of liberating their country and winning freedom, lasting peace, and happiness."

"We are confident that in the decisive struggles ahead, our liberation movement will receive the fullest support of PAFMECSA and of all freedom-loving people throughout the world."

NELSON MANDELA DAY

"IT IS IN YOUR HANDS TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN IT."

NELSON MANDELA

TAKE ACTION, INSPIRE CHANGE. MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY
 Take the challenge, join the global network: www.mandeladay.com

ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY # MANDELADAY

POETRY

Living Mothers

■ By **LOOKS MATOTO**

In the shadows of oppression, they stood tall,
Living mothers, guardians of us all.
Present and departed, they gave their all,
To protect young comrades, heed freedom's call.

They fed us, sheltered us, on the run,
From apartheid's grip, till the fight was won.
Under their watch, no harm could find,
These unassuming warriors, so kind.

Across the townships, they did hover,
Above the houses, with love to cover.
In the maze of homes, their spirits soared,
Living mothers, whose love adored.

Their innocent faces fooled the eyes,
Of soldiers searching, believing lies.
Yet beneath those smiles, a strength so pure,
Living mothers, who could endure.

They dressed us in disguises, hid us well,
With clean dishes, stories to tell.
When soldiers left, thinking all was right,
I'd continue my journey, into the night.

A MULHER AFRICANA

UNIDA NUM SÓ IDEAL

EXIGE

A LIBERTAÇÃO TOTAL DE AFRICA

AN AFRICAN WOMAN

UNITE IN A COMMON IDEAL

THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA

LA FEMME AFRICAINE UNIE

EN UN SEUL IDEAL EXIGE

LA LIBERATION TOTALE

DE L'AFRIQUE

POETRY

Living mothers, some now have passed,
 Yet their legacy forever will last.
 The younger generation must know,
 Of living mothers, from long ago.

Seek and you'll find, in quiet places,
 Their eyes full of wisdom, their courage traces.
 Living mothers, protectors, and guides,
 In their hearts, our revolution abides.

From the depths of danger, they gave us hope,
 With their strength, we learned to cope.
 Living mothers, forever revered,
 Their sacrifices honoured, their memories endeared.

So let us remember, let us proclaim,
 The valor of these mothers, in freedom's name.
 Living mothers, whose love was our shield,
 In the face of tyranny, they never did yield.

With every step we take today,
 Their spirit guides us, lights the way.
 Living mothers, heroes unsung,
 Through their courage, freedom was won.

AN AFRICAN WOMAN
 UNITE IN A COMMON IDEAL
 THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA

LA FEMME AFRICAINE UNIE
 EN UN SEUL IDEAL EXIGE
 LA LIBERATION TOTALE
 DE L'AFRIQUE

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

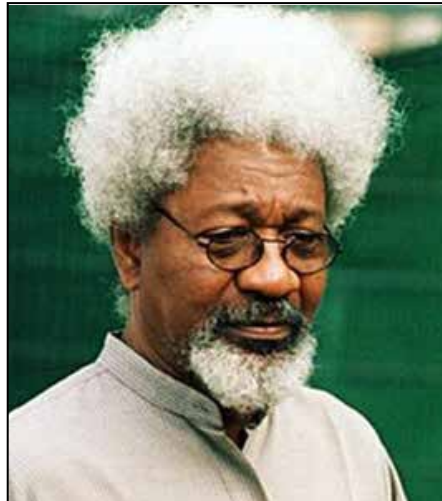
13 – 19 July 2024

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

13 July 1916

Linguist and educationist Sedumedi Moloto is born

Ernest Sedumedi Moloto, linguist, educationist and teacher who served as chairman of both the Tswana Language Committee of South Africa and the Botswana National Language Committee was born in Moruleng, Rustenburg district. During his long career as an educationist and linguist, he taught Setswana, Northern and Southern Sotho at Turfloop (University of the North), and later as Professor and Head of African Languages at the Botswana University in Gaborone, and later the same position at Vista University in Mamelodi. He was an excellent linguist and spoke Setswana, his mother tongue, English, Afrikaans and Dutch equally fluently. Moloto was once married to the South African struggle hero Ellen Khuzwayo



The Trials of Brother Jero and Jero's Metamorphosis (1973); *The Strong Breed* (1963), *Kongqi's Harvest* (1967), *The Road* (1965), *From Zia, with Love* (1992), *King Baabu* (2002), to name but some. In addition to his plays, he also wrote and published a number of novels and collections of poetry. Soyinka was founder and editor of Nigerian literary journal, *Black Orpheus* and taught literature, theatre and drama at various universities including Ibadan, Ife and Lagos. Wole Soyinka received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, the first African to do so. (Source: www.britannica.com/biography/Wole-Soyinka).

13 July 1947

Fietas housing memorandum handed over

The Tamil Benefit Society presents a memorandum on poor housing conditions in Pageview, Johannesburg, and the need for housing schemes for poorer Indi-

ans to the Minister of the Interior. Fietas, as the Pageview community was popularly known, was one of the oldest communities in Johannesburg and was one of the first 'locations' (non-white areas) established under the government of Paul Kruger in 1893. In its heyday between 1945 and 1960, Fietas was an integrated community not unlike District Six in Cape Town and Sophiatown in Johannesburg's Western Areas. Like District Six and Sophiatown, it was destroyed by the Group Areas Act from the 1960s, leading to fierce resistance that continued into the 1980s.

13 July 1963

India intensifies anti-apartheid struggle

The government of India announced that it was cutting India's last remaining link with South Africa by refusing landing and passage facilities to South African aircraft. India was one of the first states in the global struggle against apartheid in Namibia and South Africa.

13 July 2005

Egypt steps up demand for return of Rosetta stone

Egypt's Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, archeologist Zahi Hawass repeated the call he first made to UNESCO in July 2003 for the return of five of his country's most precious antiquities looted by colonial and other powers, and kept in their

13 July 1934

Playwriter and Author Wole Soyinka born

The Nobel literature laureate was born on this day in Abeokuta, Nigeria. Wole Soyinka's first play, *A Dance of Forests* was produced and written in 1960 and 1963, in celebration of Nigerian independence. He went on to write a host of other plays: *The Lion and the Jewel* (first performed in Ibadan, 1959; published 1963), mocking the clever preachers of upstart prayer-churches who grow fat on the credulity of their parishioners;

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

museums. The five included the Rosetta stone in London; the Nefertiti bust in Berlin; the statue of the Great Pyramid architect Hemiunu in Hildesheim, Germany; the Dendera Temple Zodiac in Paris; and the Ankhhaf bust in Boston, USA. To date, none of these have been returned, not even on loan. This struggle of the Egyptians is part of the continent-wide struggle for the return of national artifacts looted during the colonial period, including such as the remains of our own Sara Baartman. UNESCO has a project on the Restitution of Cultural Property and a committee to which countries can apply, based on the 1970 Convention and the 1995 complementary Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

14 July 1774 Expanding Cape colonial borders herald start of frontier wars

The Cape colonial borders extended to the Bushman River (Grahamstown to the north) and the Fish River (past Port Alfred to the east). This expansion, following the near extermination of the Khoi inhabitants of the south coast, saw resistance from the amaXhosa, resulting in over hundred years of frontier wars, from 1779 to 1878. After the ninth frontier war in 1878, with the defeat of Kreli and Sandile, Mfengu-land and the Idutywa district were annexed to be part of the Cape colony, eventually stretching up to the Mtamvuna River (near Port Edward) by 1894.

14 July 1948 King Goodwill Zwelethini born

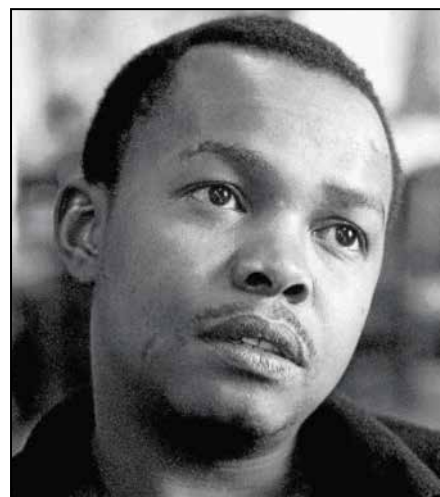
Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, eldest son of King



Cyprian Bhekuzulu kaSolomon and his second wife, Queen Thomo was born in Nongoma, Zululand (now KwaZulu-Natal). He received formal instruction in traditional Zulu customs while he was at his father's residence of Khethomtandayo. Zwelithini was installed as the eighth monarch of the Zulus at a traditional ceremony attended by 20 000 people in Nongoma on the 3rd of December 1971.

14 July 1965 Journalist and writer Nat Nakasa dies in exile

Ndazana Nathaniel Nat Nakasa was awarded the The Niemann Fellowship to study journalism at Harvard University in the US but the government rejected his application for a passport. This



forced him to leave the country on an exit permit and never be allowed to return to South Africa. Nakasa was part of a group of journalists, many working for Drum Magazine, associated with the vibrant, violent and somewhat romantic culture that characterised Sophiatown in the 1950s. While Nakasa worked for the Rand Daily Mail, he is associated with legends like Can Themba, Arthur Maimane and Bloke Modisane. Nakasa was also the first black columnist at The Rand Daily Mail. While in America Nakasa became lonely and home sick. Knowing that he could never return home, it is alleged that he committed suicide by jumping from a high-rise building in New York on 14 July 1965, in the prime of his life. An annual award for courageous journalism has been named after him.

15 July 1916 Battle of Dellville Wood start

South Africa entered WWI on 8 September 1914, on the side of the Allied Forces. On 15 July 1916, the S.A. Infantry Brigade under Major-General H.T. Lukin was ordered to clear the forest at d'Elville, France of enemy soldiers, thereby covering the flanks of the British Brigade. The South Africans occupied the wood on that day, but the problem was not so much to take the wood, than to hold it. Despite fierce counterattacks and artillery bombardments from German divisions, the SA brigade refused to surrender. The brigade was relieved on 20 July after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting. Only 750 soldiers remained of the Brigade's 3 433 soldiers, the rest had either been killed or wounded. Black people were also involved in this battle as unarmed combatants and

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

non-military personnel. The Battle of Delville Wood went down in the history of WWI as an example of supreme sacrifice and heroism and remained the most costly action the South African Brigade fought on the Western Front. A memorial site was erected in remembrance of those who died in the Battle in 1926. 146000 Whites volunteered for service in WW1, while altogether 83000 Blacks and 2000 Coloureds did service in non-combatant capacity.

15 July 1953

Walter Sisulu and Duma Nokwe leave SA



African National Congress (ANC) members, Walter Sisulu and Duma Nokwe, went overseas under false names and without passports. The two arrived in London, England and from there they went to Bucharest, Romania, where they attended the communist *“World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship”*. After this, they embarked on an extensive tour to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia and China, to mobilise support for the struggle against apartheid. They returned to South Africa on December 1953 and attended the 41st annual conference of the ANC at Queenstown, where it was decided to begin The Defiance campaign.

15 July 1995

Mystery of the SS Waratah

The SS Waratah was a luxury steamer, en route from Cape Town to Durban, South Africa, on 26 July 1909. The ship, built in Scotland, was meant to serve as a passenger and cargo liner to Australia. After her second trip to Australia, the SS Waratah arrived in Durban on 1 July 1909. With 211 passengers and crew on board, she left for Cape Town, which she was expected to reach by 29 July. However, the Waratah did not reach its destination, and no trace of the wreckage was found. A number of wrecks, bearing similarities to the outline of the steamer, were spotted along the coast of South Africa between 1925 and 1999. None of them, however, proved to be that of the Waratah. Several theories have developed as to what might have caused the disappearance of the SS Waratah. On 15 July 2009, the most popular theory, supported by research on sonar imaging, revealed that a freak wave may have capsized the boat, causing its rudder to malfunction. Although maintained as the most likely explanation for the disappearance of the SS Waratah, the mystery of this luxury steamer remains unsolved.

15 July 1932

CJ Langenhoven passed on in Oudtshoorn

Cornelis Jacob Langenhoven, who penned the words of *Die Stem van Suid-Afrika*, died at his home in Oudtshoorn. Die Stem was the official national anthem of SA from 2 May 1957 to 20 April 1994, when it was combined with *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and recognised as the national anthem. CJ Langenhoven was also a poet wrote short stories and other works, and who played

a major role in the development of Afrikaans literature. As a Member of Parliament and Senator from 1914, he fought for the recognition of Afrikaans, and was one of the founders of the newspaper *Die Burger*, and was a SA Freemason. Till today, he is one of the most prolific Afrikaans authors, with his *Collective Works* of sixteen volumes.

16 July 1901

Ladies Commission to investigate Concentration camps appointed

On 16 July 1901, the Ladies commission was appointed, including amongst its members Millicent G. Fawcett, Emily Hobhouse and Dr. Jane Waterson. They were appointed by the British Office to investigate the concentration camps in South Africa during the Second Anglo Boer War. At least 25 000 children and women died from epidemics of dysentery, measles, and enteric fever. Emily Hobhouse, an English philanthropist and social worker visited the camps to raise awareness and tried to improve the life of the concentration camp prisoners.

16 July 1947

Community leader Horatio M'belle passed on

Horatio Isaiah Budlwana (Bud) M'belle, interpreter, insurance agent, community leader and politician, died in Pretoria. The first African to pass the Cape Civil Service Exam, he was widely regarded as the best court interpreter of his day and was a talented rugby and cricket player who took the lead in the local African community sports activities. He went to work in Kimberley, where he got involved in the founding of many schools for African people. He was also instrumental in the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

anti-pass campaign of 1919, under the banner of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC). He participated in the All African Convention of 1935 and founded the Pretoria Advisory Council for African affairs as well as Joint Council of Europeans and Bantu. M'belle wrote a Xhosa scholar's companion and was a contributor to *Abantu-Batho*, an organ of the SANNC that was founded by Pixley ka Isaka Seme. He passed on 16 July 1947 at the age of 77. (<http://www.thejournalist.org.za/pioneers/horatio-isaiah-budlwana-bud-mbelle>)

16 July 1966

Number of anti-apartheid activists banned

In order to maintain the oppressive and brutal system of apartheid, all sorts of repressive laws were put in place to strangle opposition to apartheid. One such method was the banning of persons from participating in any political activities. By 1966, it was announced that 936 people in South Africa had been banned, with 467 listed as communists or under the Riotous Assembly Act. Between 1950 and 1990, more than 2000 people were banned in South Africa and labeled as terrorists, communists or perceived by the apartheid government as a threat to public security. The ban on anti-apartheid activists was finally lifted in 1990.

16 July 1990

ANC presents report on Police Violence to De Klerk

The African National Congress (ANC) sent a report on police violence to President F. W. de Klerk and demanded an end to "the shocking inhumanity" of police action in rural areas. The report

was based on about 50 statements to lawyers by victims of police action in the farming towns of Ashton, Montague and Robertson. ANC leader Walter Sisulu had already accused the Government of failing to restrain the police after young activist Meshack Kunene was shot dead on 30 June in the Alexandra Township near Johannesburg.

16 July 2006

Names of black members of SA Labour Corps and SS Mendi victims unveiled

Mluleke George, the deputy defence minister, attends the 90th commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood in France. During the ceremony, a new South African coat of arms is unveiled at the South African memorial on the site. The names of Black members of the South African Labour Corps who died at Arques-la-Bataille and those who perished on board the SAS Mendi are unveiled at the museum.

16 July 2019

Johnny Clegg passed on



Johnny Clegg, at the age of 66 passed away at home in Johannesburg on 16 July 2019, after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2015. He is known as a songwriter, a dancer and an anthropologist. Clegg's mu-

sic touched many with its vibrant blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms. His unique music style embraced different cultures and enhanced the social cohesion of South Africans. During his music career, he produced so many hits, including *Impi*, *Great Heart* and *African Sky Blue*.

17 July 1950

First SABC news bulletin broadcast

Broadcasting in South Africa can be traced back to 1923, when the first wireless broadcast was made in Johannesburg. By April 1927, an hour of Afrikaans programming and one daily news bulletin in Afrikaans was broadcast. Insufficient funding began to hamper the progress of the broadcaster and an investigation into all aspects of broadcasting in South Africa was launched by the Prime Minister of South Africa, JBM Hertzog. This resulted in the establishment of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and by 17 July 1950 a commercial radio service was established, with daily news bulletins in both English and Afrikaans – this radio service was popularly known as Springbok Radio. Broadcasts were initially limited to the Johannesburg area, but soon became available in most major centres in South Africa. The SABC grew in the 1960s and 1970s as more radio stations, broadcasting in selected African languages, were established.

17 July 1955

Jomo Sono, footballer, coach and club owner born

Ephraim Matsilela Sono was born on this day in Orlando East, Soweto. His father, Eric "Scara"

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Bamuza Sono, a midfielder playing for Orlando Pirates, passed on when Jomo was still young, and he was brought up by his grandparents. Helping to support his family and pay school fees from a young age, he sold apples and peanuts at train stations and soccer games. During an Orlando Pirates game, a player was ill and he was asked to stand in and the rest is history. Jomo later went to North America where he played for teams New York Cosmos, Colorado Caribous and Toronto Blizzard from 1978 and 1982. Upon his return to South Africa in 1982, he bought the Highlands Club which he re-named Jomo Cosmos, with the club winning a number of cups in various tournaments. Jomo Sono had two stints as Bafana Bafana coach, during the 1998 AFCON and 2002 FIFA World Cup. Sono is also a board member of the PSL and active in SAFA.

18 July 1919

Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela is born

Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela was born into the Madiba clan in the village of Mvezo, in the Eastern Cape, on 18 July 1918. His mother was Nonqaphi Nosekeni and his father was Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela, principal counsellor to the Acting King of the Thembu people, Jongintaba Dalindyebo. He went on to study at Fort Hare University where he became one of the founders of the ANC Youth League, and went on to serve on the National Executive of the ANC, as Volunteer in Chief of the Defiance campaign, serving on the High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe after undergoing military training in Morocco and Ethiopia, and then arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment to Robben Island.

LET'S GET INVOLVED
NELSON MANDELA DAY
18 JULY

#MANDELADAY

IT IS STILL IN OUR HANDS TO COMBAT POVERTY AND INEQUITY.

#ItIsInYourHands #MandelaDay2024

After serving for 27 years, and becoming a symbol of political prisoners, he was released in 1990 and led the negotiations for a democratic South Africa. He was elected as ANC President in 1991, a position he held until 1997. He became South African President, when the ANC won the first democratic non-racial elections. South Africans of all races celebrates this day as Nelson Mandela Day, where they spent 67 minutes of doing charity work across the country. The 67 minutes symbolically represent

the number of years President Mandela fought for human rights and the abolition of apartheid.

18 July 1968

Hugh Masekele strikes gold with *Grazing in the Grass*

Hugh Masekela strikes gold with the breezy, instrumental *Grazing in the Grass*, topping the US charts as number one for two weeks and becoming an international hit. Masekela, playing piano from childhood and a trumpeter

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

since age fourteen, Masekela was a member of the Huddleston Jazz Band, South Africa's first youth orchestra. He became one of the jazz icons of the 1950s, most notably performing in Todd Matshikiza's musical *King Kong* (1959), and, soon thereafter, as a member of the legendary Jazz Epistles (with Kippie Moeketsi, Abdullah Ibrahim and Jonas Gwangwa). In addition to piano and trumpet, he also played the flugelhorn, and composed and sang. His music career spanned many decades, producing hit after hit until he passed on in January 2018. His autobiography, *Still Grazing: The Musical Journey of Hugh Masekela* (co-authored with D. Michael Cheers), has been described as an awesome description of "many lives packed into one."

18 July 1993

Agathe Uwilingiyimana (1953-1994) becomes Rwandan Prime Minister



Mathematics and science teacher, also known as Madame Agathe, was one of the first women to receive a Bachelor degree from the University of Rwanda in 1985. She rose to prominence through her formation of a self-help organisation, and went on to become Rwanda's first woman prime minister on this day. She participated in the Arusha Accord talks and after the assassination of Burundian President Melchior

Ndadaye, she publicly warned against retaliatory violence against Tutsis. She was assassinated on 7 April 1994, by soldiers from her government. Uwilingiyimana is remembered as a pioneer in women's rights and education in Rwanda, a founder of the Forum for African Women Educators (FAWE) and her efforts to reconcile ethnic differences in the country.

18 July 1999

Penny Heyns sets four world records in swimming

Swimmer Penny Heyns of SA sets four world records in just two days in the 100m and 200m breaststroke in South California, USA. Heyns became the first SA gold medallist in 44 years. In her first Olympics in Barcelona in 1992, the first since South Africa's return to the games, she was the youngest member of the team at the age of 17 years. She retired from swimming in 2000, having set 14 world records and the first and only woman and became the only woman in history to complete the Olympic dou-

ble of winning both the 100 and 200metres breaststroke.

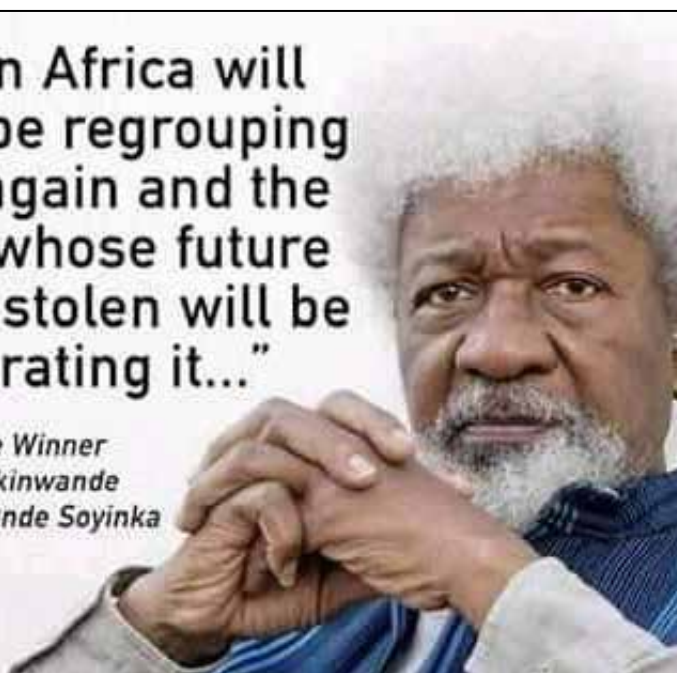
19 July 1965

Poet Ingrid Jonker passed on

Ingrid Jonker, at the age of 31 when she took her own life, was already recognised as poet with advanced ideas, with her poems being studied, translated and published in many languages including English, isiZulu, German, French, Dutch, Polish and Hindi. President Mandela in May 1994 in his first state of the nation address (SONA) to Parliament quoted her poem: *The Child who Was Shot Dead by Soldiers at Nyanga*, said of jonkers: "She was both a poet and a South African. She was both an Afrikaner and an African. She was both an artist and a human being. In the midst of despair, she celebrated hope. Confronted by death, she asserted the beauty of life." Jonkers was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga posthumously. Her poetry collections are still available and Jacana Media published a pocket autobiography, *Ingrid Jonker*, written by Louise Viljoen in 2012

"Only in Africa will thieves be regrouping to loot again and the youths whose future is being stolen will be celebrating it..."

Nobel Prize Winner
 Professor Akinwande
 Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

13 – 19 July 2024

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

JULY 2024



MANDELA MONTH

14 July

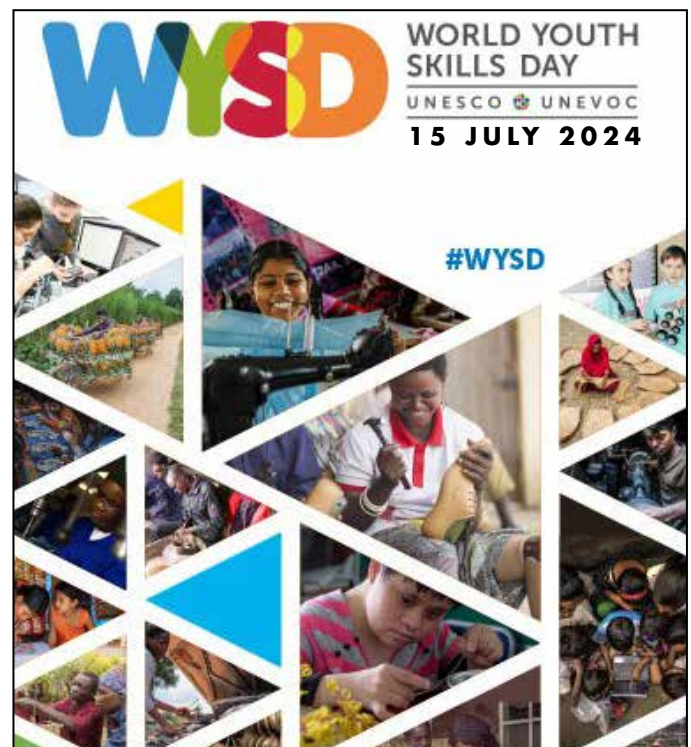
World Sharks Day

Sharks date back 420 million years, nearly 200 million years before the dinosaurs roamed the earth. Sharks have the reputation of being dangerous, but in fact human beings kill more sharks, about 100 million of all sizes each year. There are more than 500 different known species of sharks in our oceans, the smallest is as big as a human hand (the dwarf lantern shark) and the largest over 12 metres long (the whale shark). Sharks have excellent night eye-sight and can also see colours. Human pollution, especially plastics, and global warming also impact on the survival of sharks.

15 July

World Youth Skills Day

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2024, “Youth Skills for Peace and Development,” underscores the crucial role young people play in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The world faces a multitude of challenges today, many of which affect the youth. Violent conflicts disrupting education and stability, a polarized online environ-



ment fostering negativity, and persistent economic inequality limits opportunities. These issues threaten not only individual futures but also the overall stability of societies. It is crucial to equip youth with the necessary skills for fostering a culture of peace, nurturing responsible global citizens, and promoting sustainable development to build a more just, inclu-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

sive, and sustainable future for all. On World Youth Skills Day, let us unite in recognizing the potential of young people as agents of peace and commit to providing them with the skills and opportunities to address challenges and contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

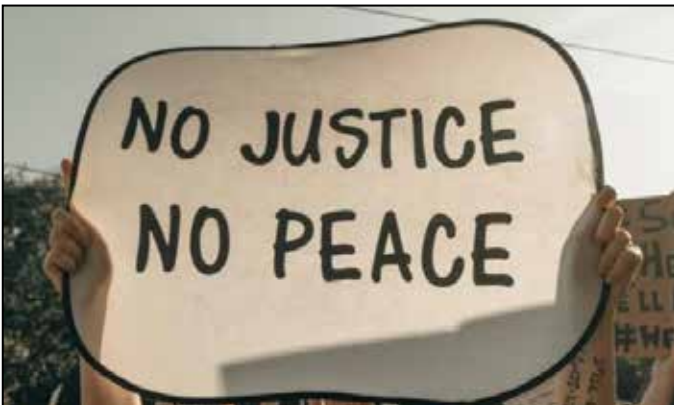
16 July

World Snake Day

The day seeks to create awareness of the different species of snakes around the world. Snakes are affected by the same threats as other wildlife – habitat loss, global warming, disease – because of negative attitudes towards snakes, raising awareness about their issues is difficult. Snakes have no eyelids and smell using their tongues. There are over 3,000 different species of snakes, and they are found everywhere except in Antarctica, Greenland, Ireland, Iceland and New Zealand. South Africa is home to about 171 different snake species, most are not dangerous to humans. The black mamba is the most feared across Africa, with length between 2.5 and 4.5 metres and one of the fastest.

17 July

International Justice Day



International Justice Day (IJD) commemorates the historic adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, and marks the importance of continuing the fight against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. IJD is a reminder for all states committed to fair and impartial justice for victims of the worst crimes around the world: to urgently ensure continued support for the international justice system. IJD is also a reminder for the Court's strongest advocates, civil society: to stand firm in their original commitment in getting the ICC established, now to advance a Rome Statute system of international justice that works for all.

17 July

World Emoji Day

An emoji is a pictogram, logogram, ideogram or smiley embedded in text, used in electronic messages and web pages. The word emoji comes from Japanese, originating in their cell phones in 1997. A grassroots organisation of women programmers, Emojination, has been working to make emoji's more inclusive and diverse, with only half of global users feeling that their identities are represented in current emoji options. A young Ivorian student created over 360 emojis featuring African themed topics, through his Zouzoukwa mobile app.

18 July

Nelson Mandela International Day

Mandela Day is marked globally on the day of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's birthday, when people are reminded that they can make a change in their world, and to do something for others for 67 minutes. It also celebrates Madiba's humility, bravery and compassion, and the UN General Assembly has declared 2019-2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace, resolving "to move beyond words in the promotion of peaceful, just, inclusive and non discriminatory societies." As we approach Mandela Day 2024, let us ask ourselves: **What will we contribute to our communities? How can we honour Nelson Mandela's legacy through meaningful action?**

"As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."
— Nelson Mandela

NELSON
MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY
18 July

#MANDELADAY
2024

LET'S GET INVOLVED

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



NELSON MANDELA SPEAKS

ON UNITY

We will have to travel a difficult road before we can truly unite the majority of our people, without regard to race, colour and gender, around a common patriotism, one of whose critical elements must be the establishment of a caring society.

ON THE JUDICIARY

The independence of the judiciary is one of the pillars of our democracy and equally fundamental is the commitment to abide by the decisions of the courts, whether they are in one's favour or not.

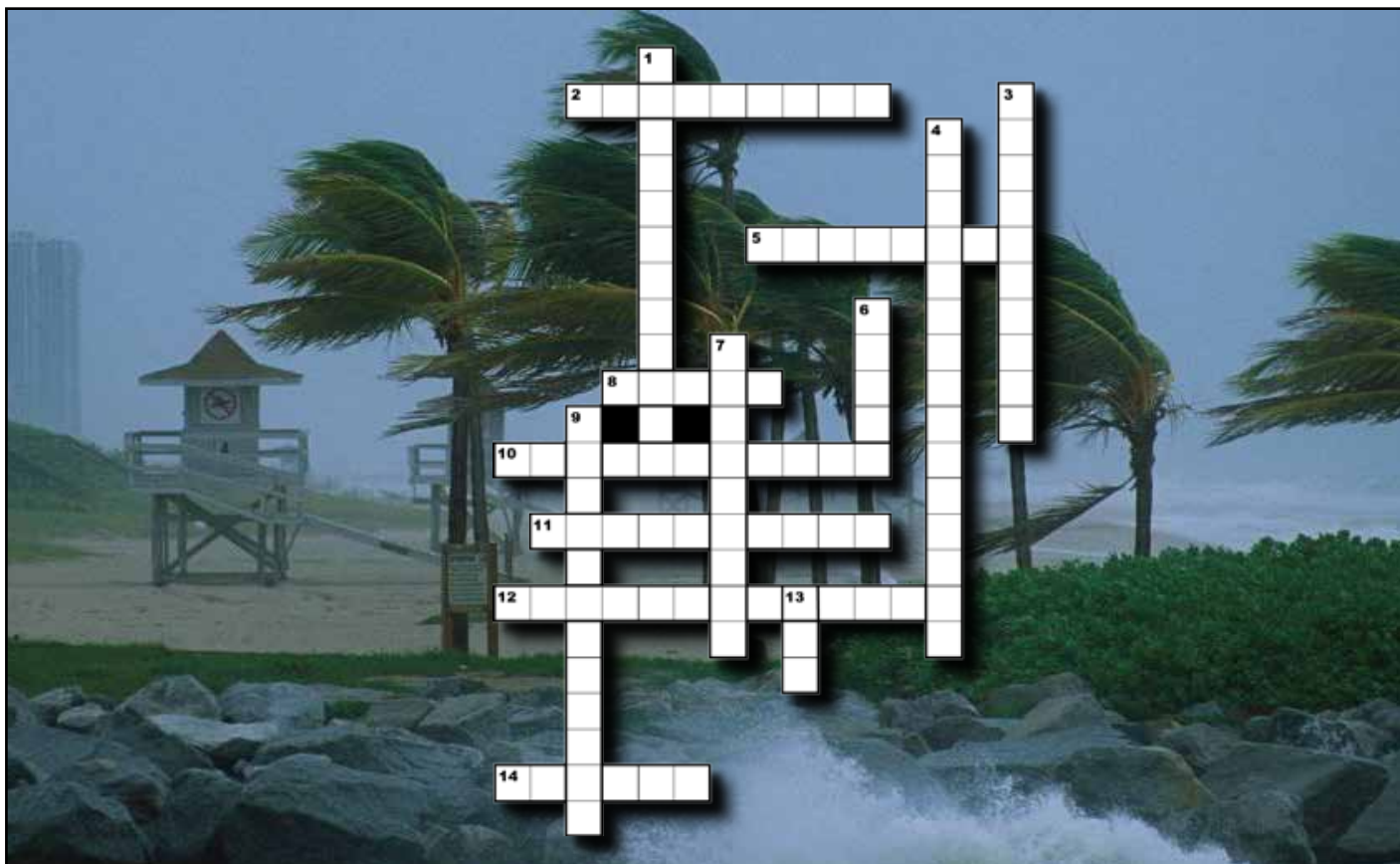
ON CARING FOR OTHERS

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the lives of others.

X-WORD

Extreme Weather Events, Disasters & Risks

Source: www.nccis.environment.gov.za



DOWN

- 1. One of the disaster risks faced by South Africa.
- 3. One of the other disaster risks faced by South Africa.
- 4. One of the other disaster risks faced by South Africa.
- 6. National Climate Change Information System.
- 7. Other disaster risks faced by South Africa
- 9. ... increases impact of extreme weather events on people and infrastructure.
- 13. SA expected to experience Increase in very ... days – above 35°C and the frequency of heat wave events.

ACROSS

- 2. Globally, the..., extent and severity of natural disasters have increased notably.
- 5. One of the four most common extreme weather events in South Africa.
- 8. One of the four most common extreme weather events in South Africa.
- 10. One of the four most common extreme weather events in South Africa.
- 11. One of the other disaster risks faced by South Africa.
- 12. is expected to increase frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of many extreme weather-related events.
- 14. One of the four most common extreme weather events in South Africa.

WORD BANK

frequency Climate change urbanisation floods droughts fires large storms
lighting strikes heat waves hail damage wind storms sea level rise NCCIS hot

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