



# ANC TODAY

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## Conversations with the **President**

# IT IS TIME TO GET SOUTH AFRICA WORKING AGAIN

REPLY BY **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** TO THE DEBATE ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT ADDRESS, CAPE TOWN, 22 JULY 2024

I would like to begin by thanking the Honourable Members of this house for a robust and enriching debate.

The speeches delivered the whole day on Friday clearly demonstrate that there is a common appreciation among the Members of this august Parliament that a debate of this nature, and indeed the work of this Parliament, is about something far bigger, far more important than politics.

It is about the future of our country and its people. It is about a future of opportunity and promise that the people of South Africa have mandated us through their votes on the 29th of May to advance. The nation's eyes are on this Parliament and all of us they elected to represent them.

We wholeheartedly endorse the call by the Honourable Moeimang when he said that this Parliament should become the epicentre of the advancement of the will of the people.

Much of what has been said during this debate has confirmed that we have entered a new era in South African politics. It is an era of hope and optimism for the people of our country.

We must demonstrate in word and deed that this is an era of a government of national unity and not a fleeting convenience.

We have had, and will continue to have, points of divergence, as the spirited nature of the debate has demonstrated.

At the same time we all understand what is expected of us by

those who put us here.

They expect us to chart this country towards the ultimate goal of a better life for all. Talking to each other and working together. Pulling in the same direction.

That direction is towards the implementation of the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024-2029, the programme that will guide the seventh administration.

This plan will be based on the three strategic priorities that I outlined in the Opening of Parliament Address last week.

As we said, our priorities are inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, and building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

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For much of the sixth administration, we worked to address the challenges that impeded our growth, such as state capture, lack of reforms, Covid-19 and others. We also worked to overcome the silo mentality that pervaded the work of government, and which in the past had contributed to inefficiency, duplication and wastage of resources.

As the Honourable Kwanka has rightly put it, it is important that whatever policies and programmes the Government of National Unity develops, they must be aligned to the social realities facing our people.

What will define the seventh administration is strategic alignment of priorities, greater efficiencies, focus and the optimal use of resources.

On Thursday evening, I said that the programme of government is grounded in the National Development Plan (NDP), the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is important to examine the progress we have made as a nation in addressing the challenges our people face. Last year, South Africa submitted its third country report to the UN on our progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

It highlighted important trends towards meeting SDG targets in eradicating poverty and hunger, in good health and well-being, in inclusive and equitable quality education, in the provision of clean water and sanitation, in climate action, in building strong institutions for peace and justice, and others.

Government's 30 Year Review Report and the results of Cen-



sus 2022 are testament to the considerable progress the democratic state has made in pursuing equitable and sustainable development.

On eradicating poverty and hunger, more indigent South Africans are accessing grants as part of an extensive social security net to mitigate the worst effects of poverty.

As I said in the Opening of Parliament Address, in focusing on reducing the cost of living, local government must strengthen its implementation of the indigent policy so that the old, the infirm and the poor are able to get assistance with the payment of basic services.

Sixty percent of our national budget is spent on the social wage and programmes vital to reducing poverty and supporting the poor.

When the worst global health emergency in modern times struck in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to shelter society's most vulnerable through the provision of special COVID grants, a scheme

to support workers' wages, and support to businesses affected by the lockdowns.

Over the next five years we will be putting further programmes in place to reduce poverty and mitigate the effects of the high cost of living, especially on the poorest of the poor.

On good health and well-being, our country report to the UN notes reductions in maternal, infant and neonatal mortality. South Africans are living longer and have better health outcomes.

A key task for government over the next five years will be to ensure that everyone in South Africa has equal access to affordable quality health care through the implementation of the National Health Insurance.

We are unwavering in our commitment to implement universal health coverage in a manner that brings all South Africans on board. We will continue with dialogues, with exchanges, with interactions to make this an important programme for our people.

On inclusive and equitable qual-

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ity education, we have made progress with respect to functional literacy and numeracy at primary school level and in primary school completion rates.

Today more South African children have access to Early Childhood Development and Grade R, and secondary school education outcomes continue to steadily improve.

The child support grant, no-fee schools and expanded NSFAS funding have had a considerable impact on the lives of learners, particularly those from poor families.

These social protection interventions, alongside others like the Schools Nutrition Programme and the Sanitary Dignity Programme aimed at female learners, are helping to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty. They are enabling more children to complete their schooling and to access opportunities after they finish school.

One need only look at last year's matriculation exam results, where learners who were social grant beneficiaries achieved an 81 percent pass rate.

Access to education expands the capabilities of young people but it also improves the productive capacity of our economy.

As the Honourable Maimane has rightly put it, our young people are competing with the world. This is a new world, one that is rapidly changing and being influenced by technological advances.

A better educated, better skilled workforce makes our economy more competitive and catalyses growth.

We welcome the call for greater investment in skilling young people for the economy of the future and for young people to be familiar with emerging technologies.

Science and technology is going to continue playing an important role in enabling our young people to play a key role in our economy. Across all of these interventions, we are prioritising the health and well-being of children.

But we need to sustain the advances we have made over the last 30 years by improving maternal and child health care, tackling malnutrition and stunting, improving early childhood education, and ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitation.

With respect to the Sustainable Development Goal on the provision of basic services, 84 percent of South African households now have access to piped water, 71 percent have access to decent sanitation and 94 percent of households have access to electricity.

This seventh administration will focus on extending these services to those people who still do not have these basic requirements, and improving the reliability and affordability of delivery.

This will require measures to improve the efficiency of local government to deliver on its crucial mandate.

Minister Hlabisa's determination that all municipalities receive the necessary administrative, technical and financial support for them to be viable and stable represents the seventh administration's clear intention to improve the functioning of municipalities.

We agree with Councillor Stofile

that we must address with urgency the governance and oversight challenges at local government level and the serious problem of municipal and consumer debt.

On building and strengthening institutions, we have made significant progress in deepening democracy during 30 years of freedom through safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As parties to the Government of National Unity, we are in agreement on the importance of entrenching our constitutional democracy and the rule of law.

We will continue to exert our every effort to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, freedom of the media and the work of the institutions supporting democracy.

We continue to entrench gender equality across all facets of society, and in promoting the full participation in society of persons with disabilities.

We have enacted into law the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Council, which will oversee and coordinate GBV programmes across government and in partnership with all stakeholders. An important focus of this work will be women's economic empowerment, and on leveraging government's policy of setting aside 40 percent of public procurement for women-owned businesses.

South Africa is a beacon of hope and progress when it comes to the rights of the LGBTQI+ community.

These are all important aspects of our human rights culture.



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I cite this progress we have made together in advancing towards the Sustainable Development Goals not as a diversion from the realities and challenges of the day.

We are very much alive to the challenges we still face as a country.

And yet we must remind ourselves that South Africa is not in the hopeless situation that some in the opposition benches want us to believe, and have sought to loudly assert with sound and fury during this debate.

South Africa is a country that has come a long way over the past 30 years. Let us never lose sight of that. Certainly, there have been setbacks and shortcomings. But we have done much to recover from these and are now committed to move forward with greater speed and impact.

We have taken to heart the words of the Honourable Zibi that *“urgency is the currency of the times in which we now live”*.

Our Government of National Unity is therefore determined to rapidly scale up the pace of our efforts to bring development and shared prosperity to our people by working together.

And in this effort, as Minister Steenhuisen says, we need the builders, not the breakers. We need weavers and not vultures.

Those who share this vision of a better South Africa will find the doors of the Government of National Unity always open to cooperation and collaboration.

It is expected of all who have been entrusted with positions of

leadership within the Government of National Unity that we rise to the challenge to be builders and not breakers.

We must be at the forefront of building a capable, ethical developmental state, of growing an inclusive economy, and reducing poverty.

As the members of the Government of National Unity, we have agreed to a common minimum programme that forms the basis of the work of this administration.

We agree with Minister De Lille that the needs and pain of our people know no political affiliation.

The policies we pursue and the programmes we implement are not the property of one or another political party. We will therefore, each of us, equally advance and promote the positions and decisions of the Government of National Unity.

I have said to my colleagues in the Executive that there should be no competition among parties to the Government of National

Unity to outdo each other or lay claim to the policies that we collectively adopt.

When we speak of transforming our country, we cannot confine our actions to building roads, factories and houses.

We cannot bring about a better South Africa if we do not give attention to the moral fibre of our society.

Crime, corruption, substance abuse and all manner of ills continue to fray our social fabric and hold back development.

Across our nation, the disintegration of the family has become a common feature.

Some 60 percent of South African children don't live with their biological fathers, and women are often left to raise their children with no financial support from their fathers.

The abuse of women and children, abuse of the elderly and discrimination against persons living with disabilities are a stain on our moral conscience.



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**‘ WHERE HUMAN BEINGS ARE BEING OPPRESSED, THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE! ’**

*Nelson Mandela*



As we strengthen the capabilities of our law enforcement agencies to deal decisively with crimes against society's most vulnerable, we must intensify the work needed to prevent such crimes in the first place.

Prevention begins in our homes, in our communities, in our places of learning, in our religious institutions, and importantly, in the media.

We have strayed from being a society that both cherishes and advances equal opportunity.

The values of hard work, study, perseverance, steady progression and entrepreneurship have been replaced by a get rich quick mindset.

The corrosive lure of corruption has played no small part in this.

As a Government of National Unity and in the upcoming National Dialogue, we must come up with the measures we need to take to promote greater respect for human dignity, ubuntu and empathy in our society.

This should involve our faith-based institutions, civil society organisations working in communities, trade unions, sporting

organisations, youth formations and others.

Restoring the values of integrity, honesty and empathy in our society is not something that a strategic framework of government planning can resolve.

It is an all of society effort which we must all be part of. Leadership must come from all of us.

Just as we have a responsibility to stand firmly against racism, sexism, homophobia, ethnic chauvinism, tribalism and discrimination, as leaders we must demonstrate to the South African people that we are here to work for them, and not for ourselves.

We must demonstrate that we are servants of the people.

In 1994 we achieved a democratic breakthrough that many believed impossible, and took those important first steps towards reconciliation between the races.

As this Parliament, we must hold firm to the principles that underpin the founding values of our democratic country. We must not allow our work to be derailed by sowers of disunity.

The name-calling, race-baiting

and ethnic chauvinism we have seen in the course of this debate has been regrettable.

Minister McKenzie has challenged us, as a government and as a society, to address the national question.

This is vital if we are to proceed to build a united nation. Not only do we need to have frank and honest conversations about how race continues to define the prospects of our people, but we need to pursue policies that resolve these contradictions in our economy and society.

The Honourable Sangoni Diko was clear in saying non-racialism is fundamental to the struggle for a free and equal society.

Non-racialism is not a concession. It is not an act of charity.

It is something that we must continue to build so that we can achieve a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it.

The task of building a non-racial and a non-sexist society requires that we remove the material barriers that apartheid created to divide South Africans.

That is why we have placed the

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task of inclusive growth and job creation at the centre of the work of this administration.

That is why we have stressed the relationship between growth and transformation.

To undertake the necessary redistribution of wealth and opportunity, we need an economy that grows and thrives.

And to achieve growth, we need to mobilise the capabilities, resources and efforts of all South Africa's people.

In South Africa, growth and transformation are two sides of the same coin. We cannot achieve one without the other.

We should therefore not dismiss the vital importance of promoting investment and supporting thriving businesses.

We must not avoid the measures we must necessarily take to ensure that the benefits of economic growth accrue to all South Africans.

We should not allow ourselves to be led into a false choice between policies that are supposedly 'pro-business' or 'pro-worker'.

We stand for inclusive growth that creates employment and that enables businesses to emerge, to grow and to achieve sustainable returns.

We agree with Deputy Minister Hendricks that the private sector needs to take on the responsibility of opening opportunities for unemployed South Africans, and we have insisted that employment creation must be one of the pillars of our partnership with business.



We have seen the impact of the Youth Employment Service, which was established together with private sector partners, and which has created over 150,000 opportunities for young people to get work experience in South African companies.

We appreciate the value and the necessity of public programmes that create work and livelihood opportunities.

Minister Mantashe is right that if we are to meaningfully address the unemployment crisis, we will have to focus on the lower end of the labour market where mass employment is required.

The Honourable Shivambu says we are living in an alternative reality when it comes to job creation.

For a taste of reality, he could visit some of the 23,000 schools across this country where more than a million school assistants have made a tangible difference in improving learning outcomes, supporting curriculum delivery and improving the classroom environment.

Unlike some in this House, we see the economic and social val-

ue of the work and livelihood support that has been made possible by mass public employment programmes.

We see the impact of the 188,000 agricultural input vouchers have been issued to small-scale farmers to expand their production and support food security.

As Minister Nyhontso says, we need to act with more resolve, more resources and more emphasis to correct the historic injustice of land dispossession and provide people with access to land and the means to work it.

We see the vital importance of the initiatives described by Premier Lesufi to provide finance, skills, technology and infrastructure to grow township economies and create jobs.

Thirty years ago, at the Summit of the Organisation for African Unity, the forerunner of the African Union, our nation's founding father Nelson Mandela said:

*"Africa shed her blood and surrendered the lives of her children so that all her children could be free. A million times, she put her hand to the plough that has now dug up the encrusted burden of*



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*oppression accumulated for centuries.”*

As this administration, we remain committed to a foreign relations policy and outlook that prioritises the achievement of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

Honourable Malema, South Africa’s role on the continent and across the world remains firmly on our agenda.

We see the African Continental Free Trade Area and other instruments of continental economic integration as vital to our own economic fortunes.

In January this year, we saw our first shipment of products to other African countries under the AfCFTA. We are extremely encouraged by the potential the AfCFTA presents in terms of new markets for South African goods, products and services.

We welcome the progress being made towards finalising rules of origin, and towards a Pan-African payment and settlement system.

As Minister Tau said, the AfCFTA, is a game-changing initiative to leverage one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world, a growing market that is young, tech-savvy, highly educated and conscientious about implementing actionable Pan-Africanism for the twenty-first century.

As South Africa, we are committed to Silencing the Guns on the continent and to playing our part in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in Africa.

We have deployed members of the South African National Defence Force to support UN, AU

and SADC peacekeeping missions in several parts of the continent.

They have served not only their country, but also their continent, with diligence and courage.

We once again pay tribute to the soldiers who have lost their lives during operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our soldiers and we salute their bravery and sacrifice in the cause of peace in one of the world’s most troubled regions.

We will continue to make every effort to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our troops on all peacekeeping missions.

Our principled solidarity with peo-

ples burdened under the yoke of oppression will not waver.

We stand in solidarity with the peoples of Western Sahara and Palestine who are still being denied their right to self-determination.

On Friday last week, as members of this House were debating, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion on the State of Israel’s continued occupation of Palestinian land and the construction of settlements in the West Bank, ruling that this was illegal under international law. The court said this should come to an end as rapidly as possible.

This is a separate case to the one launched by South Africa at the International Court of Justice last year in response to the genocide being perpetrated against the people of Gaza.

# FREEDOM CHARTER

26 JUNE, 1955 - AS ADOPTED AT THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, KLIPTOWN

**TO THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP**

**There Shall be Peace and Friendship, as an independent state that respect the sovereignty of others, the African agenda, solidarity, a peaceful world and resolution of conflicts through negotiations, an end to colonialisation and the right to self-determination and freedom of oppressed people.**



**These principles of peace and friendship remains the foundations of South African foreign policy.**

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




Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

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What this latest ruling indicates is that international momentum against Israel's continued violations of the rights of the Palestinian people is growing.

Just as our own struggle for national liberation was eventually won with steady victories, so too will the quest for Palestinian statehood be ultimately realised.

We will continue to pursue progressive internationalism and advance principled solidarity. Our own history and experience demands no less of us.

On global platforms we will continue to push for reform of the institutions of global governance, including the UN Security Council, and for them to better reflect and give a greater voice to developing countries.

We will continue to push for the international financial institutions and the multilateral development banks to be reformed and to provide greater financial and technical support to developing countries to meet their most pressing needs.

South Africa is preparing to host the annual G20 Summit in 2025.

We are pleased that our campaign to include the African Union as a member of the G20 was successful.

This is an important platform to advance the interests of Africa and other countries of the Global South, and to mobilise support for a more just and equal world order.

Last year, South Africa

played an instrumental role in the expansion of the BRICS bloc of countries.

This presents favourable trade and investment opportunities for our country, which we will continue to pursue in the course of the seventh administration.

We will continue to urge developed economies to meet their responsibilities and obligations to developing economies to provide support for climate change adaptation and mitigation, in line with their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

As the Government of National Unity, we will continuously pursue a foreign policy based on the national interest, our country's economic objectives, and in furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

In the same speech at the meeting of the OAU in 1994, Madiba concluded thus:

*"If freedom was the crown which the fighters of liberation sought*

*to place on the head of mother Africa, let the upliftment, the happiness, prosperity and comfort of her children be the jewel of the crown."*

We are now a Government of National Unity, formed in the cause of rebuilding our nation.

We are committed to putting our differences aside and working together for the common good.

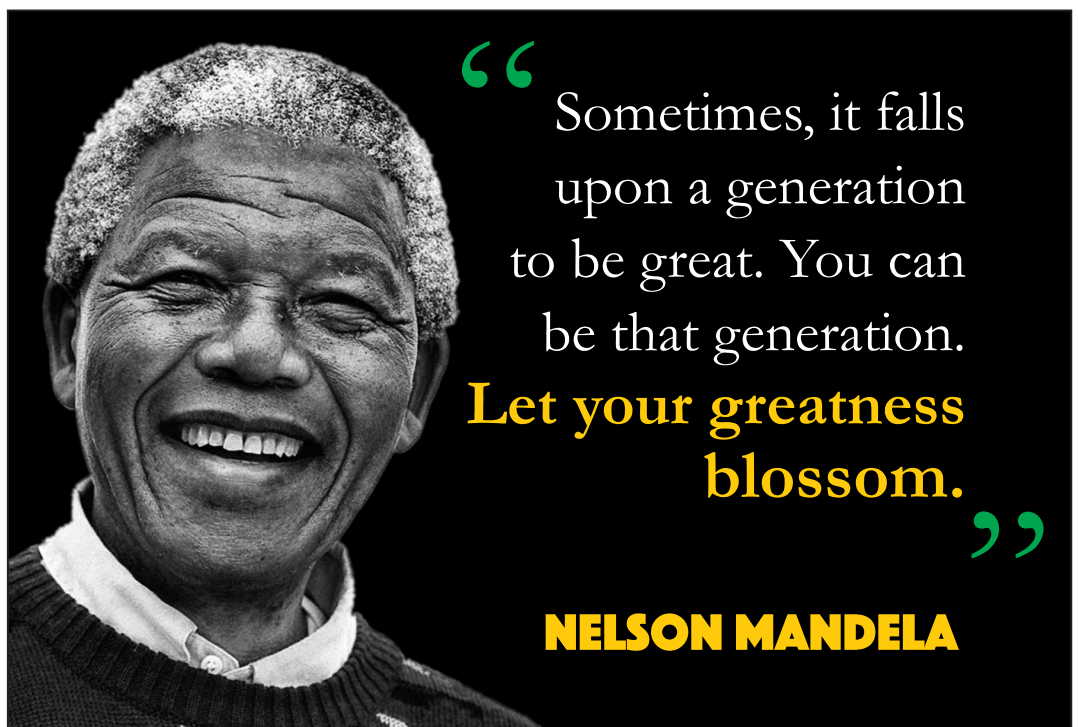
Behind us are 62 million South Africans who want and need us to succeed.

As Minister Groenewald has said, we have before us an opportunity to restore and build.

**So let us use this opportunity.**

**In challenging and difficult times, this unity will be our comfort, our courage and our greatest strength.**

**It is time to get South Africa working again.**





# CARRYING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF MILLIONS OF SOUTH AFRICANS

■ Speech by Deputy Minister in the Presidency **Nonceba Mhlauli**  
on the Occasion of the Presidency Budget Vote

IT IS rather ironic to be labelled a sell-out by the right-wing brigade camouflaged as modern day revolutionaries. It is the nature of these Disneyland combatants to sit here under the very same law they pretend to be against, yet gladly pocket the salaries that come with that very same law.

Similar to their cult leader, who for many years pocketed the spoils of the state only to now pretend to have a Damascus moment.

The regressive caucus is not surprising. It is, after all, the nature of those who earn revolutionary credentials in times of freedom and democracy that you and true revolutionaries fought for to demonise and rewrite history on our struggle.

These individuals, using the very rights for freedom of speech that you fought for, would regard true revolutionaries as sellouts and other derogatory names.

You asked a simple question yesterday, Mr. President: where were they? They could not answer, for once they came into ex-



istence, their struggle was waged in the corridors of VBS banks, in the demolition of 16 million houses in Sandton, and in the looting of Limpopo through Ratanang, among other actions.

I can only imagine that you must find it rather amusing that the same people who today call you a “project” were busy calling you during negotiations wanting to be squeezed into the National Government Unity.

They were very ready to enter as 2nd Deputy Presidents and Min-

isters under this very same “project” they proclaim today. One can only imagine what that makes them?

However, as the Hon Gungubele rightly pointed out a few years ago, they have no sense of self contribution. True to the characterization of President Mbeki as scuttlebutt behaviour.

The Presidency as the strategic centre of government enters this phase of an ANC-led Government of National Unity carrying the hopes and aspirations of the

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

millions of South Africans.

It is up to the Presidency, under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, to lead a formidable government towards achieving inclusive growth.

As stated by the President earlier today, one of the most important innovations of Operation Vulindlela has been to put in place a system to drive delivery on strategic priorities, to ensure that policy decisions made by Cabinet are translated into tangible results.

To inform the Hon Trollip, more than 94% of all reforms are either

completed or progressing well. Vulindlela reforms have unlocked more than R500bn worth of investment.

Key reforms that have been completed since 2020 include:

- A Comprehensive review of the work visa system was completed, with recommendations to overhaul the work visa system and attract skills and investment.
- The e-Visa system was expanded to 34 countries, with almost all countries now covered by either a visa waiver or eVisa.

- The release of spectrum has contributed to the reduced cost of data with the lowest price of a 100 MB data bundle reduced by 25% and increasing internet speed, helping to bridge the digital divide. This means a young person in Pofadder in the Northern Cape now has access to high speed internet at a reduced cost to either market their business, seek a job and do research online.
- More efficient ports and rails will lower the cost of goods and help save jobs in the coal mining belt of Mpumalanga, the Natal Corridor which the farmers of the Free State depend on, and the Ore export channel from Kathu to Saldanha Bay among other export sectors.

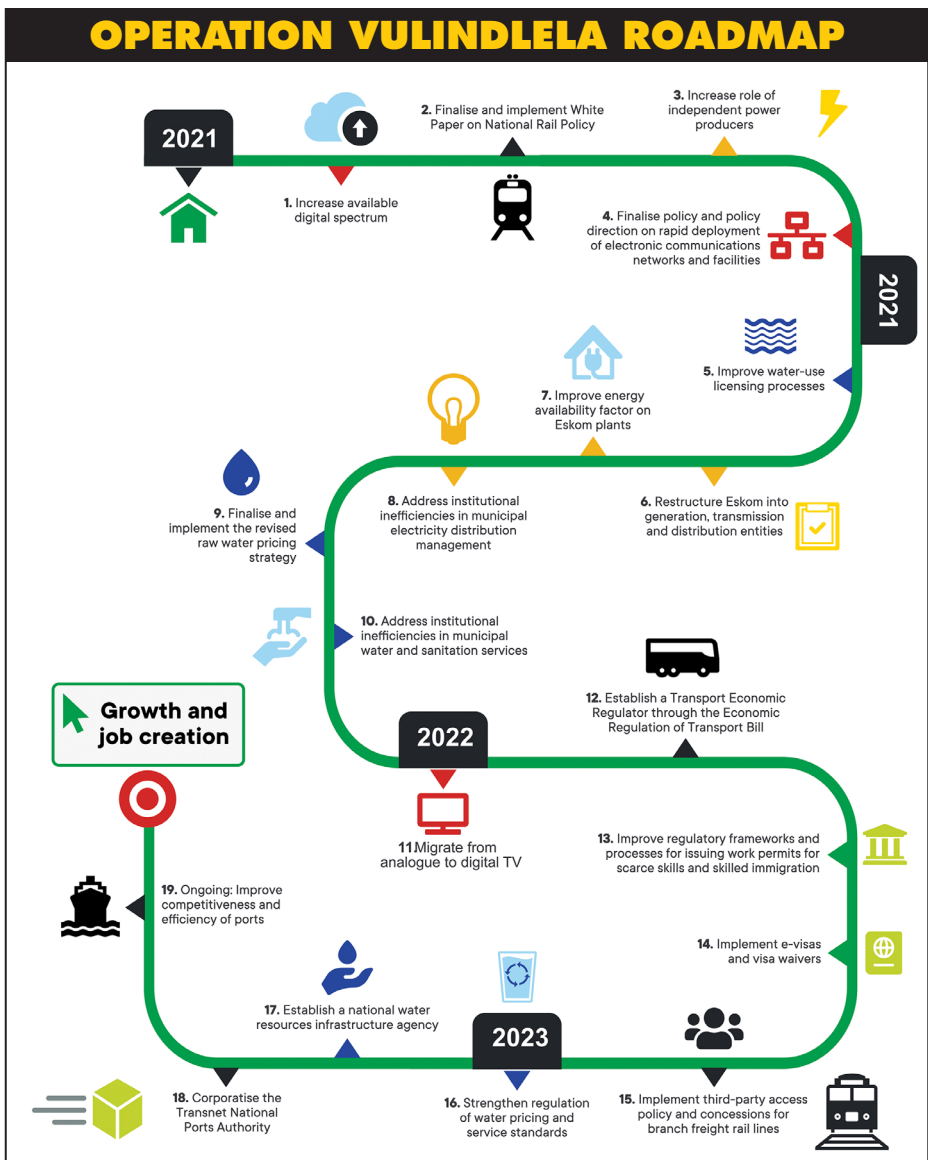
**Asimanga, ons stand nie stil nie.**

We move ahead under President Ramaphosa's steady hand because our focus remains transforming the quality of lives of ordinary South Africans.

We are the weaver birds the President spoke of. However, like the weaver birds we remain conscious of what Ayo Kwei Armah said in his seminal offering titled *"The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born"*, where he says – *"Alone, I am nothing... I have nothing. We have power... but we will never know it, we will never see it work, unless we come together to make it work."*

We therefore present this Budget Vote united and conscious that the ANC led GNU has birthed the beautiful ones...

**We can and must do more, together.**



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# Paris 2024 – the first Gender Equal Olympics?

■ By **FÉBÉ POTGIETER-GQUBULE**

**T**HE goal to have gender parity in the number of athletes participating in the Olympic Games will be the closest it's ever been at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics. This comes at a time when women in sports are rising and demands for gender parity in coverage, pay and endorsements for athletes are widespread.

In 2014, Olympic President Thomas Bach set the gender parity target as amongst his Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms, committing the International Olympics Committee (IOC) “to work with international federations to achieve 50 percent female participation in the Olympics.”

This was eventually enshrined in the revised Olympic Charter, with “gender equality, inclusion and diversity as Fundamental Principles of Olympism.”

These principles also found expressions in programmes of the IOC, such as hosting more sports events for women to gender quotas, increasing the number of mixed-gender events as well as increasing women’s representation in the IOC and other sports administration bodies. At the Paris Olympics, the IOC formalized its support for Pride House, an initiative to raise visibility of LGBTQI+ persons at the Games.

In addition, the IOC addressed

the portrayal of women and queer athletes, and published guidelines towards ‘gender-equal, fair and inclusive media coverage.’

Thus, women’s representation have shifted over the years. At the 1924 Paris Olympics, a century ago, only 4.4% of athletes were women, and up to the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, over 70% of athletes were men. By Atlanta 1996, a third of Olympians were women, reaching 40% by Athens in 2004, 48.8% at Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and with Paris 2024 just about to reach the 50% mark.

But this is not just simply about representation and numbers.



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Patriarchy and patriarchal attitudes not only meant exclusion of women from sports, but often active bans on women's participation.

A 2021 paper looking at women in international athletics draws the link between gender discrimination in sport and patriarchy, when they observed: *"Since men's control of women's physical activity has been at the heart of masculine hegemony, sports has been a highly gendered social sphere. For a long time, women were denied the right to engage in physical exercise for reasons of health, that is, the alleged physical "weakness" of women's bodies or detrimental effects on the fertility of women, chastity or threats to the "natural order" of sexes."* (Meier et al, 2021)

Thus, they make the point that *"gender discrimination has been strongly related to the suppression of women's participation in sport."* One just have to look at the history of women in English football. Women playing football is said to date back to the 16th century, with Mary Queen of Scot owning the 'oldest football in existence.' By 1921, there were over 150 women's football clubs in England. And so, in December that year, the Football Association took the decision to ban women footballers from playing at its professional pitches and fields, because the beautiful game was deemed *"quite an unsuitable game for females."* The ban was only lifted in January 1970, after fierce lobbying from women footballers and supporters.

Research by Women in Sport (womeninsport.org) also reflects sexism in the media in the manner in which men and women's sports are covered. They note



that *"there are examples of time periods when women's sport is barely visible, sports channels where no women's sport is in evidence and countries where it fails to achieve more than 2% of the reporting time."* Sounds familiar? It would be interesting to see the percentage of coverage of women's sports by South African broadcasters over the years, and during this year's Olympics.

Just recently, Kgothatso Montjane won the Wimbledon wheelchair doubles. Was it front page of any newspaper or lead story? Instead, in the one radio programme I listened to, South African sports commentators droned on and on about male competitors, and as an afterthought mentioned that, by the way, we have a winner.

The plight of Banyana Banyana is well known, from little to no support for professional footballers, late payment of bonuses, and of course the all-present gender pay gap. And change is happening too slowly.

The South African 2024 Olympic team falls short of the equity target for Paris. Out of the 149 participants, there are 89 men and 66 women, so 44% women.

***Whilst we wish our team best wishes, we should do better on gender equality.***

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# I EYE-WITNESSED THE HISTORIC LAUNCH OF NUM IN 1982:

## *“Waar Was Jy, Julius?”*

■ By **CHINA DODOVU**

**T**HE lies, distortions and innuendos that Julius Malema, the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) peddled about President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Opening of Parliament Address (SONA) debate last week cannot be left unchallenged but require a combative response of magnificent and equivalent precision.

If such diatribe cannot be confronted and corrected with factual evidence, they will be taken as Gospel truth especially by those who are malicious in their intent to liquidate the indelible contribution that President Ramaphosa has made in bringing about freedom in our land.

I must admit that as I listened to Julius word by word, I felt my rib cage ripping apart from the profusely thudding heartbeats. He indeed left me deluged in goosebumps and cold shiver, and my hair stood on ends, asking myself why should I fold my arms and keep quiet when he distorts the history of our liberation struggle so much for political expediency and for devious nocturnal agenda.

I must confess that as Julius continued to pour venom and direct vitriolic attacks against President



Ramaphosa during the debate, I suffered from nostalgia and the launch of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in 1982 captured my mind and became so fresh as if it had happened only a week ago.

The NUM launch happened in my church, the Roman Catholic inside the famous Ledibeng Centre hall. It happened in my township, Jouberton in Klerksdorp where the youth political activism under the auspices of the Jouberton Youth Congress (JOYCO) was gaining momentum.

I was only 13 years old when I eye-witnessed that momentous

occasion which subsequently evolved, and through the work of President Ramaphosa, among many others, NUM became the biggest affiliate of COSATU and led bitter and relentlessly struggles of the mineworkers.

It was on a Saturday afternoon, the 4th of December in 1982 when the NUM launch happened. Together with my brothers, Velile, Mike and other youths, on that day, we had gone to clean the church to prepare for the Sunday service.

On that day, I was wearing blue short pants with a black sleeveless T-shirt and sandals shoes. It



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was one of the moments which opened my eyes and instigated my political activism. Even though I was still very young, I vividly remember the occasion because it was the first time I smelled the smoke of teargas and was sjamboked by the Special branch police.

When we arrived at the church, we saw many people, mostly men carrying banners and singing what I came to know as revolutionary songs. They had arrived with taxis, and more taxis arrived, offloading others who joined the singing.

We also witnessed many Sierra sedan vehicles driven by exclusively white policemen roaming the streets surrounding our church. Also, Hippos and Mellow-yellows were parked closer to the gate of the church with policemen taking pictures and videos to capture the moment.

Despite being scared, our parish priest, Father Gerard Tebogo Vandesompele and Deacon Simon Masibi gave me an unenviable task of manning the gate with a clear instruction not to al-

low any vehicle inside the church premises. Later, I was told that I was given the task because of my bravery and outspokenness. But I must confess that the situation really scared me.

When the proceedings got started inside the hall, I was still at the gate, itching to join the singing. When I was relieved from the duty, I ran inside the hall to sing and witness what I later came to know as a historic moment - the launch of the National Union of Mineworkers.

At my age, I couldn't grasp, follow and comprehend fully what was happening except that the speeches were delivered in Sesotho, Isixhosa and Fanagalo (language spoken by miners from different linguistic backgrounds to promote ease of communication).

I also witnessed the election of leaders of the newly formed NUM. The only leader I knew at the time was the late Sylvia "Mamza" Benjamin who was elected as Treasurer. I had known her as a local political activist and for her active participation in the church.

Later in the years, I came to know that other leaders who were elected at the event included James Motlatsi (president); the late Elijah Barayi (vice-president); Cyril Ramaphosa (general secretary) and Marcel Golding (as deputy secretary).

We need to remind Julius that the role played by NUM leaders, including President Ramaphosa is well-documented and legendary. It cannot be rigged and distorted but it can equally be told by those who witnessed the event in 1982 or those who fully understood the history of NUM and what instigated its formation.

On 09 August 1987, merely 5 years after the NUM was founded, it led the massive strike of 260 000 mineworkers which today still stands out as the biggest and costliest wage dispute in South Africa. The choice of the date for the strike coincided with the 1956 historic women's march to the Union Building, signifying that those who formed NUM were steeped in the Congress tradition.

At the time, the communities in



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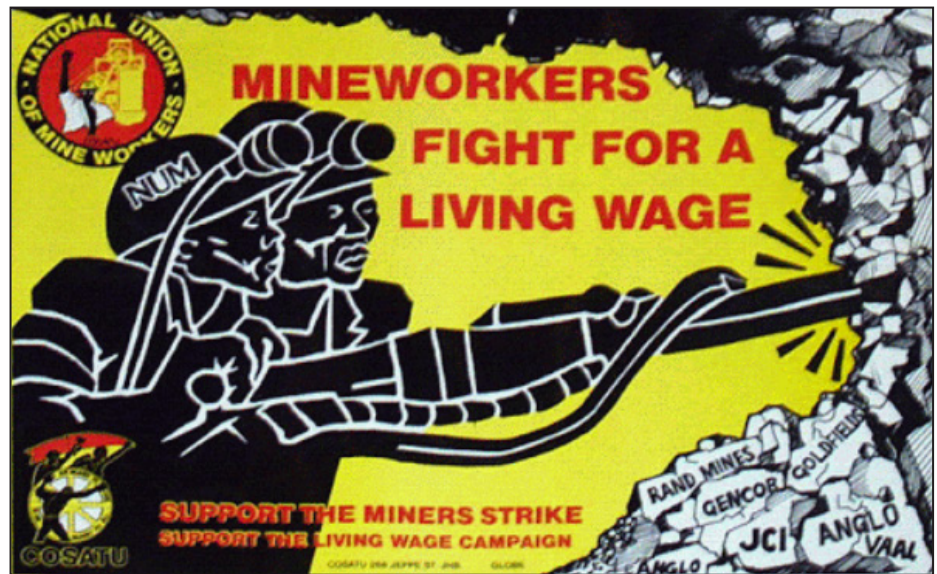
our city of Matlosana especially in Khuma, Kanana and Jouberton, stopped at nothing but to support the mineworkers at Vaal Reefs, Buffels and Harties mines where its bosses had collaborated with the police and mine security to arrest union leaders, to cut off power supplies for workers, to deprive workers of medical treatment and to work with TEBA cash banks in refusing to issue money to workers.

It will help Julius and his sycophants to know that when the strike intensified, the mine bosses threatened to shut the mines down, issued ultimatums for mass dismissals and supplied scab workers from areas like Natal and Lesotho.

The lock-out strategy which accompanied violence was also used by the mine bosses to forcefully break the strike in response to worker unity and their refusal to vacate the premises. Our communities around Matlosana helped the dismissed workers and those who were attacked by scab workers. One of such comrades is Shakes "Motswana" Nakedi who can freely share such information to Julius.

It was by no accident that after the launch of the Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU) in 1985, NUM became its first affiliate to adopt the Freedom Charter as a living document that clearly espoused the fundamental aspirations of all the South African people. As a precursor to aligning with the then banned ANC, in 1987, NUM succeeded after it proposed that COSATU adopts the Freedom Charter; much to the dissatisfaction of some of its affiliates.

It is therefore disingenuous of Ju-



lius to distort the history of NUM, especially that it was formed by the Ruperts and Oppenheims of this country to pursue their capitalist financial interests.

The truth is that NUM was formed with the ANC's full knowledge, consent and blessings. Under Ramaphosa and beyond, nothing has shown that NUM has sold out and departed from its historic mission of protecting the workers' interests, as Julius inclines everyone to believe.

During the ONA response on the debate, President Ramaphosa asked Julius a pertinent question i.e. "Waar was JY?" When NUM was formed in 1982, Julius was a 20-month old toddler who, after he was fed with wrong information, paraded it without any form of verification or at the least, drawing wisdom from those who know why and how NUM was formed.

No matter how contemptuous or contemptible, every means is welcomed to him as long as it furthers his trivial and partisan motives. This includes being a user-friendly puppet which accepts any kind of mud to disrespect and denigrate President Ramaphosa

and the ANC.

He has also become our modern-day Sister Bettina who after spewing gossips and rumours, hopes that everyone will heave in unison, bumping, grinding and getting down in a frenetic bundle.

With his ill-informed venomous attacks, Julius is taking South Africans for a ride and thinks that we are all so numb to believe his twaddle. He also thinks we are so naive that we can't see that his attacks against President Ramaphosa are not only extremely perfidious remarks coloured by perennial fallacies and distortions and are also meant to pull wool over our eyes to make us ignore the many questions he must answer especially about the VBS scandal.

The formation of NUM with the blessing of the ANC marked the genesis of President Ramaphosa's long political journey culminating to be where he is today. It is where it all started, so to speak! His adroit negotiation skills and organizing capacity propelled NUM to become the largest trade union in South Africa.

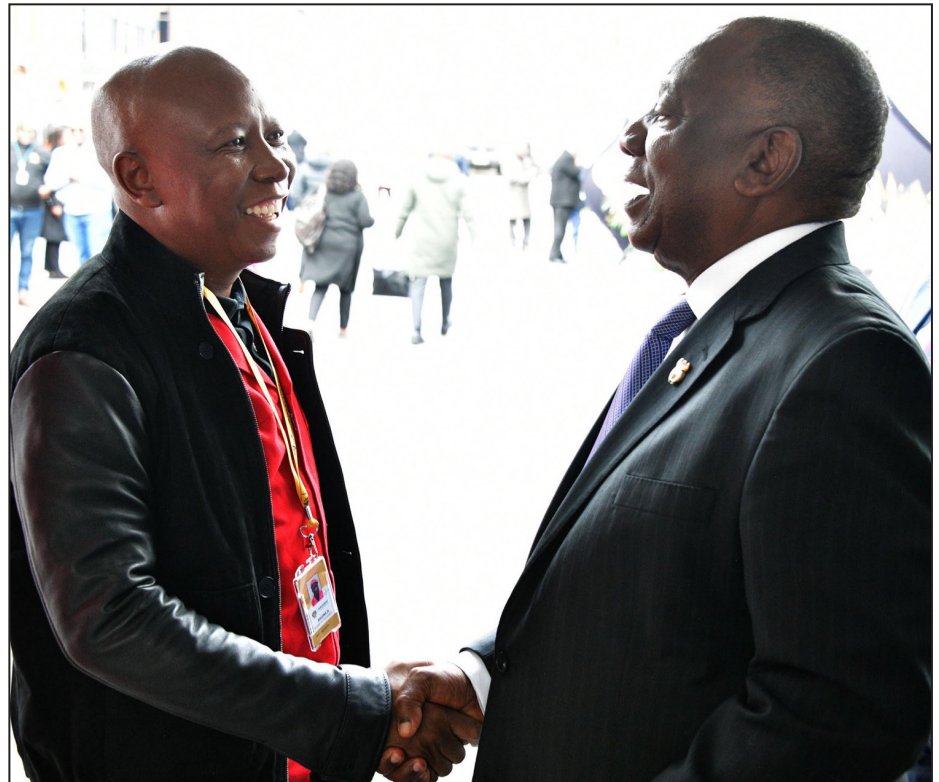
After all, South Africans across

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the broader spectrum know his immense contributions. They know his true story which is laced with unshakable determination and abiding love for his country in the battle to destroy the horrendous apartheid regime and in the building of a democratic and prosperous future for them.

In 1991 President Ramaphosa was elected ANC's Secretary General, and successfully performed the triple-task of rebuilding the ANC after its unbanning; of driving the complex negotiations process which produced an Interim Constitution and of securing the ANC victory in South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 to form a Government of National Unity (GNU).

This year on the eve of the general elections, I felt honoured when I was invited to join the 40th anniversary of NUM at the venue where it was formed. Many of its leaders who founded it were present except President Ramaphosa who had a tight elections programme. In my address to the event, I vowed to invite President Ramaphosa to visit the church



to receive more blessings. It is a goal that I shall continue to pursue.

Given the above explanations, it is shameful and despicable that Julius is so much sucked into the vortex gossip politics and that we are not oblivious that he wants to obliterate the role that President Ramaphosa played and to drive

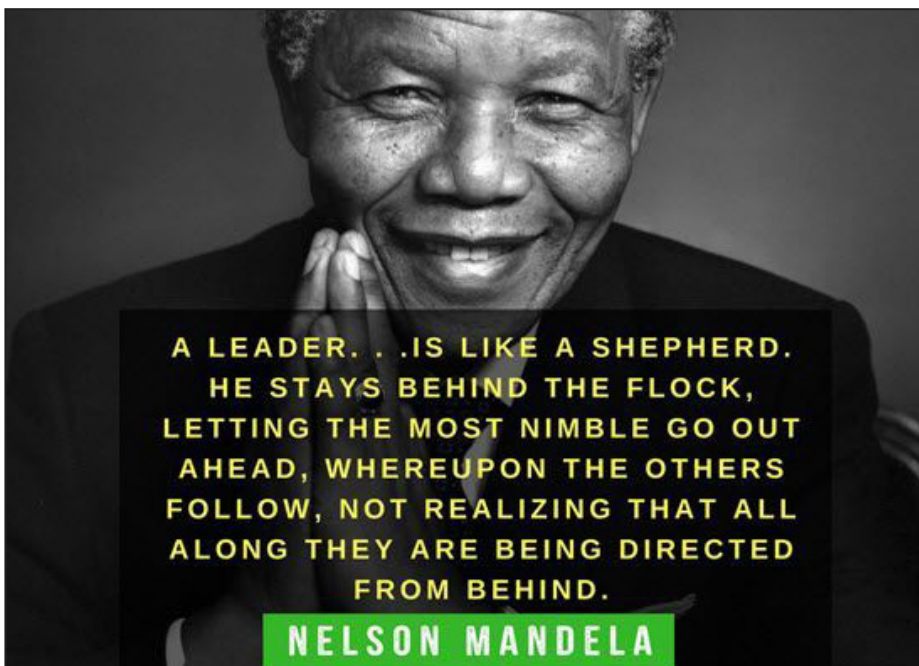
him into oblivion.

His plan is to dupe us so that we forget that President Ramaphosa chaired the Constitutional Assembly which drafted our final Constitution.

Today, President Ramaphosa has extricated our country from the morass of state capture and load-shedding, and through the ANC renewal project, bad apples and rotten potatoes are being uprooted inside the ANC.

If Julius needs more sources of reference, he must independently consult Zwelinzima Vavi who was there in 1987 during the mineworkers strike. Comrades Solly Rasmeni, Percy Dyonase and Zolile Kolweni are also available to help him.

Personally, I will never forget the majesty of that moment when NUM was formed in my presence, in my church and in my township. It is a memory I shall treasure for the rest of my life.





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# Reflecting on 71st Anniversary of the Attack on Moncada and the July 26 Movement

■ By **ALVIN BOTES**

**S**EVENTY-ONE years ago on July 26, 1953, 136 young Cuban revolutionaries led by 26 year old Commandant Fidel Castro launched a daring assault on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba. The attack was not merely a military operation; it was a bold statement against tyranny, corruption, colonialism, neo liberal capitalism, imperialism, poverty, inequality and social injustice.

The leaders of the movement, including Commandants Fidel and Raúl Castro, saw the barracks as a strategic target – a symbol of the Batista regime’s military pow-

er and a stark reminder of the regime’s grip on Cuba.

Though the raid ended in military defeat, with many of the revolutionaries captured or killed, including Commandant Castro who was captured, charged and convicted, its significance resonated far beyond the immediate casualties. The trial that followed, in which Castro famously defended himself with his impassioned closing argument which he rightfully entitled “*History Will Absolve Me*,” captured the imagination of a people yearning for change. Castro used lawfare to eloquently articulate the historical

injustice against the Cuban people and galvanized support for a revolution that would triumph just a few years later in 1959.

As we reflect on the events of this fateful day, the audacious attack is thus correctly characterised by many historians as the “*sine qua non*” (but for this event) of the Cuban revolution. It was the spark that ignited the flames of the Cuban revolution and the genesis of the July 26 Movement also known as the M-26-7, the organisation that Commandant Castro formed thereafter, which led Cuba to victory a mere 6 years later. Thus, the M-26-7,



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which was born from the ashes of Moncada, became a catalyst for a social and political revolution that swept across Cuba. Therefore, July 26 remains a pivotal moment in Cuban history that laid the groundwork for a new era of Cuban independence, freedom, socialism and progressive internationalism. It was a watershed moment that forever altered the course of not only the Cuban history, but the history of many countries across Africa and the rest of the global South.

This is because the Cuban Revolution after independence had an internationalist outlook and posture and became an ongoing international revolution against colonialism, imperialism and all forms of discrimination and injustice globally. Cuba became then and still remains today an international symbol of resistance against imperialism, neo-liberal capitalism, and tyranny. Equally it is the global champions of social justice, equality, dignity, independence, sovereignty and self-determination

As we commemorate the 71st anniversary of this attack, it is essential to reflect on its enduring legacy. The ideals of social justice, equality, and self-determination championed by the movement continue to resonate in the hearts of those who yearn for a more just and equitable world.

Despite the passage of time and the numerous challenges faced by Cuba since the revolution, the spirit of Moncada still lives on – a testament to the enduring power of ordinary people to challenge entrenched power structures and effect profound change. Cuba remains the steadfast and stubborn David against the American Goliath.

Today, we live in a world of extreme inequality poverty and unemployment. We live in a world where the few northern countries continue to cling to power at all costs resisting change preventing amongst others, multi-culturalism, multi-polarity and multi-civilisationalism. It is therefore, important that we remember and celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of those who dared to challenge injustice on that fateful July morning. They are a reminder that the struggle for justice and freedom is an ongoing journey.

The lessons of Moncada teach us that true liberation requires unwavering commitment, and resilience in the face of adversity and a steadfast belief in the inherent dignity of every human being. In commemorating this 71st anniversary, let us honour the memory of those who gave their lives for a vision of a better, brighter and more dignified future world order. Let us renew our commitment to the principles of social justice and equality.

The legacy of the events of July 26 and the M-26-7 Movement that followed is not just a chap-

ter in history; it is a living testament to the enduring power of courage, conviction, consistency, steadfastness, resilience and the relentless pursuit of justice to build a better life for all. Today, its relevance echoes across generations.

The fight for Cuban freedom and sovereignty continues amidst ongoing challenges and external pressures particularly from the United States. Despite these challenges, Cuba's role in promoting progressive internationalism, and Afro-Cuba solidarity, particularly through its support for liberation movements in Africa in the fight against colonialism and apartheid and during the post-colonial era, underscores its continued commitment to global solidarity and anti-imperialist principles. Since 1963, Cuba has steadfastly supported nations striving for independence and social justice. Che Guevara's trip around Africa in 1963 was a significant turning point in strengthening Afro-Cuba solidarity and Cuba's relationship with liberation movements around the continent. They provided many liberation organisations, includ-



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

ing the ANC with solidarity assistance in various forms during our struggle for freedom. In total Cuba contributed to anti-colonial struggles in more than 17 countries across Africa, the largest intervention being the deployment of thousands of soldiers to Angola to fight the Apartheid regime there. Thousands of Cuban lives were lost in these struggles.

These interventions exemplify its dedication to fostering international solidarity and sovereignty. Cuban-Afro Solidarity did not just end when countries gained there independence. Cuban progressive internationalism and international solidarity continued in post-colonial societies and post-apartheid South Africa. Since the advent of our democracy, Cuba has provided extensive medical solidarity support to South Africa and all other countries of the South. This has been done thorough, for example the Mandela – Castro medical exchange programme cemented in the mid 1990s in which Cuba provided medical scholarships to thousands of disadvantaged South Africans to study medicine in Cuba. For decades Cuba also provided medical brigades to South Africa to assist with the our shortage of medical personal in rural areas. This human capital support brigades were extended to include amongst others numerous built environment specialists to support the post-apartheid reconstruction and development programmes. Cuba has also, since 2005 deployed more than 1500 medical doctors to all countries that suffered disasters and epidemics through its Henry Reeve Medical brigade.

This level of international solidarity by Cuba makes it the 1st amongst equals in the implemen-



tation of progressive internationalism. This has however come at an extreme cost to Cuba as the US has since Cuban independence been relentless in its opposition to Cuba spreading these ideals globally, still clinging to its archaic cold war policy perspective in respect of Cuba. Cubans have amongst others been heavily punished with the decades long economic blockade that has made life extremely difficult for all Cubans. It also amongst others continues to be unfairly treated as a terrorist state. Despite these challenges it has patiently and steadfastly persevered, prioritizing social welfare, health-care, and education for its citizens and for all other countries of the south. Cuba's resilience in the face of adversity serves as a testament to the strength of its revolutionary ideals and the determination of its people.

As the ANC and ANC-led GNU, we must continue to reciprocate this loyalty, friendship and international solidarity through amongst others continuing to lobby at all multi-lateral and other fora's including the annual United Nations General assembly

(UNGA) resolution for the end to the tyrannical economic blockade. Equally, we should amongst others continue to campaign for the removal of Cuba from the US list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

As we look to the future, the legacy of the July 26 and the M-26-7 reminds us of the ongoing struggle for justice and liberation in Cuba and beyond. It challenges us all to confront global inequalities, advocate for self-determination, and uphold the principles of international solidarity, progressive internationalism and mutual respect among nations. Seventy-one years after the attack on Moncada Barracks, Cuba's revolutionary journey continues – a testament to the enduring spirit of revolution and the quest for a world where all people can live in peace, with dignity and freedom for all. Indeed History has Absolved the Commandant (Castro) of Moncada!

*Alvin Botes is the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation and a Member of the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC).*

## HISTORY



### A LEAF OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

# OR Tambo Reacts to Luthuli's Mysterious Death

■ By **CASTRO KHWELA**

**O**N 22 July 1967, following a memorial service held for Chief Albert Luthuli in Lusaka, after which African National Congress (ANC) Leader Oliver Tambo was interviewed by a reporter of the Zambia Mail newspaper, and during which he maintained that there was some “mystery” surrounding the death, he was taken by Joe Modise to visit Dube's Farm, west of Lusaka.

At the Farm there was a number of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) cadres who were gathered there, who were then called together to listen to Tambo's address.

Before these cadres, Tambo praised Inkosi Albert Luthuli as

a great fighter who died fighting for the rights of his people. He then mentioned that he had been phoning Stanger since 21 July, after getting the news of Luthuli's passing on, without receiving any reply. According to Tambo, the apartheid government was responsible for his death and Luthuli's passing would go down in history because immediately after his burial the ANC's army would invade Rhodesia and South Africa, hence those cadres were at that moment regarded as Luthuli's soldiers – the “*Luthuli Detachment*”.

Tambo called on the cadres to stand and observe a silence of two minutes every day at midday for the following two weeks.

It was appropriate for Tambo to refer to Luthuli as a great fighter, because following his election at the end of the ANC's annual conference in 1952, Chief Luthuli was viewed by all as a new, more vigorous president for a new, more activist era. Luthuli was one of a handful of ruling chiefs who were active in the ANC and had staunchly resisted the policies of the colonial and apartheid governments. He was a teacher, a devout Christian and a proud African Chief, but he was even more firmly committed to the struggle against apartheid.

When the apartheid government issued him with an ultimatum to resign from the ANC or to relinquish his post as a Chief, Luthuli



## HISTORY

refused to resign from the ANC and the government dismissed him from his post. Furthermore, he issued a statement of principles called *"The Road to Freedom is via the Cross"*, in which he reaffirmed his support for non-violent passive resistance and justified his choice with words that still echo nostalgically today: *"Who will deny that thirty years of my life have been spent knocking in vain, patiently, moderately and modestly at a closed and barred door?"*

Based on Nelson Mandela's observations, Luthuli *"was a man of patience and fortitude, who spoke slowly and clearly as though every word was of equal importance"*.

Oliver Tambo described the new style of Luthuli's leadership by comparing it with that of his two predecessors, Dr Xuma and Dr Moroka. Even after DF Malan's government came to power in 1948, Xuma resisted direct action and insisted on the older strategy

of lobbying and representation; Moroka sanctioned all actions and accepted all proposals almost without questioning them. Luthuli differed from both. Unlike Xuma, he acted and knew what the masses wanted because he was with them. Like Moroka he allowed direct action. Unlike Moroka *"he knew what he was doing in terms of the past, present and future...Luthuli entered the scene at a point prepared by Moroka...a point where unprecedented mass political activity in South Africa was drawing increasing international attention."*

In a statement he issued on 12 June 1964 when Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and six others were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial, Luthuli said: *"The African National Congress never abandoned its method of militant, non-violent struggle...However, in the face of the uncompromising white refusal to abandon a policy which denies the African and other oppressed South Africans their*

*rightful heritage freedom – no one can blame brave, just men for seeking justice by the use of violent methods; nor could they be blamed if they tried to create an organised force in order to establish ultimately peace and racial harmony."*

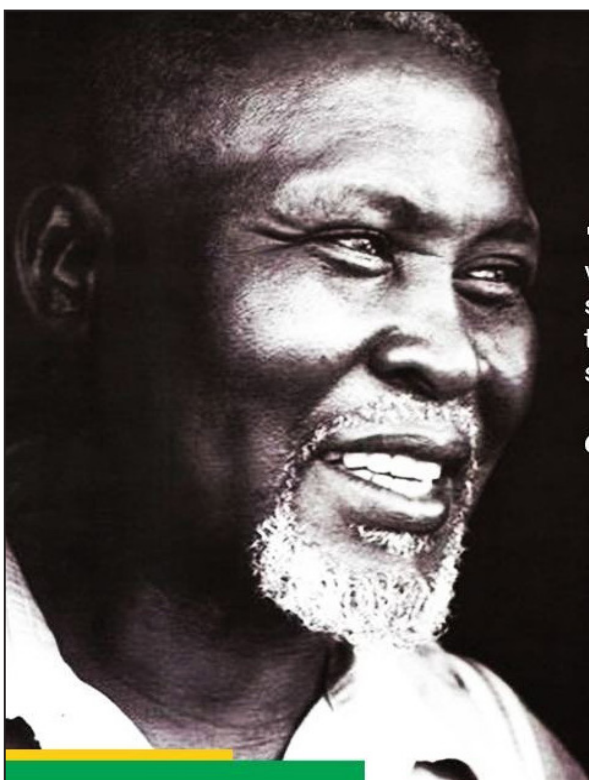
This is an important lesson for the current ANC leadership, as it is apparently struggling to connect with the masses, which are the firm trench and the drivers of the revolution. Hence a dismal performance was realised in the previous elections.

The disconnection with the masses has placed the formerly oppressed and exploited black majority in a precarious position that has the potential of compromising the gains and the advancement of the national democratic revolution.

**Amandla Ngawethu!**

**Matla Ke a rona!**

**All Power to the People!**



*"May the day come soon, when the peoples of the world will rouse themselves, and together effectively stamp out any threat to peace, in whatever quarter of the world it may be found. When that day comes, there shall be peace on earth and goodwill between men"*

**Chief Albert Luthuli, 1961**



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

27 July – 2 August 2024

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

**27 July 1914**

**Margaret Ekpo born**



Nigerian women's rights activist and politician, Margaret Ekpo is born in Creek Town. She mobilised against colonialism in the 1940s, and organised a trade union for Aba market women, the Akba Township Womens Association. After independence, she continued to advocated for women's rights, in a male dominated political system. Ekpo won a seat in the Eastern Regional House of Assembly in 1961, a position that allowed her to fight for political and economic issues affecting women at the time. Her biography, *Margaret Ekpo. Lioness in Nigerian Politics* by Stella A.Effah-Attoe and Solomon Oдини Jaja was published in 1993. Ekpo passed away in 2006 at the age of 92.

**27 July 1999**

**Law Society apologises to Mahatma Gandhi after 105 years**

The Natal Law Society, 105 years later, apologized to Mahatma Gandhi. In a statement issued

in 1999, Law Society President David Randles said: *"The society apologises unconditionally, albeit posthumously, to the late Mahatma Gandhi for having attempted to restrict his rights to practice as an advocate in Natal."*

**27 July 1970**

**Establishment of Uranium Enrichment Council**

Government release the Uranium Enrichment Bill, to cater for the establishment of a national Uranium Enrichment Council, and South Africa's plans to become a nuclear power. Already in 1948, an Atomic Energy Board (now the Atomic Energy Corporation) was established, and the country became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957; two years later in 1959 government announced the creation of a domestic nuclear industry. Two nuclear power stations, Pelindaba and Koeberg were built, both still in existence today. In 1991, South Africa signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons programme in 1993, and in 1996, South Africa signed the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty – also called the Pelindaba Treaty.

([www.nnr.co.za/history](http://www.nnr.co.za/history))

**28 July 1015**

**Father of Modern Optics and the Aswan Dam**

During the annual flooding of the

Nile River, Egypt's ruler Haim bi-Amr Allah hired one of history's greatest scientific minds, Ibn al-Haytham, to find a way to harness the river. Al-Haytham was the father of modern optics and groundbreaking work in mathematics, astronomy and physics. He came up with the idea to build a dam upriver, but realized technology of his time inadequate. The Aswan Dam would be built in 1970, on the site he specified.

**28 July 2008**

**South Africa gets new R5 coin**

In response to the wide circulation of a counterfeit version of the old R5 coin around 2003/2004, the Reserve Bank redesigned the R5 coin, to make it more difficult to copy. The new thicker and heavier bi-metal coin has a silver border and a bronze center.

**28 July 1945**

**Father of isiXhosa poetry, Samuel Mqhayi passes on**



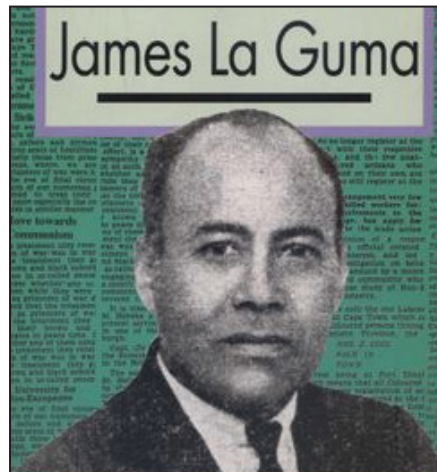


## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Samuel Edward Krune Mqhayi, author, educator, linguist, poet, translator and composer, grew up in rural Transkei, and was a teacher who also edited a number of isiXhosa-language journals, served on the board of the isiXhosa Bible Revision committee, and helped to standardize isiXhosa orthograph and codify isiXhosa. His published works include his first ***U-Samson, Ityala lamawele*** “*The Lawsuit of the Twins*” (1914) and ***Imihobe Nemibongo*** “*Songs of Joy and Lullabies*” (1927) which included original stanzas from Enoch Sontonga’s ***Nkosi sikelel’ iAfrica***, to which Mqhayi added seven additional stanzas. He also wrote ***U-Don Jadu*** (1929), which describes a futuristic non-racial state that combines elements of Xhosa society and Western culture. Mqhayi’s autobiography, ***U-Mqhayi wase Ntab’ozuko*** “*Mqhayi of the Mountain of Beauty*”, was published in 1939; and two other of his works, ***The Death of Hintsa*** and ***The Dismissal of Sir Benjamin D’Urban***, were published posthumously in ***Mqhayi in Translation*** in 1976.

### 28 July 1961

**James La Guma passes on**  
James La Guma, born in 1894 in Cape Town was a trade unionist, political activist and a member of the ANC and Communist Party of South Africa. Orphaned at age 5, he started work in a bakery in Parow at the age of eight. He was largely self-educated, buying books at second hand stalls on the Grand Parade. Reading exposed La Guma to radical ideas and in 1906 he participated in his first strike, organizing workers on the diamond fields. He was escorted by police from the mines and shortly thereafter left for Namibia (then South West Africa) with a friend to work.



Upon his return in 1921, he joined the Industrial Commercial Union (ICU), with the first task to revive the defunct Port Elizabeth ICU. In 1923, La Guma married Wilhelmina (Minnie) Alexander, the daughter of a carpenter who was active in the African Political Organisation (APO). In Minnie, La Guma found a lifelong companion and fellow activist. Of their marriage a son, Alexander, the celebrated novelist, and a daughter, Joan, were born. La Guma joined the Communist Party in 1925 and was elected to its Central Committee in 1926. He devoted his energies to the CPSA and the African National Congress (ANC). In 1927, he was elected secretary of the Cape Town branch of the ANC and the following year became the organisation’s secretary for the Western Cape. In February 1927, he travelled to Brussels, Belgium, as SACP delegate to the first international conference; also visiting Germany to give lectures; and visiting the Soviet Union with ANC president, JT Gumede. Although a committed communist, La Guma displeased the largely white CPSA hierarchy because of his Africanist militancy. In 1929, La Guma was expelled from the CPSA for breach of discipline. He rejoined the CPSA in 1947, was elected to its Central Committee and served

until the party’s dissolution after the passage of the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950. La Guma re-entered protest politics in 1957 when his son, Alex La Guma, was arrested on a charge of high treason in December 1956 for his role in the Congress of the People. La Guma’s health failed rapidly after his release from prison, and died on 28 July of a fatal heart attack at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1961. La Guma received the **Order of Luthuli**, Silver posthumously. (<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/james-arnold-jimmy-la-guma-1894-1961>)

### 29 July 1505

#### Portuguese invaders destroy Swahili city

Kilwa Kisiwani was one of the great East African Swahili cities, and was destroyed by Portuguese invaders. In 1981 the island was declared a UNESCO world heritage site.

### 29 July 1921

#### Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) founded



At a public meeting held in Cape Town, attended by thousands of mainly Coloured workers, Bill Andrews announced the establishment of the CPSA, and its aims and objectives. Its founding congress followed shortly, from 30 July – 1 August 1921. The CPSA was formed mainly by radical white worker leaders and socialists, inspired by similar communist and Marxist



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

parties in Europe. The first CPSA executive included as CP Tyler as Party chairperson, Bill Andrews as general secretary and SP Bunting as treasurer. By 1928, the CPSA and ANC started overtures to work together. The SACP was relaunched as a legal organisation on the same day in 1990, at a rally of over 45,000 people in Soweto. The SACP named a 22-member interim leadership core (ILC) to work on recruitment and building legal SACP structures, after decades of illegality. Members of the ILC included Joe Slovo, Dan Tloome, Chris Hani, Ronnie Kasrils, Sydney Mufamadi, Chris Dlamini, and Moses Mayekiso.

### 29 July 1931

#### **Botanist George Clerck born**

The pioneer of botanical science in West Africa, George Clerck is born in Accra, Ghana. Clerck published over 250 papers particularly in plant pathology, influencing agricultural, forestry and conservation policies in the region. His study of fungi that attack cocoa beans helped West African cocoa farmers.

### 29 July 1960

#### **Dr Salim Karim born**

South African scientist and public health specialist, Dr Salim Abdool Karim is born in Durban. Karim worked as epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist, especially on the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics.

### 29 July 1990

#### **Monrovia Church Massacre prompts ECOWAS intervention**

In the single worst atrocity during the Liberian Civil War, 600

people are killed in a church in the capital Monrovia by soldiers loyal to President Samuel Doe. Only a few children survived hiding under the bodies of slain adults. The massacre pushed the Economic Community of West African States to send an intervention force to Liberia.

### 30-31 July 1967

#### **Luthuli Combat Detachment and start of Wankie campaign**

The *'Luthuli Detachment'*, made up of units of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) operatives, and the Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZAPU) guerrillas, crossed the Zambezi River from the Zambian banks of the river into Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) on 30 and 31 July 1967, at the start of the Wankie and Sipolilo battles which continued until late 1968. Fearing possible leakage of information to the Rhodesian and South African Forces, the area where the crossing was to take place was kept secret until the day of the event. The primary objective of this operation was to march across Rhodesia to South Africa to set up underground operations to politically mobilise South Africans in different sections of the country. The other mission was to set up military bases, together with ZAPU forces, in north-eastern Rhodesia. The operation became known as the **Wankie Campaign**, after the Wankie Game Reserve, where the ANC and ZAPU guerrillas infiltrated into Rhodesia.

### 30 July 1947

#### **Passing of ANC Youth League first President, Anton Lembede**

Teacher, lawyer, activist and



the founder thinkers of Pan Africanism, Lembede suddenly died at the age of 33 in Johannesburg. At the time of his death, Lembede was doing his doctoral thesis through UNISA.

### 30 July 1976

#### **Solly Sachs, socialist passed on**

Solly Sachs was born in Lithuania in 1900 and the family moved to Johannesburg in 1914. Sachs became active in trade unions, and joined the Communist Party of South Africa and the Communist Youth League, rising in the ranks and elected onto the CPSA Central Committee in 1930. He is father to former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs.

### 30 July 2012

#### **Works starts on iconic Gota Dam Residence**

The iconic 1500sm house is built on top of a granite rock, overlooking a large man-made dam, or reservoir for the extensive surrounding farmland.

### 31 July 1894

#### **South Africa-Mozambique borders drawn**

The Transvaal-Portuguese Commission begins work on

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

drawing the boundaries between South Africa and Mozambique, with implications for the borders of Eswatini.

### 31 July 1945

#### Germano Almeida born

Cabo Verdean publisher and author Germano Almeida is born in Boa Vista on this day. Almeida founded two literary magazines and a publishing house, and has written histories and novels adapted into films.

### 31 July 1969

#### Albertina Sisulu banning orders renewed



On 31 July 1969 Albertina Sisulu, had her banning order renewed for another five years after the expiry of a previous one. Reasons for the renewal included her activism in the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and the then banned ANC. As part of her banning orders, she was also placed under house arrest. Ma Albertina Sisulu became the South African person longest under banning orders.

### 31 July 2007

#### Joint AU-UN Darfur Mission

To prevent genocide in the war-torn Darfur region of the Sudan, the African Union and United Nations partner in a joint peacekeeping mission, the UNAU Mission in Darfur (UNAUMID).

It is the first joint peacekeeping mission, and largest, at one point comprising close to 2000 military personnel, 3 772 police, and a further 3000 other personnel. The mission finally withdrew from Sudan in 2021.

### 31 July 2018

#### Namibia second largest intra African trade

Namibia is Africa's second largest trading partner with other African countries, accounting for 6% of all inter-African trade, reports the World Bank. South Africa accounts for 26% of all intra-African trade, with Nigeria at number 3, accounting for 4.5% of continental trade. Namibia's second position is significant, given its small economy.

### 31 July 2019

#### Mosquito lab opens in Kampala

A new laboratory in Kampala, Uganda opens to breed genetically modified mosquitoes, which will breed with and sterilize malaria-bearing mosquitoes. Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali have joined the project.

### 1 August 1876

#### Sekhukhune defeats Boers

Sekhukhune I, King of the Bapedi, successfully resisted the Boers during a protracted Boer/Bapedi land ownership war. On 16 May 1876, the Volksraad of the South African Republic declared war on Sekhukhune and his followers. A Boer commando under President T.F. Burgers, armed with 7 pounder Krupp guns, reached the Bapedi stronghold on 1 August. The Bapedi, also armed with rifles, offered stiff resistance and inflicted a humiliating defeat on the well-armed Boer force.

### 1 August 1936

#### Official Launch of SABC

In 1934, General James Barry Munnik (JBM) Hertzog, prime minister of South Africa, ordered an official investigation into all aspects of Broadcasting in South Africa. The investigation ultimately led to the formation of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), under Act 22 of 1936. The broadcasts of the African Broadcasting Company (ABC), which was formed in 1927, ceased and the broadcasts from the newly formed SABC began.

### 1 August 1957

#### Author Ungulani Ba Ka Khosa born

Mozambican writer and winner of the 1990 Grand Prize for Mozambique fiction for his novel *Ualalapi*, Ungulani Ba Ka Khosa, whose real name is Francisco Esaú Cossa, is born in Inhmainga, Sofala Province. *Ualalapi* was considered one of the 100 best African books of the twentieth century.

### 1 August 1973

#### Treaty establishing CARICOM signed

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was signed by Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago and came into effect on August 1, 1973. Subsequently, the other eight Caribbean territories joined CARICOM.

### 1 August 1985

#### Victoria Mxenge assassinated

Victoria Nonyamezelo Mxenge, human rights lawyer, a former nurse and UDF activist and

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



leader, was murdered on 1 August 1985 in her home in Umlazi Durban. This brutal murder of Mam M was meant to silence her crusade on behalf of her people against injustices. Shortly before her brutal slaying in front of her children, Victoria Mxenge spoke at the funeral of the Cradock Four. A leader of the Natal Organisation of Women, the UDF and Release Mandela Committee, as a lawyer she fought for the rights of those denied their human dignity. At the time of her death, she was also one of fifteen United Democratic Front team members facing trial for treason, was part of the defence team of the Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial, and represented the families affected by the cross border raids by the regime at Matole and Lesotho. Mam M's assassination happened nearly four years after the assassination of her activist husband Griffiths Mxenge in November 1981. A year later, on 1 August 1996, students from Claremont, King Williams Town and Chesterville staged a protest on the day of the commemoration of her assassination. Although one of her murderers admitted to the killing during the TRC hearing, none of those in the security branch who ordered her killing applied for amnesty or were prosecuted. Victoria Mxenge was awarded the Order of Luthuli posthumously in 2004.

### 2 August 1989 Mass Democratic Movement starts Defiance Campaign

After nearly a decade of country wide popular mass uprising, boycotts and strikes against apartheid, and four years of a state of emergency, the Mass Democratic Movement, of the which the UDF and COSATU were part of, embarked on a national Defiance campaign to defy apartheid laws, similar to the campaign led by the Congress Alliance in the 1950s. The campaign challenged segregation laws on beaches, hospitals and other facilities, as well as detainees going on hunger strike, and activists breaking their restrictions and banning orders.

### 2 August 1894 Transvaal Republic tries Chief Malebogo

A council of war, tried Chief Malebogo for refusing to allow his people to pay hut taxes and waging war against the Transvaal Boers in defence of his autonomy. Although he was never sentenced, he was kept in jail as a prisoner of war and

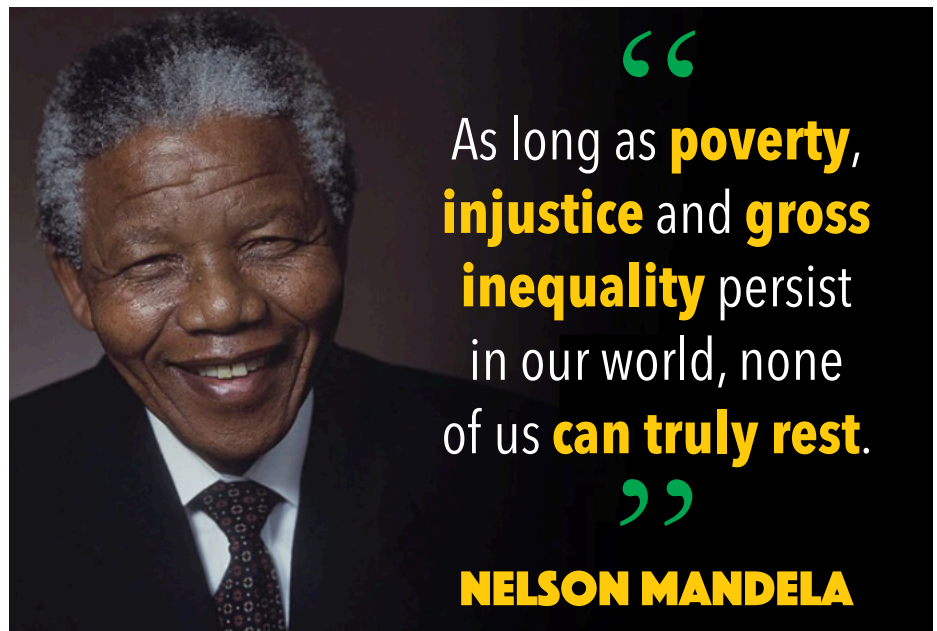
his followers were indentured in different districts for five years, after which they were settled on a government location. Chief Malebogo languished in prison until 1900, when the British authorities allowed him to return to his people during the South African War (Second Anglo Boer War).

### 2 August 1983 Writer Davina Ittoo born

Davina Ittoo was born in Quarte Bornes, and is at the forefront of a new generation of writers from the island state of Mauritius. She won the 2015 Prix Jean-Franchette for her short story La Proscrite and in 2019 won the Prix Indianoceanie for her first novel Misère.

### 2 August 2003 Mkapa Bridge opens

The Mkapa bridge officially opened on 2 August, in Tanzania, spanning the Rufiji river is 970 meters long, is one of the longest bridges in East and Southern Africa. It is named after Benjamin Mkapa, the third President of Tanzania.



“  
As long as **poverty**,  
**injustice** and **gross**  
**inequality** persist  
in our world, none  
of us **can truly rest**.  
”

**NELSON MANDELA**



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

27 July – 2 August 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)

### 28 July

#### International day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Mangroves are rare, spectacular and prolific ecosystems on the boundary between land and sea. These extraordinary ecosystems contribute to the wellbeing, food security, and protection of coastal communities worldwide. They support a rich biodiversity and provide a valuable nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans. Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion. Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks, sequestering vast amounts of carbon. Yet mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. Current estimates indicate that mangrove coverage has been divided by two in the past 40 years. South Africa has about 9000ha of mangroves, mainly on the KZN east coast from Khosi Bay to the Nahoon estuary, with the largest mangrove forests in St Lucia and Richard's Bay.

### 28 July

#### World Hepatitis Day

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection that causes severe liver disease and hepatocellular cancer. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread. Hepatitis is spread through contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. Viral hepatitis B and C affect 325 million people worldwide, causing 1.4 million deaths a year. It is the second major killer infectious disease after tuberculosis, and 9 times more people are infected with hepatitis than HIV. Hepatitis is preventable, treatable, and in the case of hepatitis C, curable. However, over 80% of people living with hepatitis are lacking prevention, testing and treatment services. The theme for 2024 is *"It's Time for Action."*

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY | JULY 28<sup>th</sup>

World Health Organization

## KNOW HEPATITIS ACT NOW

### WHAT IS HEPATITIS ?

Hepatitis virus causes infection and inflammation of the liver

- Hep B & C can lead to severe disease and possibly death
- Hep B & C is spread by blood, semen and other body fluids

400 million people live with Hepatitis

6-10 million people are newly infected annually

### 30 July

#### International Day of Friendship


Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division – such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses, among many others – that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples. To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms – the simplest of which is friendship. Through friendship – by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust – we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.

### 30 July

#### World Day against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, also called 'modern slave trade' is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Globally, countries are detecting and reporting more

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



# STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It's estimated that internationally there are between 20 million and 40 million people in modern slavery today. Assessing the full scope of human trafficking is difficult because so many cases go undetected, something the United Nations refers to as "the hidden figure of crime."

**NO ONE SHOULD BE SOLD FOR SEX**

victims, and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls. The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 per cent of those trafficked for forced labour are female. Conflict further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with armed groups exploiting civilians and traffickers targeting forcibly displaced people. Data also shows that trafficking happens all around us as the share of persons trafficked within their own country has doubled in recent years to 58 per cent of all detected victims, according to the 2018 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

### 31 July African Women's Day

The Day of the African Woman celebrates the first Pan African women's gathering, when women from



all parts of the continent gathered in Dar es Salaam on 31 July 1962 to form what was then known as the "Conference of African Women", which later transformed into the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO). The main aim of the founding mothers was to establish an organisation which will ensure full and effective participation of women in political, economic and social development in their countries, continent and the world. The day is used to reflect on how far the continent has progressed in meeting this objective.

### 1 August World Wide Web Day

Celebrated annually on August 1, World Wide Web Day is a tribute to the groundbreaking invention that has connected people globally. According to UNICEF, more than one third of young people do not have access to the internet or to adequate devices or data, and over 2.2 billion young people do not have access to stable internet at home, making online learning inaccessible. As we therefore celebrate World Wide Web day, we must continue to fight for digital inclusion through universal broadband access, as a basic human right.

### 1-6 August National Science Week

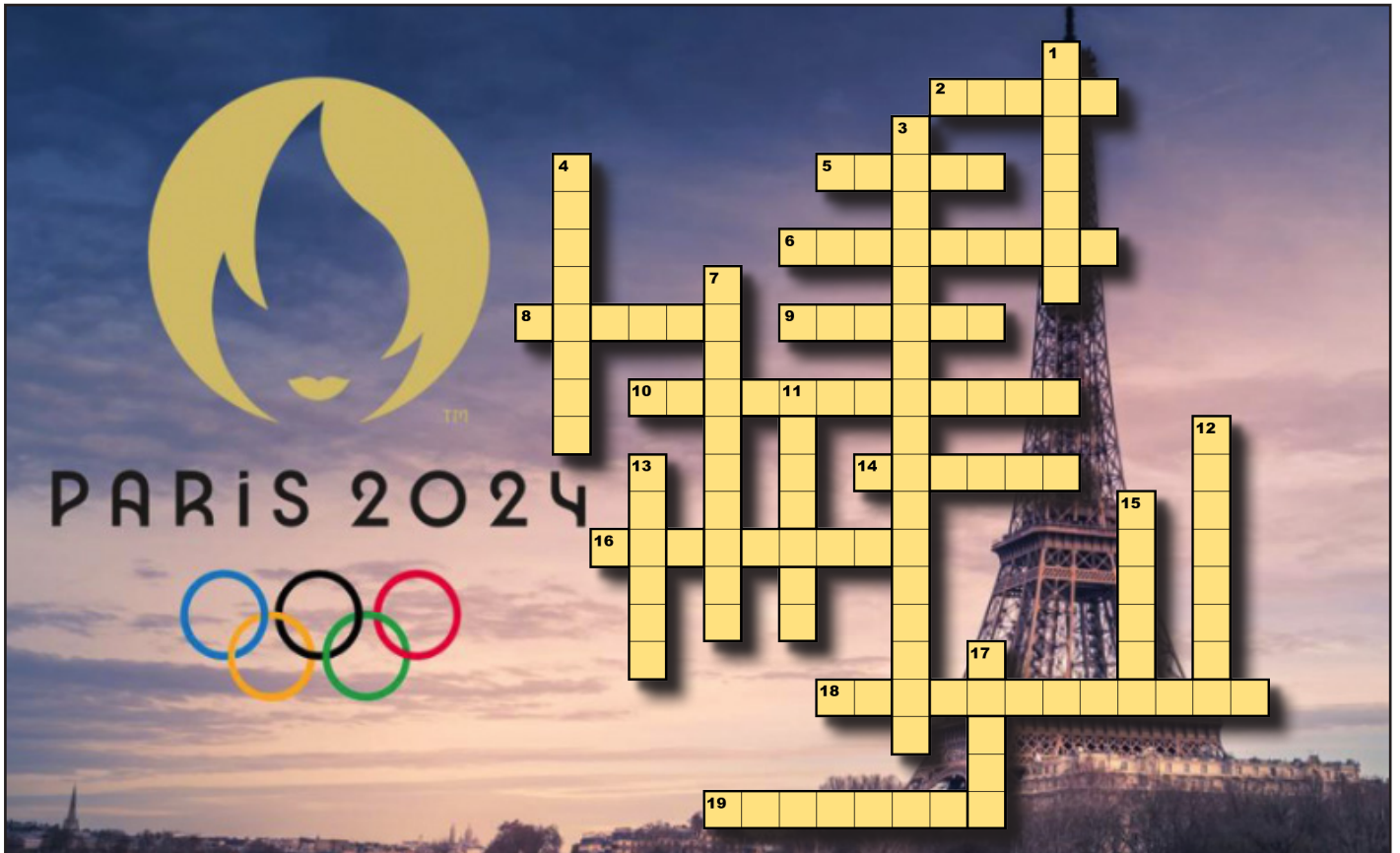
National Science Week (NSW) is an annual event aiming to exhibit and communicate awareness in science, an annual celebration of the role and value of science and technology in people's daily lives.

### 1-7 August World Breastfeeding Week

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), "Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable food system. But while breastfeeding is a natural process, it is not always easy. Mothers need support – both to get started and to sustain breastfeeding." The theme for 2024 is: **Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.** Governments are encouraged to: **INVEST** to make skilled breastfeeding counselling available to every woman. **TRAIN** health care workers, including midwives and nurses, to deliver skilled breastfeeding counselling to mothers and families, as part of routine and easily accessible health and nutrition services. **PROTECT** mothers and health care workers from the influence of the baby food industry.

**X-WORD**

# African Athletes at the 2024 Olympics



**ACROSS**

- 2. After injury sent her home from Tokyo 2020, she's back with her skateboard in Paris, Boipelo...
- 5. Kenyan sprinter Omanyala switch from ... to athletics.
- 6. Our men's rugby sevens team.
- 8. Botswana's versatile sprinter, competing in mens' 100m, 200m and 4x400m events, Letsile...
- 9. Young Curro sprinter, Bayanda... off to Paris.
- 10. South African wanting to do it again in swimming.
- 14. Nigeria's best chance at winning an Olympic gold medal, 100m hurdles, after 24 years, Tobi...
- 16. One of the youngest participants (15), swimmer from the Sudan, Rana...
- 18. Cycling champ from Eritrea.
- 19. Regarded as greatest marathon runner of all times, Eliud...

**DOWN**

- 1. Will do his best at new Olympic Breakdancing event, young Billy...
- 3. SA Wimbledon Champ will be at it in the 2024 Paris Paralympic games.
- 4. She is rearing for a 3 time consecutive gold medal in 1500m, Faith ...
- 7. The super-tall Bright Stars basket team from ...
- 11. Sudanese runner competing in his first professional marathon in Paris, Yaseen ...
- 12. Africa's fastest man in 2021, in 100m Ferdinand ...
- 13. First ever refugee boxer to qualify for Olympics, Cindy ... from Cameroon.
- 15. 2024 Paris Olympics hailed for commitment to ... parity.
- 17. Sprinter trained by Gogo, ... van Niekerk.

**WORD BANK**

- |                    |               |           |          |               |           |        |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Omanyala           | gender        | Kipyegon  | Kipchoge | Wayde         | Amusan    | Tebogo |
| Kgothatso Montjane | Mallakh       | Awuah     | Abdalla  | South Sudan   | Saadeldin |        |
| Ngamba             | Tatjana Smith | Blitzboks | Walaza   | Biniam Girmay | rugby     |        |