



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

5 – 11 July 2024



Conversations with the **President**

PRESENTING A NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TO SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY

■ Statement by **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** on the
Appointment of Members of the National Executive, 30 June 2024

JUST over a month ago, on the 29th of May, the people of South Africa voted in a watershed election. In casting their votes, the people made it clear that they expect political parties to work together to deliver on a mandate of transformation, growth and renewal.

To give effect to this mandate, it was agreed that a Government of National Unity, which brings together parties from across the political spectrum, should be formed.

This Government of National Unity would be bound by certain fundamental principles and would undertake a basic minimum programme of priorities.

Following discussions over the course of the last few weeks, a total of eleven parties have elected to work together in government and in Parliament.

These are the African National Congress, Democratic Alliance, Patriotic Alliance, Inkatha Freedom Party, Good Party, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Freedom Front Plus, United Democratic Movement, Al Jama-ah, Rise Mzansi and the United Africans Transformation. The partnership between the GNU parties is guided by a Statement of Intent, which outlines fundamental principles and a minimum programme of priorities.

All the parties have made a com-

mitment to respect the constitution and to promote accountable and transparent governance, evidence-based policy and decision-making, the professionalisation of the public service, integrity and good governance.

The incoming government will prioritise rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the creation of a more just society by tackling poverty and inequality.

The establishment of the Government of National Unity in its current form is unprecedented in the history of our democracy.

We have had to consider how to form the new government in a manner that advances the na-

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

tional interest, that gives due consideration to the outcome of the election and that makes use of the respective capabilities within each of the parties.

We have had to consider not only the immediate needs of the country. We have also had to consider the stability, effectiveness and durability of the government we are establishing.

It is true that some South Africans have expressed concern about the length of time it has taken to form government.

As the discussions have unfolded, they have been worried about the effect of a protracted process on confidence and stability.

At the same time, many people have pointed to the experiences of other countries that have a far longer history of democracy, where the formation of multi-party governments have sometimes taken several months.

As a relatively young democracy, we should be proud that we have moved to establish a government comprised of eleven parties within such a short space of time. Through our discussions we have been able to build consensus on the tasks of government. We have shown that there are no problems that are too difficult or too intractable that they cannot be solved through dialogue.

I am pleased to announce the members of the National Executive who will bear collective responsibility to give effect to the will of the electorate.

In forming the National Executive, we have had to consider several factors and advance a number of key principles.



We have had to ensure that the incoming government will be effective, and that it will have people with the experience, skills and capabilities to deliver on its mandate.

It is important that we deploy into positions of responsibility people who are committed, capable and hard-working, and who have integrity.

We have had to ensure that all the parties are able to participate meaningfully in the National Executive and that the diversity of the views of South Africans is properly reflected.

We have sought to ensure that the National Executive is representative of the people of South Africa, giving due consideration to gender, youth, demographics and regional distribution.

We want South Africans to see themselves reflected not only in the composition of government, but also in its policies and programmes.

Given the challenges that the country faces today and considering the electoral mandate this government must implement, I have decided to make certain

changes to the national government portfolios.

In the course of the sixth democratic administration, we indicated our intention to reduce the number of portfolios in the National Executive. However, due to the need to ensure that the National Executive is inclusive of all the parties to the Government of National Unity, this has not been possible.

In some instances, we have considered it necessary to separate certain portfolios to ensure that there is sufficient focus on key issues.

The ministries of Electricity and Energy will be merged.

There will be a separate ministry of Mineral and Petroleum Resources.

The ministry of Agriculture will be separated from the ministry of Land Reform and Rural Development. The ministry of Higher Education will be separated from the ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development will be separated from the ministry of Correctional Services.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

Members of the National Executive of the 7th Administration with President Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President Paul Mashatile and Chief Justice Raymond Zondo



There will no longer be a Ministry of Public Enterprises. The co-ordination of the relevant public enterprises will be located in the Presidency during the process of implementing a new shareholder model.

I have decided to make the following appointments to the National Executive:

- The **Deputy President** is Paul Mashatile.
- The **Minister of Agriculture** is John Steenhuisen.
- The **Deputy Minister of Agriculture** is Rosemary Nokuzola Capa.
- The **Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development** is Mzwanele Nkhomo.
- The **Deputy Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development** is Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.
- The **Minister of Basic Education** is Siviwe Gwarube.
- The **Deputy Minister of Basic Education** is Reginah Mhaule.
- The **Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies** is Solly Malatsi.
- The **Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies** is Mondli Gungubele.
- The **Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs** is Velinkosi Hlabisa.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs** are Dickson Masemola and Zolile Burns-Ncamashe.
- The **Minister of Defence and Military Veterans** is Angie Motshekga.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Defence and Military Veterans** are Bantu Holomisa and Richard Mkhungo.
- The **Minister of Electricity and Energy** is Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.
- The **Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy** is Samantha Graham.
- The **Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation** is Blade Nzimande.
- The **Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation** is Nomalungelo Gina.
- The **Minister of Employment and Labour** is Nomakhosazana Meth.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Employment and Labour** are Jomo Sibiya and Phumzile Mgcina.
- The **Minister of Finance** is Enoch Godongwana.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Finance** are David Masedo and Ashor Sarupen.
- The **Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment** is Dion George.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment** are Narend Singh and Bernice Swarts.
- The **Minister of Health** is Aaron Motsoaledi.
- The **Deputy Minister of Health** is Joe Phaahla.
- The **Minister of Higher Education** is Nobuhle Nkabane.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Higher Education** are Buti Mamenela and Mimmy Gondwe.
- The **Minister of Home Affairs** is Leon Schreiber.
- The **Deputy Minister of Home Affairs** is Njabulo Nzuza.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

- The **Minister of Human Settlements** is Mmamoloko Kubayi.
- The **Deputy Minister of Human Settlements** is Tandi Mahambehlala.
- The **Minister of International Relations and Cooperation** is Ronald Lamola.
- The **Deputy Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation** are Alvin Botes and Tandi Moraka.
- The **Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development** is Thembi Nkadimeng.
- The **Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development** is Andries Nel.
- The **Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources** is Gwede Mantashe.
- The **Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources** is Judith Nemadzanga-Tshabalala.
- The **Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation** is Maropene Ramokgopa.
- The **Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation** is Seiso Mohai.
- The **Minister of Police** is Senzo Mchunu.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Police** are Polly Boshielo and Cassel Mathale.
- The **Minister in the Presidency** is Khumbudzo Ntshavheni.
- The **Deputy Ministers in the Presidency** are Nonceba Mhlauli and Kenneth Morolong.
- The **Minister of Public Service and Administration** is Mzamo Buthelezi.
- The **Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration** is Pinky Kekana.
- The **Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure** is Dean Macpherson.
- The **Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure** is Sihle Zikalala.
- The **Minister of Small Business Development** is Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.
- The **Deputy Minister of Small Business Development** is Jane Sithole.
- The **Minister of Social Development** is Sisisi Tolashe.
- The **Deputy Minister of Social Development** is Ganief Hendricks.
- The **Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture** is Gayton MckEnzie.
- The **Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture** is Peace Mabe.
- The **Minister of Tourism** is Patricia De Lille.
- The **Deputy Minister of Tourism** is Maggie Sotyu.
- The **Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition** is Parks Tau.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Trade, Industry and Competition** are Zuko Godlimpi and Andrew Whitfield.
- The **Minister of Transport** is Barbara Creecy.
- The **Deputy Minister of Transport** is Mkhuleko Hlengwa.
- The **Minister of Water and Sanitation** is Pemmy Majodina.
- The **Deputy Ministers of Water and Sanitation** are David Mahlobo and Isaac Seitholo.
- The **Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities** is Sindisiwe Chikunga.
- The **Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities** is Mmapaseka Steve Letsike.
- The **Minister of Correctional Services** is Pieter Groenewald.
- The **Deputy Minister of Correctional Services** is Lindiwe Ntshalintshali.

These men and women we have appointed to the executive are drawn from all corners of our country. They reflect the diversity of our nation.

They have a responsibility to work together to serve the people as a whole.

None of the members of the National Executive has been appointed to serve the interests of a particular constituency, a particular party or a particular section of society.

Collectively and individually, they are responsible to the people of South Africa.

In the spirit of partnership and collaboration, the incoming government will work together with other formations to convene a National Dialogue.

Through this National Dialogue, all parties, civil society groups, labour, business and other stakeholders will be invited to work together to address the critical challenges facing the nation.

We call on all South Africans to participate in the National Dialogue and to give their support to this Government of National Unity as it begins its work.

As the leaders of political parties, as Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as public representatives, we understand and accept the responsibility that we bear.

We have all been called upon to serve the people of this country, and we will do so to the utmost of our ability.

A TRIBUTE TO **AARON MILNER**, FORMER CABINET MINISTER OF THE UNIP GOVERNMENT IN ZAMBIA AND **GREAT FRIEND OF THE ANC**

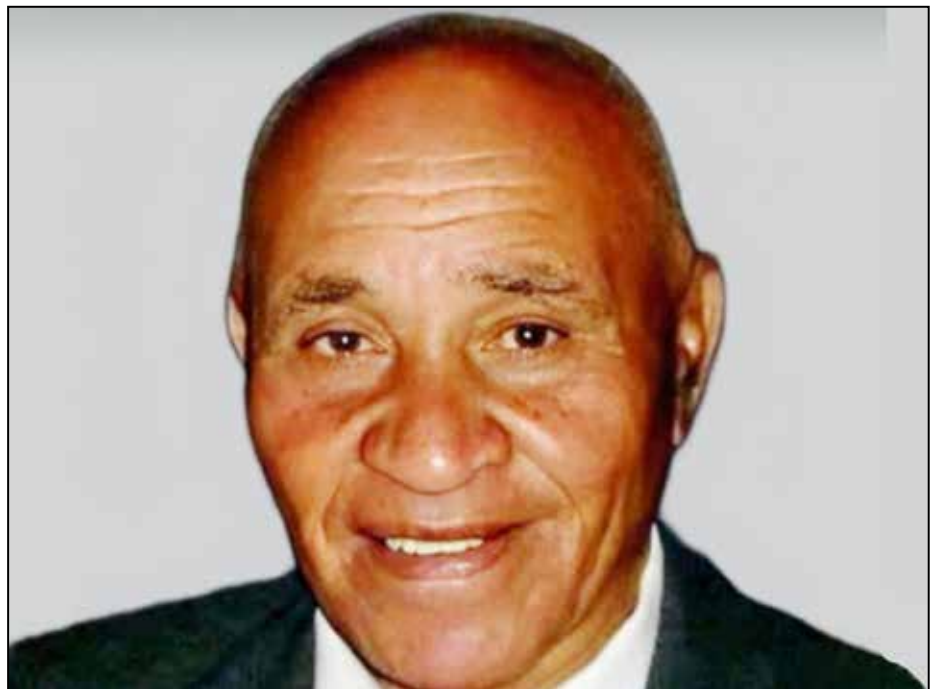
■ By **ANC VETERANS LEAGUE PRESIDENT SNUKI ZIKALALA**

THE ANC Veterans League is saddened by the passing of Aaron Milner on 22nd June 2024 in Harare, Zambia. Not only did he contribute to the liberation of Zambia and served as a Minister under the first democratic President, Kenneth Kaunda but he was instrumental in supporting the ANC and other liberation movements who were exiled in Southern Africa.

Before Zambian independence he was Secretary General of UNIP and in 1963 played an instrumental role in assisting ANC cadres who were travelling north through Zambia to Tanzania and further destinations. He arranged for buses and accommodation so that they could escape safely from the clutches of the Northern Rhodesian police.

Cde Mavuso Msimang, deputy president of the ANC Veterans League recalls that Zola Skweyiya boarded a bus and took a small Zambian boy on his lap. When the Northern Rhodesian police entered the bus looking for foreigners, they mistook him for a local guy and did not touch him!

After independence in 1964, Aaron Milner was appointed



the Zambian Minister of Home Affairs and together with the Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda made things much easier for members of the ANC and other freedom fighters from other unliberated countries. He developed a strong relationship

with the ANC leadership of OR Tambo and enabled the ANC to work effectively from exile.

The ANC Veterans League also wants to thank the current President of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema for arranging an official funeral for Aaron Milner and thus recognising the important contribution he made to the liberation of Southern African countries.

Our condolences to his family, comrades and friends and the people of Zambia.

May he rest in peace.

The GNU negotiations expose the deep-seated political historical fault lines and immaturity of our politics

■ By **SELLO MOLOTO**

THE national and provincial elections of 2024 exposed the extent of the political polarisation and the immaturity of politics in South Africa. The opposition parties have succeeded in bringing the ruling party below 50% but yet failed to form a government. It is inexplicable that political parties which constitute 60% of the 2024 electoral support do not even attempt to form a government without the ruling party although their election platform was based on removing the ruling party from political power, vowing not to do anything with this ruling party.

Part of the reason why we find ourselves in this conundrum is because our leaders went overboard with their election campaign messages. The election campaign messages ranged from “2024 is our 1994” to “doomsday coalitions.” If you did not know the characters, you would be mistaken to think that their campaign messages were meant for a country which is foreign to you. The election campaign messages demonstrated the deep-seated political fault lines of polarisation which characterise our body politics and the general political health of our nation. The political differences go beyond what can be regarded as healthy political



and ideological differences, but hinge on bad blood and hatred among political leaders.

The inadequacy of politics and politicians in the low-income (developing) world is the lack of understanding that politics involves competition and cooperation. Politicians in the developing world believe in permanent competition. In the high-income (developed) world, politicians understand that holding a different political view does not make you an enemy. Healthy politics involves competition (election campaigning) and cooperation (constructive opposition). The opposition parties in the developed world understand the need

to cooperate with the ruling party after the elections. The culture of concession of defeat by party leaders has been developed to send a message to their supporters that political leaders are not enemies and therefore need to cooperate in the best interests of the country.

The contest for political power and office should be likened to soccer teams competing for a league title championship. The soccer team which grabs the championship trophy at the end of the season does not make the other clubs less important. The club which wins the league championship does so because it proved to be the better team that season.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Politicians can learn one or two things from soccer players. The players understand and internalise their trade to a point where over and above shaking hands at the end of the match, they even exchange their jerseys as a sign of respect and appreciation. This sportsmanship attitude makes it easy for them to cooperate when they are called upon to play in the national squad. Our political leaders must learn that there is a bigger fight out there to promote and advance our national interests. Foreign governments do not differentiate between political parties in pursuit of their national interests.

The public discourse and debates which have been raging since the declaration of the election outcome expose the depth of polarisation in the country. The anger and frustration displayed in society is palpable and calls for urgent action aimed at nation-building and social cohesion. There is generally a negative national mood characterised by a huge distrust of politicians and political parties. The social and economic development indices depict South Africa as an abnormal society. South Africa is regarded as one of the most unequal societies with the highest unemployment (32.99%) and poverty (55.5%) levels, with a Gini coefficient of 0.67. It remains a mystery to social development experts why the nation is not experiencing sustained widespread violent social uprisings akin to the recent ones in Kenya or during the Arab Spring.

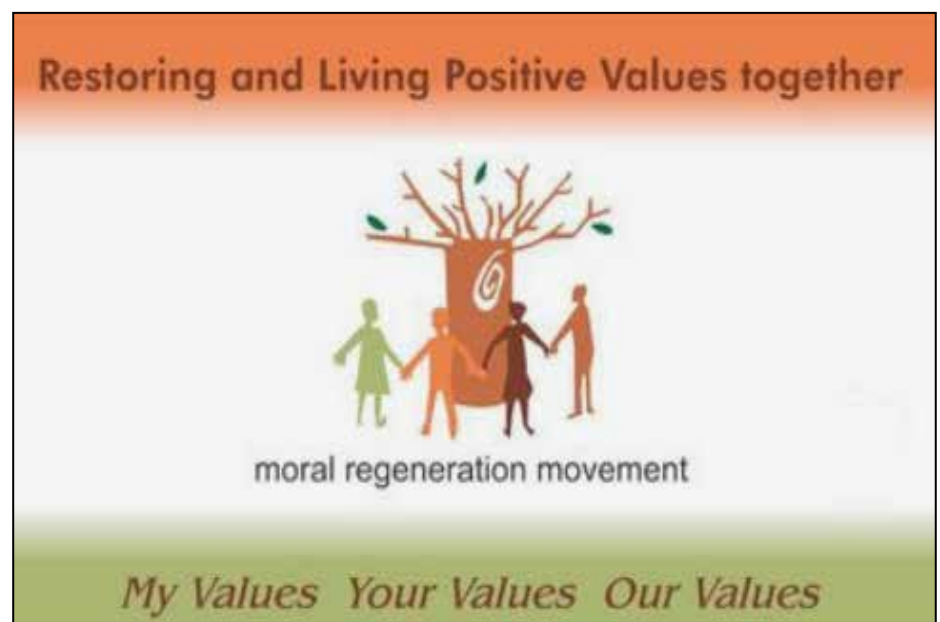
The above-stated statistics don't conjure trust and confidence in our democratic dispensation as depicted by the 2024 IEC statistics. The South African eligible voter population is recorded as

42.3 million. It is further stated that only about half (27.8 million) of the eligible voters were registered to vote. The election outcome records that the actual voter turnout was 58.64% amounting to 16.2 million. This implies that more than 40% (11 million) of registered voters stayed away from the polls. These statistics paint a bleak picture for our young democracy.

Notwithstanding the distressing socio-economic indicators, it does not seem like the proverbial "penny dropping" for our political leaders. If anything, the bickering and teetering about the negotiations and debates about the formation of the GNU illustrate a political class which is detached from reality. The debate about whether the mooted government is a coalition or a government of national unity is not helpful or inspiring any confidence. The reasons advanced that GNU is formed in conditions where there is a national crisis of civil war or strife is an indication that the political class is not in tune with the national mood and the hardship which ordinary South Africans are confronted with daily.

The demands some political parties are putting as conditions for participation in the GNU are ridiculous. The arguments are contrary to the reasons why they are saying there should be power-sharing. The parties argue that they are not prepared to work with certain parties but at the same time claim that they respect the outcome of the elections as the will of the people. In essence, such parties are clearly saying they are not interested in the national unity and social cohesion of our nation.

At last, after two weeks of bickering and teetering, the stage is now ultimately set for the GNU. The national executive has been appointed and announced. This does not mean that the road ahead will be smooth sailing due to the immaturity of politics. We should further expect a bumpy ride. The urgent tasks of this seventh administration will be to rekindle and revive the trust and confidence of the population in state institutions. The GNU should start by going into the cabinet shelves to pull out and dust off policy initiatives and programmes that were abandoned



GNU Paves the Way for **Inclusive Governance** in South Africa

■ By **Mahlengi Bhengu**

From the archives, it appears that the ANC's 1992 policy blueprint, "Ready to Govern," foresaw the possibility of a Government of National Unity (GNU), which the African National Congress (ANC) has already implemented twice in 30 years. The first GNU was led by the charismatic Former political prisoner who became president of the new South Africa, Comrade Nelson Mandela. The second was skillfully crafted by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, the architect of the 1996 Constitution of South Africa.

The seminal "Ready to Govern" policy document outlines four primary objectives of the ANC, which include establishing a unitary state, eradicating inequality and injustice, and asserting that the country belongs to all who live in it.

The document emphasises that the future of our nation depends on the harmonious and simultaneous realisation of all these goals. The pioneers of the new South Africa wrote: "Finally, the achievement of a genuine sense of national unity depends on all of us working together to overcome the inequalities created by apartheid." They



advocate for "a broad, inclusive approach, free of arrogance or complexes of superiority or inferiority, as fundamental."

Therefore, these objectives and principles of non-racialism, non-sexism, democracy, and mutual respect weighed heavily on the members of the National Executive Committee when it met to deliberate on the future of our country post the watershed 29 May provincial and national elections, which resulted in a

hung parliament, with the ANC failing to achieve a majority for the first time since the 1994 Breakthrough.

We unequivocally reject historical revisionism, which suggests that the ANC had options other than promoting our historical policy proposition for a "broad, inclusive approach" to governance. We could not opt for a grand coalition because, by its very nature, it seeks an exclusive marriage of convenience to divvy



CURRENT AFFAIRS

up the government cake. Such an arrangement would also leave fellow South Africans belonging to excluded political parties outside the broad governance framework.

We are aware of the propagandists who aver that the 2024 GNU is a coalition with the Democratic Alliance, despite all 11 signatories to the Statement of Intent forming part of the 'broad and inclusive' cabinet announced recently. As the ANC, we have not veered off our historical mission. Our commitment to this mission, as outlined in the ANC Constitution, instructs us to 'Unite all the people of South Africa, Africans in particular, for the complete liberation of the country from all forms of discrimination and national oppression.'

Similarly, the 1996 Constitution guided us, the supreme law of the land, which unambiguously calls upon us to "lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law." Any political science student of average ability will tell you that the results of recent polls show no single party was given the mandate to govern the country alone. The "will of the people" necessitates that all parties, including those from the centre-right, rightwing, and liberation movements, form a government of national unity to "improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person."

It is, therefore, apt that in his inauguration, which pushed the rand below the psychological barrier of R18 to the dollar

and drove the bond markets to a historical high, President Ramaphosa declared: "Above all, the people of South Africa have stressed that they are impatient with political bickering and the endless blame game among politicians and political parties. They want us to put their needs and aspirations first, and they want us to work together for the sake of our country."

Our detractors calling for an all-black coalition clearly do not understand the character of the ANC, a non-racial movement since its formation 112 years ago.

Our intellectual lodestar and ANC founding father, Pixley ka Isaka Seme, once stated: "The demon of racialism, the aberrations of the Xhosa-Fingo feud, the animosity that exists between the Zulus and the Tongaas, between the Basutos and every other Native must be buried and forgotten; it has shed among us sufficient blood! We are one people. These divisions and jealousies cause our woes, backwardness, and ignorance today."

As a country, we heed our ancestors' call to unite and overcome our past divisions. Our people have spoken. The 2024 GNU represents more than a political arrangement; it is a commitment to the rule of law and national unity. This unity across party lines is crucial for addressing our nation's challenges and achieving an inclusive, prosperous South Africa.

Indeed, the creation of the GNU is an advertisement for advanced political maturity, even among

those entering the arrangement for the first time. Even when they did not secure a majority, the ANC's acceptance of the election results is noteworthy, particularly in the context of liberation movements elsewhere, which often struggle to accept electoral defeat. This act sets a shining example of how democracy should be respected and is a model for other countries worldwide.

The GNU approach is evident in several successful global implementations where diverse political entities unite to govern collaboratively. For instance, in post-genocide Rwanda, the GNU model has been crucial in rebuilding and fostering unity, enabling various political groups to contribute to national development and reconciliation. Similarly, the GNU played a crucial role in Northern Ireland's peace process, bringing together previously antagonistic parties to govern collectively and work towards stability.

As the ANC, we reiterate that unity of purpose is the best approach for the next five years. We are bound by our policies and the pronouncements of those who came before us to remain faithful to the mission of building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa. We concede that the ANC does not have a magic wand to achieve this alone in our lifetime. Let Us Do More Together.

Bhengu is a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee and serves as the national spokesperson.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

15 years ago. Programmes such as Masakhane, Vuk'uzenzele, Moral Regeneration and Batho Pele should be revived to instill a sense of active citizenry and patriotism.

The past 15 years introduced a culture of government as a provider of everything and the citizenry as the passive receiver of government largesse. There is a need for a new social contract to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The people must partner with the government to fight crime and all other social ills. A comprehensive social security system is needed to cushion the devastating effects of abject poverty and the rising cost of living.

The work for accelerated economic growth is already cut out for the GNU, the pillars of which will be to unlock the blockages and barriers for the rail, freight and port logistics. The second pillar will involve the resolution of the energy crisis to support manufacturing as an important anchor for the re-industrialisation of the economy. The need for economic growth and job creation cannot be over-emphasised.

After all is said and done, one can only pray for two things in the motherland. The first is for South Africans to love their country the same way the rest of the world wishes for its citizenship. The need for patriotism cannot be over-emphasised. The second is for the maturity of our politics. The challenges confronting us require pragmatism to advance our national interests. These prayers are crucial to mitigating the upsurge of anti-establishment right-wing formations masking their destructive populism through left-wing rhetoric and identity politics.



Locked in history and path dependence in South Africa's current political landscape

■ By **THOBANI MTHETWA**

TO understand and examine South Africa's current political landscape, there is a need for high-level structures, including critical junctures and long-term processes. Historical institutionalists highlight and interrogate essential factors in this research approach to explain broader contexts and interrelating processes that configure politics. Historical institutionalists foreground the role institutions play as rules that govern political life but also focus on other big questions that impact political outcomes. One could argue that change depends on a particular

sequence of events and a particular context of state history. Path dependency refers to the tendency for political choices and systems emerging from a specific moment, or often considered a critical juncture, to reproduce and reinforce themselves to influence future decisions and processes.

Although there are significant differences between the first Government of National Unity (GNU) and the one formed after the 2024 General elections, one could argue that they do not signal significant change because political events occur from simi-

CURRENT AFFAIRS

lar conditions and consequences that come from small, contingent events, whereby the course of action of other events is difficult to reverse. Therefore, it is vital to understand how South Africa has become a path-dependent state, and we can divide the path-dependence process into three phases. The first is the preformation phase. Regarding path dependence, this phase is characterised as entirely new, and there is no restriction on the scope of action.

This means that the first actor searches for alternatives from scratch, decisions are not constrained, and the final choice is explained as rational. For example, South Africa's transition from Apartheid to democracy in 1994 was a monumental moment, culminating in the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) comprising the African National Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party, and the National Party. It is imperative to state that a Government of National Unity comprises representatives (functionaries) from different political parties.

The declaration of intent was considered a significant component of CODESA, a progressive move towards unity. It unified parties with a basic understanding of multiparty democracy, regular elections, an independent judiciary, the supremacy of the constitution, and the division of executive, legislative, and judicial powers. However, it could be argued that the diverse ideological framework among the parties was phenomenal. Although the ANC leaders had reservations about the declaration, Nelson Mandela persuaded them to sign it in the interests of reconciliation. Essentially, it meant the government's commit-

ment to converting resolutions taken into legislation through Parliament. At this stage, it was clear that South Africa had entered into a new phase of politics.

The objective was to foster unity within diversity. The three parties sought a common understanding of the essential realities of a national Government of National Unity. Reconciling ideological differences was a hopeful endeavor that would help them map out their vision as the government of the day. Nelson Mandela, the first democratically elected head of state, and FW De Klerk were charged with the enormous responsibility of uniting a once-rationally polarized South African society.

The government needed to learn the consequences of the negotiated settlement, which, to a great extent, constrained policy formulation. The negotiated settlement meant that policy formulation became dependent on the provisions of CODESA. The CODESA agreement can be labeled path-dependent, given it paid attention to pre-existing institutional commitments. One might argue that the CODESA settlement granted the apartheid regime institutional power to coordinate and organise South Africa. One could argue that the political negotiations were a balancing act, and the concessions agreed upon by political leaders at the time created a country that continued to be shaped by the legacy of Apartheid.

However, on the 3rd of June 1996, the National Party (NP) held its Federal Executive Committee, which decided to withdraw from the Government of National Unity because the NP had adopted its new role as a fully-fledged opposition party.

This meant that the ANC and IFP remained the leaders of government till the next elections were held, and the Government of National Unity lapsed at the end of the first Parliament in 1999.

Following the changes and challenges that had taken place within the first, the General elections were held in 1999, leading the ANC to assume the role of being the governing party. This election was considered a watershed moment for the National Party as it sharply declined in numbers, and this led to the liberal Democratic Party becoming the largest opposition party after being the fifth largest party in the previous elections in 1994. The number of parties represented in the National Assembly increased to thirteen, with the United Democratic Movement, jointly headed by former National Party member Roelf Meyer and former ANC member Bantu Holomisa, being the most successful of the newcomers, with fourteen seats.

A close retrospective analysis would indicate that the 1999 General elections implied radical change, and the ANC became the leading political party that disrupted the then-status quo. During this era, the ANC focused on institutional reform to establish new power relations and ideas to determine the new policy paradigm. This was a critical political juncture and a new window of opportunity for complete change because it was a period of significant change that enabled policy change and institutional reform.

In this sense, a new regime, the ANC, had taken fully over, and by implication, the options for other parties had decreased, and it became difficult for actors to return to the first stage. In this second



CURRENT AFFAIRS

phase of path dependence, decisions depend on luck, and preferences are limited. A historical new-institutionalism approach might suggest that the ANC focused on privileging the country's political transformation, and it was not a neutral broker at the time for specific interests. At the time, one could argue that the transitional democratic period 1994-1999 can be characterized as a critical juncture because political institutions changed to democratic ones, and economic institutions should now serve everybody.

This period was short when compared to the long racial history of South Africa, but also, with the duration of the path-dependent process it instigated — the choices made during the critical juncture constrained future choices. As a result, the ANC's electoral dominance has declined over the past three decades, culminating in the ANC's failure to win the election in 2024. This decline in dominance and the subsequent need for a Government of National Unity underscore the complexity and challenges of the political landscape.

A historical new-institutionalism approach suggests that the 1994 and 2024 Government of National Unity differ in formation. However, they are a product of failed radical change, and the political parties had to form a Government of National Unity because it is a path that historically existed. This suggests that actors follow the same path and are more likely to follow previous directions. This means that the country's prior historical decisions, policy choices, and institutional factors have become difficult to reverse. The idea to create the 2024 Government of National Unity is an example of ideas becoming locked

in a state. Lock-in is characterized as a process of constriction, where new governments or organizations have to adapt to already established paths because the costs associated with deviation are high.

This means that decisions and established policy practices tend to reproduce, and all new policy decisions tend to replicate the path. In addition, in this phase, the organisation begins to lose its capability to adapt to new alternatives. Hence, the organisation loses its flexibility and becomes confined to a path that creates ineffective solutions. Therefore, South Africa is developing on the previously established path, and it may not disrupt the existing status quo but will produce the same outcome. Thus, political leaders will adjust their policy goals according to the ideologies they have been exposed to. As a result, it will take time to effect change to dislodge the historical and prevailing status quo.

One could argue that the 2024 General elections produced the same Government of National Unity as in 1994, and this could suggest that South Africa is a society in transition, but it is trapped on the old path by patterns of thinking, behavior, and social relationships that serve to keep the

past alive. In our circumstances, although power passed from a minority to the representatives of the majority, the thinking, behaviour, and networks of the past have remained. Furthermore, one cannot assume that history is characterized by efficiency, where sudden and costless rule adaptation occurs in favor of a new normative environment. Although institutions are expected to provide continuity and predictability, they are also expected to demonstrate flexibility and adaptation, particularly when encountering new experiences.

One could argue that the more significant historical structures continue to shape and determine political behavior. Certain political events may become routinized even to the point of being institutionalized, and they will take long to dislodge. South Africa once again requires an outright political victor because political parties and politicians have demonstrated that they lack the wisdom and political maturity to formulate clear objectives and the mandate of being a development state has become paralysed because decision-making rests upon political calculation. It is presumptuous to assume that the GNU in South Africa will create a sense of common identity and belonging and enhance cooperation and legitimacy.

THE ANC WELCOMES THE GNU CABINET

Let's work together and unite our country towards a future of integrity, transformation, growth and prosperity. Together, we build a brighter tomorrow.



LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthele Maseko, HQ

ANC STATEMENT ON CLARIFICATION OF ANC-LED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY POLICY PLATFORM

The African National Congress (ANC) has noted a growing narrative of uncertainty in public discourse about the policy platform of the ANC-led Government of National Unity (GNU).

We have also received a series of media enquiries about the same matter. This seems to be triggered by pronouncements made by individual political parties, within and outside the GNU, as well as an unfamiliarity with the agreed-to principles of the GNU.

The ANC wants to categorically state that there is certainty about the policy platform of the ANC-led GNU. This was agreed to by all political parties who signed the GNU Statement of Intent (SOI). There is no agreement that exists of 'sealed mandates' where each Minister in the GNU pursues their sectarian party policies. Such an agreement would run counter to both the letter and spirit of the constitution, which all GNU party signatories have agreed to act on the basis of.

Accordingly, we implore all South Africans and especially news commentators to familiarise themselves with the sub-



stantive elements of the GNU.

1. Clause 8 of the GNU SOI outlines the foundational principles of the GNU policy programme, anchoring it on transformative constitutionalism.

2. Clause 11 outlines the substantive policy programme that constitutes the basic policy framework of the GNU, building on clause 8.

3. Clause 19 deals with instances where substantive disagreements over policy arise. Sub-clause 19.3 explains the majority that must be canvassed by a party wishing to repeal, change or introduce a policy.

Taken into proper context, especially Clause 19.3, it must be understood that all existing government policies remain in effect without exception. Any other interpretation of this clause cannot be taken seriously at this point.

It is our commitment as the ANC to participate in and sustain rational, honest and educational public discourse. It is for this reason that we seek to clarify the unnecessary false information about what constitutes the policy programme of the GNU.

Let's do more, together.

Women football players in Africa have overcome enormous barriers – new book tells the story **Women’s Football in Africa** by *Chuka Onwumechili* (1924, Routledge)

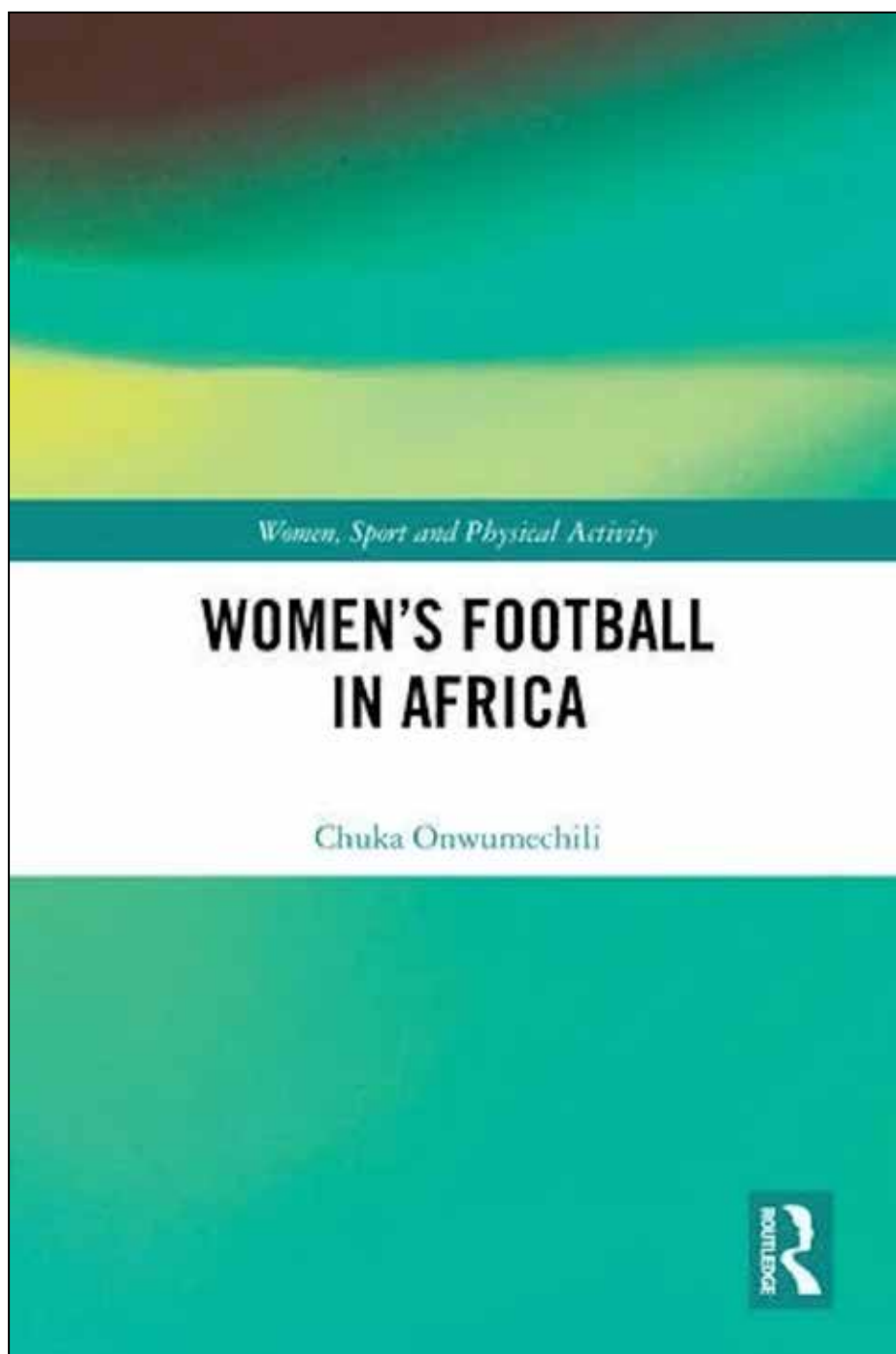
The book *Women’s Football in Africa*, the first in-depth book on the subject, traces the history of women’s soccer from initially being banned through to today’s growing numbers of fans and broadcasting potential. It’s a story of triumph despite enormous barriers – among them sexism, abuse, homophobia and religion.

Brief History of Women in Soccer

The first official game of men’s football that resembles today’s rules was played in the 1860s in the UK (1). Men played football in Nigeria as early as 1904. The first recorded in Africa was in Lagos and most of the players were European colonialists. Nigerians later took up the sport.

Many countries around the world banned women from playing what was considered to be a male game. Pseudo-scientific thinking was that women’s bodies were not suited.

However, women were playing the game in Nigeria by the 1930s already – not the late 1900s as is commonly believed. I found it had an incredibly rich history. In a 1937 letter to the anti-colonial



BOOK REVIEW

publication, a reader asked if it was acceptable for women to be playing football in Nigeria.

Apparently, an increasing number of Nigerian women had begun to participate in the game. Some were playing with other women and girls and some were playing alongside male friends. In the 1940s, women in Nigeria, a British colony, formed teams and played against older men in novelty matches to raise funds for second world war efforts. Because of the scientific views of the time, a woman was limited to playing only one half of the game. In some games, the entire team would be substituted at half time.

In South Africa, women are recorded as having participated in curtain raiser games ahead of men's matches by the early 1960s. Ghana, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire record women's formal participation in football by the early 1970s. Early starts provided these countries with a competitive advantage.

Côte d'Ivoire's women's national football competition began as early as 1975. The country became a base for other African women seeking to play professionally. Star player Gladys Adu Opoku, for example, left Ghana in 1987 to play professionally in Côte d'Ivoire. The first truly global women's national football competition took place in China in 1998 and Côte d'Ivoire represented the continent in an invitational tournament.

The first FIFA Women's World Cup was played in 1991. In that same year the women's Africa Cup of Nations tournament was played. It was a World Cup qualifying

contest held at locations across Africa.

African Women's football today

Today, girls participate in the sport in most African countries, from Botswana to Algeria, Kenya to Sierra Leone. Countries that adopted the women's game later are quickly catching up with the first movers. The gap between the powerful teams – like Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa – and the others – like Morocco, Senegal and Zambia – has closed remarkably. In Morocco particularly, an injection of state funds has accelerated progress in women's football, with success stories at both national and club levels. In the book, I provide statistical markers to demonstrate how fast African women's football has grown on an international level. For example, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa went beyond the group stages at the 2023 Women's World Cup. That had never been done before.

At the Under-17 level, Africa has consistently seen one or more teams reaching the knockout stage at the World Cup. In 2012 and 2022 Nigeria even reached the medal stage. At the Under-20 World Cup, African sides have reached the medal stage at three tournaments.

Outstanding women players over the years are finally being acknowledged for their contributions: like Mercy Akide, Asisat Oshoala and Chiamaka Nnadozie (Nigeria), Rosella Ayane (Morocco), Barbra Banda (Zambia), Gladys Adu and Alberta Sackey (Ghana), Portia Modise and Desiree Ellis (South Africa) and Gaëlle Enganamouit

(Cameroon).

The 2021 introduction of an African championship for women's clubs in Africa has also brought several new players to the attention of the public. The dominant clubs have been the Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies from South Africa and Morocco's Asfar. Nigeria's champion clubs have yet to win the continental championship.

Women footballers continue to face sexism. Funding represents a problem at all levels. Some countries fund women's national teams only for competitive matches but not for preparatory games. This means some teams rarely play. Other issues include homophobia and racism. Women players are often perceived to be lesbian and are discriminated against by both the public and football officials. This can have dire consequences. In South Africa, for example, a national team player, Eudy Simelane, was gang raped and murdered by men claiming to be "cleansing" her from lesbianism.

There is still a lot more work to do, to recruit more girls and grow women coaches. Public education is needed and the game needs funding for development.

This article is republished from <https://theconversation.com> " The Conversation, under a Creative Commons license: <https://theconversation.com/women-football-players-in-africa-have-overcome-enormous-barriers-new-book-tells-the-story-231314> " article </p></div>

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

6 – 12 July 2024

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

6 July 1937

Author and Historian Bessie Head born



Novelist, short story writer and social historian Bessie Amelia Head was born in Pietermaritzburg. Her love for books manifested early, and she went on to train as a teacher in Durban. Bessie soon resigned from teaching and took the train to Cape Town to work as a journalist, and later worked in Johannesburg, interacting with writers such as Can Temba, Lewis Nkosi and Dennis Brutus, and where she met Robert Sobukwe and joined the PAC. She immigrated to Botswana in the 1960s, where her career as an author took off, with three novels *When Rain Clouds Gather* (1968), *Maru* (1971), and *A Question of Power* (1973).

6 July 1951

Fashion icon Kofi Ansah born

Ghanaian fashion designer Kofi Ansah was born on this day, to an artistic family who encouraged his creativity. He studied fashion design at the Chelsea

School of Art with a first class honours in 1979. He went on to place African fashion on the global stage, including as founding president of the Federation of African Designers. Characteristic of his style was the use of quilting, embroidery and appliqué.

6 July 1967

Biafra war starts in Nigeria



Nigeria was created by the British without consideration of the country's ethnic diversity. It served the British to have the country in turmoil and divided, making it easier for them to loot the country's rich oil and other resources. Nigeria has over 300 ethnic groups, with the more dominant being the Igbo in the East, the Hausa-Fulani in the North and the Yoruba in the West. When Nigeria gained independence from Britain, the three major ethnic groups in the west, South and North of the country, and which always had their own administration, culture and religious beliefs, were now forced into a unitary state. This proved to be a dif-

ficult task. The Westerners (mostly Yorubas) broke away from Nigeria declaring themselves the state of Biafra. This did not sit well with the easterners who saw the break away as illegal since they were not consulted. On 6 July 1967, a war broke out when the easterners tried to force the west to integrate back into Nigeria. Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie wrote a novel about the Biafra war, *Half a Yellow Sun* (2006).

6 July 2023

Hottest night in Africa

July 6 was the hottest night ever recorded in Africa. The temperature at Adrar in Algeria never went below 39.6 degrees celsius. North Africa sweltered in a heat-wave as early July saw the earth record its hottest days in 100,000 years.

7 July 1889

Celebrated nurse Constance Nothard born

Constance Annie Nothard, nursing sister and recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Red Cross Society, was born in the Eastern Cape. Nothard rendered outstanding service in the South African Military Service in Europe during the First World War and was awarded the Croix de Reconnaissance for distinguished service in France. She received the first Gold Medal of the South African Nursing Association on 12 May 1961 in recognition of exceptional service

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

in times of war and peace. The Library at the South African Nursing Association headquarters in Pretoria was named the C.A. Nothard Library in her honour.

7 July 1988

Five Cape anti-apartheid leaders released



Five prominent anti-apartheid activists were released in Cape Town after being detained for up to two years under the Internal Security Act. The five are Trevor Manuel, Ebrahim Rasool, Mountain Qumbela and Hilda Ndude, all officials of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Western Cape region, and Mzonke Jacobs, president of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO). Three of them, Manuel, Rasool, and Jacobs, were immediately served with restriction orders limiting their movements and activities and barring them from speaking to the press.

7 July 2017

Ghana launches its first nano-satellite

The satellite, GhanaSat-1 is launched from the International Space Station. The device will monitor the environment of Ghana's coastline, taking images and collecting atmospheric and other data.

8 July 1658

Khoisan leader imprisoned on Robben Island

Strandloper Harry, also known

as Autshumao, Khoi-Khoi interpreter and chief of the Goringhaikonas, is banished to Robben Island with two of his followers.

8 July 1946

Stella Chiweshe born

The Zimbabwean musician was born in Mujumi village, Mhondoro. When she turned 20, she mastered the Shona instrument mbira dzavagdzimu, which few women played. When recording companies were not interested in mbira music, she formed her own record company. Stella Chiweshe performed internationally and recorded 12 albums between 1987 and 2021.

8 July 1949

Mixed Marriages Act passed



The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, Act No 55 of 1949 that banned marriage or a sexual relationship between White people and people of other race groups in South Africa is passed. The law was introduced as part of the apartheid government's separate development policy and also nullified mix marriages between South Africans that took place abroad.

8 July 2003

Sudan plane crash

A Sudan Airways passenger jet lost power shortly after takeoff from Port Sudan, due to a engine failure. The plane returned

to the airport, missed the runway and hit the ground killing all 117 people on board.

8 July 2004

South Africa to host Pan African Parliament



The third conference of the African Union (AU) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, selected South Africa as the seat of the future Pan African Parliament (PAP). President Thabo Mbeki announced that it would be erected on the site of the Gallagar Estate, Midrand.

9 July 1860

Last African slave ship arrives in Alabama

The last ship carrying enslaved Africans across the Atlantic ocean – from the Dahomey kingdom of Benin – arrives at the port of Mobile in Alabama, US.

9 July 1893

Durban's first mayor passed on

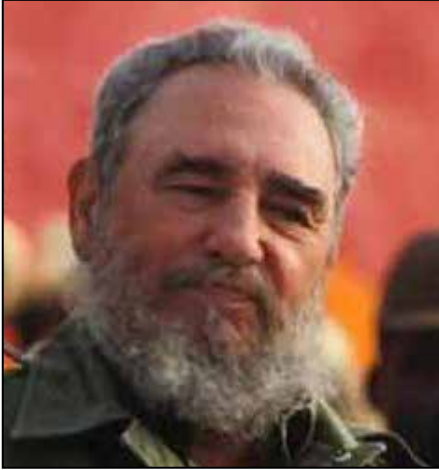
George Christopher Cato, first mayor of Durban, dies in the city on 9 July 1893. Cato was born in London, England in 1814 and came to South Africa as a trader. He was asked to plan Durban while it was still under the Natalia Republic Government and when Durban achieved municipal status in 1845 he was elected as the first Mayor. In 1865 Cato was

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

granted an area of land behind the current day Natal University, which became the densely urban township of Cato Manor.

9 July 1992

Fidel Castro honoured by Africa



Cuba President Fidel Castro received Angola's Order of Agostinho Neto, the highest national order. Castro is later decorated with national orders by Ghana, Mali and South Africa in 1998, Algeria in 2001, Guinea-Bissau in 2007, Namibia in 2008 and Zambia in 2009, for Cuba's contribution to the liberation struggle in Africa

9 July 1995

FW De Klerk implicated in Third Force violence by Police Commissioner

Ex-Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe and ex-Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, implicated former state President and Deputy President of the Government of National Unity, F.W. de Klerk, of knowing and condoning a 'dirty tricks' campaign that was waged against the African National Congress (ANC) between 1990 and the 1994 election in a bid to destabilise the organisation. Van der Merwe further testified that the entire National party

(NP) leadership knew about this operation and at times instructed the police to carry out these brutalities against its opponents.

9 July 2002

African Union launched

The African Union, which replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is launched at a Summit in Durban. With fifty-five member states, the AU seeks to build an Africa that is united, peaceful, democratic and prosperous.

9 July 2011

South Sudan independence

After five decades of unrest and civil war, South Sudan was granted independence on 9 July 2011 with the town of Juba as a capital. The declaration of independence marked "the end" of intermittent clashes with the north. Salva Kiir became the first President of the newly born African state.

10 July 1924

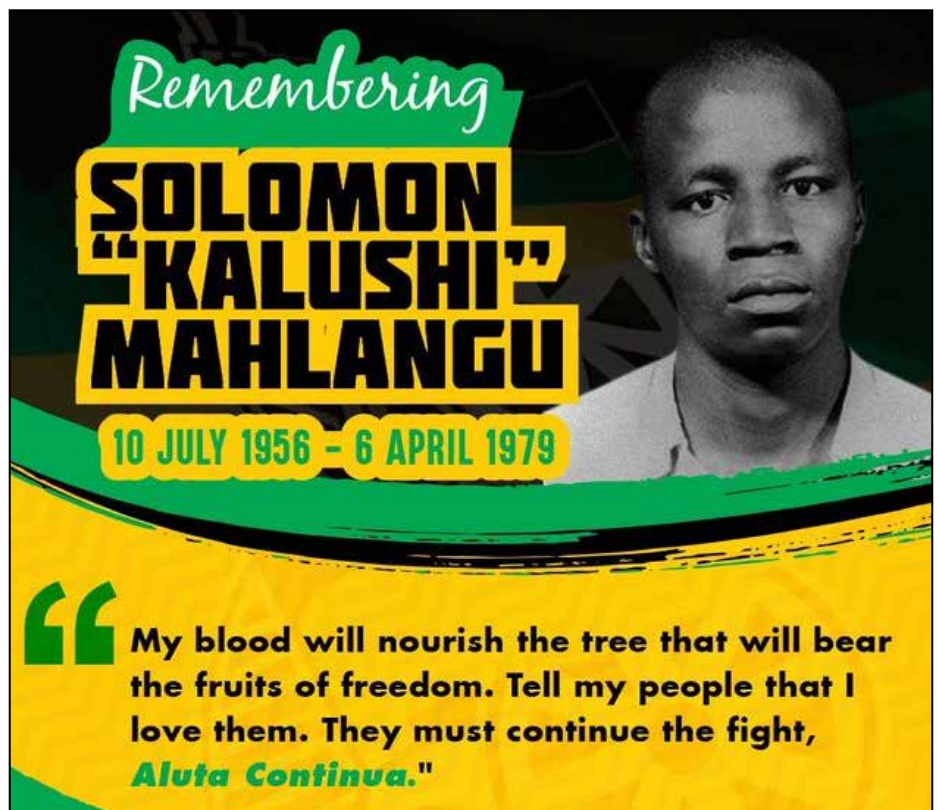
Cairo Qur'an Published

The King Fuad I Edition of the Qur'an is published at Egypt's Al-Azhar University. Work started on the work, also called the "Cairo Qur'an" in 1907. This edition of the Holy Book became immensely popular, easy to recite and accepted by both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.

10 July 1956

Solomon Mahlangu born

Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, a soldier of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), who was executed by hanging in Pretoria Central Prison, was born on 10 July 1956 in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria. Mahlangu left the country to join the ANC's military wing in exile in October 1976 after the student demonstrations of 1976. He received his military training in Angola and Mozambique. He returned to South Africa in 1977 on a mission to


 A commemorative graphic for Solomon Mahlangu. It features a black and white portrait of a young Solomon Mahlangu on the right. The text is overlaid on a green and yellow background.

Remembering

SOLOMON "KALUSHI" MAHLANGU

10 JULY 1956 - 6 APRIL 1979

“ My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them. They must continue the fight, *Aluta Continua.*”

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

help students commemorate the 1976 demonstrations. En route to Soweto, his group was accosted by the police and a gunfight ensued. Mahlangu was captured along with Monty Motloutung who was beaten to the point of severe brain damage. The third member of the group, George Mahlangu, managed to escape. Kalushi was sentenced to death, and he went to the gallows singing early morning of 6 April 1976. His final words were, *"Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the fight, my blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom, Aluta continua."*

10 July 1970

King of Kwaito Arthur Mafokate born



The musician and producer was born in Soweto. His first kwaito hit, *Kaffir* in 1995, sold more than half a million copies, establishing The King of Kwaito as a major force in South African music.

10 July 1993

Kenyan Yobes Ondieki makes History

Kenyan runner Yobes Ondieki surprised the world when he became the first man to run 10000 Meters in less than 27 minutes. Ondieki was taking part in the Bislett Games in Oslo, Norway, when he made history. This

achievement saw him ranked number one in the world in the 10 000 meters. Prior to the record in Oslo, Ondieki participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 and 1992 but failed to win medals. In 1991 he won the World Championships gold medal in Tokyo and set a Kenyan 5000 meter record of 13:01.82 in Zurich.

10 July 2000

OAU Summit adopts Lomé Declaration on Democracy

In an address to the OAU Summit in Togo, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan raised concerns about the number of coups d'état destabilizing African countries. The summit adopted the Lomé Declaration that calls for a shared set of democratic values.

11 July 1957

Djamila Bouhired, Algerian militant appears in court



Djamila Bouhired (b.1935), a militant of the Algerian War of Independence appear in a French military court. She and co-defendants are charged with the bombing of an Algiers café that killed 11 people. She was eventually sentenced to death by guillotine, but her sentence was converted to life after pressure. Bouhired joined the Algerian Liberation Front as a student activist. She was released from prison

after independence and became chair of the Algerian Women Association. She remains active in Algerian politics.

11 July 1960

Katanga declared secession from DRC

Congolese businessman and politician Moïse Tshombe declared that the mineral-rich Katanga region is seceding from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This threw the newly independent Congo into chaos, leading to a UN peacekeeping intervention. The crisis is further exacerbated by the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the death of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

11 July 1963

Umkhonto High Command arrested at Lilliesleaf farm

South African police raided the African National Congress (ANC) underground headquarters, the Lilliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, just outside Johannesburg. Virtually the entire leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the ANC, were arrested on this day. This moment came as a terrible titanic dream in the history of the ANC. Amongst those arrested were the following: Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada, Lionel Bernstein and Bob Hepple. Nelson Mandela, the commander-in-chief of MK, was not arrested at the time as he was serving a five-year prison sentence for leaving the country illegally in 1962. The farm was privately owned by Arthur Goldreich, but bought with funds from the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA). At the farm police found documents relating to the manufacture of explosives,

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Mandela's diary of his African tour and copies of a draft memorandum, 'Operation Mayibuye'. It outlined a possible strategy of guerrilla warfare. The six men had been studying the document when police arrived. More arrests followed shortly after this incident, including Arthur Goldreich, Andrew Mlangeni, James Kantor, Dennis Goldberg, Harold Wolpe and Elias Motsoaledi. Goldreich and Wolpe later managed to escape from prison. Mandela and his co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia trial that ended in June 1964.

11 July 2000

Trans-African Highways Network Agreement signed

An Agreement to cooperate on a network of highways is signed by the Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union. This was an idea already touted as early as 1971 by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), spanning roads of over 60,000 km. Some of the TAH roads include a connection of highways from Tripoli, Libya to Windhoek, Namibia (9,610km), Cairo, Egypt to Dakar, Senegal (8,636km), Algiers, Algeria to Lagos, Nigeria (4,505 km), Cairo, Egypt to Gaborone, Botswana. The project is also referred to as transport corridors, since some aspect of rail is being incorporated. It is a joint project of the AU, UNECA and the African Development Bank.

12 July 1912

First Malian MP, Aoua Kéita born

Aoua Kéita, Malian writer, midwife and activist was born in Bamako. She was educated on her dad's insistence, despite ob-



jections from her mother. She was Active in the independence movement, a leader of the African Democratic Rally (RDA) and also set up a women's trade union in Mali in 1956. After Mali independence in 1960, Kéita was elected as the first woman member of the National Assembly. She was also one of the founders of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO). Her autobiography was published in 1975, and she passed on in 1980.

12 July 1929

Sudan author Tayeb Salih born

Writer and cultural expert Tayeb Salih was born in Karmakol, Sudan on this day. He popularized Sudanese, African and Arabic culture in broadcasts, working for UNESCO, and in newspaper columns and novels. His most famous work is *Season of Migration to the North* (1966).

12 July 1941

Children's writer Affaf Tobbala born

Egyptian children's book writer Affaf Tobbala was born in Cairo. After a successful career as a TV documentary director, at 64 she started writing award-winning children's stories, translated into several languages.

12 July 1954

Nkosi Albert Luthuli banned

Chief Albert Luthuli was elected as ANC President in 1952. In 1954 the Minister of Justice C.R. Swart issued the ANC President with two banning orders. One prohibited him from attending public gatherings and another confined him to the magisterial district of Lower Tugela, Natal. He was to report frequently to the SA Police in the area. After his part in leading the 1952 Defiance Campaign, a non-violent, national, anti-pass protest, the apartheid government summoned him to Pretoria. Here he was challenged to denounce the ANC or be removed for his chieftainship, involving a loss of power and salary. He chose the latter. On 12 July 1954 Luthuli was scheduled to address a group protesting against forced removals of Black people in Johannesburg and the Minister served him with the banning notices under the 1950 Suppression of Communism Act.

12 July 1975

São Tomé and Príncipe national independence

São Tomé and Príncipe formally achieved its independence from Portugal on July 12, 1975, and Manuel Pinto da Costa of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (Movimento Libertacao de São Tomé e Príncipe – MLSTP) assumed the presidency.

12 July 2002

Oldest person to run 200m in under 20 seconds

Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks becomes the oldest person to run 200 meters in under 20 seconds when at age 34 years and 283 days he runs the 200 meters in Rome at 19:99.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

7 – 11 July 2024

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



JULY 2024
MANDELA
MONTH

7 July

African Integration Day

On the 7th of July each year, the African continent comes together to celebrate African Integration Day. This significant day was designated by the African Union Heads of State and Government in 2019 to honor the remarkable achievements made in the process of regional and continental integration. It also serves as an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned and address the challenges that lie ahead. Rooted in the Abuja Treaty of 1991, Africa's integration agenda aims to establish an African Economic Community through various stages, ultimately fostering unity and prosperity.

11 July.

World Population Day

In 1950, the world population stood at 2.5 billion inhabitants, by 2021, this figure has reached 7.9

billion people. World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, particularly in the context of overall development plans and programmes, and the need to find solutions for these issues. As the world population edged to 7 billion people in 2011 (up from 2.5 billion in 1950), it has had profound implications for development. A world of 7 billion is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on sustainability, urbanisation, access to health services and youth empowerment.

11 July.

African Anti-Corruption Day

It marks the day when the African Union adopted the day when the African Union (AU) adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) 18 years ago.