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Conversations with the **President**

The Lekgotla has provided **THE GUIDANCE WE NEED**

■ Closing Remarks by **ANC PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**
to the ANC NEC Lekgotla, 6 August 2024

WE have come to the conclusion of the first NEC Lekgotla after the National and Provincial Elections held in May this year.

Through the deliberations held over the last three days, the cadres of our movement gathered here have fully understood and responded pragmatically to the momentous tasks that lie ahead. Having dedicated much time to analysing the effects and implications of the outcomes of the 2024 elections, this Lekgotla has in more ways than one provided critical direction to our movement, to our government and to our country.

In line with a longstanding tradition of our movement, we have not shied away from confronting

difficult questions and uncomfortable truths, from admitting mistakes and acknowledging our weaknesses.

At the same time, we have not allowed the strategic setback we have suffered in these elections to break our spirit and wear us down.

Even in the most trying moments in the complex history of our struggle and country, the ANC has always taken decisions in the best interests of the people of South Africa. We have not succumbed to cynicism and despair.

We have recognised the strengths of our movement, the enduring faith of the South African people in the vision of a free, democratic, united and equal

society, and the enormous potential in our country to provide meaningful livelihoods and opportunities for all.

We have reaffirmed our determination to achieve a National Democratic Society. This is a vision from which we will not retreat.

We have agreed that the challenging conditions in which we must now prosecute the National Democratic Revolution demand greater focus, discipline, application and focused execution of our decisions.

These new conditions require that we be innovative and agile in dealing with the pressing problems of the people in every locality across the length and breadth of our country.

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They also require that we be firm and unwavering in our strategic intent and foresight, while remaining flexible in our tactics.

The Lekgotla has outlined the actions we need to take in government, in our movement, in communities and in other areas of society to advance fundamental social and economic transformation.

This Lekgotla has underscored the centrality of the ANC structures, especially in communities, and the quality of ANC members who must undertake work in every community and sector of society. We have said that we cannot undertake the tasks required of us if we do not unite, strengthen and renew the ANC.

As the 2024 elections have reminded us – and as we know from our history – there is no way that we can advance the NDR without effective and active structures of the Alliance and the broad democratic movement.

By the same measure, we need ANC members, volunteers, cadres and leaders that are committed, selfless and capable. They should be people who have integrity and that display advanced levels of political consciousness. Through organisational renewal, we need to promote principled, transformative and emancipatory activism and politics.

This Lekgotla has confirmed that the ANC must proceed without delay and with greater energy with the renewal of our movement.

Cde Blade Nzimande reminded us that we cannot renew the ANC without renewing the Alliance. We agree. We must now



make it a priority to build the Alliance as a cohesive and effective agent of change within a common programme of action.

We will continue to engage with our Alliance partners on the Government of National Unity.

Having taken the view that the GNU is the best tactical option, the ANC is fully aware about the risks and potential threats of this moment.

We have noted the statement of the South African Communist Party on the occasion of its 103rd anniversary that the Party “takes a critical but non-oppositionist stance” towards the GNU. We welcome this.

We agree with the statement by the SACP that: “We must ensure that our participation [in the GNU] does not undermine our core principles and goals but serves as a platform to defend and advance working-class interests.”

It is necessary that the entire Alliance must discuss how to handle all the pressing political, strategic, tactical and organisa-

tional questions. We will emerge stronger from the current strategic setback if we are united and work together as comrades and not personalise political issues.

We are inspired by the words of President OR Tambo at the 48th National Conference in 1991, when he said:

“We did not tear ourselves apart because of lack of progress at times. We were always ready to accept our mistakes and to correct them. Above all, we succeeded to foster and defend the unity of the ANC and the unity of our people in general. Even in bleak moments, we were never in doubt regarding the winning of freedom. We have never been in doubt that the people’s cause shall triumph.”

The ANC-led Alliance can handle all the challenges of this moment and turn the setback into a strategic advantage to propel the transformation agenda forward. When we are united, we can never be defeated.

The Lekgotla has paid particular attention to the task of communications and the need to engage more vigorously in the battle of

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ideas. We are reminded that communications is an essential political task that must be integral to all our work, whether in the movement, in communities or in government.

We know that actions speak louder than words. We communicate through our conduct, our actions and the difference we make in people's lives.

If we are divided, if we tolerate acts of corruption and patronage, if we live lavish lifestyles through which we show ourselves to be better than our people and appear to only look after our own, then not even the best communications strategy will be able to improve our standing among the people.

The renewal of the ANC must be reflected in our every day behaviour, on how we conduct ourselves in public platforms and what we post on social media. Let us not occupy headlines for the wrong reasons. Let us be known for excellence and competence.

Every NEC member, every public representative, every deployee and every cadre must consider themselves as communicators. They need to be suitably skilled and capacitated, need to understand the positions and messages of the ANC, and need to exercise discipline and responsibility. This Lekgotla has confirmed that among the many actions that we must now take, our apex priority at this time is inclusive economic growth.

We understand inclusive growth to be a process that creates employment for the millions of South Africans who are today without jobs. It must be growth



that prioritises the interests of the poor and working class.

We understand inclusive growth to be transformative.

It must contribute to fundamental changes in the economy's structure, systems and institutions to benefit all South Africans, focusing on blacks in general and Africans in particular. The economic growth we must pursue must benefit women, young people and vulnerable groups.

The Lekgotla has agreed that we should finalise an overarching economic policy integrating transport, energy, logistics, mineral beneficiation and industrialisation.

As we undertake this task, we must, as a matter of urgency, intensify the work to drive investment in infrastructure and productive economic activity.

We must complete the reforms that are currently underway to improve the efficiency and capacity of our network industries, especially electricity, transport and logistics, water and telecommunications.

We have said that we will continue to use public procurement to support SMMEs and increase

financial and non-financial support for SMMEs. We need in particular to support women- and youth-owned businesses and emerging industrialists.

We recognise that participation in economic activity is the most effective way to lift people out of poverty and improve their lives on a sustainable basis.

We also recognise that we must use the substantial capabilities of the state to far greater effect to reduce poverty and shield people from the high cost of living.

This requires us to strengthen social protection measures, such as grants and the provision of subsidised services, while providing people with pathways into economic activity and skills development.

We have said that among the steps we must take to address the rising cost of living, we must conduct a study and review the mechanisms for determining various administered prices, such as fuel and electricity, and look to expand the list of basic goods that are VAT-exempt.

With so many people living far from economic opportunities and services, transport costs take up

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a large part of people's income and drive up the cost of living.

We therefore need to invest in public transport, restoring and expanding the operational capabilities of the commuter rail system and implementing an integrated public transport system that is safe and affordable.

We have highlighted the social and economic value of affordable, accessible, quality health care that is available equally to all South Africans.

We will therefore proceed with the implementation of the National Health Insurance. We will invest in our health infrastructure and the training of health personnel and improve the quality of care in both the public and private health sectors.

It is essential that we undertake this work so that South Africans can live longer and healthier lives. This will enable our people to be more productive so that they can be lifted out of poverty. We have emphasised that our education system, from early childhood education through to post-school education and training, must prepare young people for the changing world of work.

The Lekgotla has identified practical actions that we must take to strengthen vital areas in our education and skills development system, which we need to implement conscientiously and fully.

We have recognised that building a capable developmental state must begin with the ANC and the Alliance. We need to build the capacity of the ANC to provide leadership to the state and to ensure that the state faithfully and fully implements the electoral mandate.

The Lekgotla has reaffirmed the developmental importance of a professionalised public service, with robust mechanisms for capacity-building, which will involve regular training for our public servants. We have agreed that performance management and the exercise of accountability must be enforced.

We should not limit our understanding of a capable state to the Executive. Parliament and the legislatures are vital to ensuring that the state is both efficient and accountable.

As the movement, we need to give equal attention to the work of Parliament and the legisla-

tures, ensure that we deploy capable and committed people to these institutions, and that they have the resources and capabilities to advance our movement's electoral mandate.

We must focus at this time on building capable and developmental local government. It is at this sphere of government where the state can have the greatest effect and where there is now the greatest need.

The Lekgotla has identified the value of the District Development Model in aligning the work of all spheres of government more effectively in strengthening the provision of local infrastructure and services. We have agreed that local government must be placed more firmly on the national agenda, because the performance of local government is vital to the success of our efforts to achieve inclusive economic growth and reduce poverty.

The Lekgotla has called on government to focus on the prevention of crime and to address the social and economic conditions that fuel crime and violence.

As the ANC and Alliance, we need to take a far more asser-



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tive role in mobilising communities and all social formations in a country-wide effort to tackle crime, gangsterism and violence.

An integral part of that work must be the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.

As we strengthen the response of the criminal justice system and improve the support provided to survivors of these crimes, our priority must be prevention.

We must ensure that the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is constituted without delay, and it must be capacitated so that it can coordinate and drive a response that is multi-dimensional and involves all stakeholders.

As the ANC, we have a clear mandate from the electorate. Wherever we are deployed, we have a responsibility to implement the commitments contained in our Manifesto. This Lekgotla has provided us with further direction.

We have recognised that we need to undertake this work within a Government of National Unity comprised of parties, some of which we have sharp political and ideological differences with. We need to provide leadership to the work of the GNU not through the imposition of our will, but through the strength of our positions and the clarity of our purpose.

We need to make use of the fact that the principles and minimum programme contained in the Statement of Intent that the 10 parties of the GNU committed themselves to provides a basis

for far-reaching social and economic transformation.

Drawing on the deliberations of this Lekgotla, we will translate the minimum programme into the 7th administration's Medium Term Development Plan that will enable the implementation of our electoral mandate.

The Lekgotla supported the calling of the National Dialogue that will develop a comprehensive social compact. We agreed that the National Dialogue should be as inclusive as possible.

Many countries are increasingly recognising the important and constructive role that South Africa has played and needs to play in continental and international matters.

As the ANC and the Alliance – and as a country – we need to better understand and appreciate our international responsibilities. We need to give greater strategic attention to our international work and ensure that it is better capacitated.

The Lekgotla has recognised the significance of our Presidency of the G20, and the opportunities that it provides to advance the needs and interests of the African continent and the Global South.

We need to make our G20 Presidency an important pillar of our efforts to advance sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, justice, peace and stability across the globe.

The positions of the ANC on solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba and elsewhere must continue to find expression

in the programmes of our government.

As we have done in the past, the Secretary General's Office will publicly communicate the more detailed outcomes of the Lekgotla as canvassed in the commissions and as adopted in the next few days.

We leave this Lekgotla encouraged and inspired. We have identified the tasks that our movement needs to undertake in the weeks and months ahead to meet the expectations of the people of South Africa.

We have a firm sense of what we must do to rebuild the ANC and the Alliance and to begin to restore people's trust in the movement.

The NEC will be holding another meeting in a few weeks to undertake a thorough review of our organisation on a branch by branch basis with a view to strengthening and renewing our movement.

We are committed to a robust outcomes, monitoring and accountability framework.

Every leader, cadre, public representative and deployee must accept the tasks they have been given and take personal responsibility for the manner in which they perform these tasks.

This Lekgotla has provided the guidance we need.

Let us now go out and do the work.

We call on all South Africans to support the Government of National Unity and wish it well in the work it must do.



RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MINING SECTOR

Speech by the **Deputy Minister in the Presidency, NONCEBA MHLAULI**
on the occasion of Sishen Women in Mining Women's Day Indaba, 8 August 2024
[ABRIDGED]

IT IS an immense honour to stand before you at the Sishen Women in Mining Women's Day Indaba. Today, we celebrate the remarkable contributions of women in the mining sector, recognizing your resilience, strength, and transformative impact on our society.

Allow me to extend my gratitude to the organizers of this significant event and to each one of you for your presence and commitment to advancing the role of women in mining. A special recognition goes to the women miners who, through their dedication and hard work, have not only excelled in their profession but also paved the way for future generations.

Women's Day is a moment to reflect on the strides we have made towards gender equality. It is also a time to acknowledge the challenges that persist. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of women across various sectors, including mining, which has historically been male-dominated.

Women have been an integral part of the mining industry, contributing significantly to its growth and development. Despite facing numerous barriers, they have proven that with equal opportunities, women can excel and lead in any field. Today, we honour you as trailblazers and reaffirm our commitment to creating an inclusive environment where

women can thrive.

The journey for women in mining has not been easy. They face challenges such as gender discrimination, unequal pay, limited career advancement opportunities, lack of supportive policies and a gender sensitive work environment. These barriers not only hinder our professional growth but also impact the overall productivity and innovation within the sector.

It is important to mention that a lot of progress has been made, but a lot more work needs to be done as obstacles are still in the way of women of our country. The democratic constitution removed

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legal barriers that were designed to stop women from participating in the economy, and mining in particular such as the South African Minerals Act of 1991 prohibited women from working underground.

Since then, new regulations, policies and guidelines governing the sector have actively encouraged the employment of women in the mining industry under the democratic government. It must however be noted that too few women are still in the mining sector as women only account for just over 12% in the sector.

It is critical that women in mining respond to the clarion call made by Charlotte Maxeke, when she said, “This work is not for yourselves. Kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them and if you can rise, bring someone with you.”

Working with all social partners, we must increase the tempo to demand participation of more women in the economy and in mining.

The South African government has been steadfast in its efforts to promote gender equality and empower women.

Through the Mining Charter we have worked to transform the mining industry by promoting equitable access to the sector and increasing the representation of historically disadvantaged South Africans, including women.

To unlock further potential of women in mining we need to unlock growth in the sector.

South Africa has an exceptional endowment of metals and minerals. The world’s largest reserves



of platinum group metals and manganese and the second and third largest reserves of chrome and gold respectively are in South Africa.

Mining is essential for the South African economy, contributing about 6.2 per cent of GDP in 2023 down from 7.3% in 2022. Mining still constitutes a significant share, around 60 per cent, of total merchandise exports. In addition, South African mines employ around 458 000 individuals, which is an important contributor towards overall employment.

Unlocking growth in the sector will require speed by implementing governments’ structural reform programme by clearing the estimated backlog of 4 500 outstanding mining and prospecting licenses valued at up to R100bn.

A backlog in applications creates regulatory uncertainty, lowers competitiveness, and makes South Africa less investor-friendly compared to comparable countries.

Our share of global exploration spending has dropped to below 1 per cent from a peak of 5 per cent in 2003, and it has remained below 1 per cent for more than a decade.

A successful mining sector requires an efficient, well run and competitive rail and port sector.

Through Operation Vulindlela and the intervention of the National Logistics Crisis Committee, we are working hard to improve the performance of Transnet and ensure our structural reform commitments are implemented by introducing competition on the freight rail network and across our ports.

To successfully implement our Women in Mining Strategy and enhance the participation of women in the mining sector we must grow the sector by removing regulatory uncertainty.

In collaboration with mining companies and educational institutions, we have worked in establishing various skills development and training programmes to empower women in mining. These programmes focus on providing technical and leadership training to women, helping them to acquire the skills needed to succeed in the industry.

We will continue to introduce measures to support women-owned mining enterprises through access to finance, technical assistance, and market opportunities.



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We must assist women entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses in the mining sector.

Specific regulations have been put in place to address the unique health and safety needs of women in mining. These regulations ensure that women have access to safe and conducive working conditions, which is critical for their well-being and productivity.

Importantly, our continued collaboration with industry bodies such as the Minerals Council South Africa must promote gender diversity in mining.

I am pleased that we are beginning to see the fruits of our hard work.

Anglo American's Women in Mining Programme, for instance focuses on increasing the representation of women in technical and leadership roles within their companies.

The Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) Training Programmes offers bursaries and training programmes specifically targeted at women, helping them to gain the necessary qualifications and skills for careers in mining.

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women must be mainstreamed. It is not a favour to women. It is the right thing to do because investing in women accelerates progress as today's theme so accurately reflects.

Studies have shown that gender equality in the workforce can significantly boost a country's GDP. For instance, the McKinsey Global Institute estimated that advancing women's equality could add \$12 trillion to global GDP by 2025.

Women entrepreneurs often reinvest up to 90% of their income back into their families and communities, compared to 30-40% for men. This reinvestment can lead to improved education, health, and overall economic stability.

Companies with higher gender diversity in leadership roles tend to perform better financially. A study by Credit Suisse found that companies with women making up at least 15% of senior management were 50% more profitable, as compared to those with fewer women.

Diverse teams are more innovative. Women bring different perspectives and problem-solving approaches, which can lead to more creative solutions and better business outcomes.

Women are often at the forefront of sustainable practices, especially in agriculture. Empowering women in this sector can lead to more sustainable and efficient farming practices, which are crucial for food security and environmental conservation which we are all dependent on as a people.

Women in leadership positions are more likely to advocate for policies that benefit families and communities, such as healthcare, education, and social services.

Research has shown that gender equality is associated with peace and stability. Countries with higher levels of gender equality are less likely to experience conflict and more likely to maintain peace.

When women are empowered, the fight against gender-based violence is one we're able to tackle. Gatherings such as these,

can foster dialogues which assist with social cohesion.

Achieving gender equality in mining requires a collaborative effort.

Together with industry leaders, trade unions and civil society, we must continue to work together to dismantle the systemic barriers that women face. By fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual respect, we can create a mining industry that is not only inclusive but also innovative and sustainable.

Today, we also celebrate the success stories of women who have broken barriers and achieved remarkable milestones in mining. Their stories are a testament to what can be achieved when women are given the opportunity to lead. These role models inspire and remind us of the importance of perseverance and resilience.

As we celebrate Women's Day, let us renew our commitment to advancing gender equality in the mining sector.

Let us strive to create an environment where every woman feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach her full potential. Together, we can build a mining industry that is not only sustainable and prosperous but also equitable and just.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the women in mining for their unwavering dedication and contributions. Your hard work and determination are paving the way for a brighter future. Let us continue to support and uplift one another as we work towards a more inclusive and equitable mining sector.

Happy Women's Day to all.

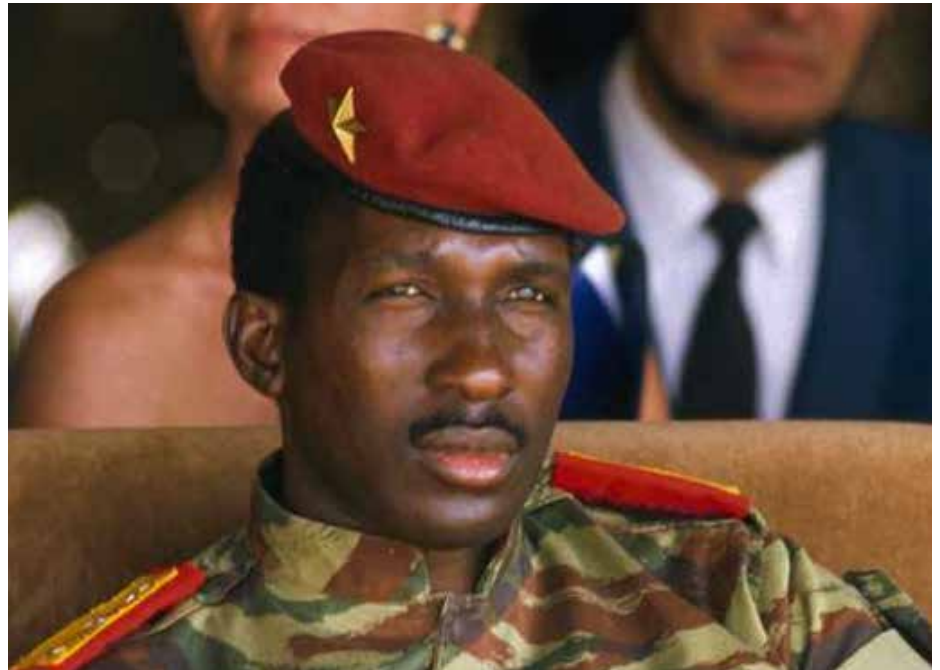
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AN ANCYL DEVOID OF REVOLUTIONARY MILITANCY IS A DANGER TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROJECT

■ By **LEBOGANG MAILE**

THE late former leader of Burkina Faso, a Marxist theorist and pan Africanist revolutionary, Thomas Sankara, who was brutally assassinated in Ouagadougou 37 years ago, made a profound observation when he stated: *“Without patriotic training, a soldier is only a criminal with power”*. In this speech, delivered at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in October 1984, Sankara was articulating the new country that he was trying to build in a post-colonial reality that was marred with structural challenges. In arguing for soldiers to have revolutionary and political training, he was emphasising the necessity of the reconstruction of the colonial administrative system.

Sankara believed in the necessity of creating a different kind of civil servant and an army that is involved with the people in productive work. Sankara, in his wisdom, understood that institutions that are invested in the difficult work of changing society must be radical in thought and in deed. This submission provides an important lens from which we must view the role of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) in a post-apartheid



South Africa that is confronted with a myriad of structural challenges that make life unbearable for the majority of our people, many of whom are young.

The ANCYL, a preparatory school for the African National Congress (ANC) has the potential to be an important instrument in the hands of South African youth beyond partisan confines. Its twin tasks, to mobilise and rally the youth behind the ANC and to champion the interests of young people on South Africa, makes it clear that the organisation doesn't exist

only for its own membership or that of the ANC, but for championing the collective interests of all young people in the country and the region. This responsibility makes three things very clear. Firstly, that the ANCYL must influence and inform the policies of the ANC by fighting for youth interests to be placed at the centre. This is particularly important given the demographic profile of South Africa, where the youth constitute nearly 60% of the total population.

Secondly, that the ANCYL must

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rise above the fractional politics of the mother body in order to assert itself as an organisation that cannot be captured or manipulated. And thirdly, that in order for the ANCYL to discharge its revolutionary mandate, its leadership must possess patriotic political theory. All this demands that the organisation must be radical in its approach to debate and action, and that such radicalism must inform a militant programme of action geared towards radical economic and social transformation.

Historically, the ANCYL has played an instrumental role in shaping the posture of the ANC, the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and the broader society. During the era of apartheid, it was the ANCYL that, through the adoption and championing of the 1949 Programme of Action, transformed the fight for liberation from passivity to militancy. This militancy propelled the ANC to develop a sense of urgency in its tools of resistance, which had been passive, thus failing to effectively confront the behemoth that was the apartheid system and administration. It was through the militant posture of the ANCYL that the ANC would later adopt armed struggle as a means of confronting the apartheid system, having been forced to accept that apartheid power would not concede anything without struggle.

In adopting the armed struggle, the ANC rewrote history and changed the fate for the millions of Black, Coloured and Indian people who were on the receiving end of apartheid brutality. In the post-apartheid dispensation, the ANCYL continued to play a critical role in continuing this struggle by pursuing radical economic transformation, a foundation on



which South Africa's future has to be built.

However, over the years, and in the present, the ANCYL has morphed into an organisation that is a shadow of its former militant self. At the heart of this metamorphosis is the organisation's investment in the factional battles within the ANC – battles that have no basis in ideology or political differences. A significant proportion of the ANCYL has assumed the role of being soldiers in wars of elders in the mother body, insulting and fighting “enemies” of elder leaders who are resistant to change. This has further alienated the ANCYL from young people, who, correctly, see such a posture as a betrayal of their collective aspirations. This is evidenced in a majority of South African youth failing to identify with the brand and the politics of the league. This is made clear by the growing disengagement of young people from participating in the democratic project.

Statistics from the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) demonstrate the growing decline in young people participating in elections. Even in the recent general election where young people between the ages of 20 and 29 made up 77% of new registrations, millions of young people

did not vote. And this is not because they are apolitical as some would want to suggest, but that they are dejected by the political process and what it represents. This is an indictment on the ANCYL whose task is to mobilise this demographic and to fight for its interests. Young people feeling unrepresented in the political process can only mean that they don't regard the ANCYL as their representative. And this has direct implications for the electoral fate of the ANC and the democratic project itself.

The ANCYL, if it is to reclaim its place as a champion of young people, and to attract the scores of capable and progressive non-partisan youth, must, first and foremost, invest in patriotic political education, particularly within its leadership which must set the tone for how the organisation postures itself. It must shed its evolving identity as a willing hired gun for ANC factions and cease to conflate rowdiness with radicalism and raffishness with militancy.

Only an ANCYL that is ideologically sound, politically astute and impervious to manipulation can mobilise South African youth and arrest the decline of an ANC that is haemorrhaging electoral support at an alarming rate. I conclude by revisiting Sankara's speech to the UN, paraphrasing his sentiment, that a truly progressive ANCYL must dare to reinvent the future.

Lebogang Maile is a member of the ANC Provincial Executive Committee in Gauteng.

The views and opinions expressed in this article is solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy and position of the African National Congress.

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SACROSANCT TRIPARTITE ALLIANCE OF THE ANC, COSATU AND SACP NEEDS TO BE JEALOUSLY GUARDED

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

THE tripartite alliance of the ANC, COSATU, and the SACP is crucial, with the SACP as the “*vanguard of the working class*”, the ANC as “*leader of society*”, and COSATU’s main goal to “improve the circumstances of working people”. This sacrosanct relationship should be guarded jealously against any possible disruption for political expediency’s sake.

To date, only the ANC contested the elections, with the support of both the SACP and COSATU. The SACP had not contested any democratic elections in South Africa. However, SACP members have been swelling the ranks

of cabinet and legislatures, and councils at national, provincial and local levels of governance respectively. There has lately been talks by the SACP of the “reconfiguration of the alliance”.

In his closing remarks to the ANC NEC Lekgotla on 6 August 2024, ANC President stated, inter alia, that “..... *we cannot renew the ANC without renewing the Alliance. We must now make it a priority to build the Alliance as a cohesive and effective agent of change within a common programme of action*”. This is important because, at the commemoration of Joe Slovo at Avalon Cemetery in 2022, former SACP

General Secretary, now National Chairman, Blade Nzimande, talked about the SACP being engaged in talks with “*other progressive parties*” to go together in “the next elections” (referring to the recent 29 May 2024 elections). It is not clear which are those “*progressive parties*” referred to. However, the narrative of the so-called “*progressive forces*” is continuing to be perpetuated by the SACP Secretary General, Solly Mapaila, in reference to the EFF and MK.

It is disheartening that, amidst attempts by the ANC to deal with one of the most difficult situations in recent times, namely Govern-

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ment of National Unity (GNU), unwarranted attacks against the ANC and public spats by some members of the Alliance partners continued unabated.

It is human to differ, but it is how those differences are panning out in public that matter. Differences should be dealt with internally, in a civil and constructive manner, especially if people still value each other's relationship. For any relationship, it is not healthy for parties to hang their dirty linen in public. Parties should at all times strive to iron out their differences internally, and exhaust all available internal avenues. Therefore, in case of differences, including GNU, Alliance partners should restrain themselves, and talk frankly to each other within their structures or ranks? Going out to criticize one another publicly should be the last resort or should be avoided at all cost.

If the Alliance partners still value their relationship, or, if it is still relevant to the parties, they should respect each other, and refrain from attacking each other in public. Moreover, if the ANC is indeed still leader of the Alliance, then all members of the Alliance should respect decisions of the ANC that have been made in good faith under difficult circumstances.

It is imperative that the issue of ANC Alliance partners criticizing the ANC unfairly at every given opportunity be discussed in a robust and frank manner, because it poses serious threat to the harmony of the alliance. Being in alliance, parties should demonstrate mutual respect towards each other. It should not only be easy to criticize each other, but should equally be easy to come up with sound counterproposals than



SACP GS Comrade Solly Mapaila

the use of strong and unsavoury words against each other.

The SACP General Secretary Solly Mapaila and NEHAWU President, Mike Shingange, who is also COSATU's First Deputy President, expressed opposition to the ANC decision to get into GNU arrangement with a variety of political parties that excludes the EFF and MK. Mike Shingange is decrying lack of consultation by the ANC in deciding to go into GNU with a political party such as the DA. The impression created is that the ANC did not consult its alliance partners at all, when deciding on the establishment of the GNU. However, it is also important to note what the ANC President said in his closing remarks of the 2024 ANC Lekgotla that, "We will continue to engage with our Alliance partners on the Government of National Unity. Having taken the view that the GNU is the best tactical option, the ANC is fully aware about the risks and potential threats of this moment". Besides, consultation is not an end itself, but a means to an end.

Speaking at Freedom Park at the Mandela Day dialogue, Solly Mapaila, lambasted the ANC for being in a GNU arrangement

with "neoliberals" like the DA and Freedom Front, as opposed to the EFF and MK. He unfortunately made use of strong and unsavoury terms to describe his dislike for the ANC's decision to form the GNU. According to him, the GNU is "*now dominated by neoliberals*". He avers, "*Why is the ANC afraid of them (referring to the EFF and MK)? And why, the ANC wants to equate the EFF and MK Party to the DA*" *What nonsense is that? It's poor politics. It's the poverty of politics*".

ANC collaboration with the EFF or MK Party, or both, would have been ideal. However, both parties did not make that possible. The ANC did try to reach out to both the EFF and MK, but the proposals of the ANC were spurned by both parties, as they made ridiculous and spurious demands to the ANC. As a result, the ANC was left with no choice, but to look elsewhere for the sake of the country. Time was of essence. The ANC did not have the luxury of open-ended and unnecessarily protracted negotiations. Decisions had to be made within limited timelines in terms of the Constitution.

Instead of bashing the ANC on public platforms, comrades from

OPINION

the Alliance partners should suggest what the ANC should have done to secure the cooperation of the EFF and MK Party, than having to go into a GNU with what they refer to as “*neo-liberals*”. As Alliance partners, they need to be solution-driven, and not just be armchair critics, or, become part of the problem. The GNU was indeed a compromise arrangement under most unfavourable conditions. Having been denied an overwhelming majority by the electorate, it is not as if the ANC had any alternative option, but Hobson’s choice. Most eligible voters did not turn out to vote for the ANC, and the GNU is the consequence thereof.

The ANC has been trying to brief its constituents on the rationale behind the involvement of “*white-dominated*” parties such as the DA and FF+ in the GNU, and so should the Alliance partners. Whether people refer to the arrangement as a grand coalition or GNU, or, recolonization, as others say it is, is immaterial. In that compromised GNU situation, parties do not have to like each other to run an effective government. All that is required is respecting and cooperating with each other for the benefit of the country.

On the other hand, the ANC is still grappling with the issue of unity and renewal of the organisation. It is expected that members of the alliance partners should also assist in that regard. Solly Mapaila made reference to the imaginary “*dominant faction in the ANC (which) was now neo-liberal and in favour of austerity measures*”. Thus it is not helpful for the ANC’s unity and renewal process, for any of the Alliance partners to claim that, there is “*a faction within the ANC that does*

not want the ANC to work with the EFF and MK”, because there is indeed no such a faction.

If the SACP 103rd Anniversary Statement, dated Sunday 4 August 2024, is anything to go by, that means that the unfortunate utterances of the SACP General Secretary, do not represent the official stance of the SACP on the GNU, and are therefore not sanctioned by the SACP Central Committee. The 103rd Anniversary Statement reads, inter alia, that, “*In light of our 2024 election outcomes, the SACP takes a critical but non-oppositionist stance towards the now-assembled Government of National Unity (GNU). However, we reserve our right to oppose, act and mobilise against any rightward shift in policy, which could find its way into government via the GNU composition. While the idea of a GNU is often presented as a means to foster stability and unity, its composition includes right-wing parties of the bosses and the historically privileged elitist sections of our society*”. This is a fair and praiseworthy statement, and it is indeed appropriate for the ANC to keep a watchful eye to ensure that the little democratic gains attained are not reversed.

As leaders of SACP and COSATU respectively, Comrades

Mapaila and Shingange, should be the ones who understand better what led the ANC to the unfortunate GNU situation, and explain to their constituent members the reasons why the ANC decided to do what it did, because if they themselves do not understand that, they are likely to mislead many people, especially those looking upon their leadership for guidance.

In the ANC, there is what is referred to as “*Democratic Centralism*”. Members of the Alliance, especially those in leadership positions, must please acquaint themselves with that noble principle, because it is the highest form of discipline. Once the organisation has taken a decision, everyone, including those who are having a different view, should respect that decision, and rally behind the decision of the organization. Anything other than that should not be tolerated, and would amount to ill-discipline. There should be order in organisations, otherwise there will be chaos if everyone has to do or say as he/she wishes, contrary to the collective views of the organisation.

The views and opinions expressed in this article is solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy and position of the African National Congress.



THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE ANC

■ By **SEITEBALENG DIKOLE** and **FEZILE NGQOBE**

RECENTLY, a number of foundations have called for the national dialogue to discuss challenges facing the country amid the outcome of the national general elections, where no party received absolute majority.

In calling for the national dialogue, Nkosinathi Biko, from the Steve Biko Foundation told the media that the purpose of the National Dialogue was to develop a common vision, and collectively, intervene to bolster substantive democracy and re-orientate the nation to their deferred dream.

In his speech on the occasion of the appointment of the Cabinet on the 30 June 2024, President Ramaphosa also reiterated the call for the national dialogue. The President said “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”

The call for the national dialogue is an important one and we believe that the ANC should take a lead in supporting and driving this call. This is because the ANC 55th National Conference reaffirmed the strategic objective of the ANC, which is the fundamental transformation of South Africa into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

The national conference further said “*in order to achieve this strategic objective and for the ANC*

to be an effective instrument for fundamental transformation, its members must distinguish themselves as the most loyal, ethical, committed and capable servants of the people of South Africa.”

Indeed, the 55th national conference was correct to indicate that the ANC should continue to be effective instrument for fundamental transformation. This is because the ANC strategic objective is derived from the character of the national democratic revolution (NDR) and the three basic and inter-related contradictions of national oppression, class super-exploitation directed

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at Black workers and the oppression of women.

In the context of the above and noting that the ANC has a rich history of mobilising the forces for a common good of our country, the authors argue that the ANC should take a lead and rally all South Africans into supporting the national dialogue called for by the President and the foundations.

In the past the ANC managed to mobilise forces and the nation for a common objectives, which led to the congress of the people that was held in Kliptown and adopted the Freedom Charter.

The fundamental point of departure that should characterize the National Dialogue must be solely about nation building with the intention to championing national interests. The current realities that characterize the GNU debates requires ANC cadres to distinguish themselves as capable servants of the people of South Africa, with the best interest of all despite their class positions.

In leading the national dialogue, the ANC should be guided by the document, Strategy and Tactics, which warned us about provision of a rapacious linsencing wherein the stupendous concentration of wealth of this country being in possession of few individuals at the expense of the majority. The reality is that the South African capital has been given more freedom to champion profit maximization which in turn does not seem to play a role in addressing poverty and unemployment.

The overarching principle that has been a guiding factor for addressing imbalances of our society should be centred around



building a capable ANC, which provides for equal participation and role players of societal forces such as labour, business and civil society in championship the national agenda. The ANC should not be digressed by the current GNU debates but should instead focus on reclaiming its rightful position of leading and guiding society to the fullest attainment of a better life for all.

Most of the South African political parties have been preoccupied by the notion of removing the ANC from power. Therefore, the current epoch needs efforts, skills and talent from the ANC cadres to deal with the ever changing political environment and circumstances. The ANC should lead all the parties to focus on addressing challenges facing poor South Africans and should commit themselves in building a non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous country.

It is important that the history of this country must be preserved for the younger generation so that it becomes their drawing boards to face the future.

Critics of the ANC from both Left and Right have always been steadfast in criticizing the ANC, saying the movement has good policies but is poor in implementing those policies. This is one area that will need our attention within the GNU because we might lose some important policies by rewriting without preserv-

ing what the ANC has produced over the past 30 years.

As we argue for the National Dialogue, the ANC cadres should continue to quantify and qualify nation building by problematizing those forces which do not want to be part of this project.

This calls for the ANC and its alliance to close ranks in many aspect that needs unity for building our country. The GNU should not divert the fundamental strategic objective of the alliance of effecting fundamental change in South Africa. The unity of the Alliance and its societal leadership cannot be determined by the template of the capitalist establishment in a sense that this is detrimental to the left axis of the alliance. Furthermore, for ANC to be suspected or seen to be more closer to the capitalist trajectory, becomes detrimental to the broader forces of the global left.

As we debate these issues, we should not allow the ANC to die but use the call for the National Dialogue as a contributory element on the renewal agenda to fulfill the mandate of leading South Africans to an egalitarian society. The ANC should continue to live and as a leader of society should seize a moment of the National Dialogue to rally and mobilise all forces, from both the left and the right behind its fundamental strategic objective.

Lastly, the National Dialogue provides an opportunity to strengthen the ANC as an effective instrument for fundamental transformation and to address the three basic and inter-related contradictions of national oppression, class super-exploitation directed at Black workers and the oppression of women.

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE: A Benin case study

■ By **AMBASSADOR RUBY MARKS**

AGRICULTURE remains the backbone of the economy across the African continent, and therefore shapes and determines food security and sustainable livelihoods for its entire population. It is estimated that some 33 million smallholder farms are responsible for an agricultural yield that employs more than half of Africa's workforce and will remain the largest source of employment on the continent for the foreseeable future.

And yet, the continent disproportionately under-invest in skills development training through agricultural training and research, which is evidenced by the preponderance of small-scale, low-technology and rain-fed farming and lead to a low agricultural yield. The post-COVID impact has also increased hunger by 60% and further threatens food security and country resilience. Inter-African trade has continued to decrease from its peak in 2013 to less than 15 percent in 2022.

It is estimated that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) have the potential to raise household income by 9% by 2035, while lifting 50 million people out of extreme poverty.

This will contribute significantly to the agricultural transformation of the continent and leapfrog the continent to new heights. Skills development training is key to agricultural transformation, and concerted efforts must be made to build the human resource capacity in this sector so that the benefits of the AfCFTA can be fully realized.

The current skills development project that was facilitated by the South African Embassy in Benin

is an example of how an innovative project can set a new growth path for the agricultural sector by enskilling young people with training and education to revitalize the sector.

The Policy Imperative

Successive policy commitments have been made at the level of the African Union that reaffirms the commitment of Heads of State and Government to the transformation of the agricultur-

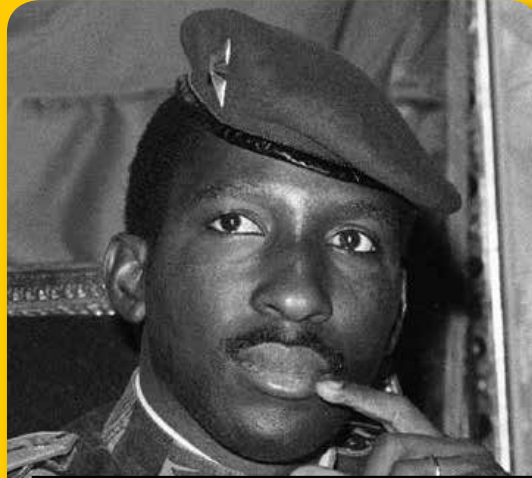


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al sector. These commitments posit agriculture as a key driver for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and recognize as well that weak capacity, low knowledge base and absence of systems and culture of formal knowledge accumulation and sharing represent major impediments to ensuring high and sustained agricultural production and productivity. These commitments recognizes that despite these challenges, the long-term prospects for African agriculture remain strong and have yet to fully realize their potential.

The policy commitments are fully spelled out in AU summit declarations issued in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) in June 2014 and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in January 2015, both included strong and clear decisions and commitments for capacity development in agriculture. The Malabo Declaration commitment on Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025 identified the supply of appropriate knowledge, information, and skills to users as part of appropriate policies and institutional conditions to accelerate agricultural growth by at least doubling current agricultural productivity levels, towards the year 2025. The Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) and the continental strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET adopted by the Heads of State and Government in Malabo to foster science and youth employment in Africa, and the earlier June 2015 AU summit in Johannesburg (South Africa) themed as the Year of Women Empowerment has called to action financial inclusion of women in agribusiness.

Importantly, the AU further recognizes the importance of skills



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**HE WHO FEEDS YOU,
CONTROLS YOU.**

THOMAS SANKARA

development by adopting the 2024 theme: “Educate an African fit for the 21s Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa”. And in October of 2024, the Pan African Congress, set to take place in Togo, will deliberate and pronounce on several themes deemed critical for the continent, of which South Africa leads the thematic area “Pan-Africanism, Science, Knowledge, and Technology” further emphasizing the importance of knowledge building and skills development. Likewise, and by way of example, the ANC have long placed agriculture as a key strategic objective and critical to a broader transformation agenda, with the power to lift millions out of poverty and unemployment.

These commitments compel all stakeholders across sectors to implement strategies that can address the agricultural education and skills deficit that continue to challenge the sector and impede

development and growth. It further obligates all stakeholders to seize opportunities within their mandate to ensure that the policy imperative is supported. In this regard, the role of embassies in supporting skills development in agriculture is crucial for fostering sustainable growth and economic development.

The case of Benin

Benin holds the status of a least Developed Country (LDC) and is a predominantly rural society with about 80% of the country’s 10.9 million people earning a living from agriculture. The sector contributes 40% to the country’s GDP, and approximately 80% of export income derives from agricultural products. Most agricultural production is based on subsistence farming and 93% of that is food production. The country faces serious challenges in developing its agricultural sector, where growth is particularly modest. The rural economy has been dominated by low-productivity

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agriculture where steady output growth has been accompanied by a deforestation rate of over twice that of the average Sub-Saharan region. Many households (36%) rely solely on crop production for income, while others combine this with livestock and fishing. Agricultural mechanization remains low – for example, machetes as one of the tools in trade are still common, and still depend heavily on inherited knowledge without the application of new and modern production methods.

Agricultural production systems have limited access to educational opportunities to enhance and improve production methods and current low levels of agricultural performance has not been sufficient to induce significant poverty

reduction. However, the government of Benin have committed itself to address the existing skills development shortage in the agricultural sector, which had been largely dominated by unskilled workers with little access to further training in agricultural sciences.

The South Africa-Benin Partnership

The South African Embassy in Benin, driven by our mandate as derived from our foreign policy that posits the centrality of the African Agenda, identified agriculture as a key opportunity for skills development and training in agriculture of young people. It therefore identified a skills development programme required

by the Benin government to train students in agricultural science as a key and strategic intervention to implement existing policy imperatives. The programme represents the first concerted effort of scale on agricultural skills development training to improve the knowledge base and modernize the agricultural sector through training and development.

The government approached several countries to submit applications to deliver a 2.5 years of skills development training for 662 male and female students, and to offer an on-site programme that would produce well trained and qualified Master's and certificate programmes to address the critical shortage of trained students in agricultural science students.

This was a flagship project of the Benin government, and critical to the realization of Benin's national Development Plan for the country. Several countries visited were requested to indicate interest to implement this programme, including Coite D' Ivoire, Nigeria, Morocco, Israel, Ghana, Brazil, Germany, France and South Africa, and after site visits were conducted, the Benin Cabinet took a decision to choose the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa as its implementing partner with an agency located in the Office of the Presidency.

It should be noted that the language barrier was initially identified as a major barrier, because the official language in Benin is of course French as part of the colonial legacy. But more than that, the general thrust and orientation of Benin's trade patterns tended to not favour the continent, with no active partnerships of this type with any other country on the continent. It therefore

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required constant lobbying to even have South Africa considered. The awarding of the contract therefore demonstrates that South African institutions are world class, and well able to hold its own against other countries.

Project Overview

This project is part of the ongoing institutional reforms in the education sector in Benin. The implementation of the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2025) and the National Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SN-EFTP 2020-2025) aims to overhaul Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) so that it efficiently supports national socio-economic development. This is to improve the rate of economic growth and the employability of youth and women, with agribusiness to be one of the engines of inclusive and sustainable economic growth within the framework of more efficient national and local governance.

The general objective is to train approximately 660 aspiring teachers from Agricultural Technical High Schools at the National University of Agriculture (UNA). Specifically, the contract involves planning the training together with the stakeholders, in particular ADET, UNA, the Ministry of Technical Secondary Education and Vocational Training (MEST-FP) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP). The planning includes developing curricula comprising 30% of theoretical learning and 70% of practical learning for the 12 specified domains at bachelors and master's levels. The programme started in 2022, and is due for completion in 2025. It is expected that 490 students will

receive their master's degrees during March 2025 and 200 students Certificates in Agricultural Sciences in the latter part of 2025. The government has further committed to build 35 agricultural colleges, at which many of the master's students will form part of its teaching staff.

Project Successes:

With the project close to completion, this investing in youth skills development pays off with positive impacts for the agricultural sector, and future employment and earnings outcomes for the students who were part of the programme. Moreover, the programme type, design and context were based on the actual conditions of the state of agriculture in Benin and set out to change, and in some cases, transform agricultural practices completely. The project design recognized that building Benin's productive capacities need not focus solely on how to raise their productivity and output, but as a long-term goal also impart knowledge of how to leverage markets; how to reap the economies of scale and scope; and how to think strategically.

As an effective youth skills development programme, the project developed a winning formula that had several features: it offered multiple pathways for learning and employment, focused on employer and market demand for skills, used applied learning methods, and offered follow-on services and supports that link youth with tangible employment or self-employment.

Skills transfer opportunities were central to the project implementation in work-based learning venues such as farmer field schools

and on-site employer-based training. The students enrolled in the project also obtained soft skills such as social skills, positive self-concept, self-control, communication skills and higher-order thinking. These skills are as important to success in the workplace as technical or agricultural-specific skills, including in the agriculture sector wherever-changing global demands require flexibility and adaptation.

And even though a skill might be developed in an agriculture or workforce setting, evidence shows that youth apply many of these skills (e.g. problem solving, planning, and negotiations) in other aspects of their life, including conflict mitigation and health and nutrition. These findings highlight the importance of linking both hard and soft skills in youth skills development.

In addition to this, the students also had the opportunity to learn English, and interact with 60 teaching staff from South Africa over a period of two years for practical and teaching slots ranging from three days to two months, and resulted in a rich interaction between Beninois students and UKZN teaching staff (both sessional and permanent teaching staff were used), and that fostered mutual appreciation and respect.

In turn, the students have become important 'brand ambassadors' for South Africa and will carry this through in different ways in their personal and professional life. The inclusion of female students in the project means that the pre-conditions for the eradication of poverty and hunger for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are met and realizes in part the UN

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sustainable Development Goals. The skills development programme created life-long skills for these rural students, which in turn empower their communities and unleash potential for future generations. The project builds South-South solidarity and demonstrates the value of people to people contact through skills development. The training of these 662 students will go a long way to increase agricultural yield and work the land sustainably, as well as addressing youth unemployment for women and men. And with 3.7 million hectares of agricultural land, Benin now has a critical opportunity through the skills development programme to improve its agricultural production and reduce poverty.

Conclusion

The case study demonstrates the key role that embassies can play

to supporting the exponential growth and strengthening in the agricultural sector through leveraging skills development opportunities for a win-win outcome for both countries. The programme generated a significant income stream for UKZN and stands as a successful pilot that can easily be replicated in other countries across the continent and the rest of the world.

Furthermore, Benin now has a well-trained cadre of skilled agricultural students, able to modernize its agricultural production and teach other students in the envisaged 35 agricultural colleges that are in the process of being established across Benin. And from a soft diplomacy viewpoint, the programme demonstrates the worth and political value of engaging in skills development programmes that build South Africa's positive image and break down imposed

colonial cleavages to build a Pan-African consciousness and solidarity in development.

Most importantly, agricultural skills development remains vital for agricultural and economic transformation in African countries, and our embassies play a vital role in promoting youth skills development in agriculture by fostering collaboration, designing effective programmes, and ensuring a cross-sectoral approach.

By investing in skills, we empower the next generation of agricultural leaders and contribute to sustainable development across the continent so that we can build a Better South Africa, A Better Africa, and a Better World.

Ambassador Ruby Marks is South Africa's ambassador to Benin, and accredited to Togo.





Why African Liberation Movements Collapse

Part One

■ By **THATOYAONE MOEPETSANE**

The Liberation Struggle in South Africa

Although Apartheid only ‘officially’ started in 1948, repression was rife in South Africa long before that date. This special project examines the Freedom Struggle from the beginning of the 20th century up until South Africa’s first democratic election in April 1994.

This archive presents this history in two parts, namely; Emerging African Nationalism and Working-Class and Popular Re-

sistance 1900-1950s, and The Armed Struggle and Popular Resistance 1960-1994 respectively. Please note that ‘periodizing’ history is subjective and in this case, reflects the nature of the highlighted theme, the shifting locus of power. In the first half of the twentieth century this shifts between the new state (Union of South Africa), the imperial interests (for example, the two world wars) and the protests of different social groups. In the post-Sharpeville phase, the locus of power is poised between the state and

the resistance movement and is increasingly concentrated in the popular resistance movement.

What went wrong with African liberation?

The anti-colonial movements in Africa did not liberate the people; they only liberated the state. How the recently deceased Zimbabwean ruler, Robert Gabriel Mugabe, should be remembered is a question that has split opinion across Africa. Many have hailed him as a “liberation hero” who

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

led the fight to end white rule in Zimbabwe, while others have insisted that his transformation into a murderous dictator had tainted whatever good he had achieved in his earlier years. It is indeed a curious debate. One would think an answer would be readily available given the continent's depressing post-colonial familiarity with similar autocrats.

Liberation of Africa

By the end of World War I, most of Africa had been effectively colonized. The next two decades, the period historians call the inter-war years, were relatively quiet years in colonial Africa. This relative quiet, however, did not indicate that the colonized people of Africa were happy with colonial rule—that there was no opposition to colonialism.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, new mass-based political parties were formed in almost every African colony. Unlike earlier political organizations, these parties were not restricted to the educated elite. They wanted and needed mass support for their cause. The



The late Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe

cause went beyond the demand for more opportunity and an end of discrimination. The central demand was for political freedom, for end of colonial rule! The rapid growth of African nationalism took European colonial powers by surprise. The Italians and the British followed by the French and then by the reluctant Belgians, eventually responded to the demands for independence.

Libya (1951) and Egypt (1952)

were the first African nations to gain independence. Ghana (Gold Coast) in 1957 was the first country south of the Sahara to become independence. 1960 was the big year for African independence. Fourteen African countries gained their independence in 1960.

Part two will reflect in detail on the success and failures of African liberation movements.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 – 16 August 2024

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

10 August 1965 Karen Muir, youngest person in world to break a sporting record



Karen Muir was born and lived in Kimberley. She went to Diamantveld High School where she broke the women's world record for backstroke at an event for girls, swimming a 110-yard backstroke in 1 minute, 8.7 seconds. Over the following five years, Muir would go on to set 15 world records. She also won 22 South African Championships. She matriculated in 1970. After retiring from sport, she studied medicine at the University of Orange Free State, where she qualified as a doctor. She practiced as a doctor and family physician, and died of breast cancer at the age of 60 years in Mossel Bay on 1 April 2013. Karin Muir was elected to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1980.

10 August 1969 Zambia nationalised its copper mines

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda announced nationalisation of copper mining compa-

nies, key to Zambia's economy contributing over 50 percent of government revenue. This policy gave the Zambian government the powers to use revenues collected from these mines to substantially reduce prices of basic food products. When copper prices collapsed in the mid-seventies, the Zambian economy began to decline. The government borrowed money from the International Monetary fund (IMF) to maintain lower prices of basic foodstuffs. In 1985, the IMF put pressure on the Zambian government to restructure the economy and abandon socialist economic policies. As a result, the government adopted the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP). These programmes were blamed for causing Zambia's economic decline.

10 August 1971 Pamphlet bombs in Four Cities

Eleven bombs exploded, scattering ANC propaganda leaflets in the four major cities. The blasts occurred twelve months after similar actions in the same cities.

11 August 1963 Escape from Prison

Four political detainees: Harold Wolpe, a listed Communist arrested on the Bechuanaland border; Arthur Goldreich, caught in the Rivonia raid; Moosie Moolla, accused in the Treason Trial; and Charlie Jassat, escaped from the



Johannesburg Central Police station after bribing a young warder on 11 August 1963. Mannie Brown was involved in planning and implementing the successful escape of the four detainees, but a massive manhunt and police operation led closer to Mannie and he was forced into hiding while his family went into exile. Probably the most dramatic escape in South African history, the detainees' exit from the country, particularly Goldreich's, infuriated the prosecutors and police who considered Goldreich to be 'the arch-conspirator' with regard to the Rivonia Trial. Wolpe, Goldreich, Moolla and Jassat all went into exile.

11 August 1972 No more land to Bantustans

The Minister of Bantu Administration and Development declared that no more land would be allocated to the 'homelands' other than that stipulated in the 1936 Land Act.

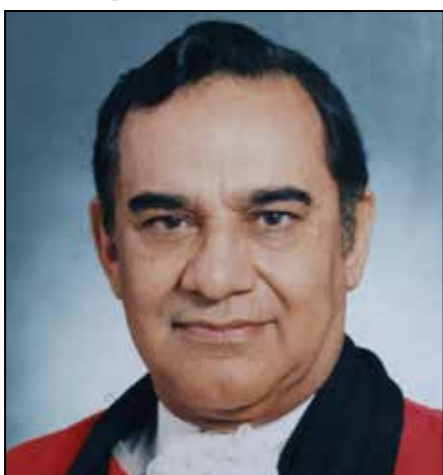
11-12 August 1976 Student revolt spreads to Cape Town

The uprising that was started by students in Soweto on 16 June

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1976 spread throughout the country. On this day, students organised protests in solidarity with Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu and then, for the first time, spread to Coloured townships in the city. Thirty three people were shot, and protesting student leaders from the University of Western Cape and others detained. Students at the Esselen Park High School in Worcester demonstrated in front of the school and were tear-gassed and baton charged. UCT students marched towards the city centre, giving the Black Power Salute; 73 UCT students were arrested. In Bellville, 600 coloured students marched from the Bellville Training College and clashed with police whilst in UWC a poster parade was broken by police. Poster bearers were arrested because of messages such as: *"Sorry Soweto, Kruger is a pig; the revolution is coming."*

11 August 1991 **Ismail Mohamed First Black Judge appointed to the Supreme Court.**

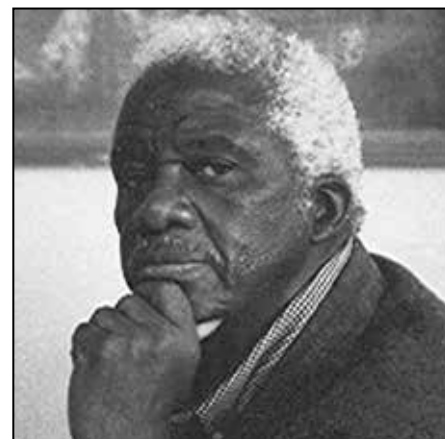


Ismail Mahomed was born in Pretoria on 5 July 1931 and died on 17 June 2000. Judge Mahomed matriculated at Pretoria Indian Boys' High School in 1950, completed a BA degree at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1953, a BA honours with distinction in

political science in 1954 and his LLB in 1957. Judge Mahomed was admitted to the Johannesburg Bar, because the Bar in Pretoria, where he lived, was reserved for whites. During the early sixties, he was admitted as an advocate in Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. In 1984, he was admitted to the English Bar. He built an extensive litigation practice and in 1974 he became the first black person in the country's history to take silk. Judge Mahomed's practice was concentrated on civil rights. He appeared in numerous trials on behalf of some of the leading figures in the anti-apartheid movement and played a leading role in challenges to the government's administrative and executive decrees during his 35-year career as an advocate. In 1979, he was appointed a judge of the Appeal Court in Swaziland, in 1982 a judge of appeal in Lesotho, and later Chief Justice of Namibia and the president of the Lesotho Court of Appeal. In this capacity, he gave some of these courts' leading constitutional and administrative law judgments. Judge Mohamed co-chaired the Conference for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), the negotiations forum that led to our democracy. In 1991, after the unbanning of the ANC, he became the first black person in South African history to be made a permanent judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa. Judge Mahomed was appointed to the Constitutional Court in 1994, and in 1998 he was made Chief Justice, a position he held until his death in 2000. Judge Mahomed published numerous articles in law journals and lectured on human rights jurisprudence at universities abroad. He was made an honorary professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand

in 1990. He received honorary doctorates in law from the University of Delhi and the University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded the Indicator Human Rights award in 1990 and also received the special award of the Black Lawyers' Association for his outstanding contribution to the development of human rights in South Africa. (Source: <https://www.concourt.org.za/index.php/judges/former-judges/11-former-judges/57-justice-ismail-mahomed>)

August 11, 2006 **Poet Mazizi Kunene who penned Emperor Shaka the Great, passed on**



The SABC reported that the celebrated African poet Professor Mazizi Kunene, well known for his epic poem Emperor Shaka the Great, which is inspired by the rise of the Zulu empire, had died in Durban at the age of 76 after a long illness. In 2005, Kunene was awarded the inaugural SA National Poet Laureate Prize, the M-Net Literary Awards Lifetime Achievement Award and recognised as a National Living Treasure by the Indigenous Knowledge Systems of SA. Kunene was born in Durban on 12 May 1930, started writing at an early age and by 12 had a number of his poems published in newspapers and magazines. Professor Kunene wrote his Master's thesis at the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

University of Natal on “*An Analytical Survey of Zulu Poetry, Both Traditional and Modern*” in 1959, and went on to do a PhD at London University. He became active in the ANC in the UK and did not complete his doctorate then. He went on to teach in the US, and returned to South Africa in 1993 to teach at the University of KZN. He published *Zulu Poems* (1970), as well as *Anthem of the Decades* (1981), a work dealing with Zulu religion and cosmology. His later books include *Isibusiso sikamhawu* (1994) and *Umzwili wama-Afrika* (1996).

12 August 1883 Last Quagga in the world died

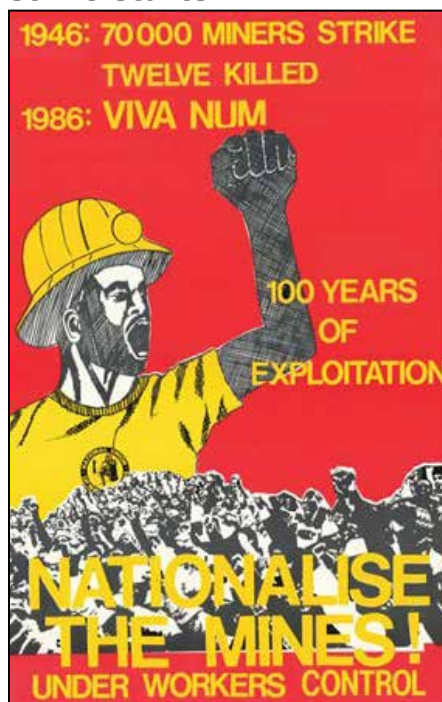
The last quagga in the world died in a zoo in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The quagga had once roamed the pastures of the Karoo and the southern Free State. It differed in appearance from other zebra in that it was striped on the front half of its body only. The upper part of its body was a creamy, light brown, while its belly and legs were whitish. The last wild quagga was probably shot in the late 1870s. The name is derived from a Khoi-Khoi word for zebra and is being said to resemble the quagga's call.

12 August 1952 Walter Sisulu arrested



Walter Sisulu and others were arrested on a charge under the Suppression of Communism Act. Sisulu played a significant role in the planning of the 1952 Defiance Campaign in which over 8 500 volunteers were mobilised to contravene apartheid laws. On 12 August 1952, Sisulu was arrested, and consequently banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. Later that year Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and James Moroka were tried for their involvement in the Defiance Campaign.

12 August 1946 African Mineworkers strike starts



A week-long strike by African mineworkers, led by JB Marks, leader of the African Mineworkers' Union, started on this day. The strike was initiated by the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), which was active in distributing pamphlets and other material related to the strike. About 70000 miners went on strike. Government suppressed the strike by force. According to official figures, twelve were killed

and 1 248 injured. Fifty-one persons, mainly Communists, were later charged in connection with the strike

12 August 1966 Bill to ban Communists from practicing law tabled

Under the Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament, any attorney or advocate who has committed an offence under the Act at any time is liable to be struck off the roll. Other clauses give the Minister of Justice powers to cut listed people off from contact with any organisation he chooses. The Bill is rejected outright by the Progressive Party member Helen Suzman.

12 August 1969 UN demands withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia

The United Nations Security Council's resolution calls on South Africa to withdraw its administration from Namibia immediately, and, in any case, before 4 October 1969. South Africa is condemned for refusing to comply with previous United Nations resolutions.

12 August 1974 NUSAS students declared Traitors

The Commission of Inquiry into Certain Organizations submits its final report on NUSAS to Parliament. It finds that its leaders are traitors, guilty of providing terrorist groups and the like the ANC with sanctuary. The Commission recommended that the application of students to NUSAS should end and that NUSAS should not be allowed to accept funds from overseas.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

13 August 1960 Oubangi-Shari achieves independence as the Central African Republic



Ubangi-Shari, then a French colony achieved independence as the Central African Republic (CAR). The colony was part of the French Equatorial Africa (along with Chad and middle Congo). It was named after the Ubangi and Shari rivers. The Central African Republic (C.A.R.) was settled from at least the 7th century by overlapping empires, including the Kanem-Bornou, Ouaddai, Baguirmi, and Dafour groups based in Lake Chad and the Upper Nile. Population migration in the 18th and 19th centuries brought new migrants into the area, including the Zande, Banda, and M'Baka-Mandjia. In 1875, the Egyptian sultan Rabah governed Upper-Oubangui, which included present-day CAR, and in 1903 it became part of the French territory. David Dacko became the CAR's first post-independent president.

13 August 1965 Dr Silas Modiri Molema passed on

Dr Seetsele Silas Modiri Molema, medical doctor, politician and historian, died in Mafeking at the

age of 74. He was the eldest son of Silas Thelesho Molema, maternal uncle of Chief Montshioa of the Barolong boo Ratshidi. He was elected Treasurer-General of the African National Congress and was served with banning orders by the government in 1953. He also served on the African Advisory Council, Joint Advisory Council, and the Constitutional Committee that set the Bechuanaland Protectorate on its road to independence as the Republic of Botswana

13 August 1967 MK and ZAPU engaged Rhodesian Forces in Wankie Campaign

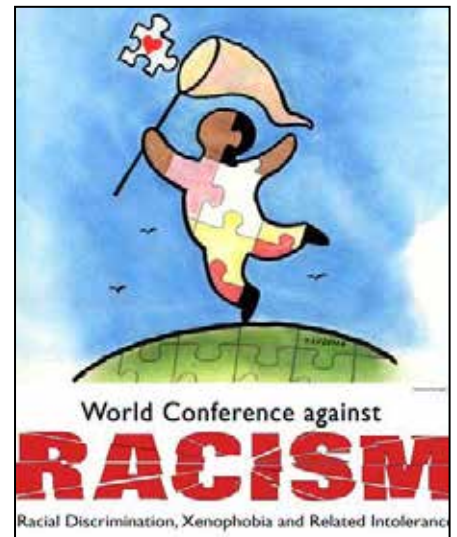
Umkhonto and ZAPU guerillas engaged Rhodesian forces in Wankie (now Hwange) Game Reserve, near the border of Zambia and Botswana.

14 August 1944 Historian Charles van Onselen born

Charles van Onselen was born on 14 August 1944, in the South African town of Boksburg. Van Onselen has become one of the most widely respected South African historians, whose work is widely published, both nationally and internationally. He chose to centre his already well documented research on the social, economic and political foundations of southern African societies. Charles van Onselen has truly impacted the manner in which South African history is perceived, by choosing relatively unknown topics, and therefore revolutionising South African history. His published books include *Chibaro: African mine labour in Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1933*. [1976]; *Studies in the Social and Economic History of*

the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914: Volume I: New Babylon, Volume II: New Nineveh. [1982]; *The Small Matter of a Horse: The Life of 'Nongoloza' Mathebula, 1867-1948* [1984]; *The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985* [1996].

14-25 August 1978 First World Conference against Racism, Geneva

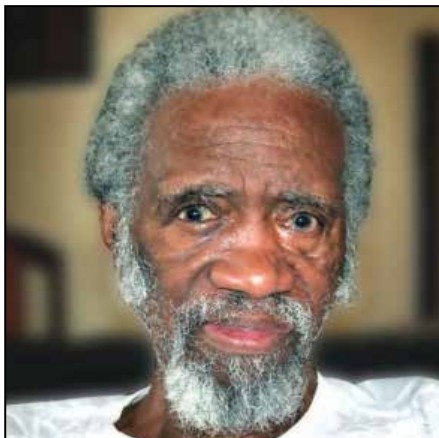


A World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva was held under the auspices of the United Nations. The UN resolution adopting this conference read "As a major feature during the Decade, a world conference on combating racial discrimination should be convened by the General Assembly as soon as possible, but preferably not later than 1978. The Conference should have as its main theme the adoption of effective ways and means and concrete measures for securing the full and universal implementation of United Nations decisions and resolutions on racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, decolonization and self-determination, as well as the accession to and ratification and enforcement of the international instruments relating

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

to human rights and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.”

14 August 1968 Students protest banning of lecturer Archie Mafeje



Widespread student protests are held against government banning of the appointment of an African lecturer, Archie Mafeje, to a post in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Prime Minister Vorster threatens to take action against student protests if the University authorities do not do so in reasonable time. Over 1000 students and staff later joined this protest and demanded cessation of government intervention regarding university appointments. Students at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Rhodes and Natal also joined the protests. Wits students took the matter further by marching to the Union Buildings to hand in their letter of protest. University of Pretoria students attacked Wits marchers, preventing them from reaching the Union Buildings.

14 August 1974 Defense budget increased to fund war in Frontline states

A sharp increase in defence expenditure is announced, follow-

ing the White Paper tabled on 10 April 1973, by the Minister of Defence. This demand was deemed necessary for apartheid South Africa's war on its neighbours, and in this instance in the Caprivi Strip with Angola and Zambia.

15 August 1925 Mam Gertrude Shope born

Gertrude Shope was born in Johannesburg, but grew up in Zimbabwe. She was trained as a teacher and went on to teach in Natal and Soweto. At age 29, she joined the African National Congress (ANC) and soon afterwards left teaching as part of a campaign to boycott Bantu Education. She was active in FEDSAW, chaired its Jabavu branch and later became Transvaal FEDSAW secretary. Mam Gertrude Shope was one of the iconic women behind the 1956 women's march to the Union Building. In 1966, she joined her husband Mark Shope in exile where she joined Umkhonto we Sizwe. From 1970 to 1971, Shope was secretary to Florence Mopho-sho, head of the ANC's Women's Section, and together they started publishing *Voice of the Women*.

Shope later became the ANC's chief representative in Lusaka and in 1981 was promoted to head of the Women's Section, which she led at the End of the Decade Conference in Nairobi in 1985. She served as ANC Chief representative in Lusaka, after serving in ANC offices in Botswana, Tanzania, Czechoslovakia and Nigeria. In 1991 Shope was elected president of the ANC's Women's League, a position she held until 1993. She worked together with Albertina Sisulu in convening the ANC's Internal Leadership Corps Task Force from 1990-1991. In 1994 Shope became a member of parliament in the Government of National Unity. Ma Shope is a patron of the Women's Development Bank Trust. In 2014, along with Ruth Mompati, Gertrude Shope received the highest ANC honour, *Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe*.

15 August 1964 Local Manufacturing of Aircraft announced for SA Air Force

Minister of Defense Foucht, announces that private enterprise will be responsible for the manu-

Happy 99th Birthday Mam Gertrude Shope



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

facture of aircraft for the South African Air Force. Jet trainers, to replace the SAAF's Harvards will be the first aircraft to be made locally. South Africa already in 1920s did local manufacturing of aircraft and other aviation equipment. Today, there are still over 100 local companies that manufacture aircrafts (especially small). State owned entity Denel also manufactures aircraft, most notably the Rooivalk, a South African developed attack helicopter.

16-20 August 1976

Non Aligned Movement calls for Oil embargo against France and Israel

At the 5th Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a resolution is adopted calling for an oil embargo on France and Israel because of their arms sales to South Africa.

16 August 1976

Students in Cape Town join 1976 student revolts

Pupils at Alexander Sinton High and Belgravia High boycott classes. 500 UWC students marched to the Bellville Magistrate's Court where 15 students appeared on a number of charges arising from the recent events. There was a fire in Arcadia High and classes were boycotted at Somerset West after permission to hold prayer in solidarity with those killed in the 1976 uprising was refused.

16 August 1993

South Africa hands over Walvis Bay to Namibia

After 84 years of control over Walvis Bay, the South African government relinquished sovereignty over Walvis Bay to Namibia, after the country's independence in 1990.



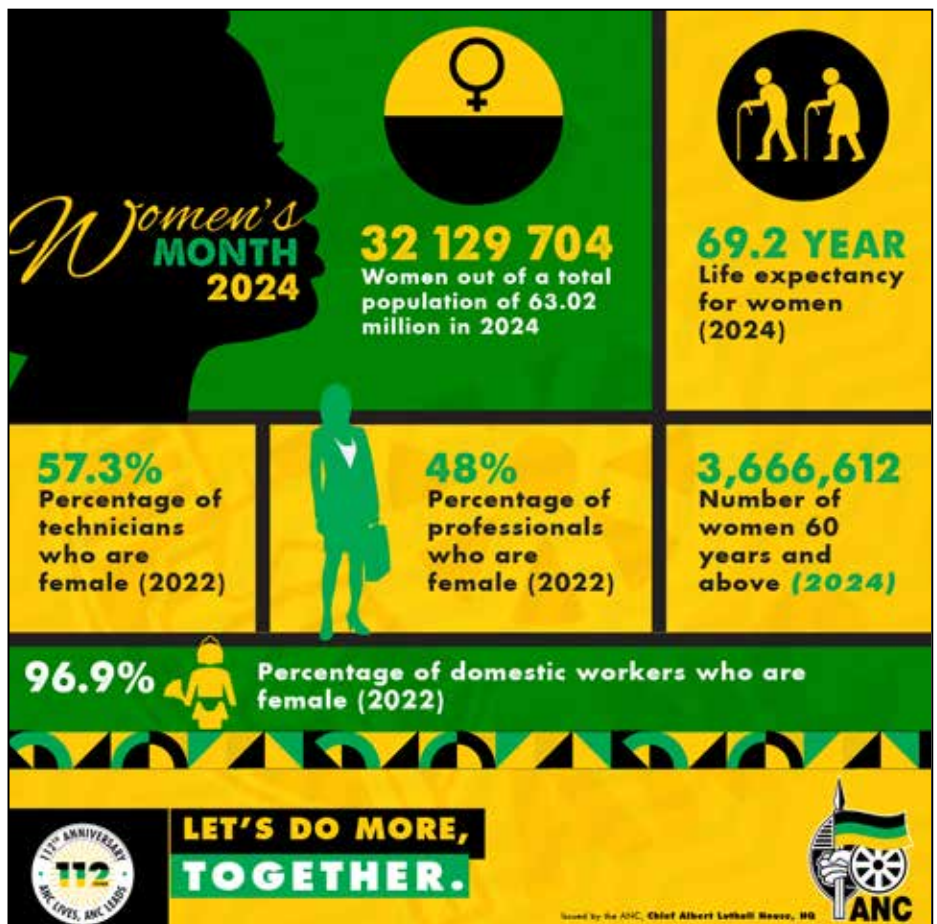
The man with the green blanket – an image that has become synonymous with the commemoration of the Marikana tragedy

16 August 2012

Police shot mineworkers at Marikana

Police opened fire killing 34 striking mine-workers at Marikana, North West Province. As a result, 78 people were left wounded while more than 250 people were arrested. The protesting

miners were demanding a wage increase at the Lonmin platinum mine. A Commission of Inquiry, the Farlam Commission was appointed to investigate the events, including the deaths of at least 44 people from 11-16 August 2012. The Commission submitted its report on 31 March 2015.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

10 – 16 August 2024

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



10 August

African Civil registration and Vital Statistics Day

The day, adopted for observation by the African Union, helps to improve public awareness of the importance of making everyone visible in Africa through universal birth registration and certification. Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) *“also play a central role in planning, governance and economic development and for individuals in their daily social, political, and economic lives.”*

10 August

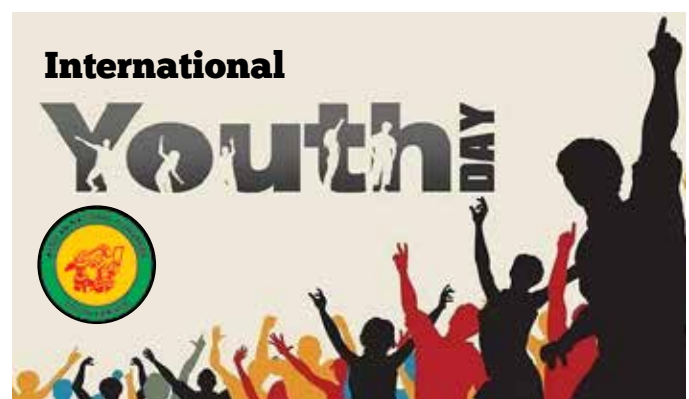
Africa Day of Decentralisation and Local Development

Local government is an important localized and decentralised form of government, from both a developmental and participation perspective. The day spotlights the role of local government in urban and rural areas across the continent. The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development was adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2014. The continental umbrella body for local government, formed in Tshwane in 2005, is the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA).

12 August

International Youth Day

International Youth Day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement. There are over 1.1 billion young people ages 15-24 in the world, the UN definition of youth. Eighty five per cent live in developing countries. It also provides countries the opportunity to assess their investment in and education of its young people. International Youth Day 2024 (IYD) is themed *“From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.”*



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

12 August

World Elephant Day

The day is dedicated to the preservation of the world's elephants. There are two living species, the Asian and African elephants. The African elephant is the world largest land animal, weighing up to 10 000 kg. There are today only 40 000-50 000 elephants left in the wild, with between 15 000 and 20 000 in captivity. South Africa has around 24 000 elephants, 17 000 in the Kruger National Park and about 600 in the Addo Elephant Park.

13 August

International Lefthanders Day

Being right handed is seen as the norm, and the world is dominated by right-handers. Left handed people only represent 10% of the total global population. International Lefthanders Day on August 13 celebrates lefties and raises awareness on the issues faced by left-handers in their daily lives. The day was first observed by the founder of Lefthanders International, Inc. – Dean R. Campbell, in 1976. Simple things that many of us take for granted – for example, buttoning a shirt, wearing an oven mitt, ironing, using a computer mouse, eating with a full place setting or cutting with scissors—can be tricky for left-handed people, because most items are made for right-handed use. On Left-Handers Day, right-handed people are encouraged to do activities with their left hand that they normally take for granted. It's harder than you think!

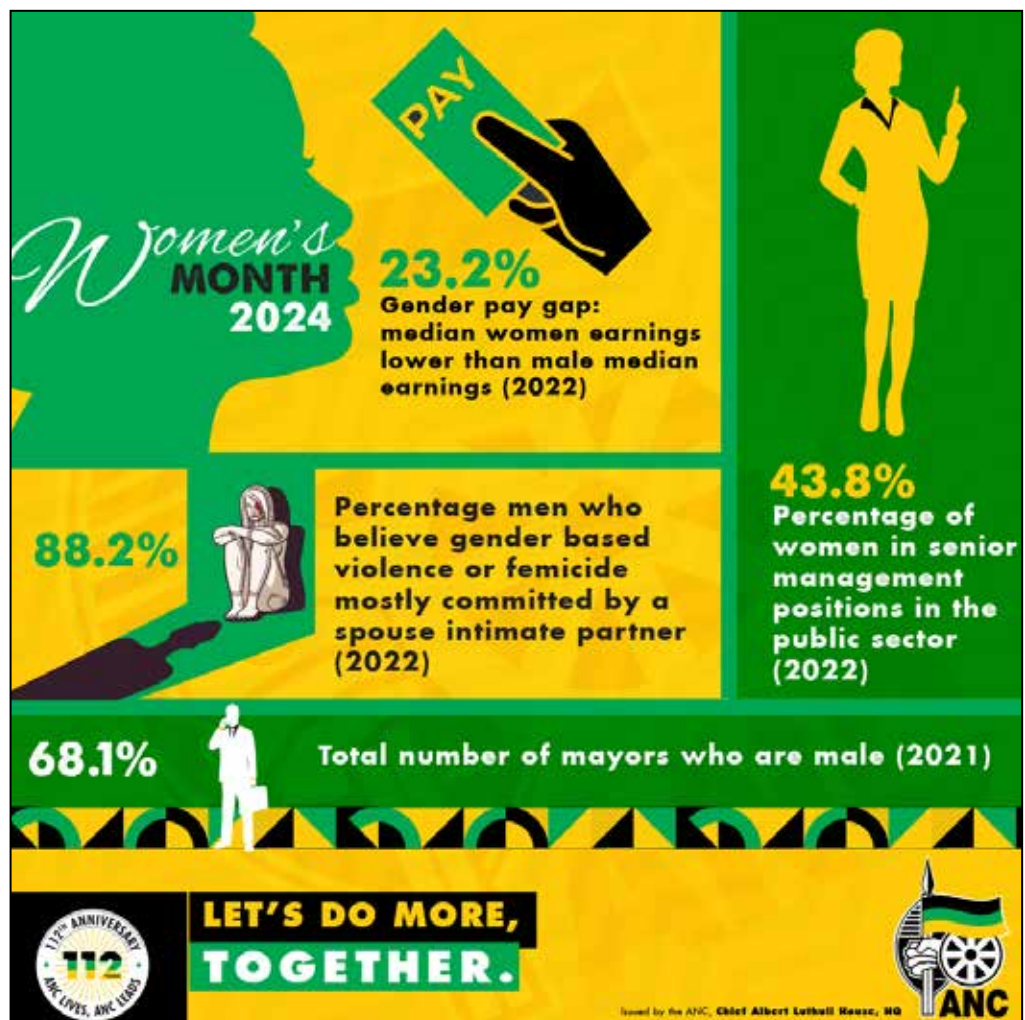
15 August

Homeless Animal Day

Humans share the planet with many other living beings. Every day, animals are abandoned or placed into kennels, dependent on charities and goodwill. Some organisations are strained beyond coping and are desperate to raise awareness of the plight of homeless and abandoned

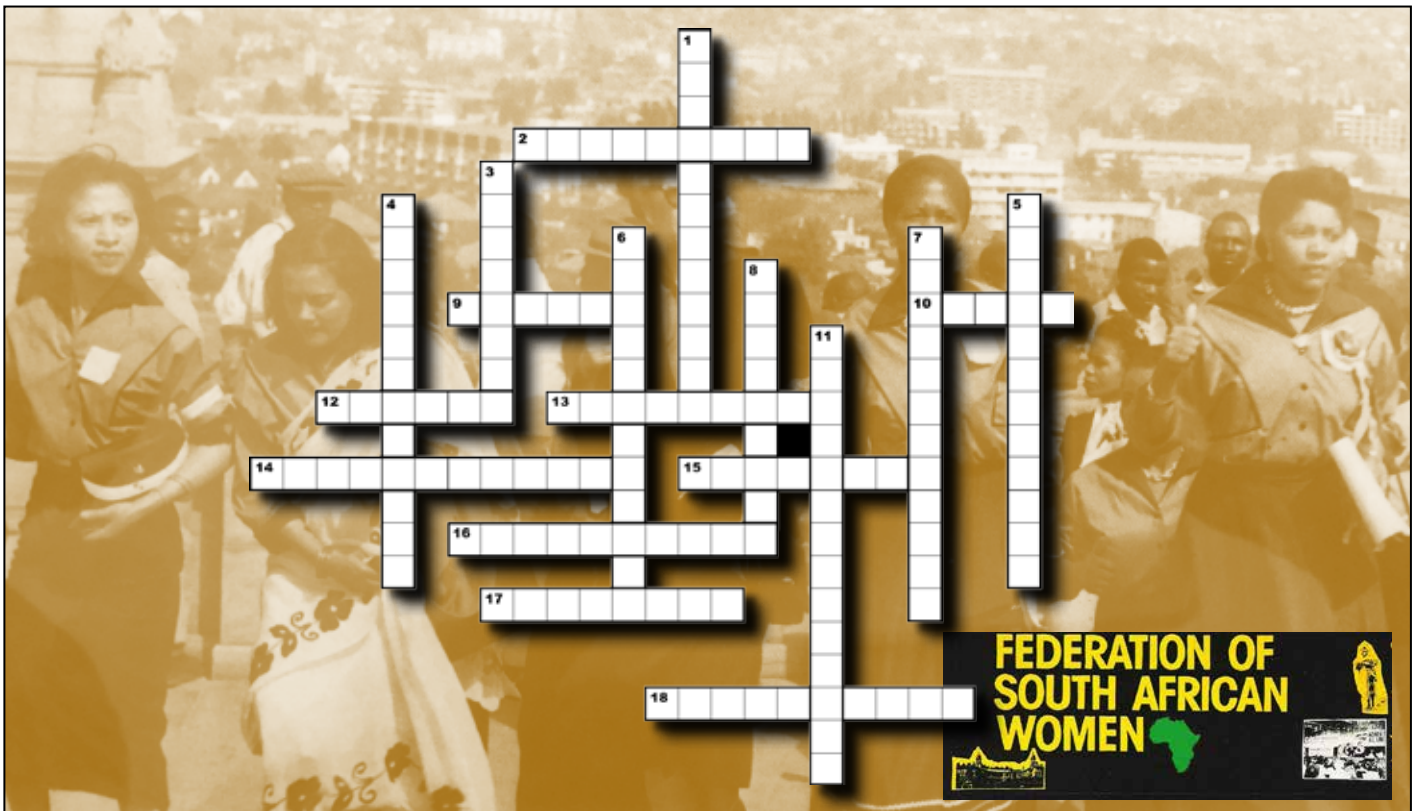


animals. Homeless Animals Day, celebrated every third Sunday of August aims to educate people about pet abandonment, feral animals and benefits of caring for domestic animals. Every year, South Africa euthanizes about 1 million cats and dogs, adopted from animal shelters help, as well as getting your pets sprayed and neutered. South Africa has a number of animal rescue organisations, most of them registered as not for profits. The largest of these is the National Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (NSPCA), which also runs shelters for homeless animals.



X-WORD

FEDSAW AND THE 1954 WOMEN'S CHARTER



DOWN

1. FEDSAW leader part of 1956 Treason Trial.
3. Equal rights in relation to...
4. FEDSAW leader part of 1956 Treason Trial.
5. FEDSAW founder, trade unionist, communist.
6. Striving for removal of all laws, conventions and customs that ... against us as women.
7. Leader of Women's National Coalition that adopted 2nd Women's Charter in 1992.
8. Free and compulsory ... for all South African children.
11. Document adopted by Congress of People in 1955, after Women's Charter.

ACROSS

12. Paid ... leave.
9. African women as perpetual... of their male guardians.
10. Women's Charter demand:... pay for ... work.
12. Women's Charter basis for theory of women's ... oppression.
13. ...for working mothers.
14. FEDSAW founder, also led the 1956 Women's March.
15. Equal rights in relation to...
16. FEDSAW believed ... would not be won without full participation of women.
17. Equal rights in relation to...
18. First women's march to Union building on October 27, 1955 led by ...

WORD BANK

Ray Alexander Lillian Ngoyi equal property marriage maternity
 childcare education liberation triple minors Ida Mntwana Annie Silinga
 Francis Baard Freedom Charter Frene Ginwala discriminate children

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