



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA ENTER A NEW ERA OF OPPORTUNITY

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

WE have recently returned from Beijing, where we attended the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which brought together heads of state and government from across the continent. The summit was preceded by my second state visit to the People's Republic of China where a number of Cabinet ministers and myself were hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

A number of Ministers and myself had an opportunity during the visit to meet several Chinese companies that operate in South Africa or are looking at opportunities in our country.

One of these companies was

Hisense, a Chinese electronics manufacturer that has been part of an exciting South African success story.

Just over 10 years ago, Hisense established a R350 million manufacturing plant in Atlantis Industrial Park in the Western Cape. Having grown into a prominent brand in the South African market, Hisense is now exporting some of its products to other African countries and the United Kingdom from its Atlantis plant.

The company reports that it has created over 1,000 direct and over 5,000 indirect jobs in Atlantis. Local producers are prioritised for the company's packaging needs. Hisense provides on the job skills training to its work-

force and has a skills transfer programme between China and South Africa for technicians and engineers.

The Hisense story shows the great potential that exists for investment in advanced manufacturing in South Africa and to reach a far broader continental market. It is also a good example of job creation, skills development and technology transfer.

Hisense is just one of a growing number of Chinese companies that are expanding their footprint in South Africa, bringing much-needed investment and jobs. I met with other Chinese companies that are looking to invest in South Africa, particularly in the areas of energy, infrastruc-

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ture, technology and advanced manufacturing.

During the state visit, China and South Africa agreed to upgrade our relationship to an All-Round Strategic Cooperative Partnership in a New Era. This signifies the strengthening of the political, economic and social ties between the two countries.

China is our largest trading partner, having overtaken the European Union in 2023. However, there is an imbalance in the structure of our trade. South Africa exports mainly minerals and agricultural products to China and imports largely manufactured products from China.

During our discussion, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his support for the development of South Africa's manufacturing capacity and to receive greater volumes of finished goods from South Africa.

President Xi has committed China to open its markets to more South African products and would seek to further broaden the frontiers for Chinese investment in the South African economy.

We are particularly encouraged at the potential of greater cooperation, investment and trade between our two countries in pursuit of low-carbon, climate resilient economic growth. For example, South Africa has investment opportunities in the electric vehicle sector, renewable energy, green hydrogen and energy storage – and China as a proven track record in developing innovative solutions in these areas.

There is also great potential, and much interest, for Chinese private commercial firms, state-



owned enterprises and banks to invest in our country's infrastructure build programme. This aligns with our plans to modernise our infrastructure by investing in the expansion of ports, rail and road networks.

Investment does not only flow in one direction. I also met with South African companies operating in China. They have found that South African and Chinese companies can complement each other well, and have both benefited from an exchange of expertise and technology.

The value of such cooperation extends beyond our two countries. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will provide access to a market of over 1.3 billion people, provides an even greater incentive for investment by China and other countries in Africa's manufacturing capacity.

This was underlined during the FOCAC summit attended by more than 50 African countries, where President Xi announced

ten partnership actions that China would take together with African countries to support the modernisation of their economies. These actions cover areas like trade, industrial development, agriculture, health and infrastructure.

At a time when African economies are growing closer together, China's technological capabilities can support Africa's industrialisation and enable the continent to export more than just raw commodities.

The strengthening of ties with major trading partners like China continues to yield benefits for the South African economy and people. The Hisense investment in Atlantis is a case in point, with many other companies following its lead.

It is clear that relations between South Africa and China have entered a new era of opportunity. Our visit has strengthened trade and investment ties and cemented our shared commitment to grow our economy, create jobs and advance prosperity for the people of our two countries.

TRIBUTE

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS MOURNS THE PASSING OF COMRADE PRAVIN GORDHAN

THE African National Congress (ANC) dips its banners as it mourns the passing of Comrade Pravin Gordhan, a courageous soldier of our movement who dedicated his life fighting for and in the service of our people.

Cde Pravin Gordhan served the movement and the people of South Africa diligently from an early age at a time when our people faced the most brutal repression. His role in the underground structures of the movement, the labour and mass democratic movement and Umkhonto weSizwe (including Operation Vula) affirmed his commitment to the cause of our people and cemented his dedication to freedom and social justice. His life was a beacon of courage, and his contributions to the fight for a non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic South Africa will forever remain etched in the annals of our history.

Comrade Pravin played a pioneering role in the transformation of Local Government in the country serving as chairperson of the Political Committee that drove the drafting of the Local Government chapter in the Constitution and White Paper on Local Government working closely with Comrade Vali Moosa during 1997-8. He further served this country as SARS commissioner building a world-renowned institution that optimally serves the people of South Africa. Comrade Pravin also served our people in various capacities as a cabinet minister of COGTA, Finance and Public Enterprises.

The ANC calls upon all members and citizens from all walks of life to honour his memory by reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, that truly belongs to all its peoples. His selfless dedication to the values of the African National Congress and the people's struggle is a legacy we must uphold as we continue to advance the principles of our Freedom Charter.

His passing serves as a solemn re-

minder that the work to transform South Africa is far from complete. Let us draw inspiration from his courage, dedication and unwavering resolve, as we continue our collective efforts to build a better, united, and prosperous nation.

We send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones during this difficult time. We stand with the people of South Africa, the entire ANC membership, and all progressive forces across the globe in mourning this loss.

HAMBA KAHLE COMRADE PRAVIN GORDHAN

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May his courageous soul rest in eternal peace.

Used by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutuli House, HQ

The Year of United Action to Defend our Freedom and Advance a Better Life for All
FORWARD TO A DECISIVE VICTORY!

TRIBUTE

The ANC Veterans League pays tribute to an extra-ordinary activist, ANC leader, public servant, servant leader and veteran of the movement, **Pravin Gordhan**

■ By **SNUKI ZIKALALA, ANC Veterans League President**

“COMRADE Pravin was a revolutionary beacon for the movement,” said Snuki Zikalala, ANC Veterans League President, speaking on the untimely death of the UDF activist, MK soldier, ANC activist, SARS Commissioner and a Minister, who held three portfolios, including Finance Minister.

He was a patriot, an achiever, a steadfast anti-corruption warrior and a great human being”, said Mavuso Msimang, ANC VL Deputy President.

He leaves behind an indelible legacy.

Comrade Pravin spearheaded community organization and mobilization in Durban, now eThekweni, during the 1980s. He then went on to be one of the brains behind the United Democratic Front, exposing attempts by the government to draw Indians as second-class citizens into a tricameral parliament.

Comrade Pravin’s ability to navigate the different aspects of the ANC struggle – armed struggle, underground work and mass



mobilization – is a testament to his unwavering commitment and resourcefulness. His role in the struggle is a source of inspiration and a reminder of the rich history of our movement.

After 1994, Comrade Pravin was able to shift gears and become an innovative public servant. By blending his struggle experience with that of innovative bureaucracy, he transformed SARS into one of the best-performing tax collection agencies in the world.

When this legacy was threatened by former President Jacob Zuma, Tom Moyane, and the state capture cohorts, it was Comrade Pravin who called on us to “join the dots” on state capture. He

very bravely took on his fellow comrades and exposed their destruction of state-owned enterprises.

He was a dedicated and determined Minister of Finance, Local Government, and Public Enterprises in very challenging times. He had to turn around municipalities and SOE’s ravaged by state capture and facing unprecedented issues stemming from poor management and leadership.

He was a person who did what was right, and not what was popular. For that, he was attacked, especially by those who were most threatened by his commitment to good governance and fighting corruption.

Pravin Gordhan was a pioneer of renewal, of the ANC, and of the country. For that, as the Veterans League, we salute him and commit to continuing his work.

The ANC Veterans League sends condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and comrades.

May his *atma* attain *moksha*.

Hamba kahle qhawe lama qhawe.

TRIBUTE



Pravin Gordhan: Let's get back to BASICS

■ By **MICHAEL SUTCLIFFE**

I remember vividly the day in 1982 that an outstanding community activist Vish Supersad walked into my office in UKZN's Planning Department asking me for help in analysing community-based surveys. That led to my meeting cde Pravin (PG) and for the next 42 years I have laughed with him, occasionally fought with him, but in the end am so grateful for his friendship, comradeship, leadership and what he has done for our country's liberation process.

From his student days, rebelling against apartheid education and the Broederbond teachers at University of Durban-Westville, to his lifetime of work to make our country a better place, and now to his passing on, we can only bow our heads and salute his life well lived.

The 1980s were very heady days as we all contributed in various ways to the four pillars of the liberation movement: mass mobilization, building the underground,

uMkhonto we Sizwe and our international campaigns. In all of those PG was involved.

We fought and won victories where the then City of Durban had illegally been overcharging poor people for water, and we forced the state to agree to the redevelopment of Cato Manor after hundreds of thousands of people had been forcibly removed under apartheid.

We got the Durban municipality to start spending some of its monies on informal settlements which were outside its apartheid jurisdiction.

And we lost battles such as in the mid-1980s when we tried to force the Broederbond administration of the University of Durban-Westville to host a meeting of the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) bringing together students, parents and teachers from across the country. This refusal led to students being attacked as the conference was

then held in an unsafe area.

Throughout these hundreds of local and national struggles Pravin played important leadership and facilitating roles alongside so many amazing local leaders like Jabu Sithole from the Joint rent Action Committee to Cyril Ramaphose of the National Union of Mineworkers, from community organizations and trades unions to the ANC alliance and beyond.

In the 1980s and 1990s as our movement for liberation was broadened, to be truly national and cutting across all social strata Pravin played not only a leadership process, but a very supportive one too.

As we moved into the 1990s negotiations, Pravin played a major role in helping to facilitate that process. His activism ensured that local government became entrenched in the constitution. He then chaired the political committee producing the White Paper on Local Government, which also

TRIBUTE

saw the sad loss of an outstanding cde Tshepiso Mashinini who chaired the working committee.

He then moved sideways becoming the Commissioner of SARS and working closely with cde Trevor Manuel reformed that institution. They brought in many more taxpayers through getting the public to be impimpis and report on people they thought should be paying tax! Of course, even now when I submit my tax returns I treat it as a battle against PG.

Of course Pravin, throughout his life connected dots, and he became more public in the prelude to the state capture processes. There, he became an important activist fighting for integrity and capability, and against corruption, mismanagement and arrogance in government.

He continued with many governmental portfolios, also returning to local government as Minister, arguing strongly of the need to get Back to Basics (B2B). In many ways the strategies and the order in which he defined them, says much about the values that drove Pravin:

1. Putting people and their concerns first;
2. Supporting the delivery of municipal services to the right quality and standard;
3. Promoting good governance, transparency and accountability;
4. Ensuring sound financial management and accounting; and
5. Building institutional resilience and administrative capability.

In all of this PG was not without his detractors, some who differed

ideologically or around tactics, and others for reasons that only they know. All, though, if they knew him, would concede that he has made an immense contribution to our country. He himself, I know, welcomed differences and was prepared to engage.

I remember one such moment in the early 1990s when there had been some tension in the movement and he, Cde Sbu Ndebele and I got talking, rather frankly, around how power struggles were diverting us all from the central task of liberation.

The three of us agreed that that needed to be addressed, and looking back, it still needs to be addressed, particularly by men in leadership positions.

I remember too, how much he

cared about the families of comrades who were being targeted in the struggle. We have lost so many, particularly young, brilliant activists whose only crimes are that they are fighting for integrity and a focus on addressing inequality, poverty and unemployment. He always asked questions about how our families were.

I am sorry that the suddenness of his passing means that his experiences could not be translated into contributions towards educational programmes on what needs to be done and what strategies and tactics are needed to advance us as a country and continent.

But I have no doubt that PG's only wish would be that such a task is for all of us.



TRIBUTE

Pravin Gordhan. What a Cadre

■ By **MALOSI KEKANA**

What a man
What a cadre
What a servant of the people

When I heard about PG's passing, I was filled with a profound sense of sadness.

PG was cruel to be kind
He didn't suffer fools
With him, you knew where you stood
He was loyal and shaped many people's careers.

A lot of good and bad things will be said about him
But as a Sepedi proverb says, "dogs don't bark at a stationary bike"

It is sad that after giving his entire life to public service, his demise comes so soon after his retirement.

Just when he was supposed to retire and enjoy time with his wife and grandchildren.
Indeed death is a thief.

His contribution to our country and the struggle for freedom is indelible
And he did more good than the mistakes he committed.
In any event, to err is human.
But even then, his actions were in good faith.

May Your Soul Rest in Peace,
Cadre of cadres.

A compatriot, a soldier,
a true vanguard of the revolution.
He belongs to the ages.



You dare touch me

■ Reflections on the life of Pravin Gordhan
by **JAMES NGCULU**

I remember one incident in Parliament in the height of the madness and rudeness of the EFF.

PG was delivering his speech. The hordes of Malema advanced to attack PG. PG was not intimidated and shouted at them: 'You dare touch me!'

By the then, some comrades from the ANC benches have formed a

ring of steel around PG.

Such was the bravery of PG – you dare touch me. Zuma tried to touch him and even concocted some conspiracy theories, and he dismally failed. Now Zuma is in the dustbin of history. And the movement South Africa as a whole celebrate the life and times of Cde Pravin.

ANC YOUTH LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY

RENEWAL OR DEATH, THE ANC RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

Reflections to the ANC Youth League's 80th Anniversary

■ By **ILVA MCKAY LANGA, Secretary General of the ANC Veterans' League**

THE Renewal Programme is an ANC programme which is driven by the ANCVL and owned by all the constitutional structures of the ANC. The Youth League (YL), Womens' League (WL), the mother-body, and MK Liberation War Veterans are all active participants in the preparatory work of the Renewal Programme. The Alliance will also be part of the Renewal Programme.

No one needs to be reminded of the challenges facing our youth today – which include poverty, unemployment, drugs, addiction, gangsterism etc. As the ANCVL we want to touch on two issues which we believe will make the Youth League a relevant and vibrant organisation.

The first is that the Youth League can play a pivotal role in leading the fight against one of the biggest scourges currently in our country – Gender-Based Violence (GBV) which is sweeping the country and wiping out our communities. It has no consideration of age; it is taking the lives of babies, children, youth, women and the elderly. It is the YL that can play the leading role in programmes for boys and youth, and men can play the leading role

in programmes for other men to halt the onslaught against women and children. So, it is our appeal that the Youth League must lead the fight to end Gender Based Violence.

The second issue we want to focus on as the VL is the RENEWAL of the ANC. As far back as the 1997 ANC National Conference, President Comrade Rolihlahla

Mandela said we were attracting people into the ANC who did not support ANC policies, principles, and values.

The 2012, 2017 and 2022 ANC National Conferences resolved that *“there is an urgent need to rebuild the culture of individual and organisational discipline and dismantle factions.”* The National Conferences resolved that Re-





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renewal must be a priority “for the long-term strategic survival and success of the ANC and the National Democratic Revolution”.

The Renewal of the ANC is about what the ANC must do to renew itself, to execute, promote and defend the NDR, to serve the people and govern our country well.

The ANC Veterans League has put 3 issues on the ANC agenda for attention:

Firstly, that people joined the ANC because they were infiltrated to destroy it.

Secondly, there is evidence of a counter revolution launched by remnants of apartheid to destroy Movement.

Thirdly, that mass recruitment without strict criteria and verification processes opened the window for the mosquitos to come in – in the words of the ANC Chairperson.

So, what ANC RENEWAL means is that:

- It must realign with the wishes and aspirations of the people for a better life for all, and consciously re-trace our steps back to our revolutionary path.
- It means we must rekindle the spark of revolutionary political activism within our ranks and in society in general, reviving the culture of political discussions and community-focused programmes.
- There must be effective management of the organisation and decisive action to provide qualitative and sustainable services to the people.
- Lastly, it means we must reclaim our leadership role in

the battle of ideas and leadership of society by being at the centre of solutions for societal challenges at home and abroad.

FIVE PILLARS OF THE RENEWAL PROGRAMME

The five pillars of the Renewal Programme should be implemented from the most basic organ of the organisation, i.e. the ANC branch:

- a. Compulsory political education for all members: A systematic programme of political education and development of new cadres at all levels of the ANC and the broad democratic movement, starting with the Foundation Course for all members.
- b. A new approach to recruiting members: Like any live organisation, being a member of the ANC must regularly be subjected to a renewal process. This means that members must meet the minimum criteria to remain a ‘member in good standing’ using the ANC’s seminal document “*Through the Eye of a Needle*”.
- c. Rethinking the role and structure of the ANC Branch to reconnect with the people: The ANC Branch must be the principal vehicle through which members lead the efforts of communities and citizens in advancing community development and service delivery.
- d. Place the Ethics and Integrity agenda at the centre of organisational and governance work to reclaim the moral authority that was so key in the struggle for freedom. This is only possible with an uncompromising attitude to corruption and all forms of misconduct.

- e. Reassert and practically demonstrate unwavering commitment to the principles of unity, non-racialism, non-sexism, a democratic and prosperous society.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Every Branch must have a Programme of Action which is about community development and uplifting the political consciousness of the branch membership in particular, and society in general.

ANCVL branches will support the roll-out of the branch political education curriculum by the Department of Political Education and Training. The ANCVL role should include educating ANC members on the history of the ANC, its Constitution and Code of Conduct as well as administering the Oath.

ANCVL members will be drawn into the regional, provincial, and national political education programmes, assisting with facilitation skills and new methods of learning and teaching (e.g. online).

ANCVL provinces should initiate and support oral history and liberation heritage projects where stories and memories, especially from local struggle, can be recorded and remembered ANCVL Provinces and branches should initiate and support inter-generational dialogues, nurturing a new generation of activists who will have integrity and commitment.

The ANC political education head Cde David Makhura is working very closely with the ANCVL on the Renewal Programme. The Foundation Course and Induction Programme will be rolled out in the ANC branches from beginning of October 2024.

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The Foundation Course will have six modules :

- i. The Vision Of The Country We Wish To Build;
- ii. The History Of The ANC and South Africa;
- iii. The Country We Live In;
- iv. The World We Live In;
- v. Government And Constitution;
- vi. The Task of ANC Branch And Members.

There is also a proposal to add a module on the Economy.

CONCLUSION

The mass political education programme will not provide certificates or have examinations. It will be a political education programme incorporating the ABC of the African National Congress. The political education programme will include an induction / refresher course that must be taken by every member of the organisation in a Province, without exception.

Revival of political discussions will develop a membership that can think independently and ask questions, including awkward questions, for the good of the organisation and in order to develop a common vision.

Our biggest challenge in the Movement is implementation. Implementation of the Renewal Programme will move people beyond theorising, by combining theory and practise. That is how the renewal programme will help the organisation to get back on its feet. We depend on you, the youth, who are the future of our country, to carry the banner and to fly the flag. The Veterans League believes that this is how to build an ANC Youth League that is relevant and vibrant.

ROAR YOUNG LIONS!!!



Reflections on the ANCYL and Role of Secretaries-General

■ By **SIHLE ZIKALALA**

Historical Mission of the ANC Youth League

We congratulate the Young Lions on reaching the milestone of 80 years since its founding in 1944. There is no doubt that the ANCYL has lived up to its original promise and mandate of being a preparatory school and an incubator of the mother body, the African National Congress.

The Constitution of the ANCYL is clear that, *“The ANC Youth League is an organization of the youth of South Africa who out of the common desire to build a united, non-racial, non-sexiest and democratic country, have voluntarily joined together and accepted common discipline.”*

The Constitution encapsulates the role of the President of the YL to be Chief Executive Officer of the ANCYL and that of the Secretary-General to be the Chief Administrative Officer of the ANCYL. Inherently, whilst the President of the ANCYL remains a political head responsible for ensuring overall political and ideological direction, the Secretary General’s responsibilities is not merely being the custodian of organisation records and decisions but of ensuring the functionality of the organisation both structurally and programmatically.

The ANCYL was formed by young African patriots who were determined to infuse a new en-

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ergy and militancy in the mother body to give new impetus and direction on the struggle for national liberation from the shackles of oppression. In the forties, the leadership of Anton Lembede and Oliver Tambo identified its generational mission just as the leadership of Peter Mokaba and Rapu Molekane did in the turbulent eighties and early nineties.

The Programme of Action which changed the cause of the ANC and South African struggle in 1949 was crafted by the ANCYL under Lembede as President, Tambo as Secretary, and Sisulu as Treasurer. It was this generation that began radicalising youth politics and gave critical direction in the tone of the struggle against apartheid colonialism.

In commemorating 80 years of the formation of the YL, we recall the everlasting words of Lembede to the youth of his time when he said: *"We are not called to peace, comfort and enjoyment, but to hard work, struggle and sweat. We need young men and women of high moral stamina and integrity; of courage and vision. In short, we need warriors. This means that we have to develop a new type of youth of stoical discipline, trained to endure suffering and difficulties. It is only this type of youth that will achieve the national liberation of the African people"*.

Aligned to the generational mission captured in the words, **"Freedom in Our Lifetime"**, the ANCYL of Peter Mokaba and Rapu Molekane declared, **"Freedom or Death: Victory is Certain!"** Through their militant action and activism against Bantu Education, the black South African youth became radicalised and defied the state of emergen-

cy imposed by the PW Botha regime. The youth came to occupy the foremost trenches in the battle for freedom in our country. To channel the militancy and creativity of the youth to the advantage of the entire national and class struggle.

ANCYL as a preparatory school of the ANC

The founding manifesto of the ANCYL proclaim that the ANCYL is the preparatory school, stating that: *"African youth must be united, consolidated, trained and disciplined because from their ranks, future leaders will be recruited."*

The status of being the preparatory school should never be misconstrued to mean an inherent or natural process under which leaders are produced. To have been in the ANCYL is no guarantor that an individual will be qualified to be graduated to lead the ANC. Participation and being a member of the ANCYL must at least result in the political development of younger comrades. It must help build revolutionary attributes to lead the organisation and the revolution.

To be a leader of the ANC should be about leading the revolution

under any conditions. It is particularly under difficult moments that revolutionaries are tested and they cannot be found to be deserting the NDR or the people who look up to them for leadership. Revolutionaries in the ANC cannot afford to be stranded, demoralised, paralysed or dismayed when the ANC is not in power. Revolutionaries lead even under such tough conditions for the movement to regain people's confidence and retain power.

Twin Tasks of the ANCYL

Since 1994, we have asserted that the twin tasks of the ANC Youth League are:

- The mobilization of the South African youth behind the banner of the ANC and its vision of creating a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.
- Advance and champion youth development inside the ANC and in society as a whole.

The ANC Youth League has a political obligation to remain true to the political ideals and overall ideological perspective of the ANC, whilst jealously defending and advancing youth interests.

For many, the concept of autonomy of the ANCYL has been a





challenge to conceptualize and internalize.

It is significant to recognize that people are not just fighting for abstract ideals in the mind but their wellbeing and decent livelihood, and this includes the youth as a specific social stratum in the society. If youth interests are not represented by the ANCYL, it is to be expected that the youth will look for another political home to advance their interest.

ANCYL and the Renewal of the ANC

History tends to repeat itself. When the ANC Youth League was formed, it declared in its manifesto that, *“The formation of the African National Congress Youth League is an answer and assurance to the critics of the national movement that African Youth will not allow the struggles and sacrifices of their fathers to have been in vain. Our fathers fought so that we, (are) better equipped when our time came, should start and continue from where they stopped”*.

The current generation faces the similar responsibility of refusing, not only in words but more importantly, in action, that the struggles pursued by the liberation movement in the last eleven years does not go in vain. For this to happen, the ANCYL has to be in the forefront of finding solutions on what has rendered the organisation to lose its hegemony amongst South Africans. This requires an in-depth analysis on whether the movement is still on track in the execution of the National Democratic Revolution or if it has dropped the ball.

We should answer whether the problem is the content of the rev-

olution or the pace of fundamental change that has derailed the revolution. As the African National Congress, do we still uphold the noble ideals enshrined in the Freedom Charter and see the Charter to constitute the yardstick towards the attainment of the National Democratic Society? If that is the case, we should ask what is the true meaning of the discontent expressed in the 2024 electoral decline:

- Is the revolution facing objective hindrances that are insurmountable and rendering the dream of total liberation impossible?
- Is it because we, who call ourselves revolutionaries, have been consumed by the status quo we seek to transform and instead have become conformists?

The ANC as the revolutionary movement faces a danger of losing not only its hegemony but relevance in the society. Thus, the renewal of the ANC should be about overhauling the negative impression and its character. It should be about answering honestly, whether the ANC stands for progressive change that benefits the poor and the working class who remain the primary motive forces for change.

Present Tasks of the ANCYL

Whilst we lament the paralysis brought by the disbandment of the ANCYL post the ANC 2012 Conference and prolonged period where it had no structures, the task at hand is to revitalise the organisation through engaging in the ongoing programmes that advance the youth agenda.

The ANCYL can enhance its standing in society by advancing

issues affecting the youth. These include: access to free and quality education, skills development, creation of jobs for unemployed youth, access to business opportunities, fighting against poverty and diseases. The ANCYL must be at the forefront of struggles against social ills that affect the youth of this country like drug and alcohol abuse, GBV, and crime. It must be at the forefront of campaigns aimed at improving service delivery and the destruction of public infrastructure.

Whether the ANCYL march against unemployment is directed to the ANC Government or not, the programme for job creation is fundamental for youth. In rebuilding, renewing, and repositioning itself, the ANCYL must return to debating issues frankly and truthfully. Comrades must be allowed to test their views inside the Youth League without fear, favour, or prejudice.

YL structures must operate democratically wherein all comrades, as equal members of the YL cohort, test their views through healthy democratic debates devoid of any autocratic tendencies.

The ANCYL owes its existence and loyalty to the organisation and our people, not an individual leader or a clique of leaders. We look to the YL to play its part in fighting divisions, factionalism, corruption, and patronage in our beloved movement.

They owe it to the memory of Tambo and Lembede to unite all the youth of SA under the banner of the ANC.

Sihle Zikalala is an ANC NEC member and former Secretary-General of the ANCYL.

GOVERNANCE

INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO RESOLVING WATER CHALLENGES IN SOUTH AFRICA

■ By **PEMMY MAJODINA**

ONE of the immediate tasks of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in the 7th term is to ensure access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as a prerequisite to health and nutrition for all South Africans.

This task is critical in achieving the sustainable development objectives as contained in our 2030 Vision, the National Development Plan (NDP).

In doing so, our government is reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that we achieve our targets of universal access to water and sanitation in the face of challenges like climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and disasters.

To strengthen the work of our Department of Water and Sanitation, the government has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to focus on issues of water and sanitation as a way of providing co-ordination between the various structures involved in water resource management and in ensuring that the solutions are cross-cutting throughout the decision-making processes in different sectors and at different spheres of government.



The need for the IMC on Water was propelled by the realisation that water resources development and management is often fragmented over many sectors and there is lack of unity in action in pursuance of a common goal of solving the challenges related to water and sanitation.

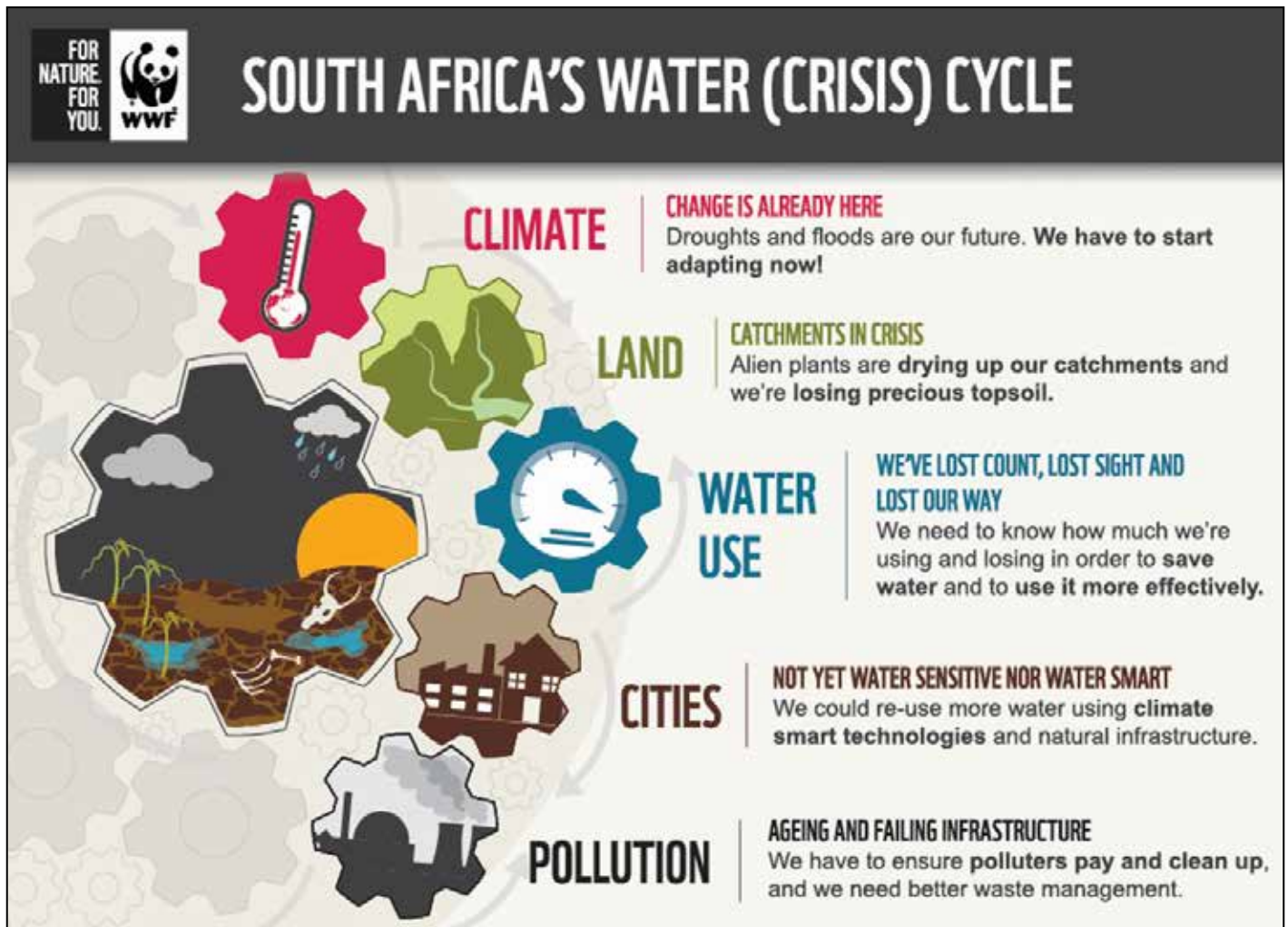
By doing this, the GNU acknowledges that the responsibility for water is shared between a number of bodies and spheres that may not be able to operate easily together and might work in different directions or at different timings, therefore, creating chaos, conflicts and redundancies and

even not allowing for the better utilisation of the meagre resources that the country has.

In the immediate, GNU has identified seven key issues which cut across different departments which cannot be solved by the Department of Water and Sanitation working alone. These issues form the Terms of Reference of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water.

Firstly, ensuring the financial sustainability of the water sector is of paramount importance to support economic growth and achieve the NDP goals. The point of de-

GOVERNANCE



parture is to address the growing debt in the water sector which as at 24 June 2024 was standing at R32 billion. The municipalities are supposed to use revenue from the sale of water to fund the operation, maintenance and development of their infrastructure. Part of the revenue must be used to buy treated water from the Water Boards.

Water Boards do not receive any grants or subsidies but are self-financing from the sale of treated water to municipalities. They raise money for investment in their infrastructure on the financial markets and use their revenue from the sale of water to municipalities to pay off these loans.

They also use this revenue to fund the maintenance and operation of their water infrastructure.

In 2022, Sedibeng Water Board had to be disestablished because it was bankrupt and others like Amatola Water, Lepelle Northern Water, Magalies Water and Vaal Central Water are all experiencing cash flow challenges due to non-payment by municipalities and some are facing imminent bankruptcy too.

Secondly, the need for reform related to municipal water and sanitation in the broader context of municipal reforms is urgent. This will help to understand the state of municipal water and sanitation services and the solutions which must be applied to improve the situation, and through Operation Vulindlela, to strengthen the regulation of water, revise the raw water pricing strategy, establish the national water resources infrastructure agency and address

institutional inefficiencies in municipal water and sanitation services.

Thirdly, theft and vandalism of water and sanitation infrastructure needs a multi-pronged approach to tackle. This is one of the major causes of water supply disruptions in communities. Also, many of the water and sanitation construction projects are disrupted and delayed by the “construction mafia”, which are sometimes heavily armed. There is also an increasing problem of water theft, where sometimes heavily armed gangs make illegal connections into the pipelines or the water distribution systems and then sell water to communities.

Fourthly, as many people in South Africa live in the metropolitan areas, their municipalities do

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not allocate adequate proportion of their Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG) which is used for the upgrading of informal settlements and the devolution of the housing function. Unfortunately, the majority of the municipalities do not prioritise water and sanitation infrastructure with their USDG allocations.

Fifthly, while South Africa is a water scarce country, meeting the growing water demand through increasing supply is becoming more and more expensive. This is so because water is one of the most important natural resources for human and ecosystem needs, as well as for economic development. Sustained growth in human population and economic activity in South Africa, has also led to increasing demand for water.

In light of this, a new integrated strategy and approach is required to influence the water demand and usage of water in order to meet the following objectives: economic efficiency, social development, social equity, environmental protection and sustainability of water supply and services especially in provinces such as Gauteng and Ethekekwini.

Sixthly, the 2023 Green Drop report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation showed that there has been a sharp decline in the performance of municipal waste water systems over the past 10 years. This means that sewage pollution is worsening rapidly in South Africa and this is caused by among others the non-adherence to standard operating processes for wastewater treatment by municipalities; municipal waste water infrastructure being in a poor condition due to a lack of maintenance; and municipalities not hiring staff with the required qualifications to man-

age their waste water treatment works.

The problems are compounded by the municipalities which are approving new housing developments with connections to their waterborne sewer systems without ensuring that their waste water systems are functioning. Addressing these problems also require collaboration by various players.

Lastly, the municipalities are not using their own funds to adequately budget for maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure especially for its rehabilitation, routine maintenance and operation.

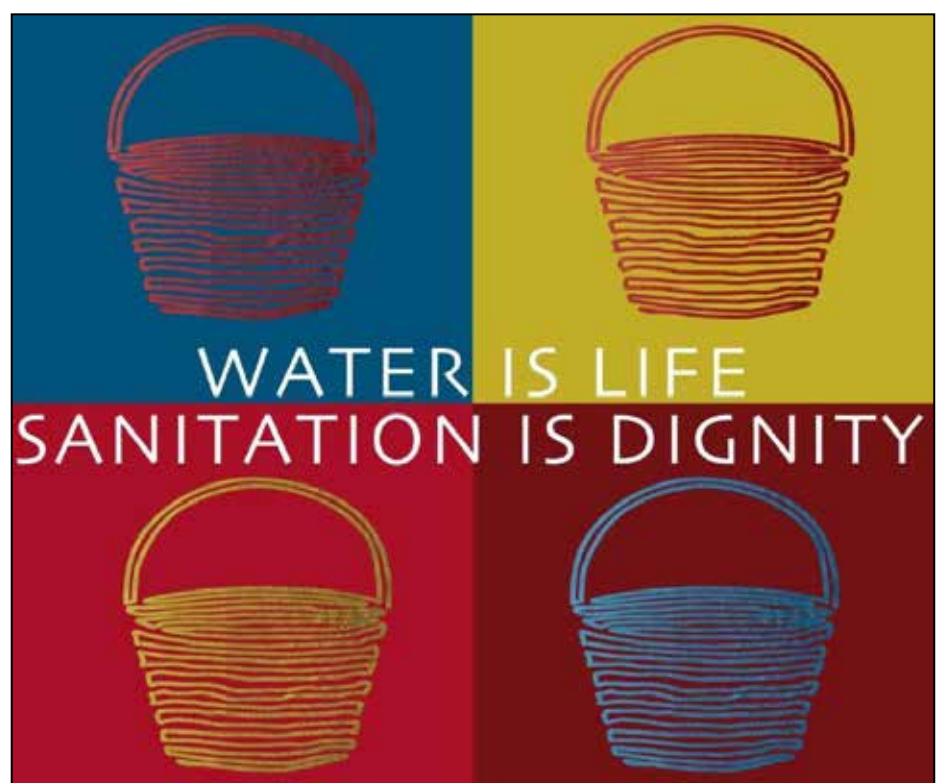
If the infrastructure is not maintained, it will rapidly deteriorate again and then funding will have to be provided again. An integrated approach is needed to address this issue and the National Treasury's Reform of Municipal Trading Services Programme goes some way towards addressing it but it must focus on all

the municipalities in South Africa rather than on the metropolitan municipalities only.

South Africa is at a crucial moment where we need to further elevate water, sanitation and hygiene in our national development planning and agenda, recognizing there is a need not only to accelerate progress, but also to make transformative changes to ensure that water and sanitation services are used and managed in a sustainable and efficient manner.

Undoubtedly, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water as endorsed by the GNU will improve co-ordination of government functions through integrated plans of action and will effect policy and structural changes within government as a whole to facilitate better coordination.

Pemmy Majodina is a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and Minister of Water and Sanitation.



HOPE WILL REMAIN HOPE

■ By **THULASIZWE MAKHANYA**

ONE of the most important strengths of the movement, especially before 1990 was to recruit the best people to serve in its structures, especially at branch level. Cadres would risk their lives, families and careers for the greater good of the people as the revolution was people centred. There were no resources, we would meet in very awkward places and in some instances we had to disguise these meetings as decoy gatherings to confuse the enemy and the system. Our local leaders were people who occupied important and influential positions in different spheres.

Even though we were dedicated cadres 24/7, under normal circumstances we were occupied with our own personal duties during the day and would switch to the movement's assignments in the afternoons.

There would be days where for some reason, this normal schedule and approach would be interrupted because of different reasons, be it 'Stay Away' campaigns and preparations; commemoration of an important day; be it an arrest of a cadre(s); an attack by Inkatha/SAP/SADF/32 Battalion, etc; unrest for various reasons; general activism, etc.

The strength of our branches was not only influenced by the quality of cadres that were in the leadership positions but also by the level of branch members. Everyone knew his/her role and responsibility, which also clearly defined the 'hierarchy' and possible future growth in the organisation. Important documents in relation to *umrabulo* were shared and there would be intense discussions and debates thereafter. In doing so, responsible cadres and citizens were nurtured.

I also vividly remember the decorum that would be brought by leaders from the upper structures



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whenever they were attending our local meetings and programmes, or whenever we visited regional offices like Diakona in Durban.

We were inspired and motivated to follow in their footsteps, not because of the slogans they chanted; singing talent; cars they were driving; sense of extravagant fashion; VIP protectors around them; blue lights; opulent lifestyle, etc., but because of how we were highly inspired by the way they conducted themselves with humility, insightfulness, astute analysis, subtle wit to outsmart the enemy, and most importantly, their ability to listen – a skill which is nowadays, rare.

With all the powers vested in them through democratic centralism, they would also give space for our input, despite us being from lower structures. They never considered themselves ‘all-knowing’, thus, we always had fruitful two-way engagements. This respectful, pragmatic and humble attitude ushered us to a democratic dispensation which, as we know, was highly influenced by NDR with a hope that we will in the future reach the ‘promised land’ of a National Democratic Society.

30 Years after democracy we find ourselves in an unfortunate position for so many reasons, but one of the most important glaring challenges which is not being addressed is the inadequacy of the conveyor belt (branches) to produce cadres that could take the movement to the next phase of our struggle and to solidify the societal leadership landscape in our communities.

There is a common trend in most of the ANC’s branches which, if not addressed, will reduce the renewal of the party to mere slo-



ganeeing. The big elephant in the room, is what we see in most of the ANC branches across the country: “Full Time” Branch Executive Committee members. How can all the BEC members be full time politicians? Is that even practical? If you go back to my opening paragraphs you will then appreciate where I am coming from with this term: “FULL TIME” BEC Members. (comparing with the pre 1990 era).

The further pertinent questions would then be:

- How do cadres who are ‘dedicating’ their time and lives 24/7 to the organisation sustain themselves?
- Can they really sustain themselves?
- What are they doing during the day besides attending BEC and or Community meetings which cannot be hosted everyday? (These meetings used to be held in the late afternoon to accommodate workers and students).
- Are they being vetted?
- Are they being profiled?
- Are these comrades expected to grow and lead in the future?

- Can they really grow and lead in the future?
- Are they being empowered to lead? Can they lead?
- Are they exemplary, role models in their families, schools, churches, traditional places, and community at large?
- Last but not least, do these cadres truly have the capacity to lead? Can they concurrently take leadership positions in different leagues and structures of the movement? It must be noted that this is a common practice.

Renewal cannot be a top layer approach, or a top down approach. Under ‘*normal circumstances*’, a branch will produce cadres that will lead a region, a region will nurture a cadre to be at the helm of the province, and a province will cultivate the skills of the cadres to be able to lead at a national/international level. There will be exceptional cases where because of extraordinary leadership qualities, the cadres might not follow the same path.

At local level we have members of our communities who are shop stewards, activists at church-

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es, schools (learners and educators), activists at workplaces (union members/leaders), community developers, sport coaches, sport leaders, etc. These are the type of people that should be at the forefront of community politics but guess what, they have been strategically sidelined, and in some instances, pushed away forcefully.

Furthermore, questions would then be:

- Who are the current leaders of the ANC at branch level?
- What is their background?

Remember what I said earlier on about what we use to do, 'recruiting the best to lead the branches' and that would lead to the best cadres being developed for deployment to the regional structure and later, provincial and national structures. The movement cannot carry the whole ward, region, province, and nation. It needs to create some collaboration with civic groups and relevant community structures to achieve its goals. Due to a myopic mindset, there is a notion that all developments must only be achieved through the movement. This has hamstrung the development of

our communities as the ANC cannot carry the entire community and does not have the capacity to do so.

Renewal should partly mean turning some of the things upside down and most importantly, modernising and cleansing branch structures. Currently, we have cadres who have been in branch politics "Full Time" for more than 30 years with zero chance to grow to upper structures. Instead, they have been moving sideways to different leagues and structures

to maximise their power. Worse, lately they have been moving to critical structures of our society like School Governing Bodies (SGB) and Community Policing Forums (CPF). Now, you can imagine the kind of cadre that goes through 'the eye of the needle' to upper structures.

This has become the 'way of life' in the movement. Yet, ironically, the movement continues to 'hope' for better days ahead through what has been themed, RENEWAL.

HOPE WILL REMAIN HOPE because the same 'leaders' who could not have foreseen the abysmal failure in the recent elections are now envisaging recovery in the upcoming 2026 LGE.

- Can there be recovery?
- Where can we get the previous election's BEC Reports?
- Do they even exist?

This is one of the reasons the misdiagnosis of the politics of the day is at its highest!

A lie cannot save another lie.



*A bright future beckons.
The onus is on us,
through hard work,
honesty and integrity,
to reach for the stars.*

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



FORUM FOR CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

THE Forum for China-Africa Cooperation took place from the 4–6 September 2024 under the theme *“Joining Hands to Advance Modernisation and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future.”*

Important questions arise from this significant gathering of China and African states, eliciting interesting polemics on its impact and benefits for Africa, whether this arrangement is a new form of colonization, and if the continent is getting a fair deal or this is a debt trap, reinforcing China’s hegemony, stranglehold and influence on the African continent.

For 30 years since the advent of democracy, South Africa’s foreign policy had evolved progressively, cementing its place in the international community of nations, its sovereignty and territorial integrity. And so, did the world undergo a seismic shift in powerful relations, from imperialism, militarisation, extractive capitalism, market dominance to a new policy based on multilateralism and collaboration, pillared on reciprocal benefit and mutual growth.

South Africa has repositioned itself in the global arena as a key player through its policy of pursuing peace through persuasion and dialogue, a drastic departure from trade wars and military conflicts

through a new paradigm of multilateralism, trade relations, cooperation and economic stability, self-sufficiency and partnerships.

This agenda permeates across the Global South and the African continent, using bodies such as the African Union, African Continental Free Trade Area, BRICS and other instruments for a better Africa and a better world.

Addressing the Summit, President Ramaphosa emphasised that:

“If we are to realise a sustainable future for Africa and China – and indeed the entire world – we must acknowledge the reality of the interdependence among our

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community of nations. If we are to build a future that is people-centred, development-orientated and inclusive, we need to work in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.”

Development needs multifaceted approaches and strategies that are complementary - bilateral relations, global integration, inclusive multilateralism and mutual cooperation. For the world to change progressively, partnerships are inevitable, so are bilateral and party-to-party relations as tenets of inclusivity and mutual growth for a better world aligned to FOCAC’s cardinal objectives of equal consultation, enhancing understanding, expanding consensus, strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation and its foundational principles.

In his address to the Summit, President Xi Jinping indicated that, *“Africa is also awakening again, and the continent is marching in solid strides towards the modernization goals set forth in the AU’s Agenda 2063. China and Africa’s joint pursuit of modernization will set off a wave of modernization*

in the Global South, and open a new chapter in our drive for a community with a shared future for mankind.”

Both President Xi and Ramaphosa agree on cooperation, collaboration, shared future and most importantly, interdependence.

A cursory glance at the objectives of the FOCAC points more to collaboration and mutual benefit, and interdependence which guarantees the sovereignty of the African members states as FOCAC partners underpinned by the principles of non-interference in other countries’ pursuit of development paths suitable to their national conditions, non-interference in domestic affairs, not imposing China’s will on others, not attaching political conditions to foreign aid, and not seeking political self-interest in investment and financing as some economists suggest.

These principles guide China’s foreign policy in dealing with African countries and other developing countries and reaffirm the sovereignty of FOCAC partners.

It’s a leash on exploitation, extractive capitalism, and high interest rates on loans, neo-imperialism and China’s foothold on Africa.

South Africa cannot mortgage its sovereignty on the altar of expediency. South Africa will continue to exert its hegemony through its policy of progressive internationalism, mutual cooperation, consensus in partnership with other countries of the continent to enhance the Global South relations and the advance of the African Union Agenda 2063.

This approach is aligned to the ANC’s work to drive its five pillars continentally; to shape and influence the global agenda; strengthening party-to-party relations, peacebuilding, participating in strategic forums and leading various solidarity campaigns.

These pillars are:

- CONTRIBUTING TO BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND BETTER WORLD;
- PARTY-TO-PARTY, INTRA-PARTY AND MULTI-PARTY RELATIONS;

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- CONTINENTAL, INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND CAMPAIGNS;
- TRANSFORMATION OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS; and
- POLICY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

FOCAC is an important vehicle to drive these pillars as a strategic forum as envisioned by the 55th Conference of the ANC.

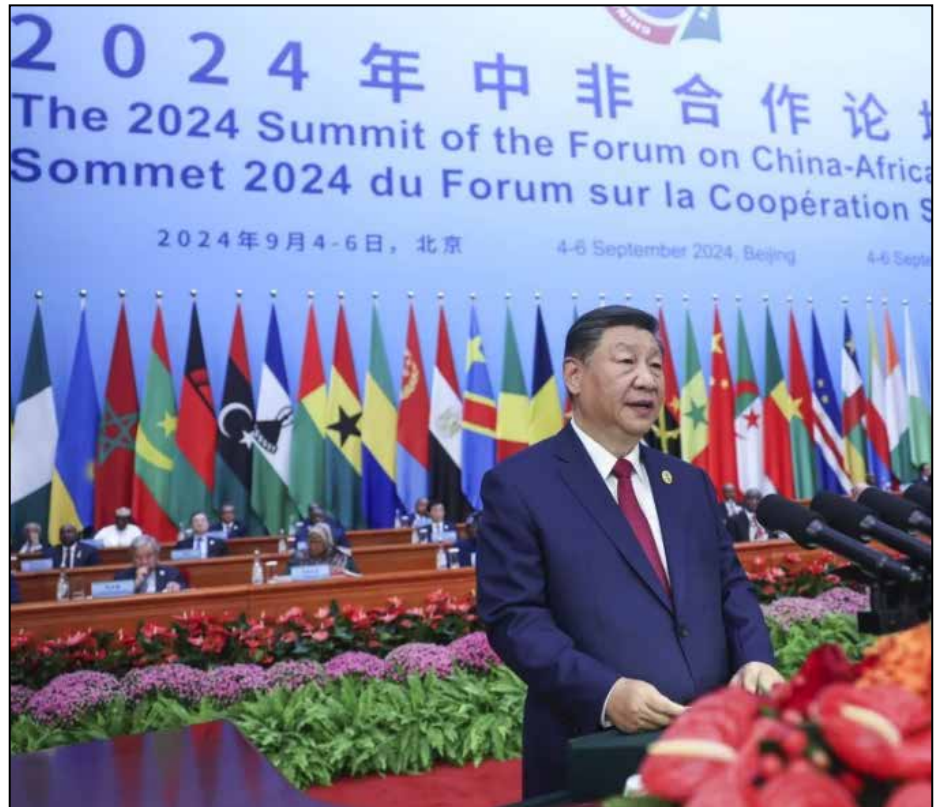
FOCAC and other strategic alliances are intrinsically aligned to South Africa's foreign policy, its imperatives and role as a global player, continental growth and Global South relations in a manner that is reciprocally beneficial.

It cannot be true, in a changing world and geopolitical shift, that FOCAC will sink Africa deep into an inextricable debt, unable to disentangle itself from a new form of imperialism with serious implications that threaten Agenda 2063 and South Africa's growth path, especially its sovereignty.

This answers questions on the emergence of China as a new dominant force to the detriment of the continent against the principles upon which FOCAC operates and the objectives underpinning its existence.

A changing world should be underpinned by shared values, common goals of development and prosperity based on partnerships, progressive internationalism, inclusive multilateralism and partnerships predicated on mutual benefit and a new global order of cooperation as opposed to competition, conflict and economic exploitation.

To restrict investment strictly to loans defeats the rudimentary



elements of trade and economics, undermines the essence of globalisation and other growth instruments.

The argument that FOCAC stifles Africa's growth, erodes continental sovereignty, and that it constitutes a debt trap is narrow and flawed. This undermines the purpose of FOCAC as a developmental and growth instrument based on consensus and other objectives.

The theme *“Joining Hands to Advance Modernisation and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future”* should be understood in the broader context of political parties the steering a course for modernization, calling for close integration of development with the national modernization drives so as to continuously marshal strength for modernization as advocated by President Xi Jinping.

This needs a collective effort for

a shared future, collaboration and interdependence. Our sovereignty is not negotiable. Ours is a quest for a better world and inclusive multilateralism, progressive internationalism, bi-lateral relations, shared growth and prosperity based on a new paradigm of modernisation.

There is need to strengthen multilateralism for global development. South Africa will continue to forge relations, join hands with progressive forces for a shared future through FOCAC and other instruments for a better Africa and a better world.

Our relations with China is for the greater development and benefit of South Africa, industrialization for economic growth, job creation as part of economic transformation, strategies and tactics and the prosperity of the Global South.

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.

HISTORY

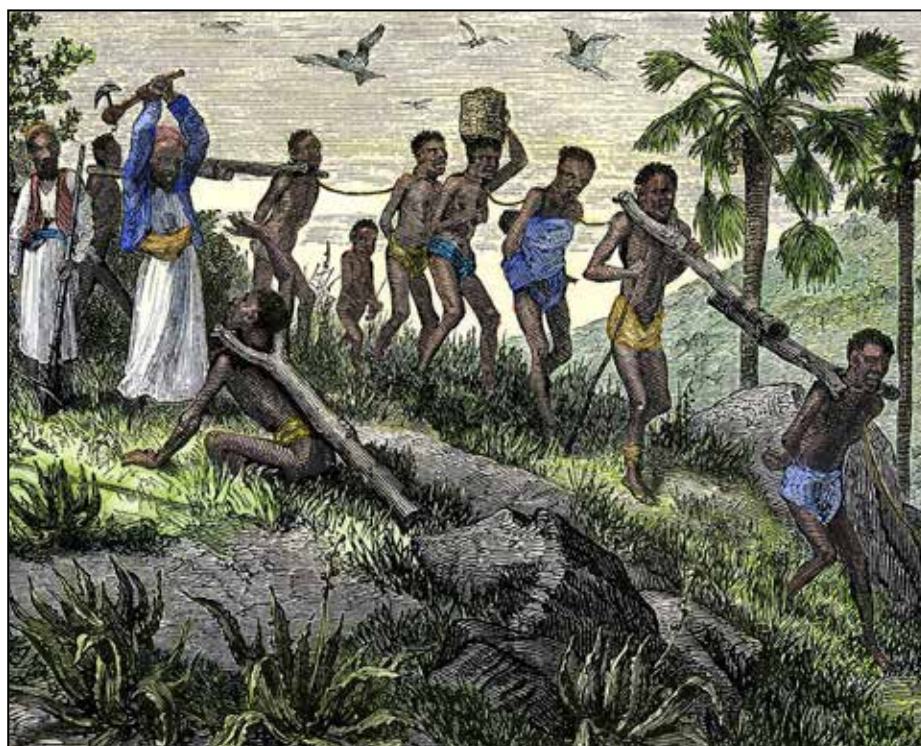
From the African Continent to the Unknown World of the Americas

■ By **AMBASSADOR PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

FROM the treasure trove of immense scholarly research, from the writings and manuscripts, contemporary scholars and historians; from the horizons of the philosophical world that corroborate the perspective that for over a period of nearly ten centuries, millions of women and children from the African continent were forced into slavery throughout different destinations of the new world. The holocaust of African slave people is not a fiction of an African story, but a living catalogue of our historical past which continues to shape the world we live in presently.

Incontrovertible facts of history testify that the phenomenon of slavery obstructed the foundations of African civilisation from antiquity, withering African material and human resource, long before the discovery of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. The historical period saw millions of slaves, majority of who were women and children, forcefully sold as slaves through the Red Sea into the Middle East, through the Mediterranean Sea into West European hemisphere, the Indian Ocean into the Far East hemisphere, and the Trans-Sahara caravan route to many parts of the world.

During the 15th century, Pope Nicholas V of the Roman Cath-



olic Church, who was acclaimed to have brought Renaissance to the gates of Rome, issued the Papal Bull, *Romanus Pontefix* 1455, dividing the world into two, giving Portugal the monopoly of the slave trade in West Africa and all the routes to make trade and spread the gospel of Christianity into the East Indies, and Spain the monopoly of the slave trade into the Americas. The church invested massively into the expeditions to explore the new world by Henry the Navigator and Christopher Columbus.

Almost all the established democracies of the Western European nation states, fascinated

by the economics of supply and demand of the growing capitalist productive relations based on racial fragmentation of humanity, disparaged black African people, forcing them into slavery to expand and sustain their trade interests throughout the world. The horrors of the world of the bourgeoisie chose slavery at the expense of human life.

Even at the peak of the tumultuous period of enlightenment of the human race, of the Declaration of Independence, (which birthed the United States of America and the declaration of the rights of man during the French Revolution), when coming to the fun-

HISTORY

damental question of the rights of man, race and profit became the paradox of freedom and equality. Ideological considerations constructed an unimaginable curtain wall between the bourgeoisie and the “barbarians” at the gate.

After the fall of the Bastille in 1789, which paved way for the first democratically elected representatives of the French National Assembly to vote for the declaration of the rights of man, when the question on the necessity to extend the fundamental rights of man to the slave people in the colonies and semi colonies was tabled, the French bourgeoisie chose slavery, racism and profit over liberty, equality and fraternity. This was further testimony that the bourgeoisie have always betrayed the struggles for the freedom of all humanity.

Materialist philosophical view teaches us that the world of humanity is an imagined community of nation states, each anchored on the foundations of the objective material conditions and the moral architect of its culture and tradition, a community on the footsteps of its own creation, its own imagination seeking to create for itself an ideal better world which is a home for all.

The community of patriarchal relations, the majority of whose inhabitants are the womenfolk, still regard politics as a quarrel between men.

In view of the horrors of the history of the slave trade, we have the responsibility to bring high on the centre stage the principal question of the leadership role of women. The fundamental question is undoubtedly about strategic objectives of our struggles for the freedom of humanity.



Phyllis Wheatley, a former slave, became one of the greatest poets of her time.

The irony is that even Queen Elizabeth I, who illuminated moral consciousness of a human heart, vehemently opposed slavery, with the belief that turning human beings into slaves would bestow vengeance from heaven. But realising the profitability of the slave route, she changed her moral convictions, thereby funding and lending the Royal ships to the merchants.

Millions of innocent women and children became easy preys of some of the local African tribal leaders and wealthy influential community leaders who collaborated with slave merchants, harvesting fellow brothers and sisters and delivering them into slavery in exchange of ‘valuables’ such as clothes, coffee, whiskey and other precious ornaments and niceties. These caused devastating psychological effects to most families and communities.

This notion does not suggest that all of our tribal leaders were collaborating with the colonial merchants, as many resisted and led heroic struggles to defend the freedom of their people. The warrior king of the Mossi people

of Burkina Faso said the following when confronted by a French captain, demanding his people into slavery:

“I know the whites wish to kill me, in order to take my country. But I find my country good just as I do not need them. I know what is necessary for me and what I want. I have my own merchants. Also consider yourself fortunate that I do not order your head cut off. Go away now, and above all, never come back”.

The consequences of the slave trade have left an enduring psychological impact on the political and socio economic well being of the African people and the Diaspora. We can attribute most of the problems confronting the community of the African people and the Diaspora to the foundational trajectory of the heinous trade.

We celebrate the resilience of the African slave women, their collective struggle to liberate themselves from the nightmarish conditions of slavery, their hope and courage in the face of adversity. We celebrate their determination,

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tenacity and contribution to our struggle for the development of human society.

They had to lead themselves into skirmishes with the colonial powers from the doorsteps of their households and families, to the slave outposts along the coasts, in the deep bottom of the decks through the harrowing voyage of the middle passage and in the plantations where they lost their being as human beings.

They arrived into the unknown land of the Americas empty handed, carrying only the memories of their families, their husbands and children, their communities, their beautiful fauna and flora, beautiful contours of escarpments and horizons of the African continent. They carried their moral values and culture, their songs, dances and cuisines.

Destiny imposed on them to adapt to the new realities of the new world, the harsh realities of slave labour and climatic conditions. They had to familiarise themselves to the cultures, languages and religions of the cosmopolitan society of the new world.

But they continued to display implacable acts of heroism and bravery, leading the struggles for the freedom of the people. They did so even if they had to face most of the harshest forms of punishment if found to be in violation of the law or threatening the interests of the colonial powers.

Importantly, they endured the harsh realities of their new life, sharpening and mastering the art of using the sounds of their drums and native songs as a form of communication and co-ordination amongst themselves

while playing a leading role in supplying the rebels slaves and maroons with necessities such as food and medicine, transport of arms and ammunition.

Many occupied the trenches by becoming spies, poisoning the families of the slave owners, poisoning water sources and plantations, burning equipments and household dwellings. They were involved in acts of sabotage to further the objectives of their struggle for liberation.

The conditions of struggles produced out of them outstanding community leaders, military experts, health specialists, orators, authors and business people. Many contributed immensely towards the liberation of the people for freedom and equality.

The renowned South African prolific writer Manu Herstein, the winner of the 2002 Commonwealth Writers Prize for the best

First Book, in his novel book **Ama** that depicts a life of a young woman African slave for her courage and tenacity says the following: *“I am a human being, I am a woman, I am a black woman, I am an African. Once I was free, but then I was captured and became a slave, but inside me, here and here, I am still a free woman.”*

Throughout history, women have been standard bearers of our struggles for emancipation. Many of them brought to our mother earth the first generation of the American nation.

The struggle for the liberation of women is the struggle for the liberation of all humanity. It is the struggle for the achievement of a better world for humanity.

Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso is a member of the African National Congress. He writes in his personal capacity.



REFLECTIONS

A Prayer For Biko: 12 September 1977

■ By **SANDILE MEMELA**

Sometimes, the deepest loneliness isn't about dying for freedom. It is about being forgotten.

You watch as friends, family and above all, comrades and towers move on. Their lives continue without you, and you are just a footnote of history.

You are now this black sheep of the struggle family that no one wants to talk about anymore. Your name is taboo.

The gala dinners, memorial lectures, workshops, mobilization for conscientisation, all that is gone. It is considered old fashioned and backward.

You long for someone to remember, to write a poem or a book to say that your life mattered. You made a difference.

Or at least, for a comrade to be condemned as mad because he recites your writing or poetry in your name at a public gathering.

But nobody says, loud enough to be heard, *'I miss Biko.'* Or just declare, *'I am the new Steve Biko.'*

There are no banners, no posters, no paintings. You feel like a relic of a past no one cares to remember.

Your memory is fast fading in minds filled with dreams of mansions, posh cars, fat bank accounts and ministerial lifestyles amid poverty of the mind.

All they want now are far into the night drinking sessions with drugs, booze and "wenches".

And in that realization, you understand that perhaps this is what it means to sacrifice yourself.

A sacrificial man or beast is soon turned into a feast to feed those that are interested in self-indulgence and looking after their own stomachs.

This is what the world has become, callous and indifferent. But the struggle to give the world a human face continues.

Where one or two are gathered in my name, my memory and spirit lives in them.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

14 – 20 September 2024

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

14 September 1918

Spanish Flu hits South Africa

The first cases of an unusually severe and deadly strain of influenza, popularly called Spanish Flu or 'Great Flu', were diagnosed on this date in Durban. This started the worst pandemic ever in South Africa. Of a total population of just over 6 million at the time, nearly half contracted the disease, while close to 140,000 died within a few weeks. The disease spread throughout the country and often whole families were ill or dying, with nobody left to care for them. Doctors and nurses did their best, but were too few to treat the ill. The Black and Coloured sections of the population were most severely affected, especially the mineworkers, who suffered dreadfully. The epidemic peaked in October. The virus caused the death of 25 to 40 million people throughout the world.

15 September 1901

Educationist George Molefe born

Mbanga James George Benjamin Molefe, clergyman and headmaster, was born in Mbulwana, Ladysmith, Natal. Molefe was one of the first black Presbyterian ministers to graduate at Fort Hare College in 1932. He was ordained in the same year in the Bantu Presbyterian Church and inducted to the Spookmill Church, Newcastle. After obtaining an MA degree at Columbia University in New York, Molefe

accepted an appointment as minister of religion in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth in 1939. As result of his tireless efforts to improve the quality of schooling and general living conditions, he received the 'Freedom of Port Elizabeth's African Townships' in 1973 in recognition of his efforts to better the position of its residents. Molefe received many accolades during his lifetime that were firsts for Black South Africans. He died in 1986 and was survived by his wife and two children.

15 September 1972

DJ Fresh born

Thato Sikwane (aka DJ Fresh) disc jockey and producer was born in Maseru, Botswana on this day. Working in South Africa, most notably on Y-fm, he became a popular radio personality and released a series of house music compilations.

15 September 1977

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie born



The renowned African writer and feminist was born in Enugu state, Nigeria. Her second book, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006) telling the story of the Biafra War, catapulted her to fame. Adichie has become one of the voices of a new generation of African authors, a feminist and known for her TED talk on *The Danger of the Single Story*.

15 September 1985

Machel hosts Frontline states against apartheid

As resistance to apartheid became more militant in South Africa, Mozambique President Samora Machel hosted a summit of Frontline state leaders in Maputo, to discuss the situation in South Africa. Present at the summit were Presidents Masire (Botswana), Kaunda (Zambia), Dos Santos (Angola), Nyerere (Tanzania) and Mugabe (Zimbabwe). Also present was Sam Nujoma, President of the exiled SWAPO.

15 September 1992

Shocking revelation of number of people who died since signing of National Peace Accord

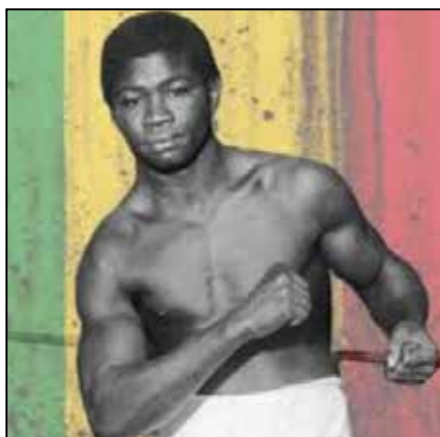
The National Peace Accord was signed in 1991, after third force violence in parts of Gauteng and KZN, as the negotiations process unfolded. The NPA was signed to bring an end to the violence. However, on this day a year later, human rights organisations reported that at least 3400 people died since its signing.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

16 September 1501 Spanish monarchs' letter permits transatlantic slave trade

A letter from Spain's monarchs Ferdinand and Isabel to Nicolas Ovando, an assigned Governor, gives permission for the importing of black slaves to Hispanolia (today Dominican Republic and Haiti).

16 September 1897 Battling Siki born



Senegalese boxer, Louis Mbarick Fall – known as *Battling Siki* – Africa's first boxing world champion was born in Saint Louis. He gained the World Light Heavyweight championship title in 1922, knocking out the then reigning champion George Carpentier.

16-18 September 1983 Venezuela hosts conference against Apartheid

A Latin American Regional Conference for Action against Apartheid, was held in Caracas, organised by the Special Committee against Apartheid in cooperation with the Government of Venezuela.

16 September 1985 South Africa Defense raids into Angola

South Africa and Namibian Security Forces cross into Angola

in pursuit of SWAPO forces. The 'border war' against Angola continued until the peace process in 1991, with South Africa exercising trusteeship over South West Africa (now Namibia) and SWAPO leading the fight for national liberation from apartheid.

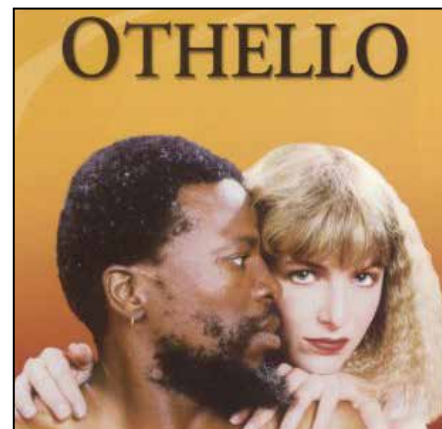
16 September 1986 Kinross Mine Disaster kills 177



On this day in 1986, 177 miners lost their lives and another 235 were injured in what would be remembered as one of South Africa's worst mining disasters, when a lethal fire in a goldmine caused this disaster. The tragic incident forced greater focus on health safety in South African mining sector.

16 September 1986 Europe finally imposed sanctions against South Africa

The European Economic Community (EEC) imposes sanctions against South Africa, coal being the exception.



16 September 1987 First Black Othello on SA stage

A production of Shakespeare's *Othello* in which the Moor is played by legendary actor, John Kani, was staged at the Market Theatre on 16 September 1987. The play was produced by actress Janet Suzman, who is also the co-founder of the Market Theatre.

16 September 2002 Nollywood

Nigeria's budding film industry is referred to as 'Nollywood' for the first time in Japanese-Canadian journalist Norimitsu Onishi article in the New York Times.

17 September 1919 German South West Africa becomes SA protectorate

The World War I Treaty of Versailles, German South West Africa was declared a mandate of the League of Nations and put under South African administration. Since the late 1940s the South West Africa (SWA) issue was debated year after year with increasing animosity at the United Nations (UN), successor to the League of Nations. On 18 July 1966, the judges in the International Court of Justice gave verdict in favour of South Africa in a case brought before them by

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Ethiopia and Liberia. In 1960, the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) was formed to fight for the independence of the country from South African apartheid rule, and in 1990, Namibia gained independence.

17 September 1922 Agostinho Neto born



Angolan first president (1975-1979) and a renowned poet was born in Icolo e Bengo.

17 September 1979 District film director born

South African film director Neill Blomkamp was born in Johannesburg. His 2009 science fiction film, *District 9*, became a global box office hit.

17 September 1983 Methane gas explosion in Vryheid mine

Sixty-eight mine workers were killed after an underground methane gas explosion at the Hlobane coal mine near Vryheid, KZN. The gas explosion was caused by poor safety standards. A week before the explosion a miner who also died in the explosion discovered methane underground. The mine captain scratched out his report about underground methane to give the mine a good safety record. The mine owners were fined R400 for contravening the Mines and Works Act.

17 September 1992 SADC formed



Ten Southern African countries met in a summit in Windhoek to form the Southern African Development Community (SADC), replacing the Southern African Development Coordination Conference set up in 1980 to reduce Southern African countries' dependence on apartheid South Africa.

17 September 1995 Pope John Paul II Papal mass in SA

On 17 September 1995, the Roman Catholic's Pope John Paul II celebrated a papal mass in South Africa as he began his six day tour of Africa. His visit to the country came seven years after the cleric angered the apartheid government when he refused to kiss the ground in 1988 when the papal plane he was travelling in was forced to land in the country because of bad weather conditions. During his visit in 1995, the Pope said: *"Today my journey brings me to a new South Africa, a 'rainbow nation,' indicating the diversity of races, ethnic groups, languages and culture which characterize it."*

17 September 2009 University of Seychelles established

The first national university on the island state (UniSey) is established, small with only 300 students and 50 professors, it is

considered essential for development and identity of Seychelles.

18 September 1873 Slaves start constructing Capitol Hill

Work started by enslaved Africans in the USA on the construction of the Capitol Hill building that will house the US legislature. The slaves are loaned to the US government by slave owners. The building took seven years.

18 September 1961 Dag Hammarskjöld killed in plane crash



United Nations (UN) Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed with twelve other people when their plane crashed at Ndola airport, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Hammarskjöld was on his way to meet with President Moïse Tshombe of Katanga Province in Congo in an attempt to end the fighting in Katanga. UN officials in Elisabethville were stunned when they received reports that Hammarskjöld had not arrived in Ndola. Associated Press reported that the lone survivor, Harold M. Julian, a United Nations security guard, said that a series of explosions had preceded the crash. He also said that the plane had turned away from landing, apparently on Mr Hammarskjöld's orders. His death

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was a terrible blow to hopes for peace in Katanga.

18 September 1971 World Council of Churches barred from South Africa

During a meeting with representatives of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in South Africa, Prime Minister John Vorster reaffirmed that he would not consider allowing a WCC delegation to come to South Africa under any conditions.

18 September 1992 Sarafina! Released



The movie *Sarafina!* is released on this day. The movie is based by the award-winning musical by Mbongeni Ngema by the same name, about South African students involved in the 1976 uprisings. The movie stars actresses Leleti Khumalo and Whoopi Goldberg.

18 September 1983 Zozibini Tunzi born

South African model and first black African to be crowned Miss Universe in 1999, was born in Tsolo, Eastern Cape. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 contest was cancelled, so she became the longest reigning Miss Universe, until May 2021.

18 September 2017 Lesotho legalises the herb

Lesotho becomes the first African country to legalise marijuana, when government grants a license for the cultivation of marijuana for medicinal use.

19 September 1905 Egyptologist Pahor Labib born

Pahor Labib was Director of the Coptic Museum, Cairo, Egypt, from 1951 to 1965 and one of the world leaders in Egyptology and Coptology. He was the first Egyptian to obtain a Ph.D. in Egyptology, in 1934.

19 September 1953 Jessie Duarte born

Jessie Yasmin Duarte was born in Coronationville, where she grew up and completed her schooling. She became actively involved in politics at a very early age and over the years she developed a reputation as an activist and an advocate for equality. She was recruited by Mme Albertina Sisulu in 1979 to establish women's structures throughout the country, and by 1981 the ANCWL

had nine (9) functioning women's structures in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Transvaal and others. She was also serving at that time as the provincial secretary of the Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDSAW), which was a UDF Affiliate. Comrade Duarte started her professional career as a Management Accountant at Anglo American Properties Limited, and later Raven Press. She was with the latter when she was served with a restriction order. During this period, she worked with Beyers Naude to set up and administer a scholarship fund to educate and skill ANC and UDF activists, progressive crop of public servants. She was detained without trial in 1988, released and placed under restriction orders until the State of Emergency was lifted. Following the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, she was appointed to serve on the Interim Leadership Core. During South Africa's negotiations for democracy, from 1991-1994, Duarte was a member of the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC; she subsequently served as a special assistant to Nelson Mandela (1990-94); was on the ANC National Exec-



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utive Committee (1997-1999); a member of the provincial cabinet (MEC, Safety and Security) for Gauteng (1994-1998); and was ambassador to Mozambique (1999-2003). Upon her return as Ambassador, she was appointed as the National Spokesperson of the ANC before being deployed as Chief Operations Officer in the Presidency, South African Government until she resigned in April 2010. Duarte was a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee since 1997. Comrade Jessie Duarte was elected Deputy Secretary-General of the ANC at the 53rd National Conference in Mangaung in December 2012, a position she was re-elected to at the ANC's 54th National Conference in Nasrec in 2017. She served as Deputy Secretary General until her passing on 17 July 2022. Comrade Jessie was an internationalist, a fighter for the rights of oppressed peoples everywhere, especially women and children. Her commitment to the cause of the people of Palestine, Western Sahara and against the Cuban Blockade remained unwavering.

19 September 1956 African writers and artists meet

The first International Conference of African writers and artists is held in Paris.

19 September 1997 Halima Adem born

Somali fashion model was born in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya on this day, and grew up in the USA. She was the first pageant contestant and model to wear the hijab on the catwalk.

19-28 September 2004 South African Paralympic team excels in Athens

The South African Paralympic team to the 2004 Paralympics games in Athens, Greece did very well, winning a number of medals. They were then called, rather unfortunately, Amakrokrokro. George Teboho Mokgalagadi, with his hair dyed golden, won a Paralympic world record gold medal in the 100m sprint in his first international competition on 22 September 2020. Mokgalagadi, a cerebral palsy athlete from Jagersfontein in the Free State,

capped his performance at the games by also winning the 200m in 26,80sec on 26 September, another Paralympic record. On 20 September, 17 year old sprinter of Pretoria Boys' High, Oscar Pistorius, fell coming out of the start of his 200m heat for leg amputees, then showed mind-blowing speed and tenacity to surge from last to victory in a world record 23.42sec for double-amputees at the Athens Paralympic Games, securing him a place in the finals. A 23-year-old Pretoria girl, Beverly Mashinini, who competed in discus and javelin, won a bronze medal in javelin. By the closing of the Athens Paralympics 2004 games, South Africa's Paralympic Team ended in thirteenth place with 15 gold medals, 13 silver and 7 bronze.

19 September 1983 Yusuf Dadoo passed away



ANC and SA Indian Congress activist, and Chairperson of the South African Communist Party died on this day. ANC President Oliver R Tambo spoke at his funeral, and Dadoo was laid to rest according to Muslim rights at Highgate Cemetery, a few metres away from the grave of Karl Marx. Dadoo was born on 5 September 1909 in Krugersdorp, Gauteng and played an active role throughout his life in the struggle against

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oppression. In June 1955, at the historic Congress of the People, Yusuf Dadoo, Chief Albert Lutuli and Father Trevor Huddleston, were awarded Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe. As a result of their banning orders only Huddleston was able to attend and receive the award in person. After detention and bannings, Dadoo left for exile, where he continued to lead and participated actively in the ANC and SACP, until his passing in 1983.

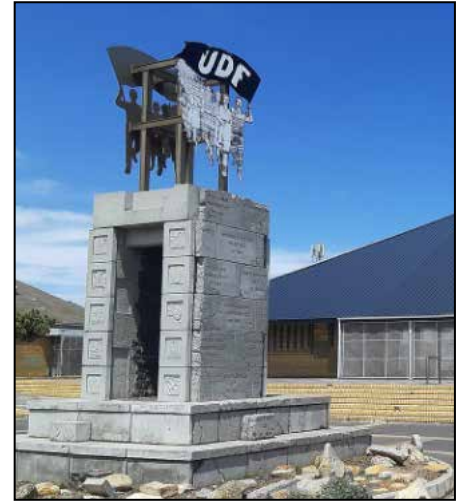
19 September 1985 Rapists sentenced to death

Two White men, Schalk Burger and George Scheepers, were sentenced in Klerksdorp to be hanged for the rape and murder

of a Black woman, Ginny Gotsoine in February 1985. Two other White men in the same case were found guilty of rape. All four pleaded not guilty, even though there was DNA evidence and witnesses caught the four rapists and murderers in the act. Since 1984, 115 people were hanged, and only two of these were Whites. The death penalty was abolished in 1995.

20 September 2019 Rocklands declared a Heritage Site

On 20 August 2019, the 36th anniversary of the founding of the UDF, the Rocklands Community Hall in Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town, was declared a provincial heritage site. The heritage



site, legally known as Erf 11553, also encompasses the Memorial Square, the library and the Community Healthcare Centre. The Rocklands Community Hall is significant as the birthplace of the UDF which was inaugurated on 20 August 1983.

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion.

People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

14 – 20 September 2024

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



15 September World Afro Day

World Afro Day is a day dedicated to celebrating and learning about Afro hair, a hair type that grows out in coily shapes, with various types of curls and twists. The day was started by Michelle De Leon, to ensure that all children learn about, and feel positively about their hair types. It is therefore a global day of change, education and celebration of Afro hair, culture and identity. One of the reasons why World Afro Day is so necessary, is the unjust treatment and bias that exists around Afro hair, and the many negative associations with it that people unfairly hold.

15 September International Day of Democracy

In its resolution A/RES/62/7 establishing the International Day of Democracy, the United Nations noted that “*while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy*” and that “*democracy does not belong to any country or region*”. The International Day of Democracy is meant both to celebrate democracy and to serve as

a reminder that the need to promote and protect democracy is as urgent now as ever. The lead organisation for this day is the International Parliamentary Union, with its national parliament members celebrating the day and review the state of democracy.

16-24 September National Wills Week

To make a will is important, especially if you have dependents, it determines how your assets will be divided. If you die without a will, it can lead to delays for the court to appoint an executor, can be more costly and create uncertainty for you loved ones. During National Wills Week members of the public will be able to get a basic will drawn up free of charge.

16 September. International Day for Interventional Cardiology

Cardiovascular diseases are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels. An estimated 17.9 mil-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

lion people died from it in 2019, representing 32 percent of all global deaths. Of these deaths, 85 percent were due to heart attack and stroke. The key to cardiovascular disease reduction lies in the inclusion of cardiovascular disease management interventions in universal health coverage packages.

16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. In the late 1970s, scientists discovered that humanity was creating a hole in this protective shield, they raised the alarm. The hole – caused by ozone-depleting gases (ODSs) used in aerosols and cooling, such as refrigerators and air-conditioners – was threatening to increase cases of skin cancer and cataracts, and damage plants, crops, and ecosystems. The global response was decisive. In 1985, the world's governments adopted the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, to cut out 99 per cent of all ozone-depleting substances. This is an example of impactful global action, the ozone layer is healing and expected to return to pre-1980 values by mid-century. The Kigali Amendment (2019) will work towards reducing hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs), greenhouse gases with powerful climate warming potential and damaging to the environment.

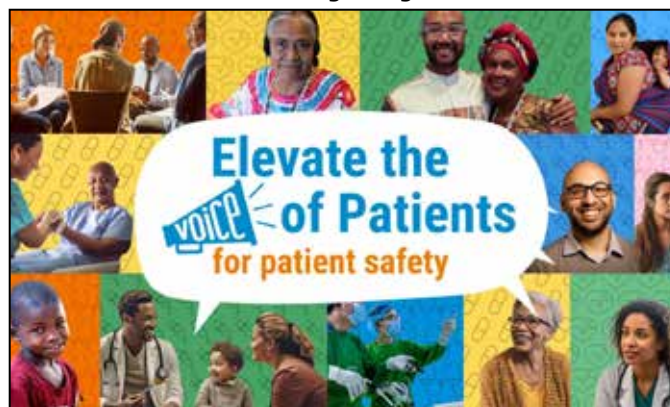


16 September International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South

Science, Technology, and Innovation are important in all spheres of human life. As science and technology rapidly advance, some developing nations are seizing the opportunity to leapfrog stages of development. Yet, for many others, this swiftly changing landscape presents significant challenges, particularly in the Global South, with the Global North dominating and protecting their innovations, even where it originates in the South. This created a persistent gap in technology access between industrialized and developing countries. The International Day of Science, Technology, and Innovation for the

South represents an important step in reaffirming our commitment of leaving no one behind. It underscores that advancing science, technology, and innovation is essential not only for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also creating a fairer, more participatory, and inclusive world.

17 September World Patient Safety Day



The Day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers to show their commitment to patient safety. The resolution WHA 72.6 **'Global action on patient safety'** recognizes patient safety as a global health priority and endorses the establishment of World Patient Safety Day to be observed annually on 17 September.

18 September International Equal Pay Day

International Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time in 2023, represents the longstanding efforts towards equal pay for work of equal value. Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at 23 per cent globally. This is but one way in which patriarchy disadvantages women, along with unpaid labour and other forms of discriminatory practices, that continue to undermine women's economic emancipation.

20 September World Cleanup Day

World Cleanup Day is an annual global social action program aimed at combating the global solid waste problem, including the problem of marine debris. It is coordinated by the global organization **Let's Do It! World**. The headquarters is located in Tallinn, Estonia.



International Literacy Day

8 September 2024

40% Share of global population who do not have access to education in a language they speak and understand.

8 IN 10 Children in Africa learning in a language that is different from their first language.

10 In 2021, 70% of content in cyberspace was dominated by only 10 languages.

68% Of the 754 million non-literate youth and adults in the world are women.

7,000 Number of living languages left in the world.

50% Nearly half of living languages are in danger of extinction by the end of the century.

82% Percentage of grade 4 children in South Africa that cannot read for meaning (2022)

29 (2) Section in the SA Constitution provides that every learner has the right to receive a basic education in the language of his or her choice, where this is reasonably practicable.

1976

The year that students rose up against the introduction of Afrikaans as language of instruction in schools.



4.7 MILLION Targeted number of adults of 15 years and above to be reached through the Kha Ri Gude literacy campaign, launched in 2008.