



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



After a year of untold suffering, the people of the Middle East **NEED PEACE AND JUSTICE**

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

THIS week marks one year since the start of an onslaught against the Palestinian people that has thus far claimed more than 43,000 lives. The violence that has been committed by Israel against Palestinians over many decades intensified after an attack on Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on 7 October last year.

As South Africa, we have condemned the atrocities committed against civilians in Israel on 7 October 2023, as we have denounced the killing of civilians in any context.

The majority of those killed over the past year are Palestinian

civilians, largely women and children in the besieged Gaza Strip. It is alarming that more Palestinians are also being killed in the West Bank due to Israeli Defence Force military activities.

More than 1,000 Israelis were killed in the attacks of 7 October last year. Over 100 Israelis remain in captivity in Gaza. There are over 6,000 Palestinians who are languishing in Israeli jails.

As South Africa, we have consistently called for a resolution to the conflict and the release of all the hostages abducted on 7 October 2023.

We have also called for the re-

lease of all the prisoners unlawfully detained in Israel.

We cannot but be moved by the plight of all the families who have loved ones in captivity. With negotiations to secure their release having once again stalled and Israel's bombardment of Gaza continuing, the conflict shows no signs of abating.

Amid efforts by the international community to secure a ceasefire, the situation has been worsened by strikes by Israel on Lebanon and by Iran on Israel. Israel has vowed to retaliate against Iran, and Iran has threatened to respond accordingly.

The escalating situation in the

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Middle East is of grave concern.

It threatens to plunge the region into a war in which civilians will inevitably bear the greatest and the most cruel brunt of this conflict. As the UN Secretary-General has said, each escalation after the next is leading the people of the Middle East over the cliff.

As South Africa, we remain committed to the peaceful resolution to ending the occupation of Palestine, to upholding the tenets of international law and to advancing social justice.

We once again call for an immediate ceasefire that will end the suffering of the people of Gaza and allow for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

Beyond an immediate end to the onslaught against Gaza, there is an urgent need for action to stave off starvation and disease among the population. Considerable resources need to be directed to Gaza to start rebuilding infrastructure, housing, social services, agricultural production and economic activity.

In our address to the UN General Assembly last month, we called for international law to be applied consistently in holding to account all who have committed atrocities in this conflict, whether it is Israel or Hamas.

Later this month, we will file a memorial, which is South Africa's full substantive case based on evidence, at the International Court of Justice. The memorial contains detailed evidence to prove that Israel is committing the crime of genocide in Pal-



estine. We call on Israel to immediately implement the court's provisional orders issued on 26 January, 28 March 2024 and 24 May 2024.

The reality is that this latest escalation is part of a pattern of violence that spans more than half a century resulting from the occupation of Palestine. Until the occupation is ended and a just and lasting solution is found that will protect the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians, the region will remain a tinderbox of potential conflict and war.

Israel has consistently declared that it aspires to live in peace and security with its neighbours. Yet its military occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights since 1967 and its invasions of Lebanon in 1978, 1982 and 2006 undermine this aspiration.

Israel's most recent attacks on Lebanon have resulted in more than 2,000 deaths. Even as Israel claims it is using 'targeted strikes' against the Hezbollah armed group, civilians are bearing the greatest cost, as they have been in Gaza.

A protracted regional conflict that leads to the loss of more innocent lives is something the Middle East and the world cannot afford. We call on all parties to exercise restraint and for the tenets of international law to be respected.

Just as the countries of the world need to work together to ensure that this conflict is not allowed to spread, the international community must be seized with efforts to end the violence against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

As we did in the aftermath of the 7 October attacks, we once again call on South Africans to continue to advocate for justice and peace. At the same we must continue to oppose all forms of racism, intolerance and prejudice, whether it is Anti-semitism, Islamophobia or xenophobia.

As a country we will continue to play our part in supporting all efforts to bring peace to the troubled Middle East region and to secure a just, lasting solution that ends the occupation of Palestine.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE ANC NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

7 OCTOBER 2024

DELIVERED BY **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE National Working Committee convened its regular meeting on the 07 October 2024 to consider and resolve on matters pertaining various programmes of the organisation.

SPECIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL OF COMRADE PRAVIN GORDHAN

The NWC commended President Cyril Ramaphosa for accorded the late Comrade Pravin Gordhan a Special Official Funeral Category 2. The ANC will forever be indebted to the role played by Comrade Pravin Gordhan in the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa as well as his relentless fight against corruption as we embark on comprehensive national transformation.

VIOLENT CRIME

The NWC noted with serious concern the continued murder of our people and urge law enforcement to leave no stone unturned to apprehend such criminals. On Saturday morning of the 28th September 2024, the country woke up to the very tragic news that a total of 18 people were gunned down at the Ngobozana Village in Lusikisiki, in two households in the Eastern Cape. The NWC commended the Minister of



Police, and Provincial Commissioners of Police for the leadership they have demonstrated as law enforcement seek to apprehend the callous murderers.

We urge our people to pass on any information that could help apprehend all criminals, particularly violent criminals in general and those engaged in GBV in particular.

In the same vein, the ANC condemns the killing of six Community Policing Forum outside Qumbu in the Eastern Cape, with four

seriously injured.

The ANC condemns in the strongest terms the violent assault of the 6 year old Khwezi Jantjies and his mother, who were run down by a farmer on Friday the 20th September 2024. The mother reportedly sustained slight shoulder injuries whilst the son Khwezi reportedly sustained very serious injuries to both his legs. It is very tragic that such acts of barbarism were conducted by the farmer on the apparent mere allegations that the boy of stole some oranges from his farm.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

PUDEMO

The NWC received report on the meeting between the People's United Democratic Movement of eSwatini and the ANC over the attempted assassination of the PUDEMO President Comrade Mlungisi Makhanya. The ANC re-iterates the condemnation of these attempts on the life of Comrade Mlungisi Makhanya and continue to call for a peaceful and democratic settlement of the challenges facing eSwatini.

UNGA

The NWC noted with profound appreciation of South Africa's government continues to play on the international scene, including during the course of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly held on 22 – 23 September which marked a crucial milestone in the global effort to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNGA provided South Africa with a global platform to highlight positive developments in SA, contextualise the GNU, and reiterate demands for fundamental reform of the global institutions, including the UN Security Council and the participation of the African Continent.

UNGA also served as an opportunity to outline SA's priorities for our chairpersonship of the G20 during 2025. These developments demand of the ANC and all progressive forces to intensify work on the international front, including strengthening party-to-party relations and international progressive networks.

The ongoing genocidal offensive by the apartheid Israeli state

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) CONDEMNS THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF PUDEMO

The African National Congress (ANC) strongly condemns the attempted assassination of the President of the People's United Democratic Movement of Eswatini (PUDEMO), Cde Mlungisi Makhanya. This cowardly act of violence is an attack not only on Cde Makhanya but also on the values of peace, democracy, and freedom for which PUDEMO has long fought.

The ANC stands firmly in solidarity with the people of Eswatini, and all forward-thinking initiatives that seek to establish a free and democratic society. We believe that political conflicts should be addressed through respectful dialogue and democratic processes, rather than through violence or intimidation.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

against the people of Palestine continues unabated with more than 41 000 people killed and 96 000 wounded. Increasingly the Israeli offensive is targeting countries in the region, in particular Iran, Lebanon, and Yemen.

The assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Hezbollah, is the latest example of Israel's insatiable appetite for conflict and aggression. These developments threaten to escalate into an overall regional conflict with serious global consequences for peace, stability and the economy.

The ANC and progressive forces will continue to intensify solidarity with the people of Palestine and mobilise the widest range of forces around the demand for a cease fire and peace.

The NWC further considered reports on the ongoing conflict in

the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and tensions with Rwanda which remain a cause for serious concern, including the safety of SANDF members deployed in their peace keeping capacity.

The ANC sends its condolences to the government and people of the DRC, following the reported death of 240 people, when a boat capsized in Lake Kivu, DRC, on Saturday the 5 October 2024.

The NWC noted that Mozambique will hold general elections on 9 October 2024 and that the Presidential candidates are Daniel Chapo (Frelimo), Ossufo Momade (Renamo), and Lutero Simango (MDM). The ANC re-iterates its stance on the historic solidarity with FRELIMO with whom we have shared trenches in the liberation struggle against colonialism and apartheid. The

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ANC wishes the people of Mozambique free, fair and peaceful elections.

Other elections to take place in the region include the following: a) Botswana: Wednesday, 30th October 2024 b) Namibia: Wednesday, 27th November 2024 c) Tanzania: Wednesday, 27th November 2024 We wish our sister parties Chama Cha Mapinduzi in Tanzania, Frelimo in Mozambique, SWAPO in Namibia great success.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY

As we approach the 100 days of GNU, the NWC observed that the GNU continues to inspire confidence and support from amongst a wide range of political parties and sectors of society, including business. This is reflected in both opinion polls, business and consumer confidence indices, the stock and property markets.

The ANC is therefore confident that this augurs well for the stability of the country following the outcome of the 2024 National and Provincial Elections. The ANC will continue to take leading responsibility on the affairs of the GNU to the extent that this must help government to deliver on the promise for a better life for all, with service delivery, job creation, access to education, access to basic healthcare, combating the high costs of living and growing the economy, amongst highlight of this GNU.

These positive outlooks and developments on the ANC-led GNU have catalysed and strengthened the foundation of the efforts spearheaded by the President to build social compacts between government, labour, business

and civil society. They also bode well for efforts to mobilise much needed resources and investment domestically and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE YOUTH ALLIANCE

The NWC noted the developments on SRC elections, and call on continued building of infrastructure capacity of the NSFAS to discharge its mandate without hindrance.

The NWC further noted the successful convening of the National Conference of COSAS that duly elected its leadership. We congratulate SASCO in the SRC election for a number of victories SASCO has scored in various SRC elections.

MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

The NWC received update report on the ANC Membership system and was confident that the revamped system will ensure a dynamic organisation consistent with the broad agenda on organisational renewal.

By January 8th next year in Western Cape, preferably in the Cape Metro, we will launch and unveil the new features of the membership system.

Our new system is opening up the ANC against gate keeping. Bulk buying of membership will be a thing of the past. The Membership system is linked to a programme of political education which is important in terms of qualitative development of membership.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

The NWC also received update report on political education, with emphasis of developing the kind of cadreship consistent with organisational renewal. In October we will launch the ANC's foundational political education courses.

LEGAL MATTERS

On legal matters, the NWC received update on the case with regards the Deployment Committee records. The ANC will study the judgment and chart the way forward.



ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS



Coffins containing the remains of fallen heroines and heroes of the liberation struggle at Freedom Park, Tshwane

REPATRIATION

The NWC received update on the repatriation of fallen comrades which has been ongoing since the dawn of freedom and democracy in 1994. The current repatriation of fallen comrades who died during the course of the struggle against apartheid and colonialism involves comrades who were buried in Zimbabwe and Zambia which had received impetus from the announcement by the President that their remains would be repatriated.

Notable figures amongst those were the former Secretary General of the ANC, Comrade Duma Nokwe as well as Florence Mophosho and Basil February. This process was however disrupted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are about one thousand people and combatants that must be repatriated and there is a misconception in the public domain that the ANC is not repatriating everyone. There is a need to get proper information of everyone that needs to be repatriated.

This programme continues to unfold and more updates will be made in due course. We want to commend our government for undertaking and implementing this programme.

ORGANISATIONAL RENEWAL

The ANC will continue to attend to the programmes of organisational renewal, with most regions having convened regional meetings and briefed on the GNU and the outcomes of the NEC Lekgotla.

ALLIANCE

Critical also is to continue strengthening the Alliance and providing leadership to society by engaging all stakeholders and sectors in the ANC led national transformation agenda. The engagements through the Special NEC meeting that will look into the state of the organisation, the Alliance Political Council as well as the upcoming Liberation Movement Summit, amongst others, will constitute part of the ANC programme.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The NWC welcomed the developments around the convening of the National Dialogue. All social partners and civil society are being engaged. The ANC supports the National Dialogue.

GAUTENG

The NWC reflected on the developments in Gauteng, which includes Tshwane. There have been ongoing engagements with various parties on all the Metros in Gauteng, these being Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni.

The NWC received a detailed report on Tshwane. Given the level of deterioration of service delivery and governance in the City, the NWC fully supports the need to put in place the type of government of local unity that can urgently address the pressing concerns of the people across the City.

This must be the type of government that prioritises all residents of Tshwane, and not only some section of the population. The ap-

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proach of the DA that we should either bring back Brink or nothing, is not acceptable to the NWC.

The ANC is engaging all parties that are keen to work with us to set up an inclusive, viable and effective coalition government that puts the people of Tshwane first before party political interests.

The ANC is continuing engagements with various parties to finalise the matter of the Mayor and the executive team. We are also discussing a programme that must be rolled out by the new government in the form of a comprehensive minimum programme. We are confident that working with other parties we will elect a new Mayor of Tshwane.

We have noted the speculation in the media and social media platforms about the correspondence we sent to the Chairperson of the Gauteng PEC, Cde Panyaza Lesufi. This correspondence deals with internal organizational matters which should be dealt with as such.

We therefore condemn in the strongest possible terms disinformation efforts that rely on internal

information peddling to achieve particular ends and project the ANC in a negative light. The ANC will speak for itself, not through faceless sources.

We did write to Cde Panyaza expressing concern about his public utterances on matters relating to the GNU and the coalitions in local municipalities. This concern was premised on the backdrop of the resolutions of the National Executive Committee in this regard.

Cde Panyaza like all other comrades presented himself to the Officials as requested, got counselling and presented his side of the story. Cde Panyaza provided an explanation that was accepted by the officials. This is consistent with the organizational culture of the ANC, which requires of us to give comrades a hearing when there is reasonable apprehension that their conduct may place the ANC in disrepute.

KWAZULU-NATAL

In relation to KwaZulu-Natal, the NWC affirmed its earlier decision to return to the province and provide feedback to the structures on its own assessment of the

state of the organisation in the province.

We also met the Chairperson of the KZN Province, Cde Siboniso Duma and Provincial Secretary, Cde Bheki Mtolo. They were briefing officials in relation to one municipality and the decision the PEC has taken in respect of that municipality. The reports that they were summoned to face the official on a disciplinary matter are lies.

When a member is called before the officials, he or she is not called for discipline, but for engagements. The officials are a political structure and not a disciplinary committee. Cde Panyaza is a leader of the ANC in Gauteng. If there are perceptions through his utterance that suggest there is conflict between Province and National, we have a responsibility to engage with him.

Disciplinary action can be taken without consultations with the officials of the ANC. These distortions that somebody was called for a disciplinary process is a total distortion of the facts. Cde Panyaza explained himself. Discipline runs supreme in the ANC.



STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ORDINARY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE ANC Women's League convened its ordinary NEC meeting from the 5th to 6th of October 2024. The NEC deliberated on a number of challenges faced by the masses, in particular the rising incidents of crime and criminality particularly against defenseless women and children.

The NEC observed a moment of silence in honour of the passing of one of the most decorated servants of our people, Comrade Pravin Gordhan who succumbed to ill-health a few weeks ago.

The NEC reiterated the ANC Women's League support for the families of the two women who were mercilessly butchered and thrown into a pigsty in Polokwane, and we once again call for no bail to perpetrators and their eventual harsh conviction.

The ANC Women's League also noted with sadness the brutal murder of eighteen members of the community of Lusikisiki, who were ambushed on the 28th of September 2024 as they gather in a homestead in Ngobozana village in Lusikisiki. We rebuke this senseless and inhumane killing of innocent lives, where fifteen (15) women were butchered without mercy, and we call on the law enforcement institutions to



mobilise all available resources to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book.

The ANC Women's League once again sent its deepest condolences to the affected families, and the ANC Women's League Provincial leadership has been directed to give the necessary support to the families of victims during this time of bereavement.

This incident is one of many reasons that the NEC in this meeting resolved to capacitate our Peace and Stability Sub-Committee to intensify decisive interventions on crime and criminality against women and children in particular.

The NEC resolved to direct all ANC Women's League structures

to intensify collaboration with civil society in pursuing the fight against Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

The NEC further resolved to strengthen our internal organisational structures through clear programmes and to improve the agility of the NEC Sub-Committees to accelerate implementation of the ANC Women's League Conference Resolutions.

The NEC thus directed the NWC to visit our structures across all provinces in an effort to strengthen the functionality of the organization in confronting the challenges facing the masses of our people.

The NEC resolved to continue with the legacy of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and launch her prison number, with the purpose of advancing radical social transformation in addressing our country's social ills, particularly as they relate to the plight of women.

The NEC meeting resolved to restructure the Young Women's Desk for better coordination and effective advancement of the challenges facing young people in general and women in particular.

The NEC welcomes the finality

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on the full implementation of the 60/40 principle in both provinces of Mpumalanga and the North West and thus congratulate the two women deployed as MEC's respectively.

However the NEC re-affirms our position against the haphazard re-deployment of women without proper due organisational processes especially in various Municipalities across the country.

The NEC resolved to use every avenue within our bounds, to fight against the total disregard from various Municipalities, of the 50/50 representation which

is a constitutional imperative as espoused in Rule 6.1 of the ANC Constitution.

Therefore the NEC resolved that the NEC Convenor of the Sub-Committee on Legislature and Governance should convene an urgent meeting and invite all relevant stakeholders to develop decisive interventions against the unfair re-deployment of women in Municipalities.

This anomaly, the NEC feels, is a clear manifestation of patriarchy that is inherent in our society and cannot be left unchallenged, even within our own ranks as the

liberation movement.

On matters of Management of Organisational Discipline, the NEC resolved to direct our members to desist from foreign tendencies which undermine the constitution and policy prescripts of the organisation, as we strive to regain the trust of our people.

The NEC re-affirmed the ANC Women's League resolution to **advance decisive action towards the full liberation and emancipation of women.**

Malibongwe!!!!

“

Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.”

Nelson Mandela



ALLIANCE

RED OCTOBER

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY ANC NEC MEMBER **DR NAMANE DICKSON MASEMOLA**
AT THE SACP RED OCTOBER LAUNCHING RALLY AT EMALAHLENI CIVIC CENTRE IN MPUMALANGA

(ABRIDGED)

WE are gathered in Mpumalanga Province, to commemorate the Red October Campaign and the birth of the SACP.

The historical significance of this event represent the life long appreciation of the 1917 Working Class Russian Revolution, and the primacy of the working class as the primary motive force of the National Democratic Revolution.

The victorious achievement of the Russian revolution was indeed a product of the class struggle understood as the Supreme Event in world history.

Ours is the class struggle to position the working class as key pillar of the revolution, with the necessary capacity to carry the struggle forward and continue to lead the revolution.

As we continue to honour the heroism of the Russian working class, equally, we should appreciate the impact the revolution has had in shaping global politics, in sharpening political understanding and solidarity amongst the progressive forces.

This commemoration takes place at a time when the struggle for a free Palestine continues.

We remain committed and we



will continue to support Palestine against apartheid Israel, which has so far slaughtered more than forty thousand Palestinians.

The latest developments of confrontations in the Middle East fomented by Israel are a cause for concern.

We therefore call upon the United Nations and other multilateral bodies to ensure de-escalation of hostilities.

The ANC Alliance should also encourage the African Union to redouble efforts to silence the guns, especially in those African countries where armed conflicts are continuing unabated. The AU must continue to build and maintain relations with other countries

in the continent.

The Alliance should seize the moment and continue to work tirelessly in its quest to realize the adopted Manifesto Priorities, because the prevailing political landscape, despite the constraints, affords us an opportunity to dominate the cause of events. It requires political work and genuine interaction with the people, delivery of services, resolution of societal problems and challenges, provision of the much needed collective leadership, under the current circumstances.

Given the high levels of unemployment, our actions should address the cost of living by amongst others finalising a basket of food stuffs to be zero-rated

ALLIANCE



and work towards a much more stable policy option to SRD, Basic Income Grant should be realised soon, to stabilize the living conditions of millions of South Africans who are trapped in poverty and unemployment.

Central to our work, therefore, should be to grow the economy and create jobs. This matter continues to receive our undivided attention.

As we are meeting here today, one of the issues that confronts us is the high levels of crime in the country.

The people are no longer free in the own social spaces; they live in fear within their own communities. All forms of criminal activities are happening without exception and the new phenomenon of extortions is gaining prominence.

All this require the full attention of the state and its apparatus, working together with the people.

The people of this country defeat-

ed the heavily armed apartheid government and now, with the support of the democratic government on their side, working together with them we shall triumph over this social challenge.

The SACP's focus on this issues is an important programme and as such, is highly supported.

In conclusion: The dynamic political landscape occasioned by the electoral setback, is posing existential challenge to the Congress movement.

Obviously, the conduct and behaviour of some or many amongst us, have reflected the

above mentioned phenomenon in a manner that negates the prime objectives of good governance.

The posture and displeasure that the motive forces have demonstrated about us on the 29th of May 2024 was unexpected.

This shows features of resistance based on the material conditions of the people, a development which should not grow into a culture built out of the genuine people's concern about their own democratic government.

If this is left unattended, it would develop into a destructive culture with possible cataclysmic political consequences.

It may become the basis of primordial belief which would further compound our challenges given the re-emergence of ethnocentric attitudes.

As we build a capable, ethical and developmental state in line with our manifesto priorities, we should continue to stand firm against malfeasance and malversation.

The South African Communist Party can count on the unparalleled support of the ANC, as it rolls out the campaign programme.



**RED OCTOBER
CAMPAIGN 2024-2025**

**TACKLE THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS
AND IMPLEMENT THE NHI NOW**

THOUGHTS ABOUT THOUGHTS ABOUT THE GNU

■ By **THAMSANQA MZAKU**

SINCE the ANC formed the Government of National Unity (GNU) that included, amongst other parties, the DA, FF+ and IFP, a brazen narrative has emerged that the ANC has sold out. Typical of seditious propaganda, this perspective is fuelled by fear rather than evidence.

This fear-mongering seeks to convince ordinary South Africans that the ANC has given power back to the champions of apartheid and colonialism. There are three types of people who either support or drive this narrative.

The first, current and former members of the ANC and its alliance partners, have expressed their fear that the inclusion of the DA will change the trajectory of the national democratic revolution (NDR) or, worse still, will take over the entire governance of South Africa.

A conspicuous limitation of this fear is the assumption that other parties in the GNU and, particularly the ANC, will simply be spectators while the DA runs the show. This is despite the fact that in many municipalities where the DA led a coalition, other parties managed to restrict the DA's influence, and in some instances even voted it out of power.

In addition, where the ANC has led a coalition (or even the 1994 version of the GNU), it has largely managed to implement many of its transformative policies. In fact, it was the National Party (NP) that was largely shifted from its founding apartheid policies, despite it being responsible for the second deputy presidency portfolio in the foregoing GNU.

No doubt, the broadly publicised comments that the federal chairperson of the DA normally makes about the GNU exacerbates this fear. One wonders, though, as to why does it not occur to the DA's chairperson's audience that her perspective of the GNU may be flawed? Could it be that they have so internalised their own oppression that doubting opinions of

a white person is inconceivable?

Those whose egos have been bruised by the GNU inform us that it is unprincipled and ideologically incoherent to co-govern with white racists and white neo-liberals, or political enemies of the ANC. To them, the governance of South Africa is solely about them and their own ideological orientation, and has nothing to do with the voter. To express their discontent, some have shared their resignation letters on social media, filmed themselves burning ANC T-shirts and even narrated a sequence of jingles which they called poems.

Sadly, some of them neither campaigned nor voted for the ANC in the recent elections, for they har-



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bour sympathy for the paramount owner of the uMkhonto Wesizwe Party (MKP). Theirs is therefore a Machiavellian attempt to use the ANC to broker power over the 7th administration on behalf of this MKP titleholder.

Some are genuinely convinced that the ANC cannot be associated with the white people or neo-liberals or even capitalists. They generally base this conviction on their understanding of the ANC being the “disciplined force of the left”, and on their literal interpretations of *igwitsho* and slogans such as “*umama uyajabula umangishaya ibhunu*”, which they learnt within the ANC. One wonders, therefore, what could be their literal interpretation of phrases such as the “broad church”, “balance of forces”, “strategy and tactics”, “leader of society”, and “tools of analysis”. They surely, also, learnt these phrases in the ANC.

The second group believing that the ANC sold out is predictably the political parties whose main purpose for existence has been to destroy the ANC. They have now found a new weapon in this unimaginative “sold out” narrative. The EFF for instance, has been consistent in reminding us that they are “*eating the elephant... bit by bit*”, and that they will “*unplug*” the ANC from power, including firing “*Amapanyaza*” in Gauteng and all ambassadors internationally. In fact, they put their “*Destroy the ANC*” mission into practice in 2016 when they handed their “*sworn enemies*”, the DA power in Nelson Mandela Bay, Jo’burg and Tshwane Metros, whilst labelling the ANC a “*worse devil*”.

In the third group are political experts and analysts. A triad of

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY (GNU)

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- **Constitution and Rule of Law.**
- **Non-racialism and non-sexism.**
- **Social justice, redress and equity, alleviation of poverty.**
- **Human dignity and progressive realisation of socio-economic rights.**
- **Nation-building, social cohesion and unity in diversity.**
- **Peace, stability and safe communities, especially for women and children.**
- **Accountability, transparency and community participation in government.**
- **Evidence-based policy and decision-making.**
- **Professional, merit-based, non-partisan, developmental public service that puts people first.**
- **Integrity, good governance and accountable leadership.**

LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

professors — one known for his rants, the other for his Marxist obsession and the last for his erstwhile proximity to the captains of the industry — lead this cohort. They seem not to have viewed the foregoing 2016 EFF move as “*selling out*” of a “*black political party by another black political party*”. Today, though, they unashamedly tell the ANC to shun the DA in favour of the very same EFF because it is black and easily perceivable as leftist. They even advocate for the MKP, which had already stated its ridiculous anti-Ramaphosa preconditions. In support of this thinking, one charity man even added the now irrelevant Congress of the People (COPE) into this utopia of a “*blacks only*” alliance.

When the EFF and MKP leaders were still in the ANC, they deepened polarisation along issues of patronage, masked as ideologi-

cal. It is, therefore, implausible to expect that they would not continue this battle of resources in a government environment that is meant to benefit all South Africans. The professors and charity man should, in fact, be lambasting the EFF and MKP for leaving and de-campaigning the ANC in the first place. It was always inevitable that when the ANC is divided and weakened, the beneficiaries would be the DA, which has been mobilising white right wingers, more so since it fired the current BOSA party leader.

An alternative stance proposed by some groups in the “*ANC-has-sold-out*” camp, was for the ANC to lead the opposition. Evidence reminds us that when the ANC occupied opposition benches in major metros in 2016, most gains of the NDR were reversed, especially in Tshwane and Johannesburg. For instance, in Johan-

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nesburg, most programmes that were meant to benefit the poor in Soweto, Alexandra, Diepsloot and other areas were discontinued and dismissed as “vanity projects” by the EFF-supported DA. Some employees and board members were purged. The city’s finances were wasted on vindictive and gossip-oriented investigations.

Despite its imperfections, the GNU arrangement, which intended to invite every political party represented in the 7th administration was, therefore, a much more reasonable and humble option. An exclusionary approach, as proposed by some, is non-ANC.

The ANC is a unifier and leader of society. It does not divide along racial and ideological lines. Whilst it despises racism, class super exploitation and sexism, it will tactically work with anyone who is willing to partner in the fight against unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Notwithstanding its likeness to the 1994 arrangement, this GNU is uncharted territory. For those of us who still believe that the ANC is a vehicle for social justice, there is no time to play victim and whine about the GNU. Let us use the limited time to explore the opportunities that may come with such unfamiliarity.

Let us take advantage of the proximity that we have with our government partners to work towards transforming some of them who may harbour progressive views, into true supporters of the NDR. The leader of the APC in the 5th administration, for instance, demonstrated the ability of the ANC to win over members of the opposition who may have progressive views.

“
**THE ANC IS A
 UNIFIER AND LEADER
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 ALONG RACIAL AND
 IDEOLOGICAL LINES.**
 ”

We may also explore our inner ethicality and humility since we have not won the elections. We have the opportunity to curb corruption in government, especially as committed by our own deployed cadres. We may be forced

to improve the quality to monitor the performance of our deployees in government to avoid being outperformed by those of other GNU partners. Thus, our government deployees will be held accountable.

Let us also use the negative sell-out commentary as the opportunity to organise another congress of the people, whereby all the progressive forces of the left convene to readopt the Freedom Charter in this epoch of democracy. Hopefully, the MKP and EFF may be persuaded to either dissolve and become part of the ANC (like the NNP did in 2005) or campaign for the ANC in the next election. Perhaps, this time around we can even transform the PAC into being the charterists.

Thamsanqa Mzaku is a member of the ANC. He writes in his personal capacity.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY (GNU)

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- **Constitution and Rule of Law.**
- **Non-racialism and non-sexism.**
- **Social justice, redress and equity, alleviation of poverty.**
- **Human dignity and progressive realisation of socio-economic rights.**
- **Nation-building, social cohesion and unity in diversity.**
- **Peace, stability and safe communities, especially for women and children.**
- **Accountability, transparency and community participation in government.**
- **Evidence-based policy and decision-making.**
- **Professional, merit-based, non-partisan, developmental public service that puts people first.**
- **Integrity, good governance and accountable leadership.**



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





THE BELA ACT:

There is nothing wrong with **Liaison and Consultation** in Democratic Governance

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Basic Education Law Amendment (BELA) Bill into law on 13 September 2024, but delayed implementation of **Clauses 4 and 5** of the BELA Act for three months, to enable liaison and consultation with relevant parties in the Government of National Unity (GNU) who have rejected some of its contents. However, should the parties not be able to agree after three months, the government will proceed with the full implementation of all the parts of the Act. The EFF Treasurer General, Omphile Maotwe, is threatening to take the Presi-

dent to the Parliament's Ethics Committee for reopening public hearings on the Bill that was passed by the Parliament.

The BELA Bill passed through the legislature after extensive public liaison and consultation that spurned over a period of ten years, which the DA refers to as a mere "box-ticking exercise". The DA contends that there was lack of comprehensive public participation. However, in signing off Bills into legislation, the President does not just rubberstamp the decision of the National Assembly, but also applies his mind and exercises his prerogative in

terms of the Constitution. Section 79 of the Constitution states that once a Bill has been passed by Parliament the "President must either assent to or sign a Bill passed" by Parliament or, if the President has reservations about the constitutionality of the Bill, he must refer it back to the National Assembly for reconsideration.

The President normally refers back to the National Assembly Bills that do not pass the Constitutional muster. Section 84 (2) of the Constitution provides that the President is responsible for –
 (a) Assenting to and signing Bills;

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- (b) Referring a Bill back to the National Assembly or consideration of the Bill's constitutionality; and
- (c) Referring a Bill to the Constitutional Court for a decision on the Bill's constitutionality.


Clause 4 of the BELA Act deals with the school's admission policy, and transfers the responsibility for admitting learners to public schools from the school governing bodies (SGBs) to the provincial education department.

Clause 5, on the other hand, shifts the authority to determine the school's language policy from the SGB to the provincial department.

It is normal for implementation of some provisions of the statutes to be deferred to a later period for one reason or another, including enabling further liaison and consultation or putting systems together in order to prepare for subsequent seamless, effective and efficient implementation. It has happened in many instances before, and it would still happen.

The President's style of leadership is democratic, not autocratic. To delay implementation of any policy directive or legislative instrument or a portion thereof, does not mean the abandoning of the implementation of the same. For any law to be effective and respected by legal subjects, it has to be thoroughly understood, and should leave no ambiguities. To be credible, the law should not be vague or perceived to be unjust.




To pass the law is one thing, but to make it earn the respect and obedience of the people is another. People should feel obliged to obey the law, not out of fear for



POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE BELA ACT

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE WITH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGBs)

- **Response:** SGBs remain important forums for parents, teachers, learners and communities to ensure schools function effectively. BELA introduces provincial oversight to monitor and support SGBs, including transparency with regards school finances and oversight on admissions and language policies.
- **Positive Outcome:** The reforms ensure transparency and accountability in how SGBs function, preventing elite capture or exclusionary practices. This guarantees that parents and communities still have a say in school governance but within a framework that supports equitable education for all students.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

punishment, but because it is the right thing to do. The government cannot compel respect for the law. Respect for the law is something that should come spontaneously from the legal subjects themselves, because they believe that the law is fair and just. The government should not rely mainly on sanctions or coercion alone. Overreliance on coercion without legal subjects' approval leads to the law being discredited in the eyes of those who feel adversely affected by that law.

An important ingredient for the effectiveness of the law is the element of legitimacy. Some of the laws could be "suffering legitimacy crisis". Though the laws relied upon for all citizens to adhere to, could be duly passed by the legislature, and may comply with the formal requirements for validity, they may not be acceptable to some of the legal subjects, es-

pecially those people to whom those laws should be applicable.

It is trite that even efforts that are coupled with the best intentions, but aimed at passive beneficiaries, are unlikely to produce positive results. It is part of public policy to engage with all relevant stakeholders so that differences, if any, could be resolved, to enable subsequent smooth implementation of any program. Liaison and consultation or public participation processes does not necessarily mean that everyone should agree, but relevant stakeholders need to be informed in appropriate manner, and be offered the opportunity to respond accordingly, if needs be.

Contrary to what the DA contends, the BELA Act aligns the current South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996), with the prevailing developments

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FACTS ABOUT THE BELA ACT...

The Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA Act) amends the South African Schools Act of 1996, by strengthening certain provisions and introducing new elements, so as to ensure quality, equity and relevant education for all.

in the education sector and case law coming from the courts. The Act rightfully diminishes the often-abused power or influence of the SGBs in determining language and admissions policies in public schools. The BELA Act is a necessary and welcome change to education law in South Africa, as it makes several other progressive changes to the Schools Act, including, inter alia, the following:

Mandatory Grade R – The Act includes enforcement of Grade R in compulsory basic education. Grade R is the entry level of the foundation phase, where kids develop their learning styles, which prepares them for secondary schooling, and the ability to grasp challenging concepts.

School Admission Policies – SGBs wield too much power to determine who should, and who should not be admitted at public schools, and it is commonly known that some of the SGB members are not suitably qualified to handle their respective obligations, whilst decisions of some SGBs are irrational and laced with stereotyped prejudices of the past.

Language Policies – The ideal situation would have been

to allow everyone to learn in his/her own mother tongue as recognised in Section 29(2) of the Constitution. It is however, unfortunate that many indigenous languages are not fully developed to be used as media of instruction. At some of our schools, as a medium of instruction, the Afrikaans language, in particular, is being weaponised to be used as instrument of discrimination. It is be-

ing effectively used as a barrier to exclude learners who are not conversant with Afrikaans. Not many people would understand the experience of discrimination and indignity of being taught in the language that you do not understand, due to language policy, if they never went through it. Instead of creating English medium or other languages' classes to accommodate them, African children, in particular, are compelled to leave schools adjacent to their homes to far away schools.

Centralisation of Power – The BELA Act rightfully puts power where it belongs, i.e. in the hands of the government, in a fairly just and equitable manner for the benefit of everyone, through provincial Basic Education departmental heads.

Regulation on Homeschooling – Clause 35 of the

POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE BELA ACT

ENSURING QUALITY IN HOMESCHOOLING

- **Response:** The new regulations on homeschooling are designed to ensure that homeschooled learners receive the same quality of education as those in public schools. The oversight of curriculum and assessments is necessary to maintain national standards, ensuring that homeschooled children are not left behind academically.
- **Positive Outcome:** This approach ensures that homeschooled children meet the same educational benchmarks as other learners, while still allowing parents to exercise educational choice. It enhances the accountability and quality of homeschooling, ensuring that children can transition smoothly into higher education or the workforce.

112th Anniversary
112 YEARS
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM

ANC

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

GOVERNANCE

POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE BELA ACT

OVERSIGHT TO PROMOTE ALL SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES

- **Response:** BELA outlines the processes of how SGBs arrive at Language and Admission policies for their school, and the oversight role by provincial departments to ensure that these are not discriminatory and protects language rights of all learners.
- **Positive Outcome:** obligations of SGBs and provincial departments spelled out in BELA provides proactive remedies to promote fairness of admissions and access to mother tongue instruction.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

Act indeed imposes excessive regulatory burdens on parents who opt for home-schooling, and this should not be construed to be infringing on their autonomy and freedom of choice.

The question whether all these progressive and praise-worthy transformation objectives of the BELA Act would be implementable, mainly due to financial challenges of the government, would always remain relevant. One of the concerns is the impact of the BELA Act on the fiscus. They would not be attainable if there would not be adequate financial resources.

In 2023, whilst probably yielding to pressure from trade unions, the government entered into wage agreement with the public service. Apparently, when that commitment for increased public service wages was made, there

was no provision of where the money would come from. That was no different from the declaration for free education that was made by former President Jacob Zuma, against the recommendations of the Heher Commission that was appointed to look into that matter. Free education was not budgeted for at the time of declaration.

Due to financial constraints, the government is committed to cost-cutting expenditures in all fronts. Unfortunately, these austerity measures by the National Treasury are putting a lot of strain on government departments' spending on some of the most important obligations. One of the departments that would be adversely affected by the National Treasury's cost-cutting measures is the Department of Basic Education. Some of the provincial departments such as in the Western

Cape, intend to cut down on certain financial obligations, including laying off some contracted educators, and cutting on school feeding scheme, and scholar transport.

Firstly, many contracted teachers might lose their jobs as National Treasury continues to cut budget allocations to the Departments. Many schools would be left without adequate educators.

Secondly, to some of the learners, food provided through the school-feeding scheme happens to be the most nutritional meal for the day, and cutting on that would lead to more challenges such as malnutrition for children from the disadvantaged communities.

Thirdly, the Constitution guarantees access to education to children of school going age, and scholar transport is an enabler to attain that Constitutional right of the learners. According to the National Scholar Transport Policy, children staying 5km away from school, should be assisted with scholar transport to enable them to have access to education as guaranteed in the Constitution.

Without scholar transport, many children are obviously going to drop out of school. Illiteracy and all social ills attributable to it would prevail indefinitely. Without education, the cycle of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, i.e. the so-called triple challenges, would never be broken.

In conclusion, serious cracks would definitely show when those unbudgeted commitments have to be implemented. The government would then have to scrape all over to implement them, putting serious strain on the government's limited resources.

POSITIVE SENTIMENTS ARE THE INVISIBLE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

■ By **MANDISA MBELE**

IN the intricate tapestry of economic development, sentiments often play a more significant role than tangible factors such as GDP or interest rates. These intangible emotions, ranging from optimism to pessimism, can exert a profound influence on consumer behaviour, investment decisions, and overall economic performance.

Positive sentiments, characterized by optimism and confidence, can catalyse economic growth in several ways. When consumers feel optimistic about the future, they are more likely to spend freely, increasing aggregate demand and stimulating economic activity. Businesses, sensing rising consumer confidence, are more inclined to invest in new ventures, create jobs, and expand their operations. This virtuous cycle of spending, investment, and job creation can fuel robust economic growth.

Moreover, positive sentiments can attract foreign investment. Investors are drawn to economies where there is a sense of stability, optimism, and potential for growth. A positive sentiment can signal to investors that the country is a favourable destination for their capital, leading to increased foreign direct investment (FDI) and economic expansion.

Conversely, negative sentiments,



marked by pessimism and uncertainty, can hinder economic growth. When consumers are fearful about the future, they tend to tighten their purse strings, leading to a decline in consumer spending. Businesses, anticipating a slowdown in demand, may become hesitant to invest, resulting in reduced job creation and economic contraction.

Furthermore, negative sentiments can deter foreign investors. Uncertainty about the future can make investors wary of investing in an economy, leading to a decrease in FDI and economic growth.

It is crucial to recognise that sentiments are not merely subjective

emotions but are influenced by various factors, including economic indicators, political stability, and social trends. Governments and policymakers can play a vital role in fostering positive sentiments by implementing sound economic policies, promoting transparency and accountability, and addressing social concerns. Sentiments are a powerful force that can significantly impact economic growth. Positive sentiments can fuel consumer spending, investment, and foreign investment, leading to robust economic expansion. As comrades, it is our duty to spread optimism about the country and its future, tell positive stories about our country and be ambassadors of our success stories.

Each One Teach One: Reflections on the Youth Leadership Camp and the Future of Our Movement

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

THIS past weekend, I had the distinct privilege of facilitating 60 young high school leaders from some of the townships of the Cape Flats and Boland at our second annual Youth Leadership Camp, where we embraced the timeless CO-SAS slogan, “*Each One Teach One.*” It’s a phrase that carries deep significance – rooted in our struggle in the 80s for ‘*Peoples Education for Peoples Power*’, but even more relevant today as we guide the next generation towards a future of active citizenry and leadership.

The theme of the camp: “**Active Youth Citizenry**” centred around

change theories, leadership skills, The Constitution of the Republic of SA, participatory democracy and equipping young people with the tools to drive real change in their communities and in our country.

As a former Member of Parliament for the greater Athlone area, and a lifelong activist, I understand how pivotal youth leadership training is in shaping the future of South Africa. I am a product of this and hence we are playing it forward. We must grow our own timber and support the current youth generation. The stakes have never been higher. With the many challenges we face, from socio-economic in-

equality to political instability, it is critical that our young people are not only aware of their rights but empowered to lead the charge in transforming their communities.

A Legacy of Leadership: Drawing Lessons from the Past

This year’s camp was a reflection of how far we’ve come but also a reminder of the work that still needs to be done. Our aim was to provide a platform where young people could engage with the South African Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the principles of leadership. The journey we embarked on was one of learning,



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sharing, and growing together – reminiscent of the youth camps we held in the 1980s during the struggle against apartheid.

Back then, as young activists, we knew that education was liberation. Our camps weren't just about learning to resist the oppressive regime but about equipping ourselves with the skills and knowledge to lead. It was this very spirit we sought to revive in the youth leadership camp – teaching them to be critical thinkers, to understand the importance of both the status quo and transformative change, and to identify when revolutionary action is necessary.

By focusing on different paradigms of change, we ensured that the learners understood that they are not passive recipients of their circumstances but active agents in shaping the future. We emphasized the importance of informed leadership and how understanding the country's Constitution and their rights as citizens is the first step towards meaningful participation in our democracy.

Active Citizenry and Participatory Democracy: The Role of the Youth

One of the core pillars of our camp was teaching these young leaders what it means to be an active citizen. We took them through the Constitution, focusing on the Bill of Rights, and emphasized their role not just as beneficiaries of these rights but as protectors and advocates. Through interactive lessons and games, we made the learning process engaging, ensuring that they understood their responsibilities in a democratic society.

South Africa's future lies in the



hands of young leaders who understand that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires active participation, vigilance, and a commitment to the principles that our country was founded on. We drilled this message home through our activities, where they learned that leadership is about service – about uplifting others and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The slogan “*Each One Teach One*” and “*Fight, Produce & Learn*” was at the heart of everything we did. It is a principle that has sustained movements throughout history, reminding us that the power of a people united will never be defeated. We encouraged the youth leaders to ‘Report Back’ to take what they had learned and share it with their peers, their families, and their communities. Leadership is not an individual journey; it's

a collective effort. If each young person can teach another, we build a stronger, more unified movement towards progress and equality.

The Pledge:

Our Commitment to the Future

At the close of the camp, we asked the learners to make a pledge. A pledge to continue the work of building, educating, and empowering. Each participant committed to being a leader in their community – not in title, but in action. They pledged to uphold the values of our Constitution, to be active citizens, and to practice the principles of solidarity, service, and accountability.

This pledge wasn't just a formality. It represents the future of our movement, where the youth are not only inheriting the legacy of those who fought for freedom

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but actively contributing to the next phase of our nation's development. They are the leaders of tomorrow, but more importantly, they are the leaders of today.

Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

The camp offered us profound lessons. It reminded us of the resilience of the youth and their willingness to learn, but it also highlighted the gaps we still need to fill. Many of these young people were unaware of their rights or the significance of the Constitution in their daily lives. There is still a long road ahead to ensure that all young South Africans are not only educated about their rights but equipped to fight for them.

The way forward is clear. We must continue to invest in youth leadership programmes that focus on practical skills and knowledge. Camps like these should not be isolated events but part of a broader, sustained effort to develop our future leaders. The ANC has always been a movement of the people, and it is essential that we continue to nurture and develop the next generation through education, mentorship, and active participation.

The Call to Action for the ANC

As we reflect on the camp and its success, I urge the ANC to invest more resources into youth development. We must prioritize leadership training and civic education as essential tools for empowering our youth. I was recruited in the ANC through these camp and we must continue this tradition. The future of the ANC depends on the involvement of young people who are not only politically aware but

politically active.

We also need to create more platforms for mentorship, where experienced leaders can guide the youth in navigating the complexities of leadership. The slogan "Each One Teach One" must become more than a phrase – it must be a guiding principle for how we engage with our communities, educate our youth, and build a stronger, more united movement.

This youth leadership camp was just the beginning. It was a powerful reminder that our future is bright if we continue to invest in our youth and equip them with the tools to lead. The lessons learned, the experiences shared, and the commitment made by these young leaders are a testament to the potential that lies within our communities. Now, more than ever, we need to harness that potential and ensure that it translates into lasting change for South Africa.

Conclusion: Our Pledge to the Future

In conclusion, the second annual Youth Leadership Camp although it was conducted in a non-partisan manner, it was a reflection of

us as the ANC's commitment to empowering the youth, fostering active citizenship, and building a participatory democracy. It reaffirmed the importance of "**Each One Teach One**" – the idea that each of us has a role to play in educating and uplifting those around us.

The way forward requires a united effort. As we look ahead, let us commit to building more opportunities for our youth to learn, grow, and lead. Let us continue to pledge ourselves to the ideals of service, solidarity, and accountability. And most importantly, let us remember that the future of South Africa depends on the work we do today to empower the next generation of leaders.

This is not the end of the journey – it is only the beginning. With our collective effort and commitment, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

We thank all the stakeholder who supported its success and we wish the YOUTH continued strength to serve and lead.

Comrade Faiez Jacobs is former ANC WC Provincial Secretary and Member of Parliament.



TRIBUTE

ANC EASTERN CAPE MOURNS THE PASSING AWAY OF STRUGGLE STALWART, COMRADE SILAS MTONGANA

THE African National Congress (ANC) in the Eastern Cape joins the people of our province, Nelson Mandela Region and the rest of the country in mourning the passing away of Tata Silas “Oom Si” Mtongana, a freedom fighter and veteran of our struggle for national liberation who championed the formation of mass democratic movements, under the wretchedness of the apartheid regime.

Comrade Silas Mtongana was born on 10th August 1936 at Fort Beaufort where he grew up and studied at the Healdtown Methodist School.

In the 1950’s he moved to Port Elizabeth wherein he joined the liberation struggle to put more pressure on the apartheid regime to halt its atrocious rule over the majority of the people of South Africa. He was introduced to the politics of the African National Congress (ANC) and joined the ANC volunteers.

After political organisations were banned in 1960, the ANC operated clandestinely and in Port Elizabeth it established many underground cells under the leadership of Oom Govan Mbeki and Raymond Mhlaba. Comrade Silas Mtongana played an important role when a secret bomb-making



unit was established by Govan Mbeki and it included Oom Benson Fihla, Harold Strachan and Joseph Jack. The unit will make bombs and Silas Mtongana was the one who had to distribute the bombs to various underground cells with strict instruction from Govan Mbeki.

As the apartheid security police cracked the network of ANC and Umkhonto weSizwe Military wing underground cells, many activists were arrested and Comrade Silas Mtongana was one of them. He was sentenced to six (6) years at Robben Island. Together with his co-accused, they appealed against the sentence and it was reduced to three years.

After his release from prison, Comrade Silas Mtongana continued with his political activism and in the 1980’s he participated in the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) activities.

He joined a number of former Robben Island prisoners who continued with the struggle for liberation and this group included: Edgar Ngoyi, Henry Fazzie, Ernest Malgas, Douglas Tyutyu, Stone Sizani, Harry Kani, Fezile Tshume and others.

Between 1986 until 1989, the Apartheid government declared a nation-wide State of Emergency

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and in Port Elizabeth more than 2000 activists were arrested and detained for three years at the St Albans prison and Comrade Silas Mtongana was one of them.

The passing away of Comrade Mtongana concludes a well-lived chapter of a titanic political teacher, under whose tutelage many comrades were bred. He was a larger than life political erudite,

who was always surrounded by comrades who wanted to learn about the Congress Movement.

On Thursday 3rd October 2024 at the age of 88 and after a long illness, he passed away leaving behind his wife, children and grandchildren.

We extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the

Mtongana family, their friends and comrades. May they find solace in knowing that their loss is the nation's loss.

***Lala ngoxolo qhawe
lamaqhawe!***

His funeral service will be held on Saturday 12 October at the St Stephens Church in New Brighton, Gqeberha.

Tribute to Struggle Stalwart Comrade Silas Mtongana

■ By **LOOKS MATOTO**

I want to take a moment to share a few thoughts about the passing of Comrade, Tata, uSilas Mtongana, our beloved Oom Si. The news of his passing at the age of 88 has left me with a profound sense of loss. Although he lived a long life, it doesn't make the blow any softer. I write this message with my heart heavy, reflecting on the journey of a man whose contributions are immeasurable and whose wisdom was a gift to all of us.

I must admit, I am too young to have known Oom Si during the height of his activism. His struggle is the kind you read about in books or hear in stories told by older comrades – those stories of heroism that feel almost mythical. But unlike many others, I was blessed to meet Oom Si, not through a story, but in the most unlikely of circumstances, during



one of the toughest and yet most defining moments of our struggle – behind prison bars.

After being arrested with a group of young *Amabutho*, I found my-

self in a juvenile cell. We were restless, angry, and full of energy that had yet to be tempered by wisdom. One day, in our defiance, we decided to fight the prison authorities, because to

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us, it felt like, the leadership was too comfortable in this prison environment. We took our plates, refused to return to our cell, and used them as weapons. We fought the warders and even their dogs. We sang, “*Jikelele, Sohlala sinyovava le apartheid,*” the song propelled us even more; we were sending a message that, wherever we were, we will defy apartheid authority. For a moment, we felt a sense of victory. It was chaos, and I will spare you the details of how it ended. What matters is that our actions led to us being moved – integrated into cells with senior comrades, as the leadership had long advised the prison authorities. This was how I came to meet Oom Si.

Oom Si was a man of few but powerful words, with a soft voice that commanded attention. His eyes, sharp and penetrating, seemed to see right through you. Despite the harshness of our environment, he always managed to maintain a beautiful sense of humour, one that brightened even the darkest days in that prison. He approached us about our actions in the juvenile cell, showing us how reckless we had been. He didn’t scold us in a way that would make us feel small; instead, he used it as an opportunity to guide us, to teach us.

He took it upon himself to give us extra political education sessions, and to this day, I remember how excited we would get, looking forward to those lessons. Oom Si had a unique way of making you understand the importance of discipline, the significance of understanding the material conditions before taking

action, the famous teaching of Time and Place and the prevailing material conditions. He made us see that our youthful energy was a powerful tool, but it had to be channeled with care, with thought, and always in the right context. He made learning about the struggle exciting; he made us feel that we were part of something much larger than ourselves.

I remember vividly his presence in our cell. He would wake up every morning with energy that seemed almost impossible in that setting.



He would crack jokes with Graff, and the two of them would constantly tease Ntate, who would always hit back with his sharp wit. Then there would be that awkward duckling laughter from Tata uSqokwana, followed by his iconic words, “*kwak, kwak, lahleki’ Dada,*” which earned him the nickname Idada. And there was Ntate, who, from time to time, would share his meat with them, and we’d hear Tata uNgoyi shout, “*Awu hlala hlala Comrade ihlala.*” The camaraderie between these older comrades was something special – something that taught me the true meaning of brotherhood, of solidarity in the struggle.

Oom Si wasn’t just a mentor in

political education; he was also our soccer coach. I remember Oom Ben Fihla running along the touchline every time we scored a goal, shouting, “*Bombard the base, bombard the base!*” while pretending to fire an invisible AK-47. These were moments of joy, moments of lightness in an otherwise harsh environment. Moments like these, I realized, were a privilege – rare glimpses into the lighter sides of these stalwarts, sides that even their families might not have known. It was an honour beyond words to be in the presence of such greatness.

Oom Si also had a wonderful sense of humor about our limitations. He made prison life easier for us young people, everyday he had a way to pull a smile from you. I remember when they formed a team called “*Amankido,*” a lighthearted name for those who weren’t particularly skilled at soccer – *Amadonki*. He said, “*Ei Sbali, zizasophu-la ezintwana, ngamadonki*

nyani,” in such a funny way that he made it sound like they were the better players. We laughed so much in that cell. Oom Si had a way of making even the mundane moments in prison feel lighter, more bearable.

And when it came to confrontation with the prison authorities, Oom Si and Graff were the Amabutho of our cell. I remember a particular incident when the authorities tried to stop our karate training because they said our “*Kia!*” sounds were too disruptive. Graff responded by shouting “*Kia!*” even louder, and Oom Si followed, telling the authorities that without the “*Kia,*” it wasn’t karate. They stood their ground,

TRIBUTE

and we had a good laugh before continuing with our training, as usual. These were moments that made me realize just how fortunate I was to be in the company of such courageous and principled men.

As we say our final goodbyes to Oom Si, I find myself deeply worried about what account he will give of our generation when he meets our Baba Tambo and others. How much have we learned from the likes of him? What will he say about the state of our movement, the ANC, today? Will we be proud of the account he will give on how we are destroying the ANC? We are losing a caliber of comrades that passes but once in the history of an organization. Giants like Oom Si do not come along often, and as I reflect on my time with him, I feel deeply blessed to have shared a prison cell with him. What are we doing with the blessing of time, as Oom Si was, a true blessing of time. Will our actions and inaction be the reason that now the ANC stands at the mouth of the grave. We need to change our ways.

Farewell, Oom Si. You were a beacon of hope, wisdom, and resilience. Your teachings, your laughter, your courage – these are the things that will live on in all of us who were fortunate enough to know you. We will carry forward the lessons you taught us, though we know that we still have much to learn.

May your soul rest in eternal peace, knowing that you were indeed a giant of our struggle.

Hamba kahle, stalwart of our movement. We will honor your legacy in the best way we know how – by continuing the struggle you dedicated your life to.



Judson Khuzwayo - Outstanding member of the ANC and SACP

■ By **RONNIE KASRILS (ANC Khumalo)**

I first met comrade Judson Khuzwayo in 1980, after I was deployed to Mozambique from Angola. It was Moses Mabhida, secretary of the ANC's Revolutionary Council, who had recommended I work with its Senior Organ sub-structure which was being established in Maputo. A key task was to direct the operations of the ANCs military and political committees in Swaziland and within South Africa. Comrade Mabhida had directed me to meet with Khuzwayo, who he regarded as one of the most outstanding and reliable comrades from Natal.

On a clandestine trip into the King-

dom, I met Judson who headed the Natal political committee. His *nom de guerre* was Mtetwa. It was at night and we met at a safe house where his close underground associates, Ivan and Rae Pillay lived. They were a formidable trio, from Durban, where they had been working to develop the ANC underground.

Judson Khuzwayo had gone into exile in 1977 and had previously served a 10-year prison sentence on Robben Island, where he was particularly close to Shadrack Maphumulo, another struggle stalwart. They were both members of the SACP, as well as loyal ANC activists, convinced of

TRIBUTE

the need for a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class, fusing class and national strands of the struggle, closely aligned to the ANC, to ensure a socialist outcome of the National Democratic Revolution.

After their release from prison, both Judson and Shadrack worked as researchers at the University of Natal and both rejoined the revived underground structures of the ANC. Both had to withdraw to ANC forward bases to avoid re-arrest. They were Congressmen to the core. Non-racialism, inclusivity and the advance of the interests of working people were intrinsic to their life and struggle.

They joined the Natal machinery and formed the leadership group with the younger Ivan Pillay.

They were reinforced by MK trained Jabulani Nxumalo (Mzala) a product of the 1976 student uprising. This was a formidable leadership group of courageous and experienced cadres, of high integrity, sharp intellect, staunchly loyal to the ANC, under the astute command of Comrade Judson. Those were extremely dangerous times requiring people of courage, willing to take risks, with enemy agents ever on the lookout for our presence. One slip and you could be caught, abducted, tortured, executed. Judson Khuzwayo exuded confidence. You understood he was taking all the necessary security arrangements to ensure the safety of all.

I liked him from the start. He was a warm, modest and engaging personality, wiry of stature with an underlying physical strength, narrow faced with high cheekbones, and dazzling eyes. He was highly

articulate and very witty, ready to take on any task or responsibility, chuckling that he hoped that the newly structured Senior Organ would not prove to be “Smokeless”. In the event there were many explosions and armed operations that rocked Natal as elsewhere in the country.

Importantly, he supervised the exacting work of building political structures to provide leadership at the mass level and establish bases for MK. Judson Khuzwayo led from the front. He often picked me and others up at the dead of night near the border with Mozambique, dodged police road blocks, and personally infiltrated cadres, weapons and propaganda material into the country. He lived in a small Manzini house with his beloved wife Beauty and daughter Fezekile, whom he adored and took great care of. The situation in Swaziland became so hot with police raids and attacks by the Boers that the ANC felt it advisable to relocate the family. Indeed, comrade Maphumulo was one of those assassinated by the Boers in 1986.

Judson Khuzwayo was appointed ANC chief representative in Lesotho in 1983, then chief representative in Zimbabwe the following year. It reflected the high regard the ANC leadership had of him. He never betrayed that trust. Tragically, he died in a car accident in May 1985.

He would have been horrified to learn that his one-time comrade-in-arms, Jacob Zuma, would years after his death be charged with the rape of his daughter Fezekile. It is through the behaviour and contribution of comrades that we discern their reliability and integrity, judging who is true to the cause and who betrays the trust of the people.

We rejoice at the return of Comrade Khuzwayo's remains, and those of our other beloved comrades, to our country. He was a true patriot who lived an honourable life and played a selfless, courageous and outstanding role in the service of our people.

Long live the memory of this outstanding hero of the people!



The remains of Comrade Judson Khumalo and other freedom fighters who died in exile arrive in the country.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

12 – 18 October 2024

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

12 October 1968 Equatorial Guinea gains independence from Spain



The colonial history of Equatorial Guinea dates back to 1471 when Portuguese explorers descended on the country. On their way to India, Portuguese explorers 'discovered' the island of Bioko, and later colonized the islands of Fernando Poo and Annobon. They retained control of Equatorial Guinea until 1778, when the territory was ceded to Spain in exchange for land in South America. When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1820, rebel forces took control of the colony. The mainland of Equatorial Guinea became a Spanish colony in 1900. With increasing nationalist sentiment and escalating pressure from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the journey to independence was underway. On 12 October 1968, Equatorial Guinea became an independent state with Francisco Macias Nguema as the first President.

12 October 1991 Nelson Mandela on ANC Nationalisation Policy

The African National Congress

(ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela stated that his party was prepared to abandon its long-held policy of nationalisation if the business community could provide an alternative, which would redress the economic imbalances in the country. He further stated that nationalisation did not mean that the private sector will be excluded from certain areas of business and reiterated that the ANC welcomes dialogue with the business sector to ensure growth and equal distribution.

12 October 1995 Date set for first democratic, non-racial Local Elections



An emergency session of the democratic Parliament on October 12, 1995, approved legislation to permit local elections to be held on November 1. This was in line with ruling by the Constitutional Court, necessitating the holding of elections before December, 1995. The Election Task Group, responsible for organ-

ising the elections, announced that in areas where electoral boundaries had not been settled, namely KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, the voters would not go to the polls on November 1, as disputes were still pending. The two provinces held their first local elections in 1996.

12 October 2000 TRC hears testimony of Ladybrand Four

Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres Joyce 'Betty Boom' Koekanyetswe, Nomasonto Mashiya and Tax Sejaname were abducted by members of the then Orange Freestate security branch in Lesotho and held on a farm in Ladybrand, 18 kms from Maseru in December 1988. Betty Boom was a Commander and highly trained MK cadre as well as a committee member of the SACP. Nomasonto Mashiya was abducted with her one-year old baby but the police returned the baby to her (Mashiya's) parents in the Free State. Not much is known about Tax Sejaname's affiliations or abduction. Mbulelo 'Khaya Kasibe (KK)' Ngonzo was involved in a shoot-out with the security forces in Lesotho in 1987, but managed to escape only to be abducted in 1988 in Maseru by the same security branch who abducted Betty Boom, Nomasonto Mashiya and Tax Sejaname. The four MK cadres were held at a farm and came to be known as the Ladybrand Four. During the TRC hearings starting this day, the security po-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

lice applying for amnesty claimed that the entire unit was recruited as informers, and dropped back in Lesotho, but could produce no evidence to back this up and the TRC rejected their claims, ruling in its final report that the Ladybrand Four were killed and their bodies buried, since none of them were seen or heard from after their abduction in 1988.

13 October 1881 First electric lights in Adderley street, Cape Town

Adderley Street is possibly the most historically rich street in Cape Town. It gets its name from the man who vehemently opposed a proposal by the British to turn Cape Town into a convict colony, Charles B. Adderley. On 13 October 1881, the street got its first electric lights installed. The street is a main attraction for tourists and in close proximity to the Old Slave Lodge Museum, Groote Kerk (the oldest church in South Africa) and the Company Gardens. Adderley street was renamed Nelson Mandela Avenue in 2001.

13 October 1962 Helen Joseph placed under house arrest

Former political activist, Helen Joseph, often fell victim to the



draconian apartheid legislations. She became the first person to be put under house arrest under the Sabotage Act, introduced by the newly appointed Minister of Justice, B.J Voster. The house arrest conditions included a ban on leaving her house at night and over weekends, and also on receiving visitors.

13 October 1987 SA blamed for Harare bombing

South Africa was blamed for a massive bomb blast in Harare, Zimbabwe in which several people were injured. Zimbabwe had had a long relationship with the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, dating back to the Huange (Wankie) and Sipolilo military campaigns of the 1960s. South African covert forces were suspected of having planted the bomb with the aim of killing members of the liberation movement living in exile there.

13 October 1990 First Gay Pride March held in South Africa



On 13 October 1990, the first South African Lesbian and Gay Pride march was held in Johannesburg. It was also the first Pride March on the African continent and acted as both a gay pride event and an anti-Apartheid march. The march was organ-

ised by the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) and attracted a crowd of about 800 people. Speakers at the event included Beverly Ditsie, Simon Nkoli and Justice Edwin Cameron.

14 October 1906 Muslim Brotherhood founder born

Hassan al-Banna was a teacher and Imam, and founder of the Muslim Brotherhood in Mahmoudyah, Egypt. He originally sought change through reform rather than revolution, urging Arab countries to rise up against colonialism. He was killed in 1949.

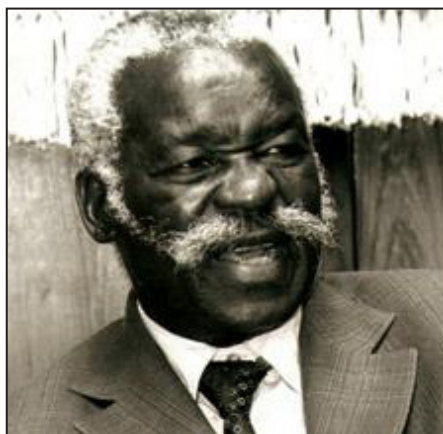
14 October 1931 Pretoria becomes a City

On 14 October 1931, Pretoria achieved official city status. The initial town was named in 1855 by Marthinus Pretorius, a leader of the Voortrekkers who named it after his father Andries Pretorius, who was involved in the Battle of Blood River. Pretoria became the Administrative Capital of the Union of South Africa, formed in 1910 with the merger of the Transvaal Colony (former Boer Republic of the ZAR), the Orange Free State Colony (former Boer Republic of the Orange Free State), the Cape Colony and Natal Colony. After 1994, the city remained the administrative capital, and was renamed Tshwane.

14 October 1983 Moses Mabhida receives awards

Moses Mbheki Mabhida, trade unionist, politician and Umkhonto we Sizwe commander, was awarded the Soviet Order of the People and the Order of the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



People's Republic of Bulgaria First Class on his sixtieth birthday. He travelled extensively and was highly respected around the globe, in particular by trade unionists and socialists. Mabhida, a self-educated man, was steeped in the Marxist-Leninist ideology and tradition.

14 October 1988

Naguib Mafhouz receives Nobel Prize for Literature

Egyptian author Naguib Mafhouz, focusing in his writings on existentialist themes, and with many of his novels made into film, was announced as the 1988 Nobel Laureate for Literature.

15 October 1926

Artist Rexon Mathebula born

Rexon Mathebula, was born in Sophiatown, Johannesburg. Scotch, as he was known, held several menial jobs and moved around for work a lot, working and living in Letaba, Hoedspruit, and Empangeni. Without formal art training, he sold his first artworks, images on pieces of glass made with a lump of tar and a tin of red paint, all randomly found, for 75c each. His first exhibition was in the student union of the University of Zululand, with the encouragement of Mrs BG Ndawonde-Nene. Mathebula's

work has been discussed in detail in the book *The Neglected Tradition* by Steven Sack (1988) published by the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

15 October 1932

Belita Palma born

Isabel Salomé Benedito de Palma, best known as Belita Palma (15 October 1932 — 1988), was an Angolan singer, who used song to inspire the struggle against colonialism in her country.

15 October 1938

Fela Kuti born

Nigerian and African music icon and activist, Fela Kuti was born on this day in Abekuta, Nigeria. A pioneer of Afrobeat, he achieved huge success with his band Africa 70, fusing Yoruba vocalization and rhythms with funk and jazz.

15 October 1985

Trojan Horse massacre in Athlone, Cape Town



In Athlone, Cape Town, the area bordered by Klipfontein Road, Belgravia Road, Thornton Road and Alexander Sinton High School was a gathering place for anti-apartheid protests, particularly students. On 15 October 1985, members of the security forces shot and killed three young people who were part of student demonstrations against apartheid. A South African Rail-

ways truck, with armed police men hidden drove down Thornton Road in the middle of a student protest. The police with guns jumped out and opened fire, killing three young people, Jonathan Claasen (21), Shaun Magmoed (15), Michael Miranda (11) and injuring several others.

15 October 1989

Five Rivonia Trialists released

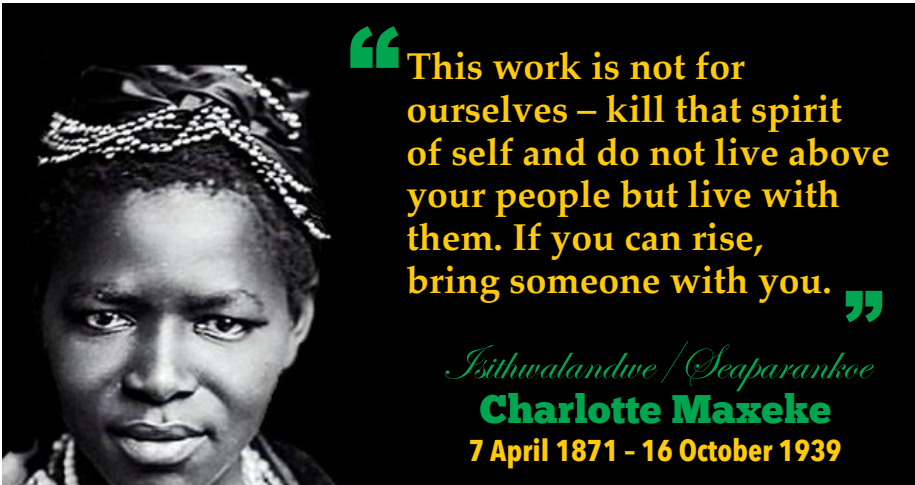
On 15 October 1989, five of the eight African National Congress (ANC) long term political prisoners were released from Robben Island. Among the leaders set free were Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Elias Motsoaledi. Three of the eight prisoners who were released before and after 1989 were, Dennis Goldberg (1985), Govan Mbeki (5 November 1987) and Nelson Mandela (11 February 1990). They were arrested on 11 July 1963 when security police raided Lilliesleaf Farm, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

15 October 1993

Walus and Derby-Lewis sentenced to death for Hani assassination

Presiding Judge C.F. Eloff sentenced Polish immigrant and supporter of the Neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), Janusz Walus, and Conservative Party (CP) politician Clive Derby-Lewis to death for assassinating the South African Communist Party (SACP) leader, Chris Hani. They were found guilty the previous day with Gaye Derby-Lewis, Clive's wife, acquitted. Their sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment after the abolition of the death penalty when a democratic government took over.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



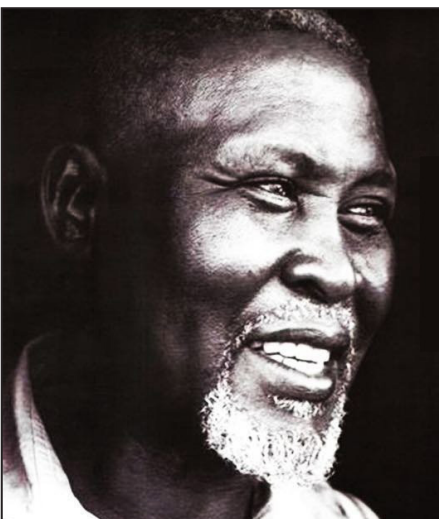
“This work is not for ourselves – kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you.”

Isithwalandwe / Seaparankoe
Charlotte Maxeke
 7 April 1871 - 16 October 1939

16 October 1939 Charlotte Maxeke passes on

Charlotte Maxeke (7 April 1871 – 16 October 1939), a pioneer in many fields, the first black woman to earn a Bachelor's of Science degree, attended the ANC founding Congress in 1912, and went on to form the Bantu Women's League, died in Johannesburg on this day at the age of 65. She was honoured as 'Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa' at a meeting of the All-African Convention in December 1935 by Dr. A.B. Xuma. 2024 is 153 years since her birth.

16 October 1952 Nkosi Albert Luthuli elected ANC President-General



Albert Luthuli was elected the president-general on 16 October 1952 at the annual congress of the ANC. Following his election, Luthuli was served banning orders by the apartheid regime, and in 1956 was arrested and charged with treason. Despite the treason charge being dropped, Luthuli was slapped with another 5-year ban. In 1961, Luthuli was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Luthuli's enormous contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa is without dispute. He has been lauded as one of the greatest patriots in South African history and the national '*Order of Luthuli*' was named after him, the highest award for contributions to democracy, human rights, justice and peace.

17 October 1887 The Star published in Johannesburg

The Star newspaper appeared for the first time in Johannesburg as The Eastern Star. It was founded in Grahamstown under that title on January 6, 1871, and was moved to the Witwatersrand sixteen years later by its owners, brothers Thomas and George Sheffield. In 1889, the name Eastern Star was changed to The Star, currently owned by the Independent Media group.

17 October 1973 Egyptian and Israeli forces in fierce fights

From 6 to 26 October 1973 a coalition of Arab nations led by Egypt and Syria, and Israel were involved in a bloody war in the Sinai desert and Golan Heights. The war began on Yom Kippur with joint attack by Egypt and Syria. Israel, caught unawares, was stunned by the fury and execution of the Arab onslaught, who made excellent progress during the first 24-48 hours. However, by the second week of the war, the Syrians had been pushed entirely out of the Golan Heights. The war also set the two superpowers (United States of America and Soviet Union) on a conflicting course. The USA supported Israel while Egypt received backing from the Soviet Union.

17 October 1989 Elephant poaching reached a height

While African elephants have been hunted for several centuries, the exploitation of elephant herds on a massive scale began in the 1970s. Organized gangs of poachers used automatic weapons and laundered tons of elephant tusks through several African countries to destinations in Eastern and Western countries. The huge increase during the 1970s was the result of automatic weapons availability and growing demand, as ivory was perceived as a valuable hedge against rising inflation. In the 1960s, raw ivory prices remained between \$3 and \$10 per pound. In 1975, prices reached \$50 and by 1987, the price was \$125 per pound. This decimated elephant populations across Africa and they faced extinction in the wild. Eastern African nations such as

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Kenya lost almost all of their elephants to poachers in the 1980s. Overall, the elephant population in Africa plummeted from about 1.2 million to 600,000 in the 1980s, prompting the global ban on all ivory trade in 1989, through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Despite this, elephant numbers continue to drop, the Wildlife organisation estimates that in 2020 there were just 415,000 elephants across the continent.

18 October 1983 SADF bombs ANC offices in Maputo

South African National Defense Force (SADF) commandos bombed the African National Congress (ANC) office in Maputo, Mozambique and injured 5 people. Captain Wynand Petrus du Toit was caught later and admitted his role in the raid. This was one of many cross border raids by the SADF in the 1980s to

neighbouring countries who gave refuge to South African freedom fighters.

18 October 1966 Rand Afrikaanse Universiteit established

The Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), the second university in Johannesburg after Witwatersrand University, was established by an act of parliament as the academic home of Afrikaans-speaking students. The University attracted students, academics, donors and business partners from other language groups, but explicitly excluded black South Africans. RAU was merged with the Witwatersrand Technikon and the two Vista campuses of Soweto and the East Rand, to form the University of Johannesburg (UJ). UJ was officially launched on 1 January 2005. It now boasts four campuses, Auckland Park Kingsway, Auckland Park Bunting, Doornfontein and Soweto. The University has approximately 46

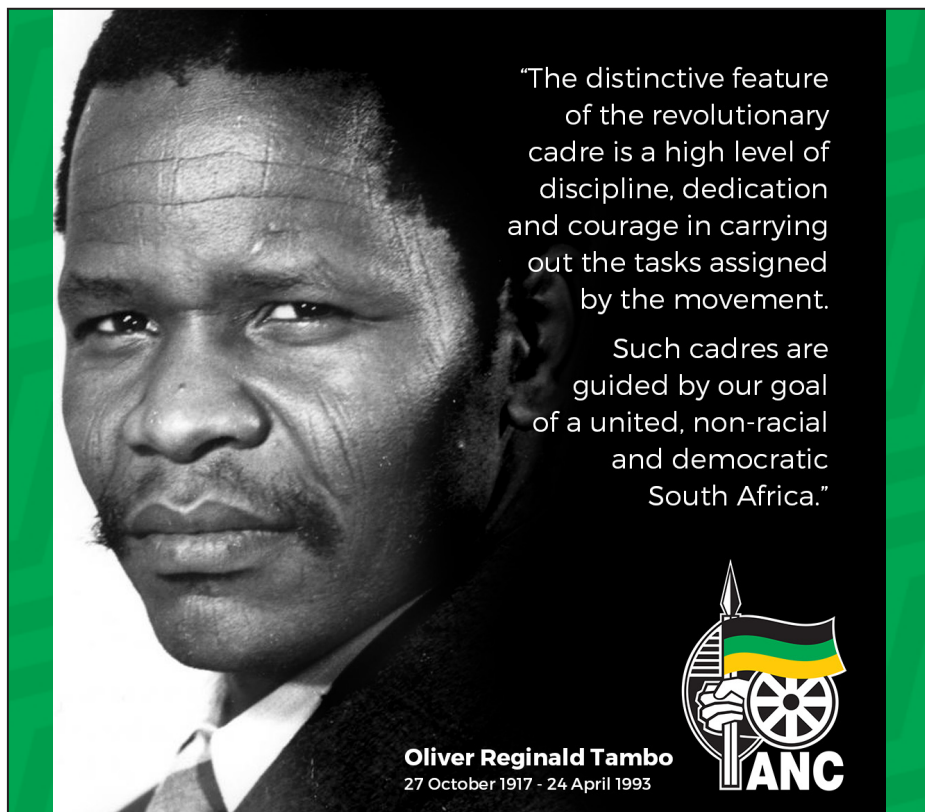
000 students spread over five campuses across Jo'burg.

18 October 1985 Benjamin Moloise executed

Upholsterer and poet, Benjamin Moloise was executed by apartheid government on 18 October 1985. Moloise was accused of murdering a black police officer. The African National Congress claimed responsibility for the murder and repudiated the claim that Moloise was involved. The US and the Soviet Union warned the apartheid government against the execution, but the government still decided to go ahead with it. The execution aroused so much anger in the townships that violence escalated, reaching Johannesburg CBD which had previously remained sheltered from it.

18 October 1990 Nomsa Mapongwana assassinated

Nomsa Mapongwana (34), wife of chairperson Michael Mapongwana of the Western Cape Civic Organisation, a UDF affiliate, was shot dead at night in her home in Lingeletu West. Mapongwana and her husband woke up to the sound of shots fired from the front and rear windows of their house. Petrol bombs were thrown through the windows. Mr Mapongwana dragged his wife and children into the kitchen and hid underneath the table until the shooting stopped, when he found that his wife had died from a bullet wound in the chest. The Urban Monitoring and Awareness Committee later reported that neighbours saw four balaclava-clad men run from the burning house and jump over the back fence, escaping in a white combi.



Oliver Reginald Tambo
27 October 1917 - 24 April 1993



"The distinctive feature of the revolutionary cadre is a high level of discipline, dedication and courage in carrying out the tasks assigned by the movement.

Such cadres are guided by our goal of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

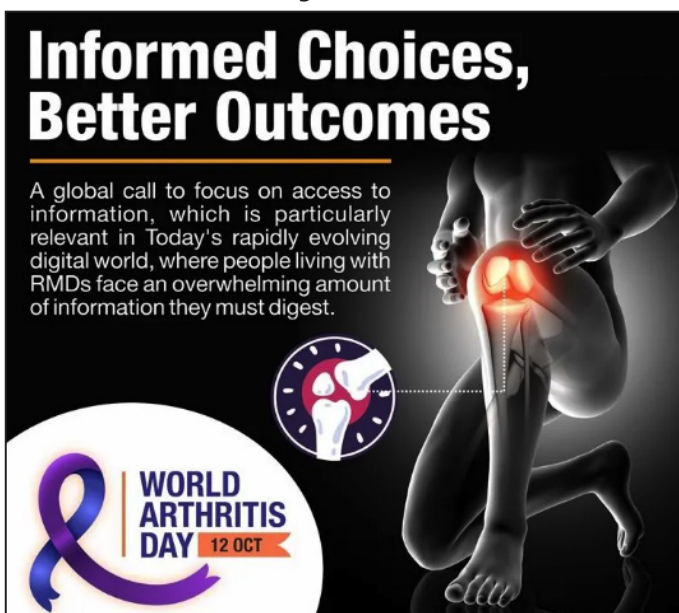
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

12 – 18 OCTOBER 2024

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

12 October

World Arthritis Day



One of the most common illnesses, it refers to a large number of conditions that cause inflammation of the joints. This year, 2024, the World Arthritis Day Theme is **"Informed Choices, Better Outcomes"**. The theme focused on access to information, which is particularly relevant in Today's rapidly evolving digital world, where people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) face an overwhelming amount of information they must digest. While having access to information is empowering, the sheer volume, coupled with an increasing amount of incorrect or misleading information, can make it challenging to find accurate and trustworthy guidance. The goal is to help people living with RMDs make evidence-informed choices in partnership with their healthcare professionals to improve their overall health and quality of life.

13 October

International Day for Disaster Reduction

The anniversary of this day started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a

day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. As global warming manifest in more extreme weather conditions, all countries have to build disaster risk capacities to prevent and mitigate loss of lives and livelihoods.

14 October

World Standards Day

Thousands of experts, especially those from organizations like the International Electrotechnical Commission (I.E.C.), the International Telecommunication Union (I.T.U.), and the International Standards Organization (I.S.O.), are involved in the creation of common global standards, to encourage cooperation. They create voluntary technical agreements that are published as international standards. World Standards Day is a celebration of their teamwork and its impact on our interconnected world. It encourages us to value the efforts of those who work behind the scenes to ensure that products and processes meet universal criteria, making our global marketplace more efficient and connected.

14 October

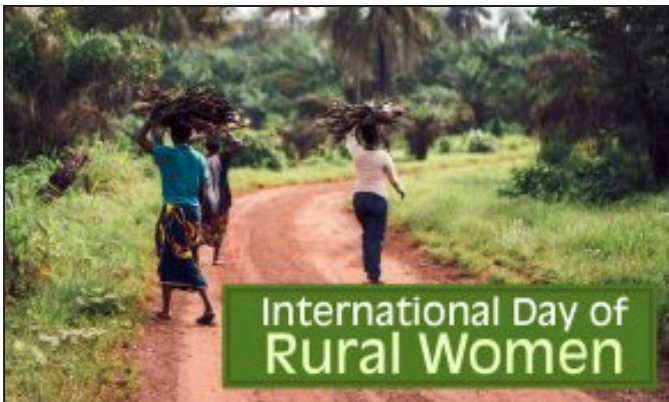
World Sight Day

Across the world, there are 2.2 billion people with problems of eyesight, including 91 million children. World Sight day advocates for good eye sight, and caring for our eyes. 90% of people experiencing sight loss are from developing countries. Get your eyes tested regularly.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

15 October International Day of Rural Women



As the world faces an increasingly critical need to act against climate change, the important role that rural women and girls play in building resilience is unquestionable. Rural women and girls are leaders in agriculture, food security and nutrition, land, managing natural resource management and unpaid and domestic care work. They are at the front-line when agriculture and natural resources are threatened. One third of women are employed in agriculture. (Source: www.unwomen.org)

15 October Global Handwashing Day



A global advocacy day raises awareness about the importance of handwashing with soap as fundamental to good health and development. Across the world only 60% of the population has access to a basic handwashing facility; in least developed countries, only 28% of people have access to basic handwashing facilities; and there are 17 countries where more than 10 million people lack handwashing facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, hand washing with soap was one of the basic measures to stop the spread of infections and germs.

15 October World Students Day

The day is celebrated to value students of all ages who dedicate themselves to learning, whatever the field. The day is in honour of the late Indian aerospace scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a consummate educationist who believed teachers and students were the builders of society. He famously said: "Dream, Dream, Dream, Dreams transform into thoughts. And thoughts result in action."

15 October World White Cane Day

Poor or loss of sight impact on mobility, and the white cane is the most recognisable symbol of the loss of sight. The white cane was introduced to be safer for blind people to be more visible to motorists and others.

16 October World Food Day

World Food Day highlights the plight of 870 million undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas where their main source of income is agriculture. Global warming and the bio-fuel boom are now threatening to push the number of hungry even higher. The day is also used to take forward the campaign spearheaded by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) towards Zero Hunger. It also aims to promote healthy diets. On this day Food and Agriculture Organisation was established and launched by the United Nations in 1945.

17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Celebrated since 1987 as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty and recognized by the



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

United Nations in 1992, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty focuses on the persistence of poverty, and the choices societies make. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have at its centre the goal of eradication of poverty across the world.

17 October Forgive an Ex Day

Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed

memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving creates a new way to remember, and change the memory of our past into a hope for the future. Relationships can be emotionally intense, filled with history and memories, and can impact your life without you even realizing it. When relationships fall apart, they can hurt and the pain can last forever. International Forgive an Ex Day is all about taking the time to reflect on your own pain and move forward by forgiving the actions of others. (daysoftheyear.com)

SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

OCTOBER 11



100 million girls are at risk of child marriage in the next decade.

Nearly 1 in 4 married/partnered adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.

Adolescent girls continue to account for 3 in 4 new HIV infections among adolescents.

Globally, girls aged 5-14 spend 160 million more hours every day on unpaid care and domestic work than boys of the same age.

Nearly 1 in 5 girls are still not completing lower-secondary and nearly 4 in 10 girls are not completing upper-secondary school today.

Around 90 per cent of adolescent girls and young women do not use the internet in low-income countries, while their male peers are twice as likely to be online.

X-WORD

International Day of the Girl Child

11 October



ACROSS

- 2. Stereotypes hold girls back from education and...
- 6. Act to ... discrimination against girls.
- 9. Jobs of the future are... girls, and at great cost
- 11. ...girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life.
- 12. Girls are ... in the face of challenges.
- 13. Girls' rights and vision for the ...
- 14. 90 per cent of adolescent girls and young women do not use the ... in low-income countries.

DOWN

- 1. Nearly 1 in 5 girls are still not completing ... school.
- 3. Unlock potential of world's more than 1.1 ... girls.
- 4. Girls 5–14 spend 160 million more hours every day on ... and domestic work than boys.
- 5. Girls face boundaries and barriers posed by... and exclusion.
- 7. Girls are ... for the future.
- 8. It is time to... to girls.
- 10. First global Declaration to specifically call out girls rights (1995).

WORD BANK

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Beijing | billion | listen | Adolescent | stereotypes |
| courageous | hopeful | opportunities | missing | end |
| lower-secondary | future | unpaid care | internet | |

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