



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



As we mark 100 days of the Government of National Unity, we once again call on all South Africans to join us: **LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER**

■ Address by **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**
on the **100 Days of the Government of National Unity**

 NE hundred days have passed since the members of the Government of National Unity were sworn into office.

The establishment of the GNU was a historic occasion, bringing together into one administration parties from across the political spectrum.

As we mark this milestone, we reflect on the progress that has been made since South Africans went to the polls on the 29th of May this year.

We reflect on the work that has

been done to implement the mandate from the people for transformation, inclusive growth and jobs.

On this occasion, we commend the people of South Africa for turning out in their millions to vote in conditions of peace, fairness and stability.

The elections results sent a clear message to the ANC and the nation.

The results showed that, while acknowledging the progress made during the first three decades of democracy, citizens

are deeply concerned about the state of the country.

They are concerned about an economy that is neither growing nor inclusive.

They are concerned about unemployment, poverty and continuing inequality.

Through the election, voters expressed their concerns about the delivery of basic services and the quality of governance.

Importantly, the people of South Africa also sent a clear message about the state of the Af-

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frican National Congress. They said that our movement needed to give full meaning and effect to renewal and rebuilding.

While many recognised that progress has been made, we have not gone far enough. They are not convinced that the advances we have made will not be reversed.

Amid these challenges, we thank the 6.5 million voters who placed their confidence and trust in the ANC to continue to lead the fundamental transformation of our society.

We thank our volunteers for their tireless campaigning for the ANC under difficult conditions. We thank the members and leaders of the ANC for coordinating the campaign on the ground.

We thank our Alliance partners and other progressive formation for their support during the election campaign.

As the ANC, we have acknowledged that the outcomes of the 2024 election were a strategic

setback for our movement. It was the first time since the event of democracy that the ANC did not achieve an outright majority at national level.

However, as the party that received the most votes nationally and in seven provinces, we had to show leadership and act in the best interests of our country and its people.

We had to explore governance arrangements that would ensure that we can continue to defend the gains of freedom.

We had to ensure stability, we had to advance transformation and we had to address the concerns of citizens.

We agreed that an inclusive government of national unity held the best prospects to move the country forward.

We saw this as an opportunity to work with other political parties to address the challenges that confront South Africans.

It is an opportunity to mobilise across society and across polit-

ical difference to build a country that truly belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

It is an opportunity to take forward the struggle to build a society in which all our people may prosper and thrive.

We thank all the political parties who agreed to be part of this journey, who came together, acting in the interests of the country.

We went into the GNU knowing full well that we have significant ideological and political differences with some of the parties.

We knew there were fundamental issues on which we differed and that were bound to be tensions and strains.

But we also know, from many decades of experience, that the ANC has the strategic clarity and the political capacity to work alongside a wide range of forces in pursuit of progressive goals.

Ultimately, the GNU should not be judged by the political orientation of the parties that constitute this administration, but by the impact that it has on the lives of poor and working class South Africans.

Since the elections, South Africans from all walks of life have rallied behind the objectives, programme and work of the new GNU.

Both as individuals and through their various formations, they have made a commitment to work alongside government to build an inclusive economy and a fair and just society.

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The people of South Africa have demonstrated their support for the principles and the minimum programme that is contained in the Statement of Intent signed by all the parties to the GNU.

This Statement of Intent describes the essential features of our national agenda for the next five years.

It provides a platform for the continuation and the intensification of the fundamental transformation of our economy and our society.

The GNU has identified three strategic priorities:

Firstly, to drive inclusive growth and job creation.

Secondly, to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living.

Thirdly, to build a capable and ethical developmental state.

These priorities are closely aligned with the six priority areas of ANC 2024 Manifesto.

The 100 days since the estab-

lishment of the GNU have seen a marked improvement in confidence among South Africans.

Sentiment among business people and investors is positive.

The prospects for the growth of our economy are greatly improved.

We have entered a new era of promise and hope. This is not just based on wishful thinking, but on real progress that has been made since the election.

We have made important progress on the first priority of the ANC manifesto, which is a jobs plan to put South Africans to work.

During the 100 days of the GNU, government has been working to expand and institutionalise the Presidential Employment Stimulus, the Expanded Public Works Programme and other initiatives under the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention.

These programmes continue to provide income, job opportunities and skills development for young people.

We have signed the Public Procurement Act, which includes set-asides for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Our Manifesto said that we would protect and uphold the hard-won rights of workers. We said we would continually strive to improve working and living conditions.

During the last 100 days, the Department of Employment and Labour has undertaken a proactive programme of inspection of workplaces.

This is to ensure that they comply with labour legislation, the minimum wage and safety conditions, and that all employees have the correct documentation.

It is wrong that so many workplaces visited, including large companies, have such a lax approach to the rights of workers and our labour laws.

We have done much work in giving effect to the second priority of our manifesto, which is to build an inclusive economy through industrialisation and infrastructure development.



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As part of our response to the devastating impact which COVID 19 had on our economy, we put in place an Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (ERRP) during the 6th administration, so as to deal with its impact, as well as some of the other constraints on growth and reconstruction.

Working with our social partners, we are beginning to see the green shoots of an economy on the road to recovery.

Through the effective implementation of our Energy Action Plan, the country has now had 200 days without loadshedding.

We have made important strides in the reform of our electricity sector to make it more competitive and sustainable.

Other developments include the agreement between Eskom and Sasol on exploring the country's gas requirements, ongoing investments in renewable energy and work to mobilise investment in our transmission network.

We have launched the second phase of the partnership between government and business to undertake focus actions in energy, logistics, crime and corruption, and employment.

This partnership has already played a key role in reducing the severity of load shedding, in improving the performance of our freight rail and port operations, and in improving the capabilities of our law enforcement agencies going forward.

We are also making progress on other economic reforms that



were begun during the sixth administration.

Building on the work of Operation Vulindlela, the Minister of Home Affairs recently gazetted new work visa regulations that will make it easier to attract skills and investment, grow tourism and create jobs.

The new rules will protect the jobs that South Africans need while attracting skills to those areas of the economy where they are most needed.

As we engage with business, we continue to emphasise the need to invest in productive capacity so as to create jobs.

Our industrial policy is being implemented with renewed vigour.

We have increased our focus on export-led industrialisation using the African Continental Free Trade Area and our other global partnerships.

We continue to pursue a macroeconomic policy that provides an enabling environment for the economy to grow, while reduc-

ing public debt to sustainable levels.

Over the last 100 days, inflation and interest rates have been on a downward trend.

We have recently signed into law legislative amendments that provide improved protection of the rights of communities who are part of communal property associations.

As an important part of our land reform agenda, the law makes it clear that land will be owned by residents who are members of associations and not by the associations themselves.

On the third priority in our Manifesto – to tackle the high cost of living – we are beginning to see some relief for consumers on the prices of basic goods.

We have seen a reduction in the petrol price, due in part to the strengthening of the Rand.

While there has been a decline in some food prices, the Competition Commission has noted that the cost of food for

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consumers has not fallen at the same rate as the decline in the cost of producing food.

The school nutrition programme, which provides over 9 million children with a daily meal, remains an important food security intervention.

We welcome the measures by the Department of Basic Education to consider an additional breakfast meal, as well as work underway to strengthen delivery of the programme.

Government continues to provide the SRD grant to around 7 million unemployed people. Alongside other social grants, this provides essential support to those people who need it most.

We call on government to expedite work to ensure that the proposals on moving from the SRD grant towards a basic income

support grant can be presented to Cabinet.

Another area of progress, which has a direct impact on the cost of living, is the restoration of our commuter rail lines.

To date, around 80 percent of all passenger rail corridors have been returned to operation. By March this year, 40 million passengers were using public trains, nearly three times more than the year before.

We have been working on priority four of our Manifesto, to invest in South Africa's people and provide quality basic services.

In the last 100 days, we signed the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act.

Among other things, the Act provides for early learning foun-

dations to be strengthened, promotes greater accountability of parents for their children's learning and promotes inclusivity in the classroom.

This new legislation aims to ensure uniformity and fairness in educational standards between schools and across the country.

We are confident that the two clauses of the Act that further consultations will be resolved soon, so that we can all concentrate on the critical issue of improving schooling.

We are pleased with the concerted efforts by the Minister of Higher Education and Training to address the challenges of NSFAS, so that students can concentrate on their studies, rather than worry about their next meal.

The signing of the National



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Health Insurance Act is an important step towards universal health coverage.

The current focus is on improving the public health facilities and putting in place the requirements for the creation of a National Health Insurance Fund.

At the same time, we continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that we achieve equitable health for all sooner, rather than later.

Several Ministers have been working with provinces and local government, in the spirit of cooperative governance, to resolve the issues of basic services and debt faced by municipalities.

At the same time, we will continue to make efforts to ensure that ANC deployees in local government are responsive to cries of citizens about basic services, and work together to resolve problems.

On the fifth priority of our Manifesto, we are continuing to defend and advance democracy and freedom.

South Africa's march towards a society that is united, non-sexist, non-racial, democratic and prosperous continues.

We continue to protect and advance the rights of the vulnerable in our society, including children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

We are committed to upholding the rights of members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

October is Pride Month. We congratulate Soweto on the 20th anniversary of its Pride March and welcome the pride marches across the country that are raising awareness of the rights of the LGBTQIA+ communities and the need for all of us to fight against homophobia.

The emancipation of women remains one of the cornerstones of the society we wish to build.

We celebrate achievements like the appointment of the country's first female Chief Justice.

At the same time, we must intensify our efforts to end gender-based violence and femicide.

We must reduce and ultimately remove the gender pay gap.

We must work together to reverse the recent dip in the representation of women in Parliament, the Executive and local government.

We welcome the vigour and systematic manner with which the Minister of Police, the SAPS and the criminal justice system as a whole are moving to tackle crime and corruption.

We welcome the cooperation that is taking place with communities, business and private security companies on effective crime prevention strategies.

We are making headway across the criminal justice system in our fight against corruption, from prosecutions to disciplinary action and recovery of monies.

We continue to implement the recommendations of the Zondo Commission, including through the enactment of legislative reforms.

We will keep the pressure on. We will leave no quarter for those who seek to steal and divert public resources.

We made a commitment to build an accountable, ethical and professional public service.

We can see progress through the leadership of institutions like the Public Service Commission, Auditor-General, the Public Protector and the National School of Government.

As part of the sixth priority of the Manifesto, we are working to



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build a better Africa and world.

Much of our international engagements over the last 100 days have been about expanding economic diplomacy.

We have been working to open up additional market access for our goods, through AGOA, BRICS+ and through bilateral relations with several other countries.

Our commitment to multilateralism and reform of the global governance and rules architecture is unwavering.

We welcome the adoption of the United Nations Pact for the Future, which sets out a clear path for global peace and development.

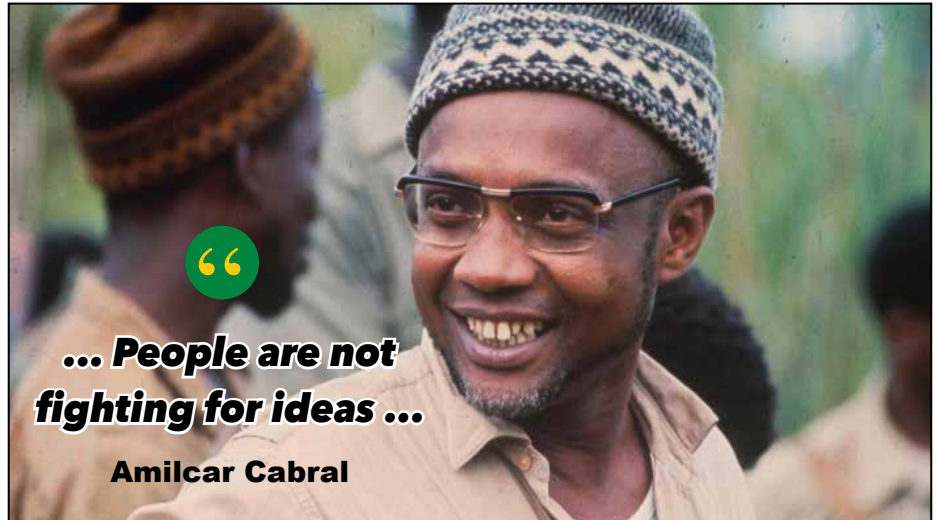
We continue to place the African Agenda at the centre of our foreign policy.

We will continue to support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and other initiatives of Agenda 2063.

Over the last 100 days, we have continued on the path of solidarity and justice for the Palestinian people.

We will soon present our submission to the International Court of Justice in support of the case we have brought against the State of Israel for the crimes of genocide that it continues to perpetrate against the Palestinians in Gaza.

We are deeply concerned about the intensification of the onslaught against the people of



Gaza and now the people of Lebanon.

We call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance, and the start of negotiations towards a just and lasting settlement.

Climate change increasingly is more than a future prediction, as we've seen with our own experiences of extreme weather.

This means that we must do more to mitigate and adapt, but also more effectively coordinate our disaster response, as government and as citizens.

One hundred days do not seem like a long time.

But it is a significant milestone to gauge whether we are moving in the right direction and whether we are doing things differently and with more purpose.

Our reflections show, that although our challenges are enormous, there is a collective commitment to work together to tackle these challenges.

There is a firm commitment to

advance towards a building a better life for all.

We should always remind ourselves of the words of the African freedom fighter, Amilcar Cabral, who would have turned 100 this year, when he said: *"Always remember that the people are not fighting for ideas... The people fight and accept the sacrifices demanded in order to gain material advantages, to live better and in peace, to benefit from progress, and for the better future of their children."*

Our country has entered a new era, full of challenges, risks and possibilities.

As the ANC, we are determined to seize these opportunities to advance the needs and interests of the South African people.

We are determined to advance the fundamental social and economic transformation of our society.

As we mark 100 days of the Government of National Unity, we once again call on all South Africans to join us: Let's do more, together.

ANC SUCCESSION DEBATE – A NON-STARTER

■ By **FIKILE MBALULA**

IN recent days a narrative has emerged in the public discourse suggesting a number of senior leaders are involved in a succession race for leadership positions at the next ANC National Conference in 2027. This narrative is driven by the belief that the ANC must essentially exist as a tool to contest power in order to advance self-aggrandisement. A belief suggestive that the ANC is a feeding trough, hence an insatiable scramble for leadership.

This narrative is premised on a misguided analysis of our body politic, whether by default or by design. It is equally a mischievous effort aimed at detracting us from the task at hand of renewal and reversing our electoral fortunes. This goes against the constitutionally stated duty for all ANC members that is underpinned by selflessness and seeking no personal material gain but to voluntarily improve the lives of our people.

This reductionist approach to ANC leadership issues may on the surface pretend to be about the individuals concerned, when in fact it is an agenda aimed at clandestinely driving a dim view on what the organization stands for. This therefore means that whenever the ANC seeks to self-correct, the naysayers will find an opportunity to drive this narrative deeper, a narrative that



seeks to perceptively divorce the movement from the masses of the people.

Those peddling this narrative seek to achieve particular political ends by setting us on a destructive path characterised by mistrust and suspicion. We will not go down this path and will not be hoodwinked into engaging in factional debates that do not add value to the renewal of the ANC.

The May 2024 electoral outcomes plunged us into uncharted waters that forced us to make hard political choices. These were necessary to enable us to remain in a position where we would ad-

vance transformation and accelerate our efforts to improve the lives of our people. The new reality also forced us to contend with the emergence of the MK Party, which had the effect of eroding our support base.

The moment we find ourselves in is aptly characterized by Charles Dickson when he says, *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”*

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The contradictions brought about by what the NEC characterised as a strategic setback of the national democratic revolution (NDR), demands of us to make critical trade offs and employ unpopular tactics in achieving strategic advantage in the midst of competing ideologies within the Government of National Unity (GNU) environment. However, we are under no illusion that ANC Policy and manifesto commitments remain our lodestar in navigating the stormy waters of our latter-day political landscape.

The advent of the GNU is a tactical choice we have made in order to rebuild the ANC's electoral base and reconnect with communities in the run-up to the local government elections. We have never been under any illusion that the GNU is a means to an end, and therefore not a permanent feature of the political landscape we envisage. Our primary objective is to achieve an outright electoral majority that would enable us to govern without reliance on other parties. Such a victory is neither for its own sake nor for the leaders, but to enable accelerated national transformation and deliver on our manifesto commitments.

The shifting political sands in our body politic demand of the ANC to find a path that will advance its strategic objectives, while remaining true to its values and character. Such a path must translate into a practical expression of its manifesto commitments to realise the dreams and aspirations of the citizenry, as an integral pillar in building a national democratic society that is truly non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous. The Statement of Intent and the GNU minimum programme are a clear testament of this.

As we approach the local government elections in 2026, we are hard at work addressing the root causes of the declined electoral support and rebuilding our structures on the ground. But most importantly, we are consolidating our service delivery mechanisms so that no one is left behind as we forge the kind society envisaged in our country's Constitution. In this regard, ANC branches must champion the causes of their communities and be responsive to the challenges these communities face.

The dynamic relationship between ANC structures and its deployees across all centres of state power is crucial in unblocking service delivery challenges and instilling hope that the ANC can make a better life for all a lived reality. This can only be achieved through tangible action that our people can see, feel and experience.

In the same vein, our commitment to the renewal of the ANC has never been greater. Renew-

al must be understood within the context of the primary task of the ANC, which remains the mobilisation of all the classes and strata that objectively stand to benefit from the cause of social change.

The ANC has always understood that to lead the NDR successfully, it has to renew itself so that it remains relevant to the changing conditions of the struggle both locally and internationally.

We remain firmly on track towards realising this goal and will not be deterred by fictitious contests that seek to undermine our efforts to rebuild and renew the ANC. The 56th national conference is still a long way off. Therefore, characterization of actions of individual leaders as positioning themselves for one leadership position or the other remains nothing more than a figment of the imagination of those peddling these stories.

Fikile Mbalula is the Secretary-General of the African National Congress.



Compromises made for the greater good of the revolution are not betrayals – they are steps along the path to deeper transformation

■ By **BHEKI MTOLO**

THE decision by the ANC to form a Government of National Unity (GNU), inviting all political organisations, even strategic opponents like the DA, has caused debate within the movement and beyond. Some, including SACP General Secretary Comrade Solly Mapaila, have expressed concerns that such a coalition might represent a sellout of the principles of the national democratic revolution. However, as Marxist-Leninist theory teaches us, real-world struggles often require compromises and tactical decisions, especially when the material conditions are not ideal.

To understand why the GNU, as led by the ANC, is not a betrayal but a tactical necessity, we must examine Marxist-Leninist theory, drawing on the writings of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, and the contributions of South Africa's own revolutionary thinkers like Joe Slovo.

Marxism holds that *“men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past,”* is central to understanding the



ANC's position. The ANC, while committed to radical socio-economic transformation, must operate within the constraints of South Africa's current political reality. The electoral outcomes, economic system, and balance of forces necessitate tactical alliances to secure governance.

The ANC, leading the GNU, recognizes that the struggle continues under conditions that are not fully of our choosing. However, these conditions offer opportunities to continue advancing the National Democratic Revolution,

even if we must do so incrementally.

Comrade Mapaila's criticism of the GNU overlooks a crucial lesson from Lenin himself. In his seminal work, *“Left-Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder,”* Lenin addresses the importance of strategic compromises in the face of complex political realities. Lenin argued that:

“One must be able to work in legal institutions and in the illegal way, to make compromises, to retreat, to go forward, to take part

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in elections, and sometimes to compromise and come to agreements.”

This is not a betrayal of communist principles, but rather a recognition that compromises may be necessary to maintain influence and make gains for the working class. Lenin explicitly warned against a purist or ultra-leftist position that dismisses all compromises as betrayals. Such a stance isolates the revolutionary movement from real-world struggles and denies the possibility of using existing structures to further revolutionary goals.

Thus, the ANC's participation in the GNU is not a sellout. It is a Leninist tactical maneuver aimed at advancing the struggle for a more equitable society under the constraints of coalition politics. The Government of Provincial Unity, for example, allows the ANC in KwaZulu Natal with a mere 17% to continue governing key sectors like health, education, transport and human settlements, all of which are critical to uplifting the poor and advancing transformation.

Even in the past, real SACP leaders like comrade Joe Slovo played a critical role in ensuring the negotiated transition to democracy through his advocacy of the **Sunset Clause**. Slovo's position was that compromises, including temporary power-sharing arrangements with the apartheid regime, were necessary to avoid civil war and secure democratic governance. This pragmatic approach allowed the democratic breakthrough of 1994 and paved the way for the ANC to lead the country.

The state-owned enterprises in China around 1965 accounted



The late General Secretary of the SACP, ANC Veteran and founder of Umkhonto weSizwe, Joe Slovo

for 90.1% of gross industrial production. The Communist Party of China in December 1978 adopted a policy on opening up, and it was never said they sold out because revolutionaries guided by science knew and best understood that the CPC was guided by material conditions. The policy on opening up led to the massive decline of state-owned enterprises wherein in 1997, state-owned enterprises had fallen to one quarter 25.52% of gross industrial production in the Chinese economy. In real quantitative terms this meant that by 1997, Chinese Industrial sector had approximately a total of 7, 922, 900 enterprises and of these only 98, 600 were state owned enterprises.

I know none of us has ever said the CPC was selling out the aspirations of building a socialist economy at the expense of capitalist economic hegemony. The

accusation that the GNU is a sell-out position lacks evidence it represents a pure propaganda that seeks to achieve populist unscientific ends.

Similarly, the current GNU, while imperfect, is a necessary compromise to maintain political stability and allow the ANC to implement policies aimed at socio-economic justice. Slovo's approach reminds us that compromises made for the greater good of the revolution are not betrayals – they are steps along the path to deeper transformation.

At the 10th National Congress of the SACP, President Thabo Mbeki made an important point when he said it is the responsibility of a good student to assist the teacher where he is limping. This metaphor speaks to the need for revolutionary forces to correct each other and remain united in

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the face of challenges. .

Comrade Mapaila, while raising valid concerns, must recognize that opposing the GNU in its entirety weakens the revolutionary unity we need at this critical juncture.

The GNU, while involving a temporary compromise with political forces like the DA, does not abandon the ANC's revolutionary mandate. Instead, it strengthens our ability to influence governance, protect the working class, and ensure stability in a time of economic crisis and political uncertainty.

The ANC's participation in the GNU is firmly rooted in Marxist-Leninist theory. As Lenin emphasized, compromise is sometimes necessary in the real world of politics. Marx reminds us that struggles are waged under historical conditions not chosen by us, and Slovo's wisdom in negotiating the Sunset Clause shows the importance of pragmatism in achieving long-term revolutionary goals.

Comrade Solly Mapaila's confusion stems from overlooking these key Marxist principles. While purist critiques may sound principled, they risk isolating the movement from the very material conditions that shape the struggle. The ANC, through its leadership in the GNU, remains committed to the radical transformation of society and continues to advance the interests of the working class and the poor within the limits of the current political landscape.

The GNU, as led by the ANC, is a strategic move, not a sellout. It is a compromise made in the service of our revolutionary ob-

jectives, guided by the historical lessons.

Let us, as revolutionaries, remain united and clear in our understanding that the conditions of the struggle may not always be favorable, but our commitment to

the people and to National Democratic Revolution must always guide our tactics

Bheki Mtolo is ANC KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Secretary, writing in his personal capacity.

THE ANC IS OUR FAMILY

The ANC is our family, our home, built on the foundations of mutual respect, decency, trust and open discussion.

When we argue amongst ourselves, we do so inside the home. When we celebrate our achievements and goals, we dance before the world!

Our patience is rooted in the realisation that we grow together but we will be firm with the unruly who attempt to disrupt our progress.

We welcome strangers at our door, and will teach them the ways of the ANC, so that they too can benefit as we benefit from the collective wisdom of our traditions, our forebears, and our developing membership.

With humble strength and deep pride we repeat the words of former generations of freedom fighters because they are also our own:

Asinamona, asinanzondo, siyayidumisa i-ANC!

The ANC lives! Its policy lives!

ANC NGC Declaration, Port Elizabeth. July 2000



100 Days Reflections on Parliament

ANC public representatives elected in May 2024 have been mandated to build and sustain a dynamic and interactive link between the people and the Parliament of the people.

Since our election into this august House more than three months ago, the African National Congress has been hard at work with our GNU partners and other parties represented in Parliament to set up the structures of Parliament (National Assembly and National Council of Provinces).

We faced the immediate challenge of changing the Rules of Parliament in line with the electoral outcomes.

We have established all Portfolio and Standing Committees – 34 in total. This week we aim to finalise the establishment of 4 joint committees comprising members of the NA and the NCOP.

Even though the parliamentary term started late in terms of the planning cycle of government, we were able to ensure all budgets were passed within the legislated timeframes and all quarterly reports considered.

The ANC Parliamentary Caucus has committed to ensuring that parliament fulfil its constitutional mandate to maintain effective and robust oversight, passing

legislation advancing our country's transformation and facilitating greater public participation.

The 2024-2029 ANC Election Manifesto set out 6 key priorities: to put South Africa to work; build our industries for an inclusive economy; tackle the high cost of living; invest in people; defend democracy and advance freedom; and build a better Africa and world.

When the President officially

opened Parliament on the 18th July 2024, he outlined the apex priorities of the ANC-led government: inclusive growth of our economy and job creation, fighting poverty and bringing down the cost of living, and building a capable and developmental state at all levels of government.

In broad terms, the President was outlining the primary tasks of the 7th Administration for which he and his Cabinet will be held accountable.



100 DAYS OF THE ANC-LED GNU | REFLECTIONS

The GNU should not be judged by the political orientation of the parties that constitute this administration, but by the impact that it has on the lives of poor and working class South Africans.

The people of South Africa have demonstrated their support for the principles and the minimum programme that is contained in the Statement of Intent signed by all the parties to the GNU.

Issued by the ANC. Chief Albert Luthe, HO

112TH ANNIVERSARY
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

30TH YEARS

ANC

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The task of the ANC Parliamentary Caucus and indeed Parliament is to hold our government accountable for achieving these priorities.

To date, we have convened no less than 36 mini-plenaries, 18 full plenaries and 3 Joint Plenaries in just over 100 days.

Through these sessions, robust oversight has been exercised through Questions for Oral Replies and appearances by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and leaders of state organs before Portfolio/Standing/Select Committees and SCOPA.

The responsiveness of the executive bodes well for the working relationship with Parliament in the 7th term. Our Ministers have answered a total of 104 out of 105 oral questions asked by

Members of Parliament (MPs).

The President and Deputy President have answered the 6 questions asked in the second term in the NA and the NCOP.

When it comes to answers to questions for written reply, 888 questions have been answered leaving 196 still to be answered. The ANC is determined to ensure that all these questions are ultimately answered.

In this 30th year of our democracy, under the leadership of the ANC in Parliament, the unity of purpose has been practically expressed by most Members of Parliament. MPs from all parties are involved in developing the 5 year strategic plan for the 7th Parliament.

We have shared the Chairpersons

of Committees proportionally with other parties. To deliver on the priorities we have set out, the ANC has led in debates in the House.

During the Women's Day debate, we recognized how far the women of our country have come in three decades of our democracy.

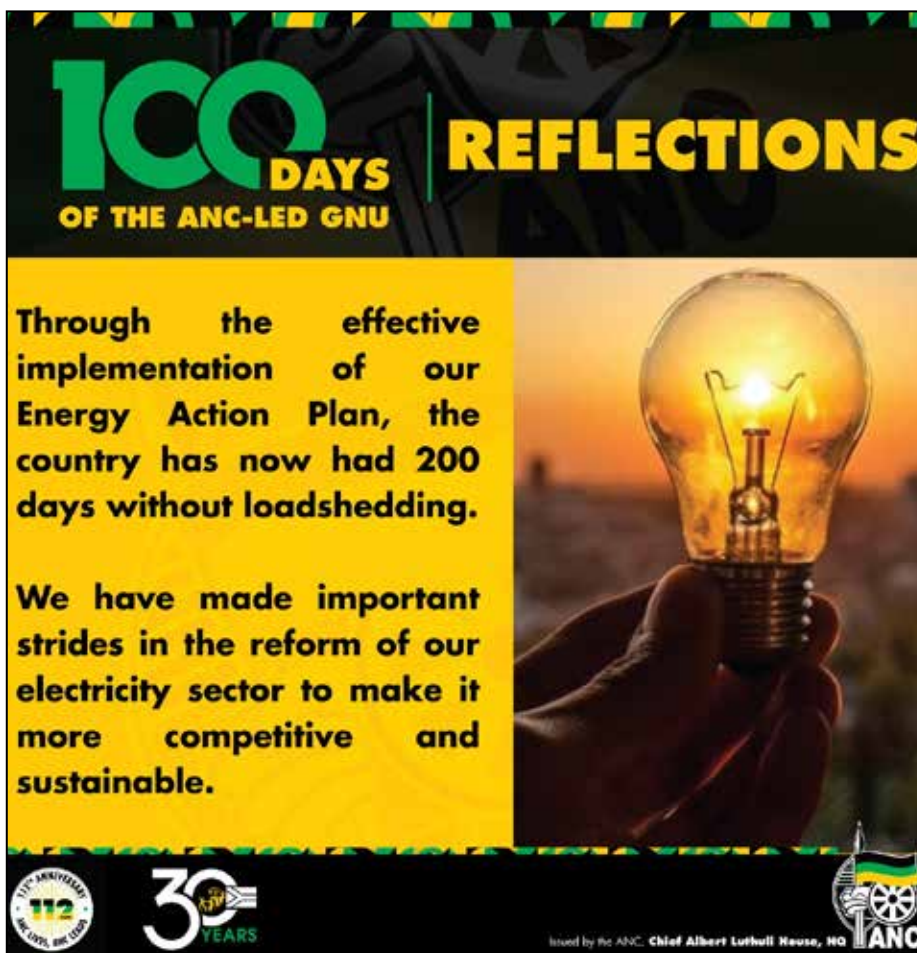
The Minister of Police made a Ministerial Statement on the crisis of the crime of extortion in our country and MPs engaged in a debate on the programme of action to end this scourge which is an attack on the people, businesses and national security in general. We are confident that the Minister of Police and his team have a clear plan to overcome this crisis.

In her Ministerial Statement, the Minister of Water and Sanitation focused on matters of the safety of dams in South Africa. This is an important matter given the ongoing challenge of water provision in some parts of our country.

A crucial debate was convened on the recent decision by NERSA to grant Eskom's application to retrospectively recover R8 billion for the 2021/2022 financial year. As the ANC we made it clear that any massive increase in the cost of electricity is simply untenable for the people and small and large businesses.

In the debate on Heritage Day, we celebrated 30 years of unity in diversity and paid tribute to those who laid down their lives for our freedom.

This is an important milestone in the life of our country and its people. The ANC Parliamentary Caucus, will continue to ensure that we consolidate our gains in this regard.



100 DAYS OF THE ANC-LED GNU REFLECTIONS

Through the effective implementation of our Energy Action Plan, the country has now had 200 days without loadshedding.

We have made important strides in the reform of our electricity sector to make it more competitive and sustainable.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu Nkomo, HQ

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We welcomed the President's signing of the BELA Bill into law and supported the process of engagement about two clauses in the Act.

A series of Committee Oversight reports were adopted between 20 August and 20 September 2024, with many important observations and recommendations outlined by Portfolio/Standing/Select Committees.

Questions to the President and Deputy President have enabled critical discussion on matters such as how the government will develop the Sovereign Wealth Fund, plans to involve the private sector in developing port infrastructure; and expanding access to markets for small-scale farmers; ongoing interventions to address water challenges in prioritised areas and the impact of the conflict in Sudan on the peace and stability of the region.

All four clusters in government had their oral question-and-answer sessions.

During the constituency period, we worked on strengthening constituency work, where all ANC MPs visited their constituencies to connect with communities and help resolve their various challenges. Our MPs have been directed to always be where the people are, listening to and solving their problems so that when they are in the House, they are truly representatives of the people.

We share the President's view that the 100 days since the establishment of the Government of National Unity have seen a marked improvement in confidence among majority of South Africans, business people and

investors.

As the ANC Parliamentary Caucus, we believe that enhanced oversight and accountability will assist in the attainment of the priorities set by the President.

In this parliamentary term, we will continue to deepen the activist character of Parliament in both houses. Whereas in the past, some Committees would have adopted an adversarial posture to the Executive or been complacent in their oversight work, we have directed ANC MPs to engage constructively and robustly in the execution of their duties.

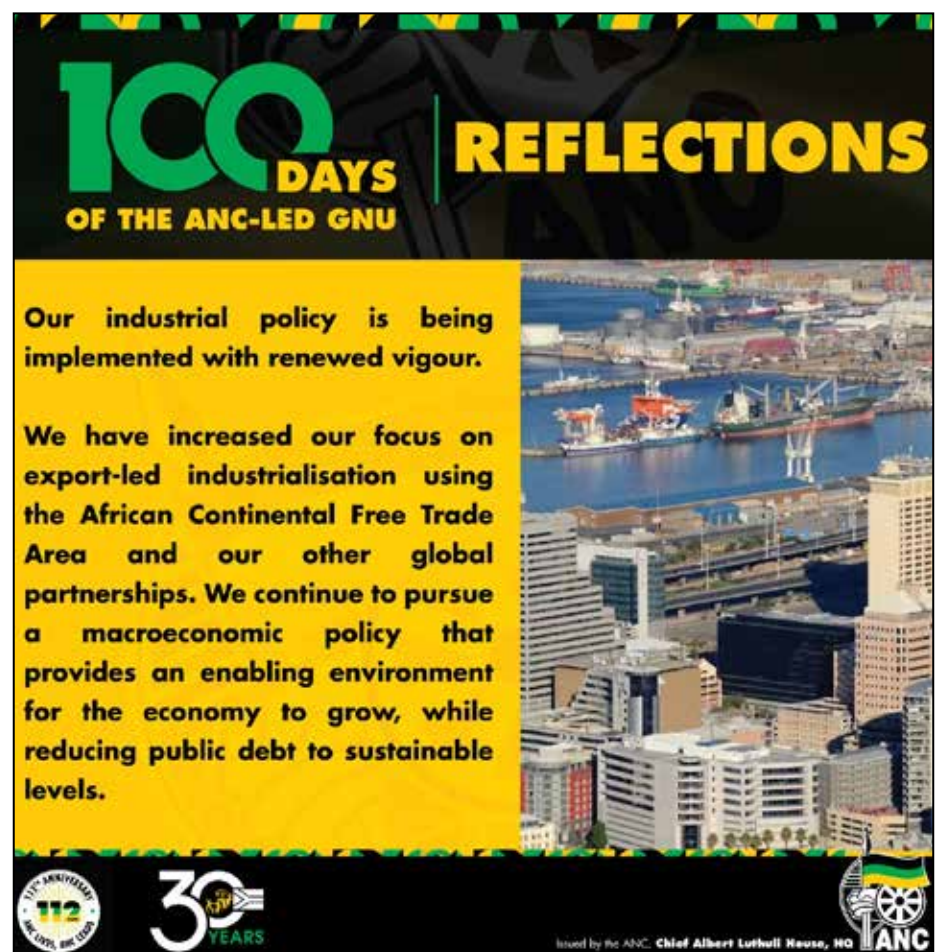
MPs must not be passive or reactive and just wait for reports from the Executive. An activist Parliament demands that Committees must proactively deal with problems, engage on major policy

issues and as mandated by the Constitution play their law-making role by initiating Committee and Members' Bills.

All Recommendations of Portfolio/Standing/Select Committees which are adopted by the two Houses of Parliament, have to be followed up by Parliament through its monitoring and evaluation system.

We have identified and will implement priority programmes emanating from the ANC National Conference resolutions and the Election Manifesto. We will be fast-tracking key legislation including the SABC Bill, and reviewing the mandate of the SA Reserve Bank as part of transforming the financial sector and the South African economy.

Many of the Portfolio Committees



100 DAYS OF THE ANC-LED GNU REFLECTIONS

Our industrial policy is being implemented with renewed vigour.

We have increased our focus on export-led industrialisation using the African Continental Free Trade Area and our other global partnerships. We continue to pursue a macroeconomic policy that provides an enabling environment for the economy to grow, while reducing public debt to sustainable levels.

112th Anniversary ANC Lives, ANC Leads

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conducted oversight visits last week. Their reports highlight the various engagements, observations and qualitative discussions with stakeholders and members of the public concerning service delivery in critical areas such as Basic Education, Correctional Services, and Human Settlements, to name but a few.

Over the next few weeks, ANC Parliamentary Caucus Study Groups will be holding media engagements to report back to the people on these oversight visits and what needs to be done to accelerate service delivery in their areas.

ANC MPs are now focused on the Budget Review and Recommendations Reports (BRRR) in the National Assembly to assess the performance of departments and enable Parliament to influence the budget. Whilst there is overall support for the work done by government over the past financial year and the proposed plans for 2024/2025, the ANC Parliamentary Caucus continue to lament the lack of consequence management in government where there are failures to implement against commitments made.

There are ongoing discussions within various fora in Parliament that the ANC is participating in on how we respond to this challenge in the interest of the people.

The tabling of the Medium-Term Budgetary Policy Statement by the Minister of Finance on Wednesday 30th October is crucial for clarifying the macroeconomic policy stance of the ANC-led Government of National Unity.

Faced with the prospect of budget reprioritisation, the ANC Par-

liamentary Caucus is hopeful that our government will continue to adequately fund crucial socio-economic interventions such as Education, NHI and the development of productive capacity of the economy through infrastructure development.

We look forward to the statement by the Minister of Basic Education on the readiness for the 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations she will be making next week in the National Assembly.

As always, questions to the President are a high point in the parliamentary programme. On Thursday, 17 October 2024, the President will update the nation on a range of issues of national and international importance. We hope that all opposition parties will uphold the decorum of the House during the President's session.

We look forward to the oversight week by the NCOP from 21st to 25th October and the President's

Annual Address to the NCOP.

Before Members embark upon their constituency work in December and January, we hope this year's activities to mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, as well as World Aids Day on 1st December will deliver improved outcomes.

Three months since its formation, the 7th Parliament is hard at work to deliver on its electoral mandate. As the largest political party in Parliament, the ANC is committed to effective cooperation and collaboration of all parties within and outside the GNU and ensuring the accountability of the ANC led GNU.

Various surveys conducted after the formation of the GNU, show that the current positive, collaborative and cooperative approach among majority of political parties is what majority of South Africans expect and want from their democratically elected public representatives.



ANC Chief Whip Mdumiseni Ntuli

WHAT IS HONOURABLE IN HONOURABLE?

■ By **ADV. MAHLODI MUOFHE**

THE question which lingers on my mind frequently is this that: how was the impeached former Western Cape Division of the High Court Western Cape Province Judge President, Dr Mandlakayise John Hlophe appointed as a judge? He was the first black person to be appointed to the bench in 1995 and only to be elevated to a Judge President position five years later in 2000 with hardly any practical experience as a former practicing counsel. He came from an academic background. To be catapulted to these positions with no experience, that on its own showed that there was something amiss about his appointment. His professional, moral and ethical behaviour on the bench often brought the judiciary especially in the Western Cape into disrepute.

By all accounts Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe's resume is admirable. However, his stewardship as the Judge President of the Western Cape Division of the High Court since his appointment thereof left much to be desired. It created tensions between himself and some judges and among judges against one another.

Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe as Judge President in the past had an abuse complaint lodged against him by his then Deputy



Judge President Goliath at Judicial Conduct Committee. It was a complaint of use of an un-collegial language and assault. He really lived up to his African name *Mandlakayise*. Assaulting a colleague according to him mattered not I suppose, hence, he didn't deem it inappropriate in 2008 to try and influence some Constitutional Court Justices who before them, were ceased with the matters involving the malfeasances of former President Gedleyihlekisa Jacob Zuma.

During that period when the former President Gedleyihlekisa Jacob Zuma was battling his legal malfeasances at the Con Court, former Judge President Hlophe approached some ConCourt Justices and informed them that "*sesithembele kunina*" as Zuma was litigating at the ConCourt almost

influencing the ConCourt Justices to turn a blind eye on all the wrongs former President Zuma did against the law and decide in his favour.

What sort of a Judge President of a Division can behave in this manner?

Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe cared less about the adverse consequences of attempting to influence justices at the ConCourt would be or could be when he so did. His name said it all. *O na mandlakayise* – no one could tell him otherwise.

At the time of his appointment to the highest office as the Judge President of the Western Cape Division, because he is Mandlakayise, he disregarded the inherent conflict of interest in his appointment as a non-executive director of Oasis's Crescent Retirement Fund bestowed on him. He went on to receive massive remuneration as such whilst serving as the Judge President. Disrespect without disclosing to the Chief Justice and the Minister of Justice. Disrespecting his seniors, late Chief Justice Pius Langa and former Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng was not an issue to him. Besides his name Mandlakayise being self-explanatory, Mandlakayise empowered him, to probably do so. He knew

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Former Judge President of the Western Cape, Dr John M Hlophe

that he had the cover of his “*comrade brother*”, one Gedleyihlekisa. African names sometimes have a way of defining how we become in real life.

In all fairness former President Gedleyihlekisa Zuma and Dr Mandlakayise are in the same WhatsApp Group.

The shenanigans around Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe as in the case of former President Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, are bottomless. In 2007 Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe unashamedly requested government to buy him a posh Porsche to accord with his status as a Judge President. Really...?

The JSC at the time of his appointment as the first black person to be appointed a judge thought that he was adequately fit and proper to be appointed as a judge only to move for his impeachment in February in 2004. What a costly mistake.

Thankfully upon his impeachment, he forfeited his retirement package.

Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe’s infractions in terms of professionalism, morality and ethics are as distasteful as his many colourful academic qualifications. The irony

or twist in Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe’s chequered professional career is that a month or so post his impeachment, our former Chief Justice saw it fit to swear in Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe as an ‘honourable’ member of parliament, what a contradiction in terms?

Once impeached as a dishonourable Judge President, how then does he become an ‘honourable member of parliament’ which voted to impeach him. Who in any

portfolio committee in parliament will want to work with a ‘dishonourable impeached Judge President?’ Who is Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe going to hold accountable? Let us respect our democracy and elect people of impeccable integrity to represent us in positions of public responsibility. Dr Mandlakayise Hlophe wasn’t even elected as is everyone else in the MKP.

The supreme leader of the MKP, former President Gedleyihlekisa Zuma undemocratically appointed all of them to serve us as honourable members in parliament.

For the sake of our moral and ethical integrity in the family of countries across the globe, let all those who are tainted in one way or form, shift from the stage of the public platform.

Adv. Mahlodi S Moufhe writes this opinion piece in his personal capacity.



International Day for Disaster Reduction: A Time for Reflection and Action

■ By **MANDISA MBELE**

AS we observe International Day for Disaster Reduction, we must acknowledge the devastating impact that natural disasters can have on communities around the world. From floods to wildfires and health disasters such as COVID-19, these events can cause immense suffering, loss of life, and economic disruption. However, amidst the challenges, there is also hope and the opportunity for resilience.

In recent years, we have witnessed the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Climate change is playing a significant role in this trend, exacerbating extreme weather events and creating new vulnerabilities.

This necessitates a comprehensive and proactive approach to disaster risk reduction.

One crucial aspect of disaster resilience is early warning systems. By investing in advanced technologies and infrastructure, we can provide timely alerts to communities at risk, enabling them to take precautionary measures and evacuate if necessary. Early warning systems have proven to be invaluable in saving lives and minimising property damage.

Moreover, it is essential to strengthen our communities' ca-



capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. This involves building resilient infrastructure, developing emergency response plans, and providing training to first responders and community members. By empowering individuals and organizations to take action, we can enhance our collective resilience.

In addition to technological and organisational measures, we must also address the underlying causes of vulnerability. Poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation can significantly increase a community's susceptibility to disasters. By promoting

sustainable development and addressing social disparities, we can create more resilient societies.

International Day for Disaster Reduction is a reminder of the importance of working together to build a more resilient future. Governments, communities, and international organisations must collaborate to implement effective disaster risk reduction strategies. By investing in prevention, preparedness, and response, we can mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and protect the well-being of millions of people around the world.

The Current realities between Russia and Ukraine

■ By **SEITEBALENG DIKOLE**

THE current stage of the special military operation seems to reveal lot of developments and setbacks for the Collective West in their efforts to remove Russia from world affairs, as well as turning Russia into a pariah state. The reality of the matter is that the trajectory of financialization of the war has turned European countries and the European Union (EU) into a laughing stock of world affairs.

The Russian economy has faced rapid growth that entails overtaking many western countries by becoming number five in line with IMF ratings.

The recent elections that were held in Russia have included those territories that were captured by Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin has made radical changes in his cabinet by appointing a new Minister of Defense in connection with the current war economy. Since the minister is having a background in economics, he is expected to develop a strategy for the defense industries in line with the current prevailing circumstances in technology and the sciences.

This is more intended to obliterate the Western military complex that is more concerned with making money out of human sacrifice. Western bourgeois media that



have been consistently reporting lies on the realities faced by the Ukrainian army in the battlefield are now revealing the whole truth that is prevailing on the ground.

After months of intense congressional debates, the United States Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a \$61 billion aid package for Ukraine. The legislation gives the president nearly everything he wanted which is surprising given drama in the Republican caucus. The new legislation brings the total US commitment to \$175 billion since the beginning of the Ukrainian conflict.

Recently there was a “*peace summit*” that was organized by Switzerland, wherein many countries from the West and global South attended with the exclusion of Russia. It couldn’t make any serious impact because China, In-

dia, Brazil and United States did not attend and this created a setback to their intention. From the onset Russia complained that the Swiss authorities have no credibility to call a peace conference since they have abandoned their neutrality status they used to occupy for many years. Many countries who were part of the summit abstained from being part of the drafted resolution that was supposed to be binding to the participants. The collective West has resolved to freeze Russian assets overseas in order to stifle financial aid in the Ukrainian war. This has received stiff resistance from the IMF as well as Saudi Arabia.

Russia had always been upfront in calling for a peaceful settlement with Ukraine with clear terms and conditions that will not compromise the national interests of the country. The principles that have

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been established are that expansion of NATO eastward must not be tolerated in whatever form.

The multipolar world has been given impetus and recognition of every country on an equal basis. The recent visit to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) by President Putin has caused shivers down the spine of the leadership of the collective West, especially taking into cognizance the veto powers that some UN Security Council members (Russia and China) have.

The reality is that Ukraine is dimally losing and it cannot regain some of the lost ground even if the F16 jet fighters or other financial aid can be sent to prop up Ukraine. Russia has already targeted military infrastructure that was going to be utilized by those war planes. The military instructors from NATO countries continue to be wiped out from their secret locations such as bunkers and so forth. Kiev is seen to be using terrorist methods intending to divide the nation as it was

clearly demonstrated by the attack and killing of innocent civilians who were attending a concert, and attacks on mosques.

The Sputnik News Agency and other Russian news agencies have discovered that the Ukrainian government is currently recruiting fighters from Syria. Russia has made a dramatic as well as radical shift by paying more attention to the Eastern part of Ukraine. Russian forces continue to liberate key settlements in the Donbas area. Specific targets were military airfields and energy facilities that supported Ukraine's military complex.

According to Reuters news agency, there were years of miscalculations by US and NATO which has led to a shortage of shells in Ukraine. This was as a result of repeated failures from policy makers in the US and Europe in addressing appalling conditions of the West's munitions industry. NATO is still trapped in a contradiction of threatening Moscow through a trajectory of its collec-

tive western media. It continues to lose more weaponry at the level of the special operation.

Instructors and mercenaries from NATO countries are drastically diminishing and the western military complex face a crisis of production. RaHDit Hacker Group Doxxes Group has divulged important information on more than 3,200 foreign mercenaries in Ukrainian arm forces, as well as 1, 500 intelligence service personnel that include those who are working undercover in more than 20 countries.

It remains a difficult task for the Collective West to furnish the Russian Federation with a report on the bombing of the Nord Stream Pipeline that was used to carry gas from Moscow to Berlin. German lawmakers are subtly making requests for the restoration of the pipeline as the lack of energy is impacting heavily on Berlin. Western countries have imposed a plethora of restrictive measures against Russia to deprive the country of the key



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sources of income and isolate it on the international stage.

However everything turned differently than was planned. According to Western analysts, the German economy is shrinking and the process is likely to continue in that trajectory until the end of 2025. The economic situation in European countries is getting increasingly worse. Anti-Russian measures are bankrupting EU countries and analysts are concerned about a possible crisis that may break out in the near future. The situation in Germany remains seriously critical.

US-led sanctions do not really work and now accusation is being labelled at China, India, Iran and DPRK for giving support to Moscow. Accusations are being leveled through false media reporting and distorted statements from Washington and Brussels. Russia, together with BRICS, is working on creating its own payment system for the independent handling of all foreign trade. There is an emergence of multipolar models of development that are triggering a new wave of global growth for the 21st century, according to President Putin.

The 6th August Kursk incursion that was planned and coordinated with the help from the collective West is failing to achieve its main objectives of crippling the Russian army in the eastern Ukraine where there were great losses incurred by the Kiev military regime. We are told that Ukraine also invaded Kursk so that it could negotiate with Russia from a position of strength. Immediately after incursion, President Putin made an announcement that there would be no negotiations but a continuation of special military operations that would



lead Russia to intended victory. The Kursk incursion has become one of the major setbacks for the Kiev regime wherein its army lost more than 25,000 personnel.

Russia continues to experience international recognition from various diplomatic engagements and institutional arrangements. Attempts by the collective West to isolate Moscow have failed dismally. The process of de-dollarization is gaining momentum and there is ample support from various quarters that dominate global financial institutions.

There had been attempts in the US by some detractors of President Donald Trump to eliminate him from the presidential election race through death threats based on the posture he had taken on various issues, especially on the fight between Russia and Ukraine. The Biden administration is highly concerned about the rapid reconstitution of the Russian military and partly attributes this to Moscow's formidable ties with Beijing.

It is now coming to the senses of many western world leaders that resolving the Ukraine con-

flict will need the direct involvement of Russia. This will have to include agreements that were made in Turkey before former UK Premier Boris Johnson warned President Zelensky against signing the agreement with Russia. The German newspaper Die Zeit had reported that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wanted to talk to President Putin before G20 summit. This is because of the socio-economic conditions that are adversely affecting his administration.

We can conclude by saying that Russia has successfully demonstrated its capacity and capability to defend its national interest, history, culture as well as scientific development, which was under threat from the collective West. Many countries in the south are starting to revolt against the western influence within their countries. The major concern amongst the US leadership is the strong relationship that has developed between China and Russia. They assume that the only way to defeat Russia is to through their strategy of divide and rule.

The views expressed in this article are that of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the ANC.

IN MEMORIUM

IN MEMORIAM

CDE TITO MBOWENI

The ANC Veterans League salutes the legacy of Comrade Tito Mboweni

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

THE ANC Veterans League is shocked and saddened by Cde Tito Mboweni's sudden passing. He is one of the ANC's best sons, serving the ANC and the government in many capacities, including as the Minister of Labour, Finance, and Reserve Bank Governor.

He came back to the country after spending time in exile in the early nineties and was one of the architects of economic policy that the late Cde Nelson Mandela's governments implemented.

From the start of his term of office as Labour Minister, Cde Tito Mboweni recognised that restoring dignity to workers was a critical part of reconstructing our country.

He moved rapidly to give rights to workers such as domestic and farm workers who had been excluded from accessing labour rights under apartheid, improve dispute resolution, and embed the right to strike granted in the Constitution in labour legislation.

As the first black Governor of the Reserve Bank, he decisively introduced innovations and brought our Reserve Bank on par

with others around the world.

He successfully navigated turbulent financial waters both as Governor and later as Minister of Finance.

We should emulate a number of his attributes as we seek to renew the ANC.

He was courageous and decisive in his financial decision-making as a Minister, incorruptible and personable, reaching out to the people uniquely.

He was a true patriot and his ongoing contribution to South Africa's future will be missed.

COMRADE TITO MBOWENI
16 MARCH 1959 - 12 OCTOBER 2024

The African National Congress (ANC) mourns the passing of Comrade Tito Mboweni, a former member of our National Executive Committee (NEC), Minister in our democratic government, and Governor of the South African Reserve Bank.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Mboweni family, ANC structures, and all South Africans who mourn the loss of this great man.

His legacy of dedication, innovation, and service will remain a guiding light for generations to come.

Rest in power, Comrade Tito Mboweni.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthe House, HQ

The Year of United Action to Defend our Freedom and Advance a Better Life for All
FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

IN MEMORIUM

In Memory of Comrade Tito Mboweni

■ By **AMB. NTSIKI J MASHIMBYE**



DURING the 1980s, while I served as the Luanda District Commissar of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, one of my many responsibilities was overseeing the political instruction and well-being of our trainees and soldiers. In Luanda, we had several sites, including the Viana Transit Camp and the Moses Kotane Self Reliance Centre, which housed hundreds of combatants. In addition, we had various residences for the Regional Command and some underground locations used for training cadres who had specific covert missions to be carried out either inside South Africa or in the frontline states of the SADC.

On one particular day, I was summoned by my superior, Regional Commissar Rufus Mbilini (real name Ambassador Fannie Phakola) and assigned the task of training Comrade Tito Titus Mboweni in one of the residences where I lived, São Paulo. Even though it wasn't a traditional mili-

tary camp, we adhered to a strict military routine – classes, wake-up calls, meals, and curfews. Every soldier had chores.

I assigned Comrade Tito the task of cleaning the residence. But Tito objected and instead volunteered to be the cook. That's when I realised I had my work cut out for me. In the military, we don't entertain suggestions – orders are given and must be executed. Given the ever-present threat of enemy agents and infiltrators, I was immediately suspicious of Tito's request. The thought crossed my mind that he might be an agent sent to poison us, so I kept a close eye on him.

Eventually, I had no choice but to let him take over the cooking when our existing cook completed his training and left. To my surprise, Tito's cooking skills elevated the residence's meals to near Michelin-star quality. I am well aware that this more recent foray into cooking may give another impression.

Not long after, I outlined Tito's political education syllabus. Once again, he challenged me – this time by requesting a change in the syllabus. This was becoming more than irritating. In underground training, I wasn't supposed to know anything about his background, real name, or future missions – only his pseudonym and his training requirements. But Tito told me about his academic accomplishments and how extensively he had studied Marxist-Leninist classics. I firmly told him I would not tolerate insubordination; he was to follow my instructions or face punishment.

Tito managed to push me to the edge when he began correcting my English. Yet, over time, I began to respect him. Hesitantly, I realised I might have something to learn from this "trainee." Soon, Tito was teaching the teacher. He helped me navigate classics like *Das Kapital* and introduced me to Karl Marx's Eleventh Thesis on Feuerbach. Marx's words, "*The philosophers have only interpret-*

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ed the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it," became the starting line for all of our conversations.

An enduring friendship had begun.

Tito eventually completed his special training and was quietly whisked away in the middle of the night without any goodbyes. I didn't know where he was going, and it wasn't my business to ask.

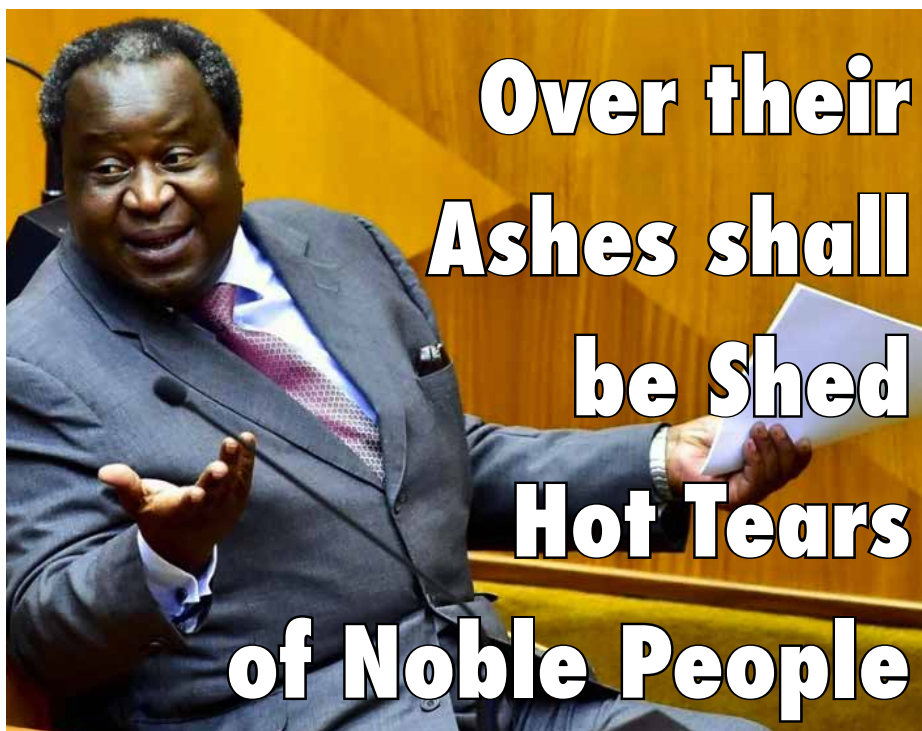
Years later, when we returned from exile, our friendship was rekindled, except for a period when I was deployed to the Free State. On May 9th, 1994, as we entered the first parliament of the new democratic South Africa, we shared many memorable times together, braaing and enjoying life's pleasures.

When President Mandela appointed Tito as Minister of Labour, he came to me and said, "You have 48 hours to find me a political advisor." I asked him what criteria he had in mind. He responded, "*I need a commissar who can navigate labour issues and speak truth to power.*" I immediately recommended our former senior commissar, Rufus Fannie Phakola. Rufus joined him right away, and the two became close friends, with Rufus even following Tito to the Reserve Bank when Tito was appointed Governor.

Tito was a man of deep loyalty, a brilliant thinker, brutally honest, a true comrade, a talented teacher, and above all, a friend and brother.

You have certainly lived up to your second name, "Titus", Latin for Honourable.

I will miss my chef. Rest well Mkhonto.



■ By **DR DAVID MOHALE**

I met Cde Tito only once in person. This would have been between 2008 and 2009 at a hotel in Jo'burg CBD where the ANC held a number of its meetings.

Comrades may recall that the Polokwane Conference resolved on the establishment of the ANC Political School. In pursuit of this Resolution, the NEC – through the Sub-committee – elected to pilot this with a virtual school.

About 71 comrades were drawn nationally representing all constitutional structures of the ANC. I happened to be one of them.

Cde Tito was invited to present on a module that dealt with the tools of analysis. For us newer and younger members, he clarified a number of distortions which would have surreptitiously emerged as truths.

1. Cde Tito gave a personal account of the behind the scenes processes that culminated in the so-called sellout speech by President Mandela in Washington in 1990. According to him, OR instructed him, Max Sisulu (I forget the 3rd participant) to work on the speech. Interestingly, no one from the senior SACP officials present at the session disputed this.

2. He clarified the historical context and status of the **Green Book**. At that time, some within the ANC and SACP in particular were using the Green Book to justify the concocted sellout position of the ANC. Again, SACP comrades in attendance never had a counter.

3. The Polokwane Conference sat at the backdrop of real or spurious debates seeking to draw a line between the so-called

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pro-business and pro-people/poor presidents contesting for a position of the president. The late Ben Turok would in his 2008 book characterise Zuma's election as *"The revolution within a revolution"*.

Time is an equalizer, isn't it? SACP and COSATU enthusiastically pursued this unscientific view. With all humility and clarity of mind on Marxism, Cde Tito put it to SACP and COSATU that the weakness of a number of their members and leaders was to stop reading after Volume 1 of *Das Capital* and assumed sufficiency of understanding our ideological tools of analysis.

Throughout his engagements with delegates, one would not miss his obvious knowledge of facts, statistics and specific reference of some texts to support his submissions. At no point did he get irritated or raise his voice. Be that as it may, he used the moment to bemoan the culture of dearth of reading and the spread of lies and distortions.

During the entire session, few senior leaders of the ANC including Cde Tito, Cde Kgalema (DP at the time), Cde Dina Pule and

Cde Toni expressed interest in my submissions. At lunch, the then ANCYL SG, Cde Tulelo, came to my table and indicated that Cde Kgalema would like to meet me. He was with Cde Tito and Cde Toni when I arrived.

Upon hearing that I came from FS, they were all visibly in disbelief. Both the DP and Cde Tito explicitly told me that I won't survive in FS with such an engaging mind. Cde Tito asked what qualifications I had. He advised me to go to school and study further. This would earn me an advantage of leading from behind. According to him, that's the real power.

He stressed something interesting that I have observed over the years. It's technocrats who liter-

ally lead ideation of the ANC and the state. A straight talker that he was, he told me that I shouldn't subject my role in society to someone raising his/her hand in my favour for at some point those hands will be tired.

I pensively thought about this. I paid closer attention on ANC processes and their consequential effect and ultimate impact on state capacity and performance.

To this day, I am convinced that had I not been a participant at the then pilot project, I could not have met him and had access to his pearls of wisdom. Indeed, this singular moment confirmed the old adage that some people would affect our lives in some profound way.

With him ceasing to breathe, South Africa is exposed to the fast accelerating paucity of ideas. It is in moments like this that we run to grave to borrow lateral finesse from Karl Marx when he authored, *"...over their ashes shall be shed hot tears of noble people,"* for his deeds were perpetually at work in a quest for ennoblement of humanity. The overnight Social Media reactions prove that the young Marx got this observation entirely correct.

May the spirit of Cde Tito rest in peace.



IN MEMORIUM

Comrade, governor, minister or chair – my journey with Tito Mboweni

■ By **YACOOB ABBA OMAR**

“*LD habits die hard,*” I would say apologetically when Tito responded to me calling him “Comrade Tito”, asking to be called “Gov” instead. And these were truly old habits — to the extent that Tito remained one of only two people who called me by my *nom de guerre*, Firoz.

The foundations of our friendship/comradeship went as far back as 1987, when we shared a house with Tsepe Motumi, all three of us working in the political wing of the ANC’s political military council.

This is when I believe our cooking skills were honed. Forced to work within the constraints of essentials and the limited stipend provided by the ANC, we had to find creative ways to make our fresh produce, starch and meat go a long way. I can attest to the fact that Tito’s culinary repertoire went beyond his now world-renowned pilchard curry.

Weekends were usually spent watching videos or socialising, with Sundays especially dedicated to laundry and cleaning up the premises. Music of various genres played on cassettes was de rigueur on Sunday mornings. I merely need to hear the beats of Nine Simone’s *My Baby Just Cares for Me* to transport me to those mornings.



Meetings of the political wing were usually intense affairs, and that doesn’t refer only to debates over the roster of whose turn it was to clean the offices or do guard duty. The political, economic and constitutional issues we looked at took on increased urgency as the ANC prepared for negotiations, and the initial trickle of organisations and individuals it met grew to a torrent.

The sharpest debate was about what would happen with the armed struggle while negotiations were being pursued. We hosted an epic internal discussion that had leaders weighing in such as Ruth Mompoti, who headed the internal political committee; Josiah Jele, secretary of the political military council; Sue Rabkin; Joe Slovo; Chris Hani; Thabo Mbeki; Ronnie Kasrils; Steve Tshwete and Joel Netshitenzhe. Here

Mboweni’s willingness to tackle holy cows was on display.

Thorny issues

Sometimes it is the ridiculously mundane that remains etched in our memory. At this meeting two of us laities were given the task of keeping the notes. The other comrade and I took turns minuting different parts of the discussion. It was his misfortune that he was taking notes when Slovo described the situation as a “conundrum”. The minute-taker’s pen froze in midair until Slovo, who was sitting next to him, spelt the world for him.

I have always been in awe of Mboweni’s ability to bravely and brazenly take on thorny issues, such as being an early convert to the notion of a mixed economy, which foresaw a large role

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being played by the private sector. He often reminded us of the comment a member of a senior business delegation made when meeting the ANC in the late 1980s: *“We are not afraid of being nationalised by the ANC; actually, the ANC should be worried about being privatised.”* If nothing else, state capture proved that to be so cruelly true!

That was the balance he brought into various ANC policy debates and ministerial posts. As labour minister Mboweni oversaw the root and branch revision of labour legislation. Often criticised by conservative commentators for being too pro-worker, Mboweni was in no doubt that that was the rebalancing needed in favour of the working class to address laws inherited from the apartheid system.

Some of the key pieces of legislation reform that remain in effect include the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Labour Relations Act, the Mines Health Safety Act and the National Economic Development & Labour Council Act. Despite some criticism, Nedlac remains the pre-eminent body for dialogue between civil society, labour, business and government.

Spoke volumes

His buttoned-up approach to his job as SA’s central banker was in sharp contrast to the informality we were all used to. However, Mboweni was clear that being the SA Reserve Bank’s first black governor and its youngest yet, as well having been an ANC cadre, placed certain burdens on him.

He succeeded Chris Stals in 1999, during Thabo Mbeki’s presidency — a move that spoke

volumes about the president’s commitment to promoting young black talent into key state and regulatory spaces. Some of these appointments ended a little ignominiously, but Mboweni’s remained a stellar one.

None were surprised that Mboweni and his deputy governor, Gill Marcus, parted ways — both being formidable intellectuals and policy wonks. It was a testimony to all that she returned as governor in 2009, when Mboweni’s second term ended, setting yet another precedent: the first woman to be appointed to such a position.

While I was serving as ambassador to Abu Dhabi, I mentioned when speaking to the UAE’s central banker that I had once shared a house with Mboweni. He was about to come down to SA for a conference of central bankers and promised to pass on my greetings to Mboweni.

We met shortly after his return and he said he did mention me to Mboweni at the dinner the latter hosted. Mboweni claimed not to know any Yacoob Abba Omar. I was obviously crestfallen, since it meant losing the shine I was hoping our friendship could provide me. However, the central banker continued: at the end of the evening Mboweni came back to him and said: *“Oh, you mean Firoz!”*

Opening doors

His post-governorship period was a mixture of working in the corporate sector and, at President Cyril Ramaphosa’s behest, a return to the finance ministry. He continued his various board positions to push for economic transformation while chiding black executives for not displaying the level of excellence expected.

He was a solid supporter of the Mapungubwe Institute even when in the corporate sector, opening doors as he did with Goldman Sachs or facilitating partnerships with the Ghana-based African Centre for Economic Transformation — just two of the boards he served on.

Shortly after his appointment as finance minister in Ramaphosa’s cabinet, in my capacity as head of strategy at the Banking Association SA (Basa) I arranged for him to speak at the Banking Summit hosted by Basa. After two chats and exchanges of emails and WhatsApps he was set to deliver his speech to a slightly critical audience.

Cometh the hour, 9am, the man did not cometh. In a panic I called him several times and sent several messages asking whether he was on his way. A drowsy Mboweni called me back, asking what time he was due. Half-an-hour ago, was my tart response. Fortunately, the venue was close enough to his Jo’burg home for him to get there in a few minutes, looking ever-so-slightly dishevelled.

As he took his seat next to me, he growled *“Comrade Firoz, you should know I don’t do early mornings,”* and then proceeded to give a truly Titoesque performance, sans notes!

We had often agreed that I would cook him a curry, as an act of nostalgia for the Lusaka days. Sadly, commitments and personal circumstances prevented that from happening. My next tinned fish curry will be devoted to his memory.

Abba Omar is director of operations at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection

IN MEMORIAM

We never determined if we were friends or acquaintances, but I will miss Tito Mboweni

■ By **MBHAZIMA SHILOWA**

TITO Mboweni did not suffer fools lightly but would be open to engage in robust intellectual debates like he did during a last lunch Mbhazima Shilowa had with him when they debated the form and content of the government of national unity or lack thereof.

A few days after the first general elections, Nelson Mandela held a consultative meeting on his proposed Cabinet with leaders of the ANC-led tripartite alliance.

Among his proposals was Jay Naidoo, the former Cosatu general-secretary as minister for labour.

Based on our observations about how former trade union leaders had been used to tone down the demands of workers in most African states post-liberation, the Cosatu delegation politely proposed he should appoint Naidoo as minister in the presidency responsible for the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to which Mandela readily agreed.

He then asked us to propose a name for minister of labour. We gave Mandela Tito Mboweni's name, who at the time was deputy head of the ANC's department of economic policy. Mboweni had been working with some of the



Cosatu people on key post-election documents, notably Ready to Govern and the RDP.

An inspired choice

This turned out to be an inspired choice, as can be seen from the raft of transformative labour legislation that was put in place during his tenure.

Having put together a formidable team led by Siphos Pityana as director general, he engaged in consultations with organised labour and business on priority legislation to transform the labour market and to respond to the demands of workers for progressive labour laws in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

As Vatsonga would say, *mintirho ya vulavula* (actions speak loud-

er than words). The results are there for all to see:

- The Labour Relations Act that encompasses collective bargaining, dispute resolution mechanisms through the CCMA, the right to strike and the right to belong to a trade union of your choice.
- The Basic Conditions of Employment Act.
- Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Health and Safety in the Mines Act.
- Skills Development Act.
- The Nedlac Act that established a forum for engagement on social and economic policies by the government, business, labour and community organisations.
- Employment Equality Act.

The process was not all smooth sailing as there were at least two

IN MEMORIAM

general strikes before there was agreement to exclude the lockout clause, first from the Labour Relations Act (LRA) and later from the Constitution.

While some of his colleagues were wavering and were at times ready to give in to the demands of business for the exclusion of the lockout clause, Mboweni stood firm. At one point he threatened to resign as minister of labour unless the Cabinet backed the LRA.

One of the hallmarks of leadership is the ability to put together teams of experts to lead the processes while the leader provides leadership.

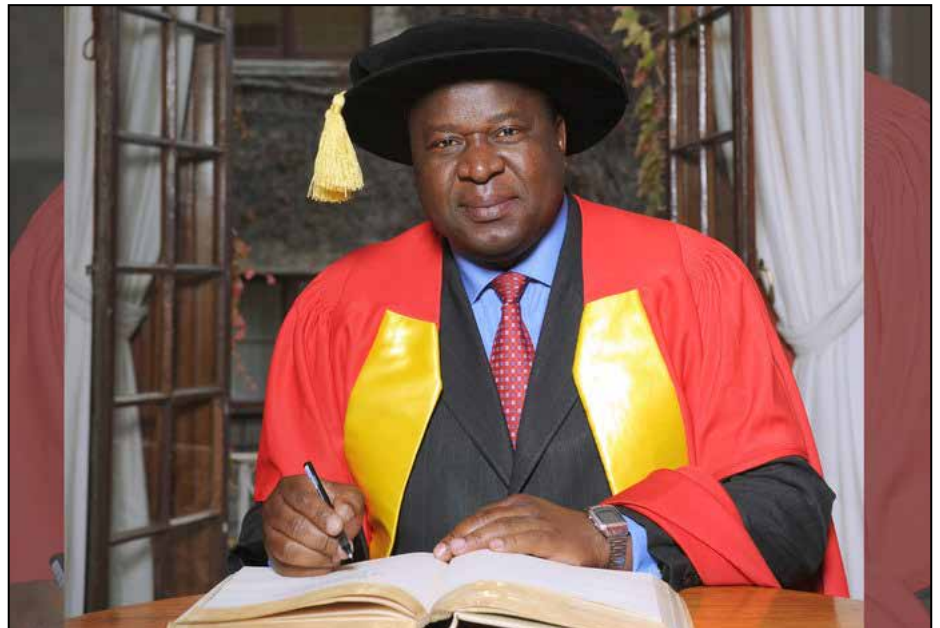
Mboweni was able to put together teams who understood the labour market and the labour legislation regime, including seeking guidance from the ILO when necessary, which is how we ended up with the Commission for CCMA process, which one of the ILO leaders said was key to any labour dispensation in the dispute resolution mechanism.

The first time I met Mboweni was on his return from exile even though I knew about him from some of my friends who were with him at Bankuna High School. A close family member was involved in his escape from South Africa into exile.

When we made acquaintance, I was the deputy general-secretary of Cosatu while he was in the economics department of the ANC.

We engaged robustly with him and Max Sisulu on future economic policies of the country after the 1994 general elections.

He made positive contributions



to the early draft of Cosatu's document that became the ANC's RDP.

I now speak of him in the past tense

In the process, we formed a bond, a friendship characterised with mutual respect. Owing to our busy schedules, we didn't meet as often as we would have wanted to but also because he was always difficult to pin to a date unless one goes to Makgobaskloof.

I often wondered if we were friends or just acquaintances. We settled for what Vatsonga refer to as *vamaseve* for which there is no English translation.

In rural areas, *vamaseve* often shared everything together ranging from *fole* (snuff), *mporosi* (traditional beer), *va fayana mataya no khendlana tinhwala* (removed lice from each other), *vakhelerisana timanga na tindluwa* (helping with harvesting nuts) and *na kucina xiseveseve* (going to festivities together).

I last saw Mboweni a few weeks ago when we had lunch at 1920

Portuguese restaurant in Johannesburg. We reminisced about the good old times, the ups and downs of life, and agreed we needed to meet more often to break bread. Little did I know it was our last lunch.

'I now speak of him in the past tense'.

Years back, maseve Mboweni would rock up at our place without notice expecting *vuswa na nyama ya huku* (pap and chicken often referred to as hardbody). At times, we wouldn't even be home. But even when we were home, it's not like we had chicken *na vuswa* on the ready.

This was before he discovered his passion for Lucky Star tin fish and having all sorts of meat, chicken and fish swimming in the Letaba River peppered with a carton of garlic, a case of tomatoes, copious amounts of onions, and God knows what else he added in his cooking.

Even those of us who grew up in the same part of the country as him were left in stitches, just looking at his creations. We can

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recognise the ingredients, but not the end product.

Yet he saw himself as being in the same league with worldwide chefs such as Paul Bocuse, Pierre Gagnaire, Joël Robuchon and Albert Adriá of the famous El Bulli.

Before its closure, El Bulli, famous for its molecular gastronomy, one had to book at least six months to a year in advance.

The chef was derided by his peers for dishes that relied on sensory taste, rather than presentation but loved by its patrons. Maybe maseve Tito was on the verge of creating new cooking methods and dishes, but sadly died before he could maybe take his creations to the wider public.

I've lost a friend to banter with. I would often tease Mboweni on his dress sense. His return would be that: "Clothes do not make a man."

Mboweni did not suffer fools lightly but would be open to engage in robust intellectual debates like he did during our last lunch when we debated the form and content of the government of national unity or lack thereof.

Famba kahle seveni, maseve loyi a titlhomana mincila, hi dza-hisana fole, hi siyerisana jomela ra mporosi, hi fayana mataya no khendlana tinhwala. Hi nkarhi wa xirimu hi khelerisana timanga na tindluwa. Hi tlanga swin'we mavhilwa no cina xiseveseve!

Famba kahle Humani. Famba kahle mbhuri ya Vacanyi.

Mbhazima Shilowa is the former premier of Gauteng and former general-secretary of Cosatu.

Tito Mboweni, an erudite and loyal servant of the movement

■ By **MALOSI KEKANA**

Our 8th governor and first under a democratic dispensation

A man of high intellect

Comfortable in dining halls with kings, queens and presidents around the world

And yet local and grounded in his village or farm

From enacting the Employment Equity Act, to framing our Monetary Policy around inflation targeting

His contribution to our country and its economy is significant and indelible

A gentleman, revolutionary and commissar perfectly carried in one complex persona

Happy to engage in banal pleasantries and equally ready to exercise his intellectual acumen

A man of fine gourmet, cigars and wine and equally drawn to mopani worms and home grown vegetables

Always well groomed with his elegant suits and braces but equally happy with his overalls and boots
Tito was truly eccentric

Whilst he leaves a huge gap, his fingerprints are firmly engraved in our society

Like all of us, with flaws but also glittering with accomplishments

Respected throughout the world for his work
Tito is a perfect example of a life well lived

Gone too soon brother and comrade

The eternal place of great freedom fighters is open for you to take your rightful place

You fought your fight and ran your race

Rest in Peace, Titus

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 – 25 October 2024

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

19 October 1954

Britain and Egypt sign the Suez Canal agreement

The Suez Canal was opened in 1869, linking the Indian and Mediterranean Oceans, thus a strategic asset. It forms part of Egyptian territory, and was largely owned by Egypt. Shares in the canal operating company were sold to the British government in 1875, and when the British invaded Egypt in 1882, they seized full control of the canal, throughout the Second World War. This situation was resisted by the Egyptians, and the Agreement signed on this day was an attempt to maintain the status quo, with Britain maintaining control of the Suez canal even after withdrawal from Egypt, especially with the discovery of oil in the Middle East. Two years later, Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser renationalized the Suez Canal.

19 October 1977

Apartheid government bans BC organisations and media

After the Soweto uprisings in 1976 and ongoing protests, followed by arrests and the death in detention of Steve Bantu Biko, the Apartheid government banned SASO and 18 other black consciousness organisations, and also clamped down on media freedoms, banning The World, Weekend World and the church publication Pro Veritate.



19 October 1977

Editor Percy Qoboza and Aggrey Klaaste arrested

Editor of The World and Weekend World, Percy Qoboza and his deputy, Aggrey Klaaste were arrested by the Special Branch police in a mission to shut down the two Black publications. Qoboza and Klaaste spent five months in solitary confinement after being led straight to their cells - in their suits and ties - from the newspapers' building. Journalists Mathatha Tsedu, Joe Tiholoe, Don Mattera and many others were detained and handed down 5 year banning orders upon their release.

19 October 1992

Skweyiya report on abuses in camps released

ANC President Oliver Tambo appointed the Skweyiya Commission, following reports of abuses in ANC camps, especially Quatro in Angola. On 19 October

1992, the internal commission with members Louis Skweyiya (chairperson), Gilbert Marcus and Bridgette Mabandla, found evidence of brutality and torture to extract confessions from alleged South African spies and other detainees. The worst abuses were at the Quatro rehabilitation centre in Angola, but they added that the conditions in other ANC camps in Angola, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia had in no way been acceptable. On behalf of the ANC, Nelson Mandela accepted responsibility for the findings of the commission.

19 October 1986

Samora Machel, President of Mozambique dies in a plane crash

On 19 October 1986, Mozambique President, Samora Machel and thirty-three other passengers, died when their Tupolev 134 plane crashed into the Lebombo Mountains, South Africa.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Machel was a prominent leader of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) and a leader of the liberation struggle. In 1975, FRELIMO won independence and he was elected as Mozambique's first president. Machel was returning from an African leaders' summit in Zambia. His death sent shockwaves throughout Southern Africa and the entire world. The crash remains a mystery; with some blaming it on bad weather and others believing that the South African authorities were to blame.

20 October 1999 Jackie Selebi set to take over as Police Commissioner



The South African government announced that former diplomat and Director of Foreign Affairs, Jacob Sello Selebi, would take over from the outgoing South African Police Services (SAPS) national commissioner, George Fivaz, with effect from 1 January 2000. Selebi was appointed by president Thabo Mbeki.

20 October 2011 Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi killed in Tripoli

The death of Pan Africanist and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi made global headlines, following soon after the attack by NATO on



Libya. Initially Gaddafi was said to have perished in the bombings of Sirte, but it later emerged he was captured and tortured before he was killed in Tripoli.

21 October 1968 Author, Linguist and Activist, AC Jordan passed on

Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan (62), acclaimed and exceptional academic, author, linguist, teacher and activist, passed on this day. Born on 30 October 1906 at the Mbokothwane mission station in the Tsolo district

of Pondoland, he studied at St John's College in Umtata, Lovedale College at Alice and Fort Hare University College, where he obtained a BA degree in 1934. He taught for 10 years in Kroonstad, where he mastered Sesotho and was elected president of the African Teachers' Association. Some of his poetry was published in the Imvo Zabantsundu newspaper. In 1940 he started working on his only novel, Inggumbo Yeminyana, a novel that was to become a landmark in South African literature. His voice continued to be heard long after his death. In 1972 his critical study of Xhosa literature was published, and in 1973 a collection of short stories in Xhosa was translated into English under the title Tales from Southern Africa. His great novel Inggumbo Yeminyana was published in English as The Wrath of the Ancestors (1980), in Afrikaans as Die Toorn van die Voorvaders (1990) and in Dutch as De Wraak van het Voorgeslacht (1999). In 2004, 36 years after his death, the University of Port Elizabeth conferred a doctorate in lit-



MAMA NONTSIKELELO ALBERTINA SISULU WAS BORN

21 OCTOBER 1918

ANC and ANC Women's League stalwart Nontsikelelo Albertina Thetiwe was born on 21 October 1918 in the village of Xolobe in the Tsomo district of the Transkei. MaSisulu, as she became fondly known as, married fellow ANC activist, Walter Sisulu on 15 July 1944. Despite constant harassment by the apartheid regime, she was one of a handful of political activists who managed to continue with clandestine ANC work. MaSisulu became an ANC Member of Parliament after the first democratic elections in 1994. She passed away on 2 June 2011.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

erature on him. He was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold for his contributions. The award was collected by his son, Pallo Jordan. [Source: <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/archibald-campbell-mzolisa-jordan-1906-1968>]

22 October 1931

Mammo Wudneh born

Mammo Wudneh (1931-2012) was a playwright, journalist and president of the Ethiopian Writers Association. He was actively involved as a peacemaker between Ethiopia and Eritrea working on an interfaith committee chaired by Abune Paulos, the Patriarch of the Tewahedo Church.

22 October 1999

SA boxers, Zolile Mbityi and Peter Malinga win world titles

22 October 1999 was a red-letter day in South African boxing history, as both Zolile Mbityi and Peter Malinga captured world titles. Mbityi, South African (SA) flyweight, won the International Boxing Organisation (IBO) flyweight title, while Peter Malinga, SA welterweight, won the International Boxing Organisation (IBO) welterweight title.

22 October

Birthday of many prominent South Africans

- **Thomas Titus Nkobi** – ANC Treasurer General, born on 22 October 1922 in South Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe); lived and went to school in Soweto, following his father who was a migrant mine worker. He did his BA at the University of Lesotho, where he joined the ANC and getting involved in the Alexandra Bus Boycott. He was on the

of Alex delegates to the Congress of the People in 1955, and participated in the potato boycott. Nkobi he was arrested, banned and left for exile, where he became ANC chief representative. He became Treasurer in 1977, and was a member of the ANC NEC until his death in 1994.



- **Dr Neville Alexander** was born on 22 October 1936. An intellectual, activist, academic and linguist, born in Cradock, E Cape and co-founder of the Yu Chi Chan Club (YCCC) along with Dulcie September, and later the National Liberation Front. He was imprisoned for 10 years on Robben Island. Neville Alexander passed away in Cape Town in 2012.



- **Dr Baldwin Siphos (Ben) Ngubane**, political activist and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) politician, was born at Inchanga Roman Catholic Mission, Camperdown, Natal

on 22 October 1941. Dr. Ngubane occupied many high political positions in the IFP and other spheres of government. He was minister of arts, culture and technology in President Mandela's Government of National Unity from 1994 until August 1997. In March 1997, Ngubane was appointed as premier of KwaZulu-Natal province, until he was replaced by Lionel Mtshali in 1999. In 2006, he resigned from the IFP and joined the ANC.



- **Amanda Coetzer** – born on 22 October 1971 in Hoopstad, Free State, Amanda Coetzer began playing tennis at the age of six and began her professional tennis career in 1988. At only 1.58m in height, her petite stature did not hindered her performance as she managed to beat bigger players (both in size and rank) throughout her career, earning her the nick name "giant killer".

23 October 1920

Poet Nontisi Cizama first poem, Mqgwetho, is published

The first poem of Nontstizi (Cizama, Imbongikazi yakwaCizama) Mqgwetho is published in Umteteli under her clan name, Cizama. Nontsizi Cizama is the amongst the most significant female Xhosa poets, with her work only recently being rediscovered.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



She contributed close to ninety poems, which urged South African Black people to put aside their differences and unite to fight against the White oppressors. Her poetry also recognised the role of rural people in the struggle against apartheid.

23 October 1954 FLN of Algeria formed

The Algerian independence movement, the National Liberation Front (FLN) is formed to unite the people of the country to fight against French colonialism.

23 October 1958 Apartheid government established a department of Coloured Affairs

Long before the inception of apartheid, the name "Coloured" people was used for people ranging from descendants of the Khoi and San, Malay and other slaves, and people of mixed heritage in South Africa. They occupied this precarious position between White and Black South Africans. This position was intensified during apartheid by the creation of a separate identity, reinforced by the various apartheid laws that strived to keep racial groups apart. Some of these laws included the Mixed Marriages Act, the Immorality Act, the Group Areas Act and others. The apartheid

classification of Coloured was sub-divided into Cape Coloured, Malay, Griqua, Chinese, Indian, Other Asiatic and Other Coloured.

23 October 1984 SADF seals off Vaal Townships

A combined force of seven thousand South African Defence Force (SADF) troops and the South African Police (SAP) sealed off the Vaal Triangle townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville and Boipatong, in the aftermath of the Vaal Uprising, which fuelled the resistance and heightened struggles to destroy apartheid of the 1980s.

23 October 1968 Kip Keino wins Olympic Gold

Kipchego "Kip" Keino was born in Kipsano, Kenya on 17 January 1940. Keino began his international running career in 1962. From early on he trained under very high altitudes to prepare his body to perform under all conditions. Keino won several gold medals between 1962 and 1972, but it was his gold medal win in the 1500 m athletics, within 3 minutes, 34.9 seconds and setting of a new record in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, that catapulted him to stardom. He later served as the President of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya. In 2012 Keino was amongst the first inductees in the IAAF Hall of Fame

23 October 2006 Songster Lebo Mathosa passed on

Kwaito star Lebo Mathosa (29), one of the lead duo of Boom Shaka, passed on after a car ac-



cident in Johannesburg. Born in Daveyton, she started singing in the church choir at age 7, and attended St Mary's in Johannesburg. She joined the four member Boom Shaka at age 14, along with Thembi Seete, Theo Nhlengethwa and Junior Sokhela, and soon launched their overnight hit, Its Summer Time, Listen to Boom Shaka. Mathosa went solo in 1999, charting her own success and winning a SAMA in 2001 for best female vocalist. The versatile Lebo Mathosa also acted in the soapie Muvhango.

24 October 1985 'Purple rain' used on Women Protestors in Cape Town

Apartheid police in Adderley street, Cape Town used their new water cannons to suppress a Cape protest in White areas. Women wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Troops Out" marched to the city centre to demand that the South African Defense Force that was permanently stationed in townships because of the state of emergency, pull out of the townships. The police ordered the people to disperse, but the crowds refused. The police decided to use water cannons with purpled dyed water to force the crowd to disperse. It was called 'Purple Rain' after the title of the first album of songwriter Prince.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

24 October 2004 ANC leader Dumisani Makhaya passed on



Following a battle with cancer, NEC member and activist, Dumisani Makhaya, affectionately known as Magagula passed on. Speaking at his funeral, then ANC President Thabo Mbeki called him and “*outstanding patriot and activists*”, calling for more such “*(p)rincipled and courageous combatants for the victory of the democratic revolution; skilled and disciplined activists for the reconstruction and development of our country.*” Makhaya was KZN MEC for Local Government and Traditional affairs at the

time of his passing, and was born on 27 March 1955 in Cato Manor in KwaZulu-Natal.

25 October 1900 Nigerian activist Funmilayo Ransome Kuti



Funmilayo Ransome Kuti was born on 25 October 1900 in Abeokuta, Nigeria. One of the first girls educated in her community, she became a teacher. Founder of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, Nigerian Union of Students, West African Students' Union, and Nigerian Youth Movement, she tirelessly fought for education for all, but especially for women.

Kuti also founded the Abeokuta Women's Union with over 20 000 active members; an organization globally recognized as “*one of the most important women's movements of the twentieth century.*” The organisation organised a rally of women against price controls, which were hurting female merchants of the Abeokuta markets. This was just the first of many campaigns for the benefit of women, including their right to vote and to education. Kuti had three sons Fela Anikulapo Kuti (musician), Beko Ransome-Kuti (doctor), and Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti who followed in their mother's footsteps to become activists. In 1978, Funmilayo Kuti was thrown out of a second floor window by military men that had invaded her son, Fela's compound. She went into a coma and died two months later. The struggle for women's rights in Nigeria is still far from over, Nigeria has amongst the lowest representation of women in the political sphere in Africa, declining from 5% to 4% in the last elections. (<https://en.unesco.org/womenin africa/funmilayo-ransome-kuti/biography>)



I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death.

NELSON MANDELA
Long Walk to Freedom

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

19 – 25 OCTOBER 2024

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

19 October

International Repair Day

In a world driven by consumption and wastage, it is important to know how to repair things. Learning to repair things, can bring communities together, reduce our impact on the planet, and learn new skills.

20 October

World Statistics Day

World Statistics Day is celebrated every five years, highlighting the role and importance of high-quality official statistical information in analysis, policy making and monitoring the well-being of societies. The day also raises awareness about the importance of building national statistics capacity, such as our official Statistics South Africa.

21 October

African Human Rights Day

African Human Rights day commemorates the date in 1986 when the African Charter on Human and People's Rights came into effect. The Charter is a central commitment of the states of the Organisation of African Unity and its successor, the African

Union, to the continent's citizens numerous rights and freedoms.

22 October

World Stuttering Awareness Day

Stuttering is a communications disorder, that sees a person struggling to produce words and sounds fluently. It usually starts in childhood, but can also evolve over time or appear suddenly. About 1% of the world's population stutter, and it is more prevalent amongst men than amongst women. 80% of young children who stutters, eventually outgrow it.

24 October

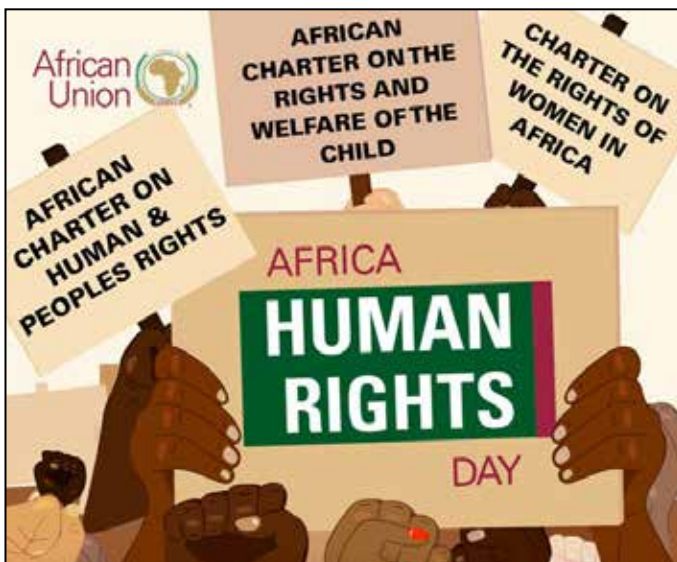
United Nations Day

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945. The primary role of the UN is to promote and work for global peace and security. The day also seeks as a reminder of some of the principles of the UN Charter, such as diversity, cooperation among nations, equality, peace, unity, universal respect for justice and international law and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

24 October

World Development Information Day

World Development Information Day is used to distribute information on the state of development of the world, on all fronts and on international cooperation. The day also focuses on the role of journalism, TV, radio, newspapers, the Internet, and all other major forms of media used throughout the world since that is the means of getting the "information" out about development. In recent years, there has also been a big focus on information technology and how help spreads the word about development and as a tool for development.



SA IN NUMBERS

SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS FINANCIAL SECTOR




40

Number of registered banking entities in South Africa

7,837

Registered credit providers, including banks and non-banking lenders such as microfinance institutions, vehicle financiers, and retailers that provide store credit.




81%
Persons 16 and above with a bank account

R4.6 TRILLION
Asset value of SA retirement industry, amongst highest assets-to-GDP ratios globally.

35%
Of individuals use retail stores for banking transactions.

R50 MILLION
Annual member contributions to Stokvels

95%



Surveyed low-income individuals utilised debt financing to meet essential needs, including food, clothing, transportation, and bills.

R12.3 BILLION

Paid in insurance premiums each month

11.6 MILLION

Stokvel members

X-WORD

Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu

21 October 1918 – 2 June 2011



ACROSS

- 3. Left for Johannesburg in 1940 to study to become a ...
- 5. She was the only woman present at the ... inaugural conference.
- 11. Attended primary school in ...
- 12. Hospital where she trained as a nurse ...
- 15. District of birth in Eastern Cape.

DOWN

- 1. Established ... cells together with John Nkadimeng.
- 2. First woman... under General Laws Amendment Act
- 4. Ma Sisulu joined in 1948 when it was formed.
- 6. She was an activists in the struggle against
- 7. In Standard five, Albertina became ... of her school.
- 8. Ma Sisulu person with longest ... person.
- 9. Local cell formed with O'Hara Diseko.
- 10. Moment formed 1954 and adopted the Womens Charter.
- 13. In 1994, Ma Albertina as an nominated Nelson Mandela as President in Parliament.
- 14. Elected one of the Presidents of front formed in 1983.

WORD BANK

Tsomo Xolobe nurse Johannesburg General ANC Youth League
 Bantu Education arrested UDF FEDSAW banned underground
 ANC MP ANC Womens League Thusang Basadi head girl

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