



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**



## WE MUST WORK TO ENSURE THAT BETTER PROSPECTS AWAIT THE CLASS OF 2024

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

**T**HIS week is the start of the National Senior Certificate exams. Just over 880,000 candidates will sit this year's matric exams.

On behalf of the government I wish all our learners well at this challenging and exciting time. These exams are the culmination of many years of hard work, perseverance and resilience, often in the face of difficult odds.

The Class of 2024 entered Grade 8 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and have had to receive considerable learning support to overcome the resultant gaps in their learning.

As a nation, we are proud of the

learners who will be rewriting the matric exam this year, having taken advantage of the Department of Basic Education's Second Chance Programme. Your determination to improve your academic prospects does you credit. It is a life lesson on the importance of not giving up.

Over the past few weeks, learners have been engrossed in study. They have taken up opportunities for extra lessons, doing revision with their educators and attending the many learner support programmes being run by the provincial departments of education.

Providing learners with the necessary resources to enable them

to achieve quality pass rates is a collaborative effort between the Department of Basic Education, provincial education authorities, school governing bodies and families of learners.

I commend our nation's educators for their commitment to our matriculants as they reach the end of their secondary school journey. At the annual National Teaching Awards ceremony earlier this month, I spoke of teachers as being like devoted gardeners, whose attention, guidance and encouragement nurtures our nation. The successes that the Class of 2024 will undoubtedly achieve will be in no small part due to the efforts of our country's devoted teachers.

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All the necessary systems are in place to ensure the exam period goes smoothly. The Department of Basic Education and the qualification standards authority Umalusi have been hard at work auditing the more than 9,200 exam centres, appointing and vetting exam markers and approving question papers. These include adapted question papers for learners with special needs.

The department has put stringent conditions in place to minimise the potential for question paper leaks, fraud and cheating. Additional invigilators have been appointed, some examination centres will employ CCTV and security has been stepped up at exam venues to minimise disruptions.

I want to thank all the matric exam candidates across the country who have signed the NSC Examination Code of Conduct. This commits them to academic honesty during the exam.

The annual matric exam period is a period to reflect on the scale of the efforts to absorb these young people into economic activity once they have attained the results they have worked so hard for.

The unemployment rate among young people aged 15-24 stands at 60.8%, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey.

Just as preparing our nation's young people to achieve success in this exam is a collaborative effort, there is much more that partners like the private sector can do to hire young people.

We once again call on employers

to relax the requirement of prior work experience, particularly for entry-level positions, and for entry into vocational occupations where young employees can be trained on the job.

Employers should take advantage of incentives to encourage them to hire more young people. These include various sectoral learnership agreements, discretionary grants for skills training, and the Employee Tax Incentive.

Recent business premises inspections by the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Employment and Labour have thrown into sharp relief the contentious issue of some employers preferring to employ foreign nationals and illegal immigrants.

Employers must instead open

up more opportunities for young South Africans entering the job market. They need to remember that by law they have to ensure that no suitable South African citizen or permanent resident is available to fill a position before employing a foreign national. This is established practice around the world.

**As all of society, we have a responsibility to ensure that the morale of the Class of 2024 is boosted by knowing their hard work and sacrifices will be rewarded.**

**Let us continue to work together to ensure that the latest cohort of matriculants find the opportunities for employment or further education and training that they deserve.**



### BEST OF LUCK TO THE *Class of 2024*

**The ANC wishes the Class of 2024 well as they begin their National Senior Certificate (NSC) final examinations on Monday, 21 October 2024**

**"There's a point where you must start. You can't plough it all at once – you have to tackle it acre by acre..." OR Tambo**

**Every step counts in the journey to success.**





Statement by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** during the BRICS Summit Open Plenary Session, on the occasion of the **XVI BRICS Heads of State Summit**

Kazan, Russia, 23 October 2024

**F**IFTEEN years ago, South Africa attended its first BRICS Summit in Sanya, China.

Today, we gather as a group of nine leading emerging countries.

Our historic expansion is a beacon of hope for the global South. Individually, we are countries of diverse histories, values and strengths.

Together, we demonstrate the benefits of cooperation instead of competition.

As an increasingly influential group, we must ensure the suc-



cess of this expanded group.

Twenty-five years ago, South Africa's first democratic President, Nelson Mandela, undertook one of his final State Visits to the Russian Federation.

During this visit, President Mandela paid homage to the people of Russia.

He said they "were in the vanguard of that great legion of humanity who shared our struggle

*against apartheid and therefore also our victory".*

He said: *"This was the solidarity of true internationalism, transcending a vast geographical distance as well as the cultural and social differences between our peoples."*

As the world bears witness to the continued plight of the Palestinian people, South Africa is compelled to emulate that spirit of solidarity.

As a country, we understand the value of global support for a people's right to self-determination and statehood.





We are gravely concerned at the further escalation of a conflict that has already caused so much death and destruction.

The International Court of Justice has made it clear that the international community has a duty to prevent genocide by Israel.

The countries of the world have a responsibility not to fund or facilitate Israel's genocidal actions.

As the UN General Assembly

has now resolved, the countries of the world have a responsibility to promote the realisation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Lasting peace and security will not be achieved until Palestinians have realised their aspirations for statehood, justice and freedom.

Peace and security across the world require the collective will of the community of nations.

It requires a UN Security Council

that is representative and inclusive.

We see from many conflicts raging across the world that the UN Security Council has not fulfilled its mandate to maintain international peace and security.

It does not represent the interests of the global community, and therefore does not have the means to give effect to the global desire for peace.

Just as BRICS has a vital role in shaping a new multipolar world order, so too must it use its voice to advance change.

We found consensus on the reform of the UN Security Council when we met in Johannesburg last year.

Let us build on that foundation to develop an improved consensus that addresses the concerns and aspirations of all BRICS members.

We welcome the report of our National Security Advisors.

As BRICS countries, our secu-





## BRICS 2024

ity cooperation should continue to enhance mutual trust and build practical cooperation.

It should enable us to address complex security challenges, including terrorism, new technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybercrime and instability in various regions.

We meet at a time when multilateralism is under threat.

We see this XVI BRICS Summit as an opportunity to harness our collective strength to build a safer, more prosperous and equitable world.

It is in this spirit that South Africa will assume the Presidency of the G20 next year under the theme of: Solidarity, Equality and Sustainable Development.

We will seek to mobilise the countries of the world to take practical steps to resolve global challenges while strengthening international cooperation within a rules-based system.

In an interconnected world, the challenges faced by one nation affect all nations.

Through solidarity, we seek to



advance a unified effort and mutual support among nations.

By advancing equality we seek to ensure fair treatment, opportunities and advancement for all individuals and nations.

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising

the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Over the years, BRICS has emerged as an important voice of the Global South.

The expansion of BRICS is evidence of the growing value of our cooperation.

By working together, we can pave the way for a brighter future for all our peoples – and for the global community of nations.



## ANC YOUTH LEAGUE



# ANCYL MEMORANDUM TO THE JSE and following up on the 2011 MEMORANDUM OF DEMAND TO THE JSE – 11 October 2024

**S**OUTH Africa is characterised by the high level of unemployment, poverty and inequality with about 10% of South Africans households responsible for 52% of all expenditure and the poorest. 10% of households contribute 0.8% of all expenditure.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) is the center of economic trade of South Africa and international corporations. JSE is the central platform for the facilitation of trading and listing

of multiple companies. Founded in 1887, it remains Africa's largest stock exchange by market capitalization, and it is the 16th largest stock exchange in the world. This institution came with the inception of the wage labour system, which made it to be key to settler colonialism in Southern Africa ever since the establishment of the Cape Colony in 1652.

We, the members of the ANC Youth League and the citizens of South Africa joined by COSATU Youth, Young Communist League

(YCL), South African Students' Congress (SASCO) and the Congress of South African Students' (COSAS) have been waiting for substantive response from JSE since the march in 2011 by the ANCYL, the then leadership.

We have gathered here again, after the 2011 November ANC Youth March and we are inspired by the revolutionary generation of Nelson Mandela, OR Tambo, AP Mba and Mxolisi Majombosi who assembled at the Congress of the People in Kliptown 69



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years ago and drafted the **Freedom Charter** that carried the aspirations and continues to be a beacon of hope for the youth of South Africa.

We call on the implementation of the **Freedom Charter** which calls on *“The People Shall Share in the Country’s Wealth!”* whilst today top 0.01% of people which is 3 500 people own about 15% of all of the wealth in South Africa. The top 0.1% owns 25% of the wealth. And 50% have a negative wealth position in which have more liabilities (debt) than assets. The two-pot system which is implemented by National Treasury, recent data has shown that most of the majority of the withdrawals are directed to servicing the debt.

We are clear as the youth of South Africa that it cannot be business as usual, we need economic transformation and social transformation which comes with the transformation of the property relations in our country. And our demands are clearly articulated in this memorandum, which we believe are of great interest in transforming the lives of our people for the betterment of our future. We do not believe that the current capitalist institutions of South Africa, functions for the interest of the country but strives at the back-rock of inequalities, poverty and unemployment.

With JSE financial aggregation of more than 800 listed securities and about 400 listed companies, with 60 Equity market member firms. We the ANCYL calls JSE to play a significant role in enforcing transformation of our economy for the betterment of our citizens.

Therefore:

- **We demand the creation of employment for the youth:**



we demand for the mass creation of employment in our country, we demand that all companies that have received a fair share of the capital from Public Investment Corporation (PIC) to mass invest in the infrastructure capital projects for the creation of more than 2million unskilled, and semi-skilled jobs, with more than 5000 skilled jobs. As more than 16 million South Africans are unemployed of that, 70% is youth unemployment. Whilst, 3 million people work in an informal economy, where their income are very low, with 1 million being domestic workers with low levels of income. This is at the back-foot of the high cost of living.

- **We demand Mineral Export Quarters:** we demand that South African mining sector invest in beneficiation of the mineral resource, wherein 70% of the mineral resource extracted in the country must remain in the country, to benefit our masses in the entire value-chain from raw to product in the shelves.

As the ANC Youth League, we are clearly aware of the JSE structure, which is composed of the equity

market, derivatives Market, commodity derivatives, currency derivatives, interest rate derivatives, and bonds market. Then includes trading and listing below that, mining sector is at the centre of these economic activities.

We call on the various equity groups to invite the youth in the table of discussion of the diversification of the means of production. Therefore, we demand that there be funding set aside to fund and support the youth to build small medium mining.

Currently South Africa’s economy is saturated and there are minimal investments in the productive economies and assets, which has not resulted in the creation of jobs in South Africa.

Therefore, 70% of raw materials beneficiation will drive the productivity of South African economies.

- **We demand for centralisation of enterprise and supplier development for the free education:** we demand for the centralisation of all JSE listed companies’ enterprise and supplier development into centralised pot for the funding of higher education and support of the small



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businesses, enterprise and supplier development funds are valued at R20 billion a year in South Africa which can fund free education of our country.

- **We demand rural development and eradication of poverty:** we demand that JSE listed companies not to be overly obsessed with the profit making at the back of under-development of our rural areas. We demand that there be a fund in the profit margins of the JSE companies which will be focused on the rural development and eradication of poverty.
- **We demand nationalization of key strategic economic sectors:** it is our task to rally the youth for the demand of the nationalization of the strategic sectors of the economy and it is our ultimate goal as our founding President Anton Lembede stated that the ANC Youth League stands for the “African socialism”, therefore, we ANC Youth League believe in full socialized gain transnational corporations, and programmes for wholesale nationalization which only succeed in breaking such

corporations into inefficient national units. The ANC Youth League in 2011, stood here to demand for the nationalization of the strategic economic sectors, and we are reiterating that we need the socialization of our means of production and that the state must establish state-owned competitive companies in banking, fast consumer goods, insurance, and telecommunications.

- **We demand the fight against drugs and alcohol abuse:** we call on the JSE to play a proactive role and reinforce its listed companies to contribute in the fight against substance abuse, our youth are dying of abuse of drugs and alcohol, therefore, we




call upon the JSE to force tobacco and alcohol companies to build rehabilitations centers to support the government fight against substance abuse.

- We demand that JSE give us a comprehensive report on the implementation of the 2011 memorandum, however, we note the resistance to the demands of the memorandum by those who are manages the common affairs of the bourgeoisie. It is therefore, should we deem the response by JSE from our initial demands upon our assessment, we will call on the youth of South Africa to:
  - Occupy every factory and demand jobs on an immediate basis.
  - Mass protest at the PIC to demand to stop funding reactionary companies which are resistant to the transformation of our economy.
  - Extensive lobbying for the ANC to push the government to stop subsidies towards reactionaries' companies listed on the JSE.
  - We will call for mass disruption of supply chain in the alcohol and tobacco factories.



# THE ANC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING INTEGRITY, RENEWAL, UNITY AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

 On the 25-28 October 2024 the African National Congress (ANC) will be convening its National Executive Committee. This meeting will deal with disciplinary matters affecting the organisation, the scope, terms of reference of the Integrity Committee and an examination of the extent to which the organisation has gone insofar as discipline is concerned.

Since the resolution on the Integrity Commission, discipline, there has been scepticism, both internally and externally, on the ANC's commitment to the cause of organisational coherence, collective vision and purpose, renewal, unity, revolutionary morality, the fight against corruption and divisions within the movement.

The NEC meeting stems for the organisation's firm commitment to give effect to the resolution of the 54th and 55th Conference, including preceding resolutions on building the organisation to instil values of ethical leadership, integrity and good governance as a way of building a leadership with the requisite qualities and traits reflective of what the ANC represents, and most importantly, the nature of society we yearn to build.

Gleaning from the scholarly work



of Friedrich Engels "*The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*," the ANC shares in the belief that the family is the basic unit of society. President Jiang Zemin, buttresses this view by opining that "*To Run the Country Well, We Must First Run the Party Well...*" To build a capable state, the ANC needs a consciousness commitment to unity and renewal beyond lip service. Otherwise this poses an existential threat with serious ramifications on its well-being, its stature in society as a custodian of the aspirations of the people and a catalyst to a better life for all.

As an organisation, its efforts should be to the benefit, growth and prosperity of the country and the organisation as a whole, beyond patriarchal interests which constitute cancerous maladies impeding progress by fighting

corruption and ill-discipline. This necessitates a need to re-steer the movement from a destructive path.

Jiang Zemin observes, "*An all-out endeavour has been made to build up the Party ideologically, organizationally and in work style. Our ideological and political work has been strengthened. New steps have been taken, including the reform of the personnel system. The endeavour to build a clean and honest government and combat corruption has been going on in-depth and yielding fresh notable results.*"

These powerful endeavours resonate with and are relevant to the life of the ANC, unity and renewal in building a well-endowed and visionary personnel entrusted with the responsibilities of building the organisation capable of

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advancing the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

The road to the National Democratic Society needs a new breed of leadership, hence the ANC's collective and conscious resolve to instil integrity, heighten and institutionalize discipline as a non-negotiable creed.

Aptly, this NEC meeting coincides with the birthday of President Oliver Tambo who was born on the 27 October 1917. President OR Tambo led the movement in difficult times. Through his inspiration and determination for a just world, the oppressed majority girded their loins, waged a relentless onslaught against the heinous regime for a new democratic order and our sovereignty, national pride and identity in the community of nations.

The epic and steep journey we undertook was guided by Oliver Tambo who even in the midst of the seemingly impossible and unattainable, prodded us into action with a desire to free ourselves from the heavy albatross of oppression, and the indignity of second class citizenship. When the democratic sun dawned on the 27th April 2024, almost a year before his passing, we look back with a sense of nostalgia and pride a beacon and a giant who bequeathed us an intact and purposeful organisation. He bestowed upon us 30 years of democracy which is a product of his selflessness.

As a true and self-effacing leader, Comrade Oliver Tambo held sea when it was stormy, in his calm *"took little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit."*

As we renew the organisation for



mammoth challenges ahead and the sanctity of unity, Cde Oliver Tambo reminds that:

*"The enemy is vigilant, comrades. The enemy is vigilant. Beware of the wedge driver! Men and women who creep from ear to ear, driving wedges among us, who go around creating splits and divisions. Beware of the wedge driver! Watch out for his poisonous tongue."*

This is relevant today in view of the deliberate and elaborate attempts to weaken the organisation through divisions and distortions in order to incapacitate it from advancing the National Democratic Revolution. This is true, more dire and applicable today as it resonates with our firm commitment to unite the ANC as a way to advance the peoples' interests and renew our movement.

The assessment of the work of the Integrity Committee, strengthening its work, the political awareness of its members, virtues of ethics will lay a sold path on The Road Map 2032, towards a better life for all. In advancing the essence upon which it exists and the objectives around which it pivots, the movement has adopted strict candidate selection criteria and guidelines to ensure quality and impeccable leaders. Amongst the stringent measures to curb the influx of impurities

within the movement is screening, political education, what the ANC represents and its virtues.

We must be candid in our analysis of the state of the movement and casual effects of our electoral performance, the state of government, lackadaisical approach to the exigent imperatives of the developmental state and the road to the National Democratic Society and how the electoral loss impacted adversely on the NDR. To inculcate discipline and in rallying its members and leaders beyond its vision, the ANC NEC must flex its muscles, throw down the gauntlet and draw a line in the sand in eradicating rotten apples and voracious hyenas by exerting its authority without fear. This NEC has far reaching implications on the life of the movement, the prosperity of the country and aspirations of the people.

Conscious of these and the dangers to the NDR, renewal and unity are in congruent with our commitment to build a strong organization and a state capable of advancing development.

This is the greatest gift the movement can bestow to Oliver Tambo, a befitting tribute to comrades Tito Mboweni and Membathisi Mdladlana who were exemplary and paragons of morality and ethics within the movement.



# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

*on behalf of the Copyright  
Coalition of South Africa*

■ By **CHOLA MAKGAMATHE**



**I**N February this year, on behalf of the Copyright Coalition of South Africa, I wrote to President Cyril Ramaphosa in his capacity as Head of State pleading that he should not sign into law two Bills that have been passed by the national assembly.

It was right in the heat of election season, and we did not expect much. During elections, everything is used for political expediency and sometimes things that are well meant, get lost in the cynicism of the election season.

The letter to President Ramaphosa was initially aimed at Members of Parliament before they voted for the Bills the previous week, but on second thought, sensing that we won't reach them as they were already lobbied by the proponents of the bills, we decided to rather write to the person with the last word, the president.

In the same week, the African National Congress came out and joined our and the call of many in this industry to ask the president not to sign the Bills. This was



good news to ears of the performing and creative industries.

And today, with a great sense of gratitude and humility, we write this message to the ANC, days after President Ramaphosa referred the Bills to the Constitutional Court for a decision on the matter.

The import of the President's decision cannot be overemphasised. Let us recap.

What these Bills are proposing is that if the creative work is deemed as educational, it can be used widely without remuneration to the creator. Self-defeating if you ask us. You cannot want to

champion education at the same time posing an economic threat to producers and creators.

There is no reason to have these bills in the current proposed form. In our humble view, the parliamentarians that were lobbied to approve these Bills were being misled to believe that they would be doing this for the good of the majority of South Africans who are poor.

The proponents of the current Bills are foregrounding the suggestion that if passed, the bills would allow South Africa to use "international" work for educational purposes without having to compensate the creators. True as that is, what they are not telling them is that this will also affect Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Dr Zakes Mda as well as creatives who produce audiovisual content that makes up a lot of content like adverts and such.

The results of this are obvious. Local producers, those who can, will stop producing and registering their work here, thereby de-

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nying South Africa millions of foreign exchange which is earned every time the world reproduces work created and registered here. If local producers – if Chaka Chaka registers her music in Ghana and Mda registers his books in India – those licences will be foreign and reproduction will earn revenue in the countries of registration, not us.

As for international producers and creators – who for more than a decade have been attracted to our shores creating movies and documentaries – they will simply

choose other locations anywhere in the world where their creative work is protected and where they can earn a fair return for their sweat.

The concept of “Fair Use” as argued by the proponents of the bills should not be a win-lose proposition. There is a way to still compensate creators while encouraging them to allow their work to be used for educational purposes, especially to those with less resources.

But you cannot rob Peter to pay

Paul. At some point, there will be no Peter to rob and Paul will have nothing more to gain. Once the creative taps close, even “Fair Use” will lose.

This is hardly a practical solution given the quick turnaround at which content is created in the current high demand environment.

Let us move the issue of Braille, which has been raised by the proponents of the Bills as ruse, in our view to convince society of the need for these Bills to be passed.

The publishing industry internationally as a sector within the creative industries has over many years helped empower those readers who are blind and otherwise print disabled.

Contrary to the arguments of the lobbyists, the duo of the Copyright Amendment Bill and the Performers’ Protection Amendment Bill are not the right vehicles to provide for the making of accessible materials due to the numerous problematic, contentious and frankly unconstitutional provisions of these Bills.

An obvious answer and strong signal of support for Blind SA lie with the accession to the Marrakesh Treaty. Beyond the purely domestic law situation, which as stated above, is already in line with the legal interests of the visually impaired, the Treaty adds a cross-border and international dimension, enabling in South Africa the making available and sharing of lawfully made accessible format copies of published literary in-copyright works in other Marrakesh Treaty countries. Likewise, the Treaty allows the distribution of locally made accessible format copies abroad to



### UNDERSTANDING THE COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT BILL



#### WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

"Copyright is a legal right that gives creators control over their original works for a limited time."

"South Africa's Copyright Act 98 of 1978 protects literary, musical, artistic works, and more."

"Section 25 of the Constitution guarantees creators' rights to benefit from their intellectual property."

#### Why the Copyright Amendment Bill is Problematic?

##### 1 PROTECTION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Weak enforcement leaves creators vulnerable to digital exploitation by big tech.



##### 2 GLOBAL RISK

The Copyright Amendment Bill fails to meet international standards, risking South Africa's global credibility, trade relations, and investment opportunities.

##### 3 FAIR USE PROVISION

Fair use benefits big tech at the expense of creators' control and revenue.



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other contracting parties.

There is a long overdue decision to be made by Government to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty and to enact national treatment in the country's legislation. Acceding to the Marrakesh Treaty will formalise and concretise the many steps already taken by publishers to facilitate accessibility.

Ironically and factually, there is no urgency any more in allowing the making of accessible format copies of published literary works in the Republic. The Publishers' Association of South Africa (PASA), a member association of the CCSA, and its associated bodies have over the years taken numerous steps to facilitate the making of accessible materials.

Before the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty in June 2013, PASA publicly stated that it *“fully supports the conclusion of this treaty. PASA wishes to work with the delegation of the International Publishers Association to the Diplomatic Conference to achieve a good outcome that gives visually impaired readers access to the books they need, without changing the principles of international copyright law”*.

This message must be clear to everyone, especially Blind SA. The industry is not insensitive to your needs and consideration. We are fully aware and supportive of the need to democratise content and make it available for wide use, especially for people living with disabilities. This, we hope you understand, should and cannot be done to the detriment of one party. There is a win-win solution.

We are confident that the apex court is the rightful forum to con-

sider these matters. Away from politics and commercial lobbies, our Constitutional Court will be able to look at all the facts, go through them through a fine comb, consider all sides of the story and mostly, consider the constitutionality or not of the Bills, and rule accordingly.

And you, the African National Congress, a party of liberation, in the decision you took in support of us – which we believe played a role in the decision the President took – have done much

more than good for those of us in the industry. You have foregrounded the Human Rights that you fought so much to make sure that they become part of our esteemed constitution.

On behalf of many, very many of us, thank you to President Ramaphosa and the entire African National Congress for this leadership.

*Chola Makgama* is the Chairperson of the Copyright Coalition of South Africa.

### WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ?

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT

Creative industry contributes R90.6 billion (2.9% of GDP) and supports 1.3 million jobs.

#### JOB LOSSES

Jobs could be lost, particularly in film, music, and publishing.

#### INVESTMENT DECLINE

Decline in international investment due to weak copyright protections.

#### KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER

- **Creators Lose Control.**
- **Unfair Benefit for Big Tech.**
- **Administrative Overload.**

#### WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?

- Advocate for a balanced copyright reform.
- The president should not sign the bill in its current form.

Copyright Coalition of South Africa

# BRIDGING ECONOMIC DIVIDE AND ACCELERATING RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

ONE of the main challenges that faced the ANC-led government when it assumed power in 1994 was to deal effectively with the legacy of unjust policies of the past. Since its inception, the ANC government has been grappling with deep-rooted “triple challenges” plaguing the country – unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The ANC inherited a system that entrenched inequalities in opportunities among different race groups. Apartheid systematically and purposefully restricted majority of South Africans, Africans in particular, from meaningful participation in the economy, resulting in an economic structure that still excludes vast majority of South Africans from the disadvantaged background, who are still outside the mainstream economy of the country. Hence, South Africa has one of the world’s most unequal patterns of distribution of income and wealth.

In global perspective, South Africa is said to be “the most unequal country on earth” in terms of income and wealth disparity. Inequality results in deeply entrenched social and economic exclusions that inhibit sustainable human development and



self-actualization.

The effects of unjust policies of the past are being felt mainly in the rural areas of South Africa. Studies indicate that, 50% of the population of South Africa in general is rural, and 72% of the total population who are poor are in the rural areas. Rural people have inferior access to social services and economic amenities. Most of the rural municipalities fall under characterization of rural areas, with high unemployment levels, minimum or no economic or job opportunities, and majority of the population trapped in poverty cycle.

Food security and job creation remain the topmost priorities for our country in the fight against the triple challenges. Traditionally, rural development is characterised by exploitation of land-based natural resources such as agriculture. However, tourism and recreation are now replacing agriculture as a dominant economic driver in most of the rural areas. Education and entrepreneurship, on the other hand, also play important roles in developing rural areas.

Rural development is “the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and



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*sparsely populated areas*". However, there is lack of direct investment or capital projects in most of the rural areas. There is therefore a need for innovative ideas to filter in as part of broader mandate to develop rural areas. Sustained rural development can be a significant catalyst for sustainable economic development, improved social access, and poverty alleviation in South Africa's rural areas.

To alleviate challenges of poverty, unemployment, inequality, and food insecurity, the government established several programmes, including, inter alia, the following:

- **Comprehensive Rural Development Programme** that was aimed at optimizing economic development within agriculture and other sectors of the economy.
- **Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme**, which dealt with rural poverty through optimal use and management of natural resources.
- **War on Poverty Programme** that was aimed on addressing poverty and hunger.
- **The Masibuyele Emasimni (livestock improvement) Programme** was established as part of addressing food security and job creation.

The responsibility for rural development, i.e. ensuring equitable distribution of resources, and responding to social and economic crisis facing rural communities, fall mainly on the government. The Constitution shifts the responsibility for rural development to local government. In this regard, municipalities have to ensure effective basic services provisioning, leveraging spending to create jobs, and facilitating local economic development for all in their jurisdiction, including rural communities.



Some of the key tools used by the local government to coordinate and prioritise service delivery include the Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs), Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Integrated Transport Plans (ITPs), and other land use plans. Particular attention also needs to be given to anchor or lead projects, and to projects that are part of the government's Local Economic Development (LED) programmes.

However, rural development is a broad concept that engages all relevant stakeholders across the public and private sectors. Local authorities are not solely responsible for addressing enormous challenges of rural development. The role of national and provincial governments remains equally important, if not more, especially with regard to support to enable local authorities to fulfil their role, and ensuring that they have capacity to perform their functions. Rural development requires all relevant stakeholders, including local SMMEs and rural community-based self-help initiatives to contribute in their respective areas of responsibility as well.

Rural development is funded by

all three spheres of government, and also partly by rural people through payment for services and local taxes, and the private sector through collaborative partnerships with the government. Hence, there is a need to investigate the possibility of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) projects. There has been a fair degree of success with some of these PPP projects. There is need to further assess the impact that PPP projects could have regarding their potential socio-economic empowerment within local communities.

Development of SMMEs is one of South Africa's commitment to a policy of economic growth. It is trite that SMMEs are the main source of job creation in most successful economies of the world. Hence, the promotion of SMMEs should therefore be regarded as one of the key strategies to encourage sustainable growth in the South African economy.

The objective of any investment is to get good returns. All investments involve some degree of risk, and it is even more so in the rural areas. For people who are mainly profit-driven, decision to invest in the rural economy is always difficult due to lack of gov-

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

ernment support and perceived lack of guarantee on the return on investment. Therefore, investing in the rural areas requires positive attitude, because it is not easy, and the returns on investment are not so rapid or great.

There is naturally a lack of investors with capital to invest in the rural areas due to demographic variables like age, gender, and employment occupation of rural communities. Most of the rural towns and villages do not have natural pull-factors that can attract much needed investment without active government intervention. The respective nodal points of most of the rural towns and villages do not have critical mass in terms of large, primary, and secondary markets. Indeed, the sustainability of rural municipalities themselves, with low tax-base, is dependent on overall government policy on rural areas, and the development of rural economies.

Some of the enormous challenges that limit SMMEs development and entrepreneurship in the rural areas include, inter alia, the following:

- Lack of access to capital and markets.
- Unfavourable government regulatory mechanisms and administration procedures.
- Impediments relating to land acquisition, especially on communal lands – title deeds and conditions thereof, Permissions to Occupy (PTOs), process and costs for rezoning and removal of restrictions, servitudes, rights of way, endorsements, mineral rights, land claims (if any), etc.
- Prospects of business sustainability – 75% of newly formed small businesses are unable to become sustainable.

Access to capital is a major problem to majority of the entrepreneurs in the rural areas, especially those from the disadvantaged background. Raising capital for rural-based business is almost impossible for most of investors. Moreover, there is no support or incentives from the government to those individuals or organizations who take the risk of rendering significant service to rural development and poverty alleviation without rapid profit motive. Some investments, particularly in rural areas, cannot be quantified in terms of rapid financial gains, but their significance remain priceless.

**Lack of financial support from financial institutions and lack of government assistance hamper entrepreneurship for aspiring entrepreneurs in the rural communities.** The manner in which they operate, the government, through institutions such as the development funding institutions (DFIs) – the Land Bank, the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), and

Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), would not shift inequality in South Africa. The role of government's DFIs as instruments for significantly advancing levels of economic transformation in South Africa, or as drivers and agents of economic restructuring to advance the objectives required by successful creation of developmental state is important, but they are not always helpful where they are mostly needed.

Due to their inefficiencies, DFIs are not helping SMMEs in securing funding required to develop and/or grow businesses.

Their lending processes are not only onerous, but also repressive and time-insensitive. DFIs stifle lending terms and conditions to intended beneficiaries in an attempt to minimize risk. By doing that, they are even more conservative than traditional commercial banks in their approach towards financing of SMMEs, and thus defeating the intended purpose and good intentions of the government to empower SMMEs from disadvantaged background.





## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Most of funding applicants in rural areas are, for reasons beyond their control, such as unavailability of title deeds and impossibility of rezoning on communal land, not able to meet DFIs' funding requirements. For those who can, even after having submitted everything required, there is still laxity and ineptitude among the DFIs officials to process applications effectively and efficiently. There are always reasons why funding is applied, and those reasons could also be time-based or time-sensitive. DFIs' processes are open-ended, with no reasonable turnaround period for acceptance or rejection of applications, even after furnishing of all required information.

In conclusion, the government's 'pro-poor' policies on their own would not shift inequality in South Africa, especially in the rural areas.

What is required is for the government to create an enabling environment within which even rural-based SMMEs could gain access to capital through the DFIs, by rendering the latter, effective and efficient suitably qualified and competent individuals, who would be able to carry out the mandates of their respective institutions, and enable SMMEs to thrive, create more jobs, and reduce reliance of the masses on government grants.



By **GRANT PASCOE**

# We must be alert to the agenda of some sections of the media

**M**ANDY Wiener's recent article about the ANC succession battle shows how the media is once again pushing a narrative designed to divide the ANC and weaken its leadership. This kind of reporting, which focuses on supposed internal conflicts, is not just innocent political commentary. It seems to be part of a larger effort to discredit the ANC and cause division among its leaders.

We've seen these tactics before during the apartheid era, and they are being used again today to create confusion and unrest within the party.

The media's focus on who will be the next president of the ANC, three years before the 2027 elective conference, is premature and unnecessary. Yes, there will always be leadership discussions and differing opinions in a democratic party like the ANC, but this does not mean the party is falling apart. Instead of highlighting

the ANC's efforts to govern and improve the country, articles like Wiener's try to portray the party as in crisis, which can weaken the ANC's image.

Take the examples in the article: Paul Mashatile, Fikile Mbalula, and Panyaza Lesufi are all portrayed as being in some sort of power struggle. These leaders, like many others in the party, have their own visions and goals for South Africa, and it is normal to have debates and differences. However, framing this as a "succession battle" distracts from the real issues the ANC is trying to address, such as improving the lives of ordinary South Africans.

We need to be aware that this type of media narrative is not new. During apartheid, similar tactics were used to discredit liberation movements like the ANC.

The term "Stratcom" refers to a disinformation strategy used by the apartheid government to cre-

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

ate false stories and drive division within the ANC. Today, even in a democratic era, sections of the media continue to use these tactics to weaken the ANC by portraying it as divided and dysfunctional.

**The ANC must stay focused on its mission to serve the people of South Africa and not be distracted by these narratives. It's essential for the party to stand strong against any attempts to create division within its ranks. Unity is key, especially when external forces like biased media narratives are trying to tear the party apart.**

The real question is: Why is the media so eager to portray the ANC as a party in crisis?

Instead of constantly focusing on internal battles, the media should be paying attention to the policies and progress the ANC is making. The party has a responsibility to govern effectively and work toward a better future for all South Africans.


Now is the time for the ANC to resist these efforts to divide it.

Leaders and members should focus on working together to strengthen the party and serve the country, rather than being drawn into media-driven conflicts. The ANC has survived many challenges before, and it can do so again, but only if it remains united and refuses to be distracted by external forces that do not have the best interests of the party or the country at heart.

In the end, the ANC's success will depend on its ability to see through these divisive tactics and focus on what really matters.

# Section 139 Intervention is not all Doom and Gloom, Thabazimbi residents must never despair

■ By **NGWAKO THULANI TAUETSOLA**

 **T**HERS may be quick to subjectively dismiss my view, but the reality is that the Thabazimbi situation will in time get better like Mogalakwena did.

Many like me agree that our Municipality owed the people of Mogalakwena 10 years of service delivery due to political instability, which crippled the functionality of the institution, from labour, municipal administration, governance and financial viability and management.

The situation is much more like that of Thabazimbi, though section 139 intervention was applied differently.

When we arrived in office in November 2021, the municipality was already under section 139(1) (b), which was invoked from the 4th December 2020, after the multidisciplinary task team conducted an assessment in the municipality in October 2019.

The municipal structures like risk,



audit, MPAC, and LLF collapsed.

**On Labour:** The municipality was characterized by low staff morale, as there were people who were appointed without following recruitment.

**On Municipal Transformation and Administration,** there was a continuous presence of SAPS in the municipal premises and council sittings.

**On governance matters,** the municipality was holding more special council sittings as opposed to ordinary meetings.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

**On financial viability and management,** the municipality was the second in the country and first in the province with high unauthorized, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure amounting to 2.8 Billion.

**On basic services and infrastructure development,** there were allegations of project managers being scared of service providers due to death threats and as a result, reports from service providers are accepted/processed without site inspections to confirm the work done. That is why we have cases like the Moshate stadium.

When the team arrived at the municipality, the municipality had no section 56/57 managers, but today, we are able to boast that we have a full compliment of managers, including the Municipal Manager. SCM processes and structures are in order, including council committees.

We have appointed the Deputy Chief Financial Officer who deals specifically with Annual Financial Statements, which will save us consultants' costs, which were exorbitant. Our Financial Recovery Plan is now in order. The administration has put its foot down on application of consequences management. MPAC is functioning very well in terms of its oversight role, including conducting public hearings.

**On infrastructure,** the municipality is trying by all means to cover lost ground. The Mini Water Scheme 25-Seema Mapela, industrial well field development Mahwelereng Roads and storm water, Zone 1 WF2 rising, storage, and bulk supply contracts have all resumed after they had stalled for many years.

There are measures to recover money lost on incomplete projects like fothane and Segole 1 and 2 including Moshate stadium.

We are well on the way to improve our audit outcomes after 5 years of disclaimers and adverse opinions.

We are adequately collecting revenue, tightening our systems to avoid defaulters. The Masodi Waste Water Treatment system is completed and handed over to the municipality. We will be aligning our structure to be able to accommodate the system.

Our Yellow Plant is on the ground to intervene on the much needed dikgerekgere intervention in our communities. Mahwelereng zone 1 and 2 are paved, and plans are underway to extend the scope. We recently received funding to intervene on the disaster-stricken road infrastructure at Mosesetjane and Ext 14 to 20. The dipichi mini water scheme A and B are well underway, and we will be on the ground to monitor progress every Wednesday. The Sekgakgapeng package plant and reticulation are completed. We

have resuscitated the temporary measures at Mountain View to get water until a permanent solution is finalized.

We have waited for Jet-Vacuum cleaner to foe sewer blockage, and spillage has finally arrived, and we are finalizing training personnel to operate the truck.

The procurement of resealing 6 streets in Mokopane by Anglo-American is complete, and construction will start on the 1st of November 2024.

We owe the stabilization of this municipality to the section 139 intervention, and it is for that reason that I implore the municipality of Thabazimbi never to be despondent. The honours rest with our political parties to deploy councilours who are fit for purpose with full responsibility and knowledge that they will have to get the right people in the administration. Thabazimbi will be on the rise again.

**Ngwako Thulani Tauetsoala is the Mayor of the ANC-led Mogalakwena Local Municipality.**



# IN MEMORIAM

## Comrade Membathisi Mdladlana

# A COMRADE LARGER THAN LIFE

Message of Support by COSATU at the Memorial Service  
of Comrade Membathisi Mdladlana



**T**HANK you for allowing COSATU to share its sympathies with the loss of Cde Mdladlana. This is a painful loss to the entire liberation movement. This was a comrade who made his mark in so many ways. Indeed, he was larger than life.

Ours is not only to mourn his passing, and tragically with the passings of comrades Tito Mboweni and Pravin Gordhan, recently, the loss of a generation of stalwarts; but to celebrate this wonderful man, comrade and leader.

Cde Mdladlana was full of energy, passion and enthusiasm. He fed these into all he did. Wherever he was, his leadership was recognised and appreciated.

The Mdladlana family can be proud their son rose from Keiskammahoek, to become a leader not only of teachers and workers but to serve the nation with such distinction.

Whilst Membathisi is no more, his legacy and example remain.



He came of age during the June 1976 uprisings of learners to become a teacher and play his part in ensuring that schools become a site of liberation from the shackles of apartheid.

He was not only passionate about education but also asserting the rights of teachers. Whilst 30 years into democracy, many have neglected and some sought to undermine the non-racial fabric of our democracy.

Membathisi was steadfast in his belief that ours must be a society as envisaged by the Freedom Charter.

It was precisely for this reason that Comrade Membathisi was elected the first President of SADTU, uniting teachers' unions across racial and geographic divides.

It was his negotiating skills honed as a leader of teachers that saw him play a key role in the drafting of our progressive Constitution that compels the state to tackle the legacies of the past and the inequalities of today.

It is a sad moment that Cdes Tito and Membathisi passed away so close to each other. Their paths were so interlinked. Cde Tito led the drafting of the progressive labour laws passed by the ANC that today protect the rights of millions of workers.

Cde Membathisi took them to the next level, addressing gaps such as ensuring that a million domestic workers would be covered by Unemployment Insurance and shifting the focus to implementation to ensure workers enjoy their hard-won rights.

Mdladlana was a proud teacher,

a stickler for rules and punctuality.

If you talked too long in a meeting, his eyes would become big asking if you are not concluding young man!

He carried the aura of a principal who valued discipline but was equally the compassionate Mfundisi with a large heart. His voice was loud, and his laughter larger.

He was a mentor to generations. It is no accident that the likes of Mcebisi Skwatsha was once a teacher at Andile Primary School under his leadership or that comrades like Whitey Jacobs rose to play leading roles in CAYCO and the UDF.

We are privileged to have crossed paths with this proud son of Gugulethu who made his con-

tribution to liberate a nation. He served with distinction and not a scandal.

If we are to honour the legacies of the generation of Cde Membathisi, then not only must we seek to pick up his spear, but to emulate his principles and character.

We thank the family for sharing this giant with the nation for all these years.

We will be forever indebted for the Mdladlana family's sacrifices.

We hope that the family and SADTU will find time to write the story of Cde Mdladlana for generations to come.

**Rest in peace Mfundisi.**

**You have run your race.**

**Hamba kahle Mkhonto.**

**COMRADE  
MEMBATHISI  
MDLADLANA**

The African National Congress (ANC) mourns the loss of a stalwart of the struggle for workers' rights and a champion of our democratic ideals.

His contribution to the liberation struggle began long before the dawn of democracy in 1994 as the Founding President of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU).

He served the country as a Member of Parliament, Minister of Labour, South Africa Ambassador to Burundi and High Commissioner in Canada.

His legacy lives on in the lives of workers he fought for.

**Hamba Kahle Qabane!!**

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

112th Anniversary  
The Year of United Action to Defend our Freedom and Advance a Better Life for All  
FORWARD TO A DECISIVE VICTORY

## TRIBUTE

# In commemoration and reflection of Tito Mboweni's life and contribution to the liberation struggle

■ By **DEPUTY MINISTER PHUMZILE MGCINA**

**L**ISTENING to the Principal of Bankuna High School, she shared an inspiring story about the class of 1978, which included Titus "Tito" Mboweni. He was recognized as an exceptionally bright student, particularly in subjects like science. This connection placed him alongside notable figures such as the long-serving President OR Tambo and Peter Mokaba, who served as both a student and a teacher of Mathematics and Science. This illustrates that Mboweni was not merely a politician; he also recognized his potential to influence the development of our society through science.

Lord Salisbury, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in the 1800s, was a prominent advocate for strengthening the economic foundation of the UK Empire. As a member of the Union Conservative Party, he engaged in the debate over the colonization of Egypt and South Africa, questioning whether the UK should act as a catalyst for the development of these nations or prioritize its own growth.

Lord Salisbury contended that their ancestors had always played a pivotal role in advancing

the UK, and taking a stance contrary to this would be a betrayal of their legacy.

### Tito of the liberation movement

This perspective echoes the life of Tito Mboweni, the former Minister of Labour, Finance, and the

8th Governor of the Reserve Bank. Mboweni dedicated his life to combating national oppression and contributing to the reconstruction of a democratic South Africa. In his honour, let us position our country towards developmental goals, as such progress would be a fitting tribute to our ancestors.

**COMRADE  
TITO  
MBOWENI**  
16 March 1959 - 12 October 2024

The ANC Women's League mourns the sudden passing of one of our country's revered political economists.

Cde Tito Mboweni leaves behind an unparalleled legacy of competent fiscal stability emanating from his contribution both in the ANC and in government.

May his soul rest in peace

ADVANCING DECISIVE ACTION TOWARDS THE FULL  
LIBERATION AND EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN  
Issued by the ANC Women's League

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM



## TRIBUTE

Mboweni's step to join the liberation movement was a first move to show this dedication to the total emancipation of his people. His role was in the liberation movement except that of being the agent of change for the call upon liberation of his people, but he also played a greater role in the economic policy of the country as he also served in the Department of Economic Policy in the ANC. This proceeded with him serving as the inaugural Minister of Labour in 1994, under the post-democratic state.

### Tito of Public Sector and Government

His appointment in the cabinet did not come as a ticket of loyalty to the then incumbent, but in his various interviews he stated that Nelson Mandela appointed him into cabinet after listening to his engagements and given that in 1992 after visiting Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum with then President Nelson Mandela and in the input for South Africa, they removed the part of nationalization of the strategic sectors of the economy in the South African input at the World Economic Forum.

Mboweni took his role in the liberation movement with utmost importance. Serving in the ANC Department of Economic Policy he saw it as an opportunity for the betterment of South African through his capabilities of developmental economics which he acquired Bachelor of Development Economics at the University of East Anglia in England. He stirred his role to the provision of economic policy advisory that at the time of transitional government from the apartheid to the democratic had to take into confidence the business community



locally and internationally that there will be ease of doing business in South Africa and return in investment in guarantee for plowback of those who seek the market in South Africa.

He subsequently became the first Minister of Labour in Nelson Mandela's cabinet, serving as one of the youngest Ministers at that time, alongside Trevor Manuel. As I am serving as the Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, I got the certain realization of the potential of the department to transform the economy of South Africa.

As Minister of Labour, he demonstrated remarkable vision and a strong drive for change, initiating reforms in key labour legislation, including the Labour Relations Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, and the Mines Health and Safety Act. These laws have significantly transformed the labour market landscape, and we continue to monitor their implementation today.

This transformation is particularly noteworthy given South Africa's historical context, where wage labour often marginalized the majority of black individuals from skilled employment opportunities due to restrictive labour reserves.

In honouring Mboweni's contribution in changing the landscape of labour market, our department committed to employing 20 000 inspectors to focus on the non-compliance by big companies on labour laws among which are those enacted by former Minister Mboweni. South Africa's prevalence of high level of unemployment and inequalities, whilst most of the hospitality and retail industries do not comply with the labour laws in which they employ illegal immigrants, in all the outlets which I visited since the 7th administration conducting unannounced oversight, we encounter illegal immigrants. By intensifying the oversight with Inspectors, we will drive compliance and employment of locals to the hospitality industry.

## TRIBUTE



### Transition from Politics to being a banker

From August 1999 to November 2009, he served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank. His journey began as an advisor to the then Governor, Chris Stals, with the intention of preparing him for the governor's role following Chris' resignation. This transition was challenging, as a prerequisite for becoming the governor was having substantial banking experience. Serving as an advisor for over a year provided him with the necessary experience, in accordance with Section 4(2)(a) of the South African Reserve Bank Act, which states that the "governor shall be a person of tested banking experience."

Mboweni played a critical role in the Reserve Bank, significantly contributing to the economic growth of South Africa. Notably, discussions regarding the rand were largely confined to him, Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel, and President Thabo Mbeki, with little input from others in the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC. This concentration of authority fostered stability in monetary poli-

cy. Importantly, he established the Monetary Policy Committee in October 1999, which set the stage for South Africa's adoption of inflation targeting as a key policy objective for the bank.

However, as the Deputy President of the ANC Youth League, it is important to acknowledge that South Africa is currently grappling with a high cost of living and has one of the worst inflation rates among the G20 countries, second only to Argentina and Turkey, currently standing at 4.5%, while the United States is at 2%. In our pursuit of a better South Africa through the establishment of a

developmental state, we have marched and called upon the Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies to collaborate with the government in the fight against the rising cost of living.

Despite these economic challenges, we believe that the National Treasury must revise its planning framework, which currently constrains various departments' planning based on the fiscal position of the National Treasury, but departments must develop their own plans in response to the need of the society, and the National Treasury must explore avenues to generate revenue to fund developmental projects, with a primary focus on infrastructure development and development of technologies.

We must honour the life and contributions of the 8th Governor, Mboweni. To ensure that his legacy is not in vain, it is essential that we advance the developmental agenda focused on building institutional capacity. Most importantly, we must strive for corruption-free governance to enhance the future of our people.

**Phumzile Mgcina** is Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour.





# THE AMAZONIAN WARRIOR WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS AND AFRICA, FLAMES OF COURAGE AND RESISTANCE, THE STRUGGLES FOR THE FREEDOM OF HUMANITY

■ By **AMBASSADOR PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

**C**ENTURIES after the arrival of the first expedition of the European voyage of discovery into the tranquil shores of the Americas, the belligerent scholars have not yet come to acknowledge, invincible trails of the torchbearers of the world revolutionary movement, whom history bequeathed the greatest episodes of the triumph of human struggles. The apostles of enlightenment have the responsibility to liberate humanity from the dungeons of darkness, like flames of one candle brightening thousands others.

The records of history refer us to the magnificent tales of the Amazons, the unquenchable warrior women of the Antilles (in the Americas) and Dahomey (in Africa), who stood the test of time, conquering adversity through extraordinary feats of ingenuity, courage and bravery.

Those were the beautiful warrior women of the Americas and the African continent, whose charming lustre illuminated the pathways, occupying the forefront trenches of our struggles for the freedom of humanity.



Renowned Ancient Greek philosopher Aristocles, in one of his famous written dialogues, says a hero is born amongst a hundred, a wise man is found amongst a thousand but an accomplished one might not be found even amongst a hundred thousand men. The lionhearted guardians of the Amazons of the Americas and the African continent were not just pantheons of accomplishment, but titanic icons of our struggles for liberation.

The Amazons of the Antilles were women of the Taino tribe, scattered over the mountainous rainforests of Latin America and the

Caribbean peninsula, whilst the Amazons of Dahomey, were the women of the Kingdom of Dahomey, in the tropical forests and the dusty mountainous desert of the west African region, the present day republic of Benin. The two oasis of humanity, though far apart from each other, partitioned by perennial ocean waves of the Atlantic, are renowned for the traditions of rare formidable battalions of warrior women, fighting ferociously against imperialism and colonial occupation.

Upon his arrival in the archipelago of the new world of the Americas, the voyager Christopher Colum-

## HISTORY

bus wrote a letter to the Queen of the Kingdom of Spain, Isabella 1 of Castile, forewarning her of the existence of indigenous people in the hemisphere, who could be of use as good slaves, to extract gold and silver for the colonial empire. He further informed her of the existence of contingents of warrior women of tremendous courage and bravery, carrying arrows and darts, waging tumultuous resistance against any form of incursion.

Over the historical period, the European colonial powers, subjected the indigenous people of the Americas, to horrendous conditions of untold forms of atrocities and genocide, leading to the total extermination and extinction of the population.

Bartolome De Las Casas, one of the missionaries who was part of the entourage of Christopher Columbus, entrusted by the kingdom of Spain to lure the local people into Christianity, wrote many articles about the monstrous acts Columbus and his men inflicted on the local people. He wrote about how they would breed fierce hunting dogs that would devour an Indian (native American) like a hog, at first sight in less than a moment.

Elaborating the brutalities committed on the indigenous people in the following painstaking words, *“forcing the Taino to perform tasks utterly beyond their strength, bending them to the earth with crushing burdens, harnessing them to loads which they could not drag, and with fiendish sport and mockery, chopping off their hands and feet, mutilating their bodies in ways which will not bear description”*.

The American archeologist, An-

tonio Kuilan, in his article, Remembering the Huetey and Tainos, gives an atrocious tale of human destruction by the colonial settlers:

*“...some of the villagers in the deep belly of the Islands would welcome Columbus and his crew, not aware of their horrors and brutalities. After feeding them with delicious cuisine of the Antilles and splendid evening of traditional dances and poetry, the intruders would turn against the local people, disemboweling and slaughtering them until their blood flowed like a seething river. They would bash the Taino babies against rocks and throw them into the rivers. They would even hang Tainos in groups of 13 and burn them alive in memory of Jesus and the 12 Apostles”*.

In her memoir, *The Amazon of Mantinino, Personal Legacy of Female Empowerment in the Greater Antilles*, Professor Rosalina Diaz, says the following about the courage and resilience of the Amazons of the Antilles:

“Wherefore many went to the woods and hanged themselves after having killed their children, saying it was far better to die than to live so miserably, serving such and so many ferocious tyrants and wicked thieves. The women

with juice of a certain herb dissipated their pregnancy, in order not to produce children.

Some threw themselves from high cliffs down precipices, others jumped into the sea, others again into the rivers and others starving themselves to death. Sometimes they killed themselves with the flint knives, others pierced their bosoms or their sides with pointed stakes”.

In the Western African region of the present day republic of Benin, the colonial conquerors encountered formidable warrior women battalion of the Amazons of Dahomey, waging fiercest battles against colonial settlers, usurping their land, livestock and hunting people as slaves. The people of Dahomey are amongst the first nations in the history of the world to have a dedicated army of warrior women, with such a tremendous gesture of resistance and defiance, to protect their land and the treasures against the invading neighbouring kingdoms and colonial powers.

Each epoch produces its own heroes and heroines, but the annals of history have distinguished the Amazons of Dahomey to have contributed immensely to the





## HISTORY

fortunes of the struggles for the liberation of the African continent. They have imbued humanity with magnanimous feats of heroism, navigating trials and tribulations, understanding the adage that freedom is a product of courage and determination.

The warrior women of the Amazons of the Americas and the African continent, inflicted devastating blows to the colonial conquerors, employing even more superior and sophisticated tactics and strategies of war, outsmarting men in the use of artillery and weaponry in combat. The depth of the relentless courage and dedication to the cause of the struggles distinguished them as the most unparalleled freedom fighters.

They held the bull by the horns, the hunter becoming the hunted and the hunted becoming the hunter. Posterity will count them amongst the luminaries of the struggles for the freedom of mankind.

The Amazons of the Antilles and Dahomey have contributed immensely to the milestones of human civilisation, of human endeavours to create a better future of humanity. The flames of their



Dahomey warriors

courageous testimonies will not be silenced by the empty chapters of history books.

They have defined the aspirations of the future humanity, of the ideal world of peace and tranquility. The warrior women of the Amazons of the Americas and the African continent, belong to the rare instances of history, of the defining moments of human

civilisation.

They have changed the world by their example and we shall change the world by their example. Their testimonies are the example of courage and selflessness to serve humanity.

**Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso** is a member of the ANC. He writes in his personal capacity.

“

It's your reaction to adversity, not adversity itself that determines how your life's story will develop.

UNKNOWN



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

26 October – 1 November 2024

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

### 26 October 1948 Artist George Msimang is born

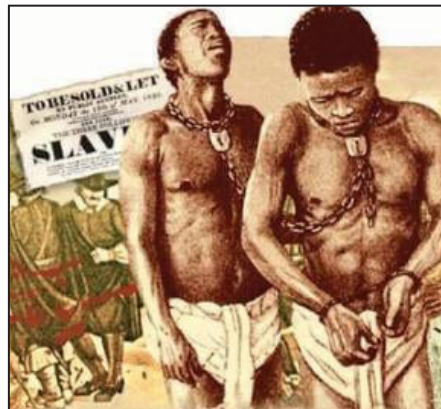


George Msimang was born in Lamontville Durban. His interest in art began at school although it was not offered as a subject. He studied at the Evangelical Lutheran Art and Craft Centre, Rorke's Drift and was offered a study grant by the Italian government. He went to Rome on two occasions, once to the Accademia di Belle Arti where he spent a period from 1971 to 1975 and another year in 1986 at the Accademia di Belle Arte, Perugia. With his evocative images, Msimang captured urban township life in all its humour and valour. In the years before his passing in 2004, Msimang was prolific, sometimes staging as many as three solo exhibitions a year. Msimang's work challenged the negative social issues caused by social injustices. (Gabi Ngcobo, <http://revisions.co.za/biographies/george-msimang/#.XamZi2Q1QI>)

### 26 October 1983 Register of Cultural Boycott breakers published by UN

The UN and the Organisation of African Unity Special Committee against Apartheid published the first Register of Entertainers, Actors and Others who have Performed in South Africa, breaking the Cultural Boycott.

### 27 October 1808 Anti-slavery march to Cape Town



One of the first recorded mass action against slavery and oppression in the Cape Colony, influenced by stories about uprisings in America, Ireland and the Caribbean, as well as the recent abolition of the slave trade started on this day. The mixed band of conspirators: slaves Louis of Mauritius, Jephtha of Batavia, Abraham and Adonis, only known by their first names, and two Irishmen, James Hooper and Michael Kelly were later joined by another Indian slave and two Khoi men.

Their plan was to march from the rural districts gathering slaves on the way and then to enter Cape Town, seize the Amsterdam Battery, turn the guns on the Castle and then negotiate a peace to establish a free state and freedom for all slaves. On the evening of 27 October 1808, on a farm north of Malmesbury, Louis arrived on horseback dressed as a visiting Spanish sea captain. Hooper and Kelly rode up by his side, disguised as British officers. They convinced the absentee farmer's wife to hand over all their slaves into their hands. The next morning they went from farm to farm, persuading slaves and Khoi servants to join them. However, a march of some hundreds of mutinous slaves and servants was a difficult secret to keep. News soon reached the Governor of the Cape, who ordered Infantry and Cavalry to lay in wait for the insurrectionists at Salt River just outside the city, who rounded up and captured 326 of the marchers. Of these 47 were put on trial including the leadership. Nine were found guilty of treason and sentenced to be hanged. A further 11 were sentenced to death for 'active participation'. Many others were given sentences including imprisonment on Robben Island.

### 27 October 1871 Griqualand West Colony for Diamonds

Britain established the Griqua-



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

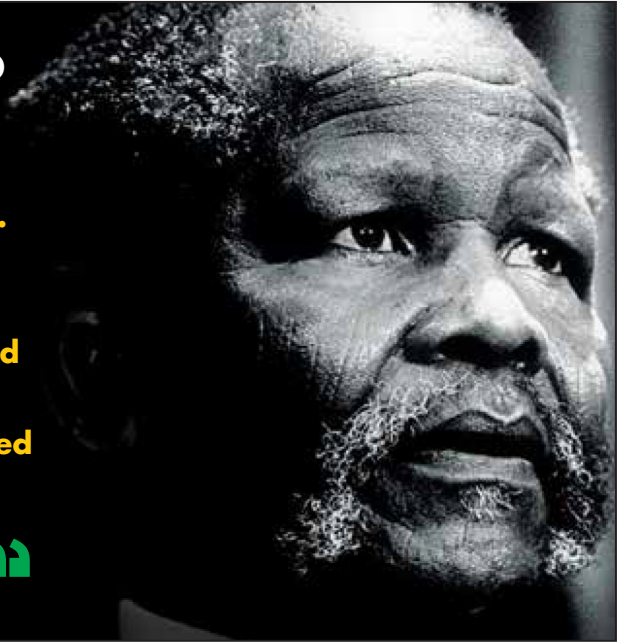
### Remembering **OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO**

27 October 1917 – 24 April 1993

“ **Oliver lived, not because he could breath.  
He lived not because blood flowed  
through his veins...  
Oliver lived because he had surrendered  
his very being to the people.  
He lived because his very being embodied  
LOVE, AN IDEA, A HOPE,  
AN INSPIRATION, A VISION.** ”

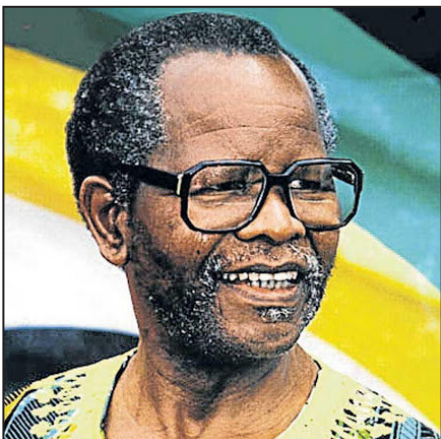


Nelson Mandela



land West Colony in the now Northern Cape to secure diamond discoveries in Kimberley. The land belongs to the Griqua people, but were dispossessed as British and Boers rushed in to claim diamonds.

### **27 October 1917** **ANC President Oliver Tambo born**



On 27 October 1917, Oliver Tambo was born at Bizana, Eastern Cape. During the 1940s, he enrolled at the University of Fort Hare where he became active in politics. Tambo was among those who led the student boycott at Fort Hare, calling for the formation of a democratically elected Student's Representative

Council (SRC). Subsequently, he was deregistered from the institution and could not complete his Bachelor of Science honours degree. The son of Nzimeni and Julia, Tambo dedicated his entire life to the ANC and the struggle for liberation. It was Tambo who played a tremendous role in shaping Thabo Mbeki's political career and played a fatherly role in exile. During the formation of the ANC Youth League in 1944, Tambo became the first Secretary General. He became the acting President of the ANC after the death of ANC president Chief Albert Luthuli in 1967 and was elected President in 1969 after the Morogoro Conference. He led the ANC through the difficult years of exile, keeping the movement together, united around four pillars of mass struggle, armed struggle, underground activities and international isolation of the regime. In the early hours of 23 April 1993, Tambo suffered a massive and fatal stroke. He was honoured with a state funeral.

### **27 October 1972** **Athlete Maria Mutola born** The world champion was born

Maputo, considered one of the greatest 800m runners in history, due to the length of her running career and consistent performance. She competed in six Olympic games, and was the only woman who won all major world championships in one event.

### **27 October 1990** **Orlando Rally hails re-establishment of ANC Youth League**

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) was re-established at Orlando stadium in Soweto after an absence of thirty years from the political arena in South Africa. The Youth League was effected through the amalgamation of two youth structures, the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) and the ANC Youth Section, with the participation of student organisations. The Provisional National Youth Committee (PNYC) was set up to spearhead the rebuilding process of the Youth League nationwide. The PNYC launched ANC Youth League branches and regions across the continent, and defined in the draft Constitution the 'twin tasks' of the Youth League: to

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



champion the interests of youth in society and to mobilise young people behind the ANC. The PNYC also developed the discussion document on the “*Autonomy of the ANC Youth League*”, still guiding the relationship between the ANC and the Youth League today. The Youth League established contacts with various youth and student organisations locally and abroad, embarked on recruitment drives in townships, high schools and tertiary institutions, and set-up different departments and programmes to engage different sectors of the youth. The rebuilding of the Youth League was seen key to the rebuilding of the African National Congress (ANC). In 2024, the ANC Youth League celebrated 80 years since its founding in 1944.

### 27 October 2020 Banana Beer goes industrial

A staple of rural and urban life in East Africa, banana beer for the first time is successfully pro-

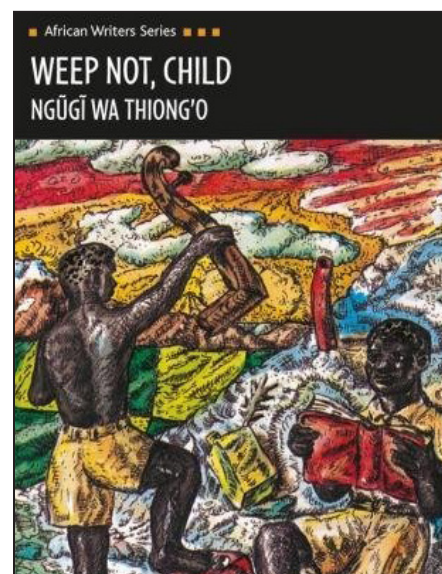
duced commercially, as drinkers no longer have time to do it themselves. Known as mubisi in Uganda, kasiksi in the DRC, mbege in Tanzania, urwaga in Kenya, and urgwagwa in Rwanda and Burundi, the drink has previously defied commercialization.

### 28 October 1948 Seydou Keita starts photographic studio in Bamako

Pioneer photographer Seydou Keita (1921-2001) set up his photographic studio at his family home in Bamako, where he preserved his negatives, eventually numbering over 30,000. He became Mali's most famous photographer, known for his portraits, street and cultural life in Mali, and creating an artistic and historic record of his country and people that span four decades.

### 28 October 1964 Weep Not, Child published

On this day Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's first novel *Weep Not, Child*, was published, the first in English by an East African. It was set during the tumultuous struggle of the Mau Mau against colonial rule.



### 28 October 2008

#### Literary giants honoured

On this day, two of South Africa's literary giants, Keorapetse 'Bra Willie' Kgositsile and Peter Abrahams, were awarded the Presidency's Order of Ikhamanga in recognition of their contributions to the written word and positive impact on society.

### 29 October 1899

#### Treaty of Constantinople signed without Egypt

The treaty declaring the Suez Canal a neutral zone which ships from all countries may use in war or peace, was signed by the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. Built by Egypt and surrendered to Britain due to debt issues, although the canal ran through its territory, Egypt was not invited to the negotiations and did not sign the treaty. The snub backfired because the treaty did not bind Egypt and in 1956 Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.

### 29 October 1905 Nama Chief Hendrik Witbooi dies

Hendrik Witbooi was born into a prominent Nama family in 1830. Witbooi's grandfather and father were both chiefs of the Nama group, a title that Hendrik inherited upon the death of his father. He was educated at a Lutheran Mission and was fluent in a number of European languages, as well as his own Nama language. Witbooi led the Nama group to the north of the country, which became known as South West Africa (now Namibia) with the German colonization of 1885. A number of rebellions were staged against German rule, one of which



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

resulted in the Herero Genocide of 1904. Witbooi's Namas initially served as soldiers under the Germans for three years during the Herero Revolt, but eventually rebelled. On 29 October 1905, Hendrik Witbooi died in a skirmish with the Germans near Keetmanshoop. The rest of the Witbooi Namas surrendered in 1908. *(A different source gives 28 October 1905 as the date of his death.)*

### 29 October 1983 Ongoye university massacre

Five people were killed and many others injured at the University of Zululand (Ongoye) after the outbreak of political violence at the institution on 29 October 1983. Five of those killed were students who were supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF). The violence between an estimated 500 Inkatha Freedom Party supporters and a group of UDF aligned students highlighted the rising political tensions in the province.

### 30 October 1906 AC Jordan born



Author, activist and linguist, Archibald Campbell Mzoliza Jor-

dan, was born at Mbokothwana Mission, Tsolo district, Transkei. After several years as teacher and having obtained an M.A. Degree at the University of South Africa in 1944, he was appointed to the Department of African Languages at Fort Hare. In 1946 he accepted a post as lecturer in the School of African Studies at the University of Cape Town, the first African to occupy that position. Jordan was also the first African to receive a PhD degree at the University of Cape Town.

### 30 October 1931 First Woolworths store opens

Woolworths, often locally referred to as Woolies opens its first store in Cape Town, located in the site of the former restaurant in the Royal Hotel. The Woolworths chain expanded throughout Southern Africa, and by 2023 had around 1,400 stores and over 45,000 employees.

### 30 October 1954 Football great Mahmoud el Khatib born



Considered one of Africa's great footballers, Mahmoud el Khatib was born on this day in Karkira, Egypt. Khatib was CAF Footballer of the Year in 1983, led his Al Ahly football club to ten victories

in the Egyptian Premier League, five Egypt Cups, two African Cup of Champions and three African Cup Winners Championships. He led the Egyptian national team to its 1986 Africa Cup of Nation championships.

### 30 October 1974 Rumble in the Jungle

George Foreman vs. Muhammad Ali, billed as *The Rumble in the Jungle*, was a heavyweight championship boxing match fought on October 30, 1974, at the Stade Tata Raphael in Kinshasha, DRC between undefeated and undisputed heavyweight champion George Foreman and Muhammad Ali. The event had an attendance of 60,000 people and was one of the most watched televised events at the time. Ali won by a knockout in the eighth round.

### 30 October 1997 South Africa completes destruction of anti- personnel landmines

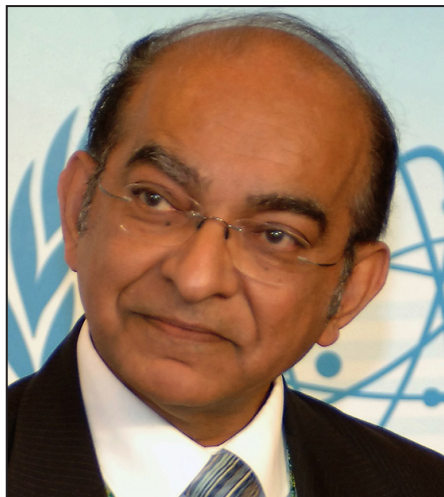


South Africa announced that it had completed destroying its stock pile of anti-personnel mines; a total of 261 423 destroyed, while 18 000 retained for training in demining. Anti-personnel mines are mine explosives designed to injure personnel or people rather than equipment. South Africa supported the 1996 United Na-

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

tions General Assembly resolution entitled “*An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines*”. It pushed for the resolution to become a convention, which happened in 1997 as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and to encourage their destruction. The Convention was ratified by 81 States and signed by 133 States. South Africa began destroying its stockpile of anti-personnel mines before signing the Convention in December 1997. Mozambique and Angola are two of Southern African countries most affected by landmines that were largely supplied by the apartheid government to the rebel movements they sponsored to destabilize the region.

### 31 October 1939 Abdul Minty born



On 31 October 1933, Abdul Samad Minty was born in Hartebeesfontein, and left the country in 1958 for Britain to further his studies, graduating with an MSc in Economics and International Relations at the University College in London. A tireless campaigner against apartheid, Minty worked for the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, which provided support,

especially legal defense to liberation movements from the region; and between 1962 and 1995 he was the Honorary Secretary of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. Minty played an important role in lobbying the International Olympic Committee in 1963 for the suspension of the South African Olympic Committee from the Olympics. In 1969 he published his study on the defence strategy of the apartheid government in South Africa; which helped the Anti-Apartheid Movement to campaign for the termination of the Simonstown Agreement between South Africa and Britain on the defence of the seas around Southern Africa. After 1994, Minty was appointed as the Deputy Director-General for Multilateral Affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs, a position he held till 2004 during which he steered South Africa's new membership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth. On 12 September 2008 South Africa nominated Minty for the post of Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and his nomination was endorsed by the African Union, although he did not garner enough votes for the position. Ambassador Minty continued to represent South Africa on the board of this body, including serving as a member of Troika Group until May 2009.

### 31 October 1939 Ali Farka Touré born

Malian musician and amongst the best African instrumentalist, Ali Ibrahim “Farka” Touré was born in Timbuktu on this day. He is a trailblazer of Desert Blues genre that combines North African folk music with other contemporary styles. Touré toured the world and won his first Grammy for his



1994 collaboration, Talking Timbuktu with Ry Cooder. He then retreated to his home town of Nifunke, on the banks of the Niger river in north-west Mali, where he devoted his time to farming and his role as the local mayor, spending the money he earned from his albums on irrigation and development schemes that transformed the region, making it self-sufficient for food. The musical icon passed away from bone cancer in 2006.

### 31 October 1959 First television station goes on air in Nigeria

The first television service in sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Nigeria Television goes on air in Ibadan, Nigeria on this day. South Africa only got television on air in 1976.

### 31 October 1996 Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act passed

The South African National Assembly passes the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy (CTOP) Act. The law gives women a choice to terminate pregnancies on request within the first twelve weeks of pregnancy. It also provides for abortion under specified circumstances within the thirteenth week through to



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

the twentieth week, and under very limited circumstances beyond that point. The Act, a critical milestone for gender equality, secured all South African women the right to make decisions about reproduction and according to their individual beliefs. Review of national data indicates that abortion mortality dropped by more than 90% between 1994 and 2001.

### 31 October 2020 Abdelmoumen Dam dries up

As climate change ravages the continent least responsible for emissions, Morocco's Abdelmoumen Dam, an essential source of water for the Souss-Massa region, has virtually dried up, at 1% capacity.

### 1 November 1910 Construction starts on Union Building

As the Union of South Africa was formed between the two British colonies and the Boer Republics, construction started in Pretoria on a new capital, and the construction of its seat, the Union Buildings, was completed in 1913.

### 1 November 1930 Statue of Menelik II unveiled in Addis Ababa



The statue of Abyssinian Emperor Menelik II, who defeated the Italian invaders in Adwa, was unveiled in the city Addis Ababa, the day before the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie. Each year on the anniversary of the Battle of Adwa, Selassie would lay a wreath beneath the statue.

### 1 November 1954 Algerian War of Independence starts



On the 1 November 1954, small units of Algerians organized by Front de Liberation National (FLN) attacked government buildings. The liberation struggle was kicked off by a broadcast made by FLN in Nasser's Egypt. The French's conquest of Algeria started in 1830 and by 1848 Algeria was annexed as three French departments. The Algerian war began in 1954 and lasted until 1962. During the war over one million Algerians lost their lives.

### 1 November 1985 The World of Can Themba published

The World of Can Themba, a collection of the South African writer's short stories about life under apartheid was published by Ravan Press as part of its Staffrider series, 17 years after Themba's death.

### 1 November 1995 First non-racial local government elections take place

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE		
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS		ANC
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION		APC
AL JAMA'AH		
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION		AZAPO
CAPE MUSLIM CONGRESS		CMC
CAPE PARTY/KAAPSE PARTY		CAPE
COMMUNITY COALITION		COMCO
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE		COPE
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE/DEMOKRATIESE ALLIANSE		DA
DEMOCRATS FOR CHANGE		DFC
INDEPENDENT CIVIC ORGANISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA		ICOSA
INDEPENDENT FREEDOM PARTY		IFP
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY		NAD
NEW FREEDOM PARTY		NFP

South Africa's first non-racial elections for municipalities was held on 1 and 2 November 1995, after the national and provincial elections of 1994 that heralded in a democratic country. As a result of civic and community struggles, a National Local Government Negotiation Forum was set up, negotiated the Local Government Transition Act in 1993, which saw the inclusion of local government as a third sphere of government, and laying the foundation for the local government elections on 1 November 1995. KZN held its local government elections the next year in March 1996

### 1 November 2001 Apartheid Museum opens

The Apartheid Museum near Gold Reef City in Johannesburg, chronicling the rise and fall of apartheid, is opened.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

26 October – 1 November 2024

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

### 27 October World Day for Audiovisual Heritage



The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images. The World Day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the importance of audiovisual material. Audiovisual archives tell stories about people's lives and cultures from all over the world. They represent a priceless heritage of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge, reflecting the cultural, social and linguistic diversity of communities and our world. Audiovisual materials as documentary heritage objects provide a window to the world. We watch and participate in events we cannot attend, we hear voices from the past who can no longer speak; we craft stories that inform and entertain and help us to engage with our fellow beings. (<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldaudiovisualday>)

### 28 October International Animation Day

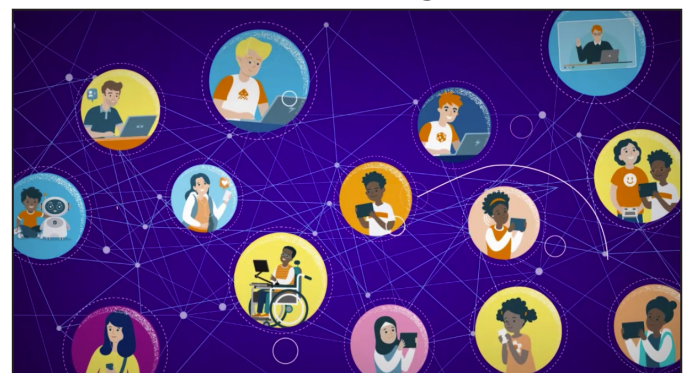
Popular animation includes cartoons and anime, and is the technique of photographing successive

drawings or positions of puppets or models to create an illusion of movement when the film is shown as a sequence.

### 29 October International Artists Day

Celebrated on the day that Pablo Picasso was born in 1881, the day celebrates the contributions of artists, their passion and creativity. The word artist encompasses painters, photographers, sculptors, musicians, dancers, writers, actors, digital artists, poets and more.

### 29 October International Internet Day



The internet has become an integral part of our world, and has transformed many aspects, providing fast access to information, connecting our world, providing entertainment, shopping, markets, banking and access to education. International Internet Day commemorates the significant impact of the internet on our lives and serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to promote a safer and more inclusive online environment for all users. The theme for International Internet Day 2024, **“Together for a Better Internet,”** emphasizes the collective responsibility we share in making the online world a safe, inclusive, and positive space for everyone.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 29 October

#### International Day of Care Work and the Care economy

Care work, both paid and unpaid, is crucial to the future of decent work. Growing populations, ageing societies, changing families, women's secondary status in labour markets and shortcomings in social policies demand urgent action on the organization of care work from governments, employers, trade unions and individual citizens. If not adequately addressed, current deficits in care service provision and its quality will create a severe and unsustainable global care crisis and increase gender inequalities at work. Care work consists of two overlapping activities: direct, personal and relational care activities, such as feeding a baby or nursing an ill partner; and indirect care activities, such as cooking and cleaning. The care is growing as the demand for childcare and care for the elderly is increasing in all regions. It will thus create a great number of jobs in the coming years. However, care work across the world remains characterised by a void of benefits and protections, low wages or non-compensation, and exposure to physical, mental and, in some cases, sexual harm.

### 30 October

#### Africa Food Security and Nutrition Day

**30 OCT**

**AFRICA DAY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

**Agri-food systems for Safer and Healthier Diets**

African Union **AUDA-NEPAD**  
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in 2010 designated 30 October as the first of the Africa Day or Food and Nutrition Security in Africa. The AU resolution also set the target to eliminate hunger on the continent by 2025, a goal extended to 2030 as part of the global Sustainable Development Goals. A number of strategies have since been put in place towards the achievement of this goal, including the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), with its target of increasing public expenditure on agriculture to 10% and 6% annual growth in agriculture GDP. Report by the Food and Agricultural Organisation in 2018. At

the same time, the importance of addressing food security and nutrition was brought once again into sharp relief with the AU Cost of Hunger in Africa report of the same year, which shows the impact of hunger on children: with over 1 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and 38% with stunted growth as a result of malnutrition; hence the call for more countries to introduce school feeding schemes in all schools. ([www.nedad.org](http://www.nedad.org))

### 31 October

#### World Cities Day

World Cities Day is designated by the UN to promote global awareness of urbanization and sustainable cities. For the first time in history, there are more people living in urban areas (55%) than in rural areas; and this figure is set to rise to 68% by 2050. The world's most populated cities are Tokyo (37.4 million), Delhi (29.4 million) and Shanghai (26.3 million) inhabitants. Cairo, Egypt is the most populated African city, with 20.4 million inhabitants, followed by Lagos, Nigeria (14.36 million) and Kinshasa, DRC (14.34 million) inhabitants.

### 1 November

#### Africa Youth Day



The 1st of November was proclaimed and instituted as The Africa Youth Day on the occasion of the African Youth Charter adoption in the Executive Council Decision of the Banjul Summit 2006.

### 1 November

#### World Vegan Day

Vegans are people who eat only a plant-based diet; they do not eat any meat, fish or meat products like eggs or milk. A vegan diet is high in fiber, low in cholesterol and good for the environment because of the large amount of resources, including water it takes to raise livestock to keep up with our meat consumption.

## SA IN NUMBERS

### SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS **CYBER SECURITY**



#### October is Cyber Security Month.

There has been a concerted collaboration between government and the private sector to raise awareness about digital security to empower South Africans to protect their personal data from digital crimes.

# 230 MILLION

Number of cybersecurity threat detections in 2022

# R2.2 BILLION

In annual losses from cybersecurity attacks

**67%** of organisations report a shortage of cybersecurity professionals

**47%** of organizations reported 1 -5 cybersecurity incidents in the past year

South African government allocated about R2.9 billion in the 2023/24 financial year to bolster the country's cybersecurity infrastructure and training.

# 53%

Cybersecurity incidents are not reported

# 88%

of organisations experienced security breaches

# 30%

of SMEs have implemented basic cybersecurity measures like endpoint security.

Before training, 33% of workers in the African continent, including South Africa, were vulnerable to phishing attacks. This risk dropped to 6.6% within a year after consistent training.

Only 32% of organisations train more than half of their employees on cybersecurity

Only 30% of businesses are compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).

Average cost of a data breach in South African organizations in 2023 was R49.5 million, representing an 8% increase from 2022.