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Conversations with the **President**



ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

ON DEATHS OF CHILDREN DUE TO FOOD-BORNE ILLNESSES

I wish to address you on a matter that has deeply saddened and distressed our nation.

Across the country, there has been a rise in reported cases of food-borne illnesses and deaths.

A number of people are becoming severely ill and even dying after eating contaminated food.

It has been found that some of the food items would have been purchased from spaza shops and street vendors.

Since the beginning of September 2024, there have been a total of 890 reported incidents of food-borne illnesses across all provinces.

Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal have been the most affected, with Limpopo, Free State and Mpumalanga also recording dozens of incidents.

Over the last few weeks alone, food-borne illnesses have claimed the lives of at least 22 of our nation's children.

Last month there was a major food-borne incident in Naledi in Soweto in which six children died.

The youngest of these children was just six years old.

Few words can adequately convey our sadness and our pain as a nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families as they go through the pain and the anguish of losing their children.

Losing a child is something no parent should ever have to endure.

The young children who died weren't just children of their families. They were our children.

Our people have every right to be

upset and to be angry in the face of such tragedies.

At a time like this, we need to unite as a country and work together to end these deaths.

We must do what it takes to make sure such tragedies never happen again.

As soon as the deaths occurred, multidisciplinary teams in government were activated to address these incidents.

These teams included detectives from the South African Police Service, health officials, environmental inspectors, Department of Agriculture officials and officials from the National Consumer Commission.

Cabinet has met on three occasions to receive reports from these departments on the recent incidents.

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This is what we now know.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases was requested to conduct scientific tests and has established that the deaths of the six children in Naledi, Soweto can be directly attributed to a highly hazardous chemical used as a pesticide known as Terbufos.

Terbufos can have serious health effects, even at low levels of exposure.

Terbufos is an organophosphate chemical that is registered in South Africa for agricultural use.

It is not allowed to be sold for general household use.

However, Terbufos is being informally sold as a so-called 'street pesticide' for domestic use in townships and informal settlements to control rats.

Samples were taken from 84 spaza shops in the Naledi area. Of these, three had evidence of Terbufos.

After stringent testing, a chip packet found on one of the children who had died had traces of Terbufos on both the inside and the outside of the packet.

As part of the investigation into the Naledi deaths, inspectors confiscated a number of illegal pesticides from spaza shops.

They found instances where food was being stored alongside pesticides and detergents.

It was also found that these spaza shops lacked proper safe food storage, hand and dishwashing facilities, increasing the likelihood of food contamination.



Even as our investigations are ongoing, it is critical to understand that this is not a problem confined to spaza shops and other informal traders.

The unregulated use of restricted pesticides in communities has become a growing problem, with devastating consequences.

In many townships another chemical, Aldicarb, and an organophosphate known as Galephirimi are commonly sold by street vendors and hawkers to control rat infestations.

Aldicarb has been banned for use in South Africa since 2016.

Last year, three children in Ekurhuleni and three children in Soweto died after exposure to Aldicarb.

In responding to these tragedies, we need to understand the cause of this challenge in our communities.

One of the reasons that people use pesticides is to deal with rat infestation. The problem of rat

infestation is due in part to poor waste management in several municipalities.

Rubbish is not collected regularly, streets are not being cleaned, creating conditions for rats and other pests to thrive.

Often, the poorest communities are the worst affected, and often the cheapest remedies that are used are these highly hazardous substances like Terbufos and Aldicarb.

Another challenge is that responsibility for environmental health that should happen in our communities is the responsibility of local government.

Many municipalities do not have the capacity and resources to conduct inspections of these businesses and enforce regulations.

Our response must therefore address all the factors that contribute to the problem.

We also need to prevent the spread of misinformation.

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The investigations that have taken place do not suggest any deliberate campaign to poison children in our country.

There is also no evidence that the problem is confined to spaza shops owned by foreign nationals only.

These products are just as likely to be sold in shops owned by South Africans.

We all have a duty – as the State, as a society, as parents and families – to protect those among us who are most vulnerable.

Following the special meeting of Cabinet, we have decided to make the following interventions:

The first intervention is to get hazardous pesticides off the street.

The second critical intervention is to protect children from exposure to these substances.

The third critical intervention is to prevent future outbreaks.

The following measures will be implemented with immediate effect.

To get hazardous pesticides off the street:

- The spaza shops which have been implicated in the deaths of children will be closed with immediate effect.
- All spaza shops and other food handling facilities must be registered within the municipalities in which they operate within 21 days from today. Any shop that is not registered within 21 days and does not meet all health standards and requirements will be closed.


- The South African Police Service and other law enforcement agencies will be required to investigate, arrest and prosecute offenders. This will involve close cooperation with all registered manufacturers and suppliers.
- Integrated multidisciplinary inspection teams will undertake compliance inspections of food handling facilities, manufacturers, distributors, wholesaler and retailers. This will include spaza shops and general dealers.

Non-compliant businesses and shops linked to any poisoning incidents or found to unlawfully stock hazardous chemicals will be shut down.

- A massive campaign of door-to-door inspection of all spaza shops, tuck shops and other informal traders will be undertaken, starting with Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

This will be undertaken by inter-disciplinary inspections teams consisting of the South African Military Health Ser-

WARNING: ILLEGAL PESTICIDES



Aldicarb which is colloquially known as “Galephirimi” is **banned in South Africa**, while **Terbufos** is **not registered** to be used for **control of rats and cockroaches**.

GALEPHIRIMI OR ALDECARB IS NOT A RAT POISON
 - IT KILLS AND DON'T USE IT AT HOME!!

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vices, environmental health practitioners, the South African Police Service, the National Consumer Council, labour inspectors and others.

The initial phase of inspections will need be completed within a month.

- All registered manufacturers of Terbufos will be inspected to ensure that no products are diverted into the non-agricultural market. The supply chain process for distribution and sale of Terbufos will be investigated to ensure that controls are being adhered to and that there is accountability for who they sell to.
- Regulations and protocols on the traceability, repackaging, destruction and sale of pesticides, insecticides and foodstuffs will be strengthened.

The second intervention is about the protection of children from exposure to harmful substances:

- The Department of Basic Education will immediately issue a circular to Provincial Education Departments and all schools on best practice protocols for preventing and managing foodborne illnesses within schools.
- By the start of the new school year, the Department of Basic Education and School Governing Bodies, together with the Department of Health, will review and update the guidelines for schools on the management of suppliers of foodstuffs to public schools. This will include tuck shops operated at these schools.
- A public education campaign

will be launched aimed at children, parents, caregivers and the broader community on food safety and the identification, handling and storage of dangerous chemicals. This campaign will involve GCIS, government departments and agencies, industry organisations and civil society formations.

- This will be complemented by a public education campaign aimed at communities, spaza shops, tuck shops, informal traders and other retailers on health, safety and hygiene regulations, the identification of hazardous products, regulations that apply to hazardous products and legal consequences.
- The Ministers of Basic Education and Health and other government departments will classify certain pesticides and insecticides not suitable for home use as “dangerous objects” that may not be brought or used on school premises. This will be undertaken in terms of the Regulations on Safety Measures for Public Schools.

The third intervention will be aimed at preventing future outbreaks:

- I have directed that Joint Operational and Intelligence Structures be established at a national and provincial level to deal with this crisis.
- Our local municipalities will be required to take urgent action to address the problem of rat infestations by cleaning cities and towns and removing waste. All municipal landfill sites will be required to com-

ply with National Environmental Management Waste Act. Failure to comply will result in strict sanctions that include directives, compliance notices and criminal enforcement.

- A Ministerial Health Advisory Committee is being established to develop medium- and long-term prevention measures. This Committee will consist of experts such as toxicologists, paediatricians, chemical pathologists, epidemiologists, forensic pathologists and others.
- All deaths of patients 12 years and below will be made notifiable in the Notifiable Medical Condition Surveillance System.
- An electronic medical certification of death system will be established to allow the National Department of Health to access cause of death information immediately after a death is certified.
- The work of the Biosecurity Hub will be strengthened to better control the entry of products, organisms and harmful biological products at ports of entry.
- The Department of Agriculture is in the process of reviewing and updating all relevant legislation with respect to the regulation and authorisation of agricultural pesticides for use in South Africa.
- A joint fund of R500 million will be established by the Departments of Trade, Industry and Competition and Small Business Development to support township and rural businesses, including community con-

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venience shops. The funding will be for the refurbishment of businesses and non-financial support in terms of technical skills, regulatory compliance and capacity building.

As we undertake these interventions and measures, there is a lot that we can do as parents to protect our children.

As consumers and parents, if we buy food or send our children to buy food,

it must only be from places that are licensed to sell foodstuffs and that observe food safety regulations.

We must check that food is prepared in a clean and hygienic area.

We must make sure that foodstuffs being sold have clear branding and labels, and that they are not past their sell-by date.

We must educate our children about food safety and teach them to check for this labelling themselves.

Anyone who sees fake foodstuffs and expired foodstuffs being sold in our communities, should report them to the National Consumer Commission.

The number for the National Consumer Commission is 012 065 1940.

We have to take greater care with the storage and use of pesticides and dangerous chemicals.

We must only buy pesticides that are in their original containers and that are clearly labelled for household use.

All dangerous chemicals must be kept out of reach of children.

Spaza shops and street vendors have a special responsibility for the health and safety of their customers.

They need to operate responsibly and in terms of the law.

They need to observe certain basic practices.

For example, they must not use the same containers or implements for chemical substances and food.

Only pesticides and chemicals registered for household use may be sold.

They must be clearly labelled and in their original packaging.

Establishments found to be in possession of pesticides that are restricted or banned will face legal consequences.

Once again, South Africans are called upon to work together to overcome a great difficulty.

But we are far from helpless. There is much we can do.

Each of us needs to be better informed about the risks of pesticides and other dangerous products.

Each of us needs to take responsibility for the safety and well-being of those around us, particularly the children of our nation.

By working together, by enforcing the law, by being alert and responsible, we will be able to bring an end to these tragedies.



The Strategic Launch of South African Airways to Lubumbashi: A New Chapter for Trade and Economic Growth in Africa

■ By **CONSUL GENERAL NOSICELO MBELE**

 On Monday, 4th November, South African Airways (SAA) marked a significant milestone with the launch of its inaugural flight to Lubumbashi, the second-largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Departing from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, the A320 aircraft touched down at Luano International Airport in just two hours, heralding a new era of connectivity between

South Africa and the DRC. This decision not only strengthens the historical trade ties between the two countries but also opens up a wealth of opportunities for economic growth, trade and regional collaboration across Southern and Central Africa.

The introduction of the Lubumbashi route is a strategic move by SAA to bolster its African footprint, while also contributing to the broader agenda of increasing intra-Africa trade and

collaboration. As Professor John Lamola, SAA's interim chief executive, highlighted, the airline plays a critical role as "an enabler of trade and commerce in Africa". The flight connection between two of Africa's most influential economies — South Africa and the DRC — is a vital step in unlocking greater prosperity for industries, communities, and entrepreneurs across the continent. The SAA flight not only provides greater access to business and industrial centres

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in the DRC, but it also directly supports the mining sector, an economic powerhouse in both the DRC and neighbouring Zambia.

Lubumbashi, located in the southeastern part of the DRC, is home to many of the country's major mining companies, and it serves as a key economic hub for the region. The flight schedules of South African Airways are tailored to enhance ground transfers to Lubumbashi's business and industrial centres, as well as to key mining sites in both the DRC and Zambia.

The DRC is one of the world's leading producers of minerals like copper, cobalt, and gold, and these resources are central to the global supply chain for electronics, batteries, and renewable energy technologies. With this new flight route, SAA positions itself as an essential player in facilitating the movement of people and goods between these resource-rich regions, ultimately boosting trade, investment, and development.

The timing of this launch is particularly notable, given the rapid growth of trade between South Africa and the DRC in recent years. In 2022, South African exports to the DRC reached a substantial R26.6 billion, primarily consisting of refined petroleum and mining machinery. While South Africa's exports to the DRC are impressive, the DRC's exports to South Africa are still relatively modest, predominantly comprising raw materials such as refined copper, precious metal scraps, and zinc. The addition of direct air connectivity will make it easier for businesses in both countries to connect and engage in mutually beneficial trade, potentially increasing the flow of DRC exports to South Africa



and opening up new markets for Congolese products.

Moreover, the opening of this route creates exciting opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses in both countries to explore new avenues for investment and collaboration.

The DRC, with its rich natural resources and emerging infrastructure, offers a vast and largely untapped market for South African businesses, particularly those in the mining, energy, and technology sectors. For South Africa, the DRC represents a high-growth opportunity in a region that is poised for economic transformation. By providing a reliable and efficient transportation link to Lubumbashi, SAA is facilitating a vital bridge between these two growing economies.

The symbolic welcome at Luano International Airport, which included key stakeholders such as the Consul General of South Africa in Lubumbashi, Ms Nosicelo Mbele, and Governor Jacques Kyabula of the Haut Katanga Region, underscores the

importance of this new route not only as a commercial endeavour but as a symbol of strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations. It reflects the commitment of both South Africa and the DRC to fostering collaboration and mutual growth.

Ultimately, the launch of SAA's flight to Lubumbashi is a testament to the growing potential for regional cooperation in Africa. As the continent seeks to unlock its full economic potential, the role of air connectivity as a facilitator of trade and growth cannot be overstated. For SAA, this flight is just one part of a broader strategy to become a catalyst for trade, investment, and development across the African continent. For the people of South Africa and the DRC, it is a sign of the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for businesses, communities, and industries to thrive together.

Nosicelo Mbele is South Africa's Consul General to Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

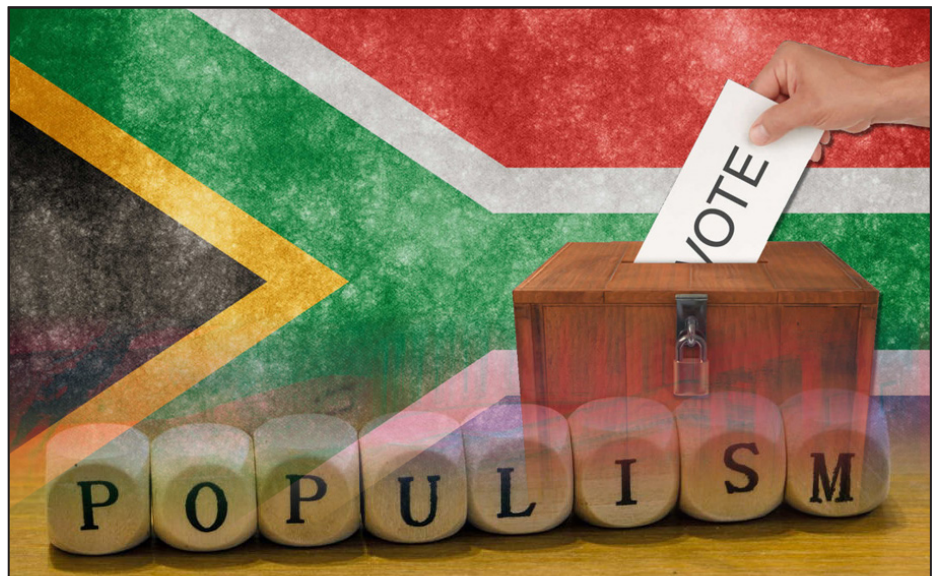
A Moment of Reckoning: Confronting the Rise of Conservatism Populism and Renewing the ANC's Commitment to A Better South Africa for All

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

In recent elections worldwide, including the United States, we've seen a resurgence of conservative populism, with figures like Donald Trump, Helen Zille, and Jacob Zuma gaining traction by appealing to people's frustrations and insecurities. They skilfully exploit emotions like fear, shame, and anger, positioning themselves as outsiders fighting against a system they claim has failed ordinary citizens.

In South Africa, the rise of conservative populism poses a clear and present danger to the African National Congress (ANC's) progressive, inclusive and change agenda: if we do not address the real concerns of our people, we risk losing their trust and, eventually, our place as a unifying force in this country.

At the same time, the challenges of the Government of National Unity (GNU) cannot be ignored. As ANC Chief Whip Mdumiseni Ntuli has observed, our partnership with the Democratic Alliance (DA) within the GNU is fraught with difficulties. The DA's frequent willingness to undermine



the spirit of unity and recent vote with opposition forces such as the MK Party and EFF speaks to a fundamental disconnect in our shared vision. Ntuli describes the DA's actions as "dishonest," noting that they have no qualms about voting against the ANC on critical issues, whilst they want us to accommodate them on issues like the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill and the National Health Insurance (NHI) bill. The ANC, he warns and I support, must begin re-evaluating its relationship within the GNU, considering whether a future without

the DA might ultimately serve our nation better.

This article is a call to action, a moment to reflect on the ANC's values, our connection with the people, and the steps we must take to address both internal and external challenges. We must rise above the divisive emotions populists use to gain power – fear, shame, apathy, and anger – and instead embody courage, acceptance, reason, and compassion. Only then can we renew our commitment to creating a better South Africa for all.

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Understanding the Appeal of Populism: Why People Are Turning Away

We need to understand and respond to the rise in electoral support for conservative populism across the world. These populist movements thrive in environments of economic insecurity, political disillusionment, and social tension. Around the world, populist leaders tap into feelings of alienation by promising to restore “*what’s been lost*” and protect people’s livelihoods. Their narratives are simple but powerful, often reducing complex issues to a battle between “the people” and a corrupt elite. They mobilise our fears, real or perceived. When people feel unheard, unsupported, or abandoned by their government, they naturally turn to leaders who appear to speak directly to their frustrations.

In South Africa, this trend has been exacerbated by slow economic growth, high unemployment, and persistent inequality. Conservative and Traditionalist populists like Helen Zille, Jacob Zuma, and leaders within the MK Party exploit these hardships, promising drastic change while blaming the ANC for perceived failures. They appeal to emotions like anger and fear, drawing support from those who feel left behind by policies they perceive as disconnected from their daily realities.

The Challenge of the GNU: A Strained Partnership

Within the GNU, the ANC faces a critical challenge in its alliance with the DA. As Chief Whip Ntuli highlights, the DA’s deceitful actions often reveal a willingness to undermine our collective goals. The DA’s repeated refusal to align with the ANC on fundamental issues, coupled with their readi-

ness to vote with the MKP and EFF, demonstrates a lack of commitment to the spirit of unity and shared progress. They approach key decisions on their terms, unilaterally opposing bills that matter to the ANC’s mission, like the BELA and NHI bills, without concern for coalition cohesion.

The ANC’s commitment to the GNU was built on the hope of achieving stability and unity (progressive inclusivity), but when our partners actively undermine our efforts, it threatens the credibility of the alliance. Ntuli warns that this relationship may not survive beyond 2026, and the ANC must start planning for a future that may not include the DA within the GNU. This difficult but necessary introspection will allow us to focus on building alliances and policies that genuinely reflect the will of our people, unencumbered by the treachery of reluctant partners.

Moving Forward: What the ANC Must Stop, Start, and Continue

The ANC must now chart a clear course forward, rooted in introspection and renewed commitment. Here is a practical framework for how we can respond to these challenges by stopping un-

productive practices, starting impactful initiatives, and continuing to strengthen our core values.

What the ANC Must Stop Doing

1. Stop Prioritizing Austerity Over Growth

The GNU’s budget decisions, heavily influenced by DA-aligned policies, prioritize debt reduction at the expense of growth. We must reject this austerity mindset, focusing instead on policies that promote job creation, reduce inequality, and stimulate economic recovery. Our people need hope and opportunity, not cuts and constraints. Comrade Duma Gqubule’s recent article responds to this to greater detail.

2. Stop Turning a Blind Eye to Corruption

Corruption has eroded trust in the ANC and weakened our connection with the people. We can no longer shield those within our ranks who betray the public’s trust. We must take a zero-tolerance approach, removing corrupt officials and implementing transparency measures that allow the public to see our commitment to ethical governance.



In South Africa, the rise of conservative populism poses a clear and present danger to the ANC’s progressive, inclusive and change agenda.

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3. Stop Ignoring the Disillusionment of Workers and Unions

Workers have long been the backbone of the ANC, but our alignment with neoliberal policies in the GNU risks alienating this vital base. Union must do better to mobilise all working and unemployed people. We must stop ignoring the needs of unemployed and workers and prioritize job security, wage growth, and fair working conditions.

4. Stop Overlooking Youth Discontent

Our young people feel abandoned, facing a future with limited job prospects and dwindling opportunities. We cannot continue to treat youth issues as secondary. Addressing youth unemployment and economic inclusion must be at the top of our agenda. Some of our current initiatives are not impactful enough and must be reviewed and improved.

What the ANC Must Start Doing

1. Start Building a Vision for Inclusive Economic Growth

We need a bold, pro-growth agenda that focuses on job cre-

ation, infrastructure investment, and small business support. This vision must prioritize equitable access to resources and opportunities, showing all South Africans that the ANC is serious about fostering economic growth for everyone. Let's revisit the district growth and development summits and renewed economic accords.

2. Start Investing in Local Government and Service Delivery

Effective, honest local governance is essential to rebuilding trust. The ANC should focus on improving basic service delivery and empowering local governments with the resources and skills needed to make tangible improvements in people's daily lives. Our people deserve the best credible and capable leaders and professional officials.

3. Start Engaging the Youth with Opportunities and Hope

To re-engage our youth, we must create programmes that provide real pathways to employment, education, and entrepreneurship. This includes vocational training, apprenticeships, and digital skills development, along with opportunities for young people to play an active role in decision-making processes.

4. Start Reclaiming Our Role as the Party of Social Justice and Equity

The ANC must return to its roots as a champion of social justice, but we must communicate these goals in ways that show direct benefits for everyone. We need policies that clearly demonstrate how social justice initiatives lead

to safer, stronger, and more prosperous communities.

What the ANC Must Continue Doing (But Do Better)

1. Continue Fighting for Worker and Unemployed Rights with Tangible Protections

The ANC must reaffirm its commitment to labour, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and accessible opportunities for skills development. Our support for workers and the unemployed must be more than symbolic – it must be real, consistent, and backed by action.

2. Continue Advancing Social Justice as a Pillar of Stability

Social justice must remain at the core of the ANC's mission, but we must link it to economic security. This will show that social justice policies – like housing, healthcare, and education – are not only morally right but also essential for building a stable society. We need to appeal directly to those of us who have a bit more to be bold and courageous to give. Solidarity, compassion and love is universal and must be instilled in the ANC and all of us.

3. Continue Addressing Inequality with Practical Solutions

Inequality remains one of South Africa's greatest challenges. The ANC must continue addressing it, but with practical, outcome-focused initiatives. We must demonstrate how our policies improve people's lives in tangible ways, restoring faith that the ANC

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is committed to creating a more equitable society.

Inspiring a Renewed Vision: Rising Above Populism

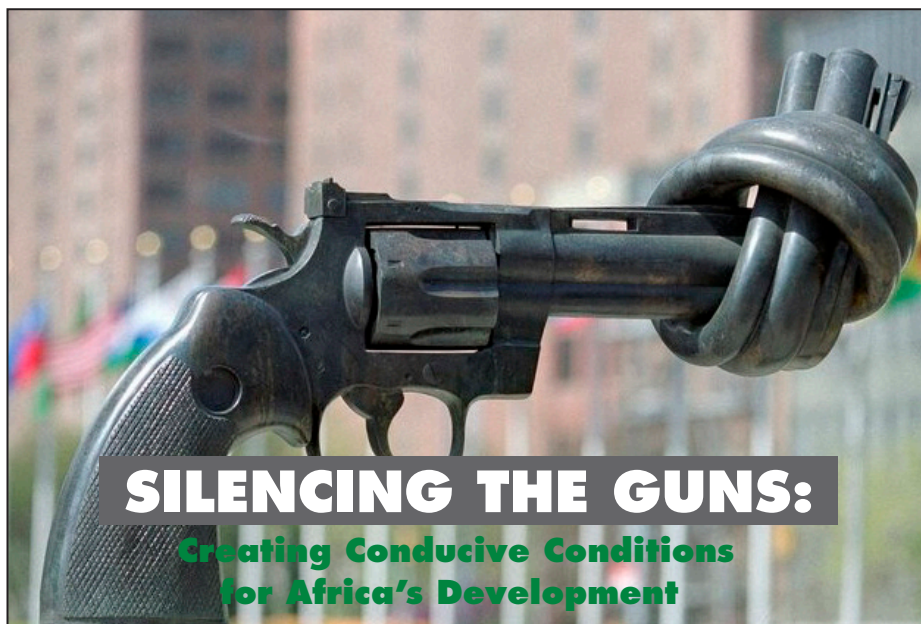
The ANC has a profound responsibility to rise above the divisive emotions populists use to gain power. Where others exploit fear, shame, anger, and apathy, we must embody courage, acceptance, reason, and compassion. The ANC's mission is not simply to govern but to inspire – to lift people up, to renew hope, and to unify South Africans around a shared vision for the future.

As we face the challenges of the GNU and the rise of populism, we must remember that the ANC's strength lies in its values of love, compassion, and peace. By embodying these principles, we can transform the current moment of reckoning into an opportunity for renewal. This is a call for us to return to our roots, to serve the people with integrity, and to build a South Africa where all citizens, regardless of their background, have a stake in our country's success.

Conclusion: A Call to Rise

The ANC stands at a crossroads, confronted by the rise of right-wing populism and the complex challenges of the GNU. Yet, this moment is also an invitation to rise – to embody the courage, love, and compassion that have defined our movement. By stopping unproductive practices, starting bold new initiatives, and continuing to strengthen our core values, we can build a South Africa that reflects the best of our aspirations.

Faiez Jacobs is an ANC Member in good-standing and former ANC Western Cape Provincial Secretary.



SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

GNU – A Demonstration of Political Tolerance, Development and Peace

■ By **SELLO-SHAI MORULE**

THIS day and age, the African Union, the United Nations and many other regional organisations, particularly within the African Continent where South Africa is presently a member country, are unable to silence the guns because of political intolerance, power mongering, institutionalised corruption, nepotism, favouritism, jobs for relatives, girlfriends, boyfriends and pals. A cancer which is rooted in the mind and soul of many African leaders to the detriment of their general populace.

The earth-shattering Government of National Unity's establishment, is a clear manifestation

of a vibrant political tolerance, probable just development and peace in South Africa. In spite of this and sorry to say, we find ourselves here, as a consequence of the outcome of the 2024 watershed general elections.

South Africa for generations, had sons and daughters with extraordinary and remarkable leadership adeptness amongst those of the world or ahead of the rest. South African leaders, individuals of social standing in the community and ordinary citizens in the itinerary of their service to humanity, have always elected life than death, peace than war. This day, South Africa is counted amongst

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the countries of global renown persons who were recipients of many world awards, Nobel Laureates of various categories inclusive of Peace.

On 27 November 1895 Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist, engineer, industrialist and inventor of dynamite, left \$9 million in his will to establish the Nobel Prizes. He stipulated that the awards be given annually, disregarding the nationality of possible recipients. He also specified six areas to be covered by the rewards namely Peace, Literature, Physics, Chemistry and Physiology or Medicine. In 1968 the Bank of Sweden added the award for economic science in memory of Nobel.

In 1960 the late President of the African National Congress Chief Albert Luthuli was awarded and named the 1960 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Despite the banning of the ANC and other political parties by the Pretoria regime during the same year (in 1960), the world rejected that proclamation from the Prince of Darkness and anointed Chief Luthuli as a man of peace.

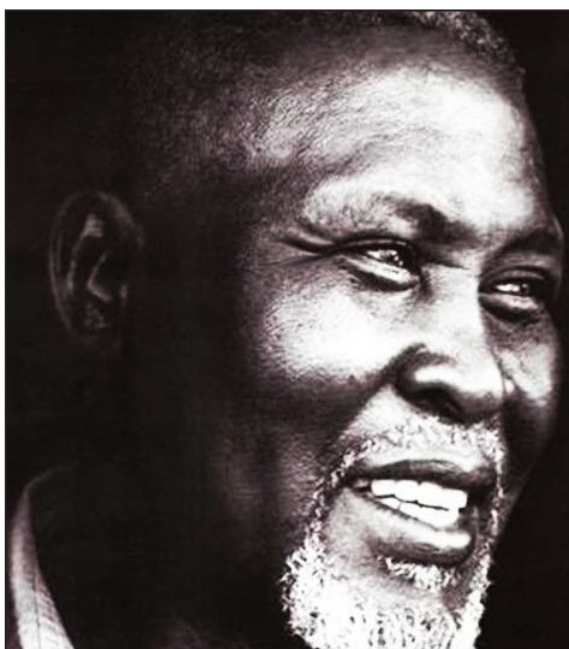
The then Bishop of Johannesburg and former Secretary General South African Council of Churches (SACC), the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, said during his acceptance speech: *"We stand here today as nothing more than a representative of the millions of our people who dared to rise up against a social system whose very essence is war, violence, racism, oppression, repression and the impoverishment of an entire people."*

As if it was not enough, in the year 1993 both former President of South Africa FW de Klerk and President of the African National Congress Nelson Mandela were pronounced 1993 Nobel Peace Prize winners. It was in the midst of what the apartheid establishment termed *"black on black violence"* that the uncontrollable brutal violence erupted. Leaders of the liberation struggle, inclusive of the former ANC NEC Member, former Chief of Staff of the ANC Military Wing Umkhonto we Sizwe and General Secretary of the SACP, Chris Hani was callously murdered. The leadership

of the people said, *"forward ever backward never"*. South African were not dissuaded because, irrespective of that sorry situation, it was clear that a better tomorrow was not far off.

Both FW de Klerk and Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela led the negotiations process towards the democratic dispensation and from 27 April 1994 to 3 February 1997 South Africa was governed under the Government of National Unity. The Government of National Unity was established and headed by President Nelson Mandela as President and FW De Klerk as his Deputy. President Mandela's cabinet included ministers from other political parties which included the Inkatha Freedom Party.

We are no stranger to this kind of political arrangement. President Cyril Ramaphosa and his leadership collective of the ANC NEC must be commended for advocating for this Government of National Unity. World renowned musician Jimi Hendrix once said *"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace"*. We are a peaceful nation this day, be-



May the day come soon, when the peoples of the world will rouse themselves, and together effectively stamp out any threat to peace, in whatever quarter of the world it may be found. When that day comes, there shall be peace on earth and goodwill between men.

Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Chief Albert Luthuli, 1961

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cause we are the manufactures of peace, stability, law and order

We are surprised presently, witnessing leaders and individuals who are conversant with this history grabbing at any opportunity by denouncing the Government of National Unity. We see a mob, politically grandstanding on the issue of GNU. As South Africans, we are fine and comfortable with the GNU. We expect everyone, inclusive of leaders from progressive political parties and civil society to strive at boosting investor confidence. The body language we see today frightens business.

To suggest that, the GNU is a sell-out position is an insult to the electorate of this country. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is the supreme law of the country, establishing the rights and duties of citizens, and defining the structure of the government. At its heart are seven fundamental values which is democracy, equality, reconciliation, diversity, responsibility, respect and freedom.

There are many peace-loving South African who were incarcerated; some spent years in exile and many others paid a supreme sacrifice so that this document, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is authored, they



way it is authored. There are still unaccounted bodies of freedom fighters whom Apartheid government killed and buried in shallow graves and levelled the ground so that no one would know that, there was something underneath.

That tyranny denied them an opportunity to put their hands on this progressive Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which guarantees every citizen a right to vote and to be voted. We can't come here and brand those who voted differently, sell-outs.

Therefore, all of those who can't appreciate this progressive document, the Constitution of the Re-

public of South Africa, are clearly political grandstanders, cheap lobbyists, unpatriotic, and sell-outs themselves. They are not true revolutionaries with great feelings of love for the struggle of their own people. People of South Africa are not interested in all these things of blue lights and social standing in the community.

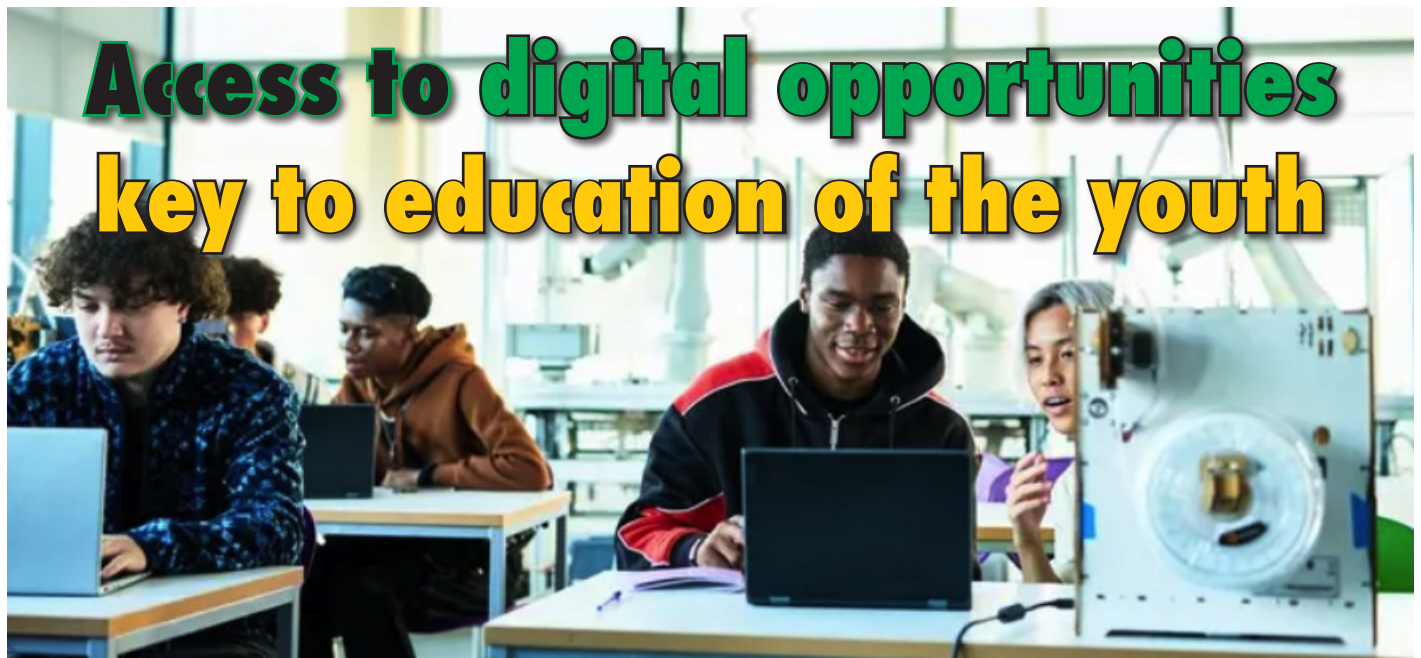
The Government of National Unity is a clear demonstration of political tolerance, just development and peace. It has become obvious that no political party at the moment is ready or capable of governing South Africa alone.

We were fortunate that the government of the day acceded to electoral setback and opted for this kind of multiparty cooperation in the form of a GNU. Our eyes must be on the ball as we march towards a truly non-racial, non-sexist democratic society. It is a society that the colossus, Oliver Tambo, who never enjoyed freedom, yearned to realise.



Sello-Shai Morule is former Deputy Chairperson of the ANCYL Western Region, Mpumalanga Province.

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Access to digital opportunities key to education of the youth

■ By **LUMKO MTIMDE**

THE Freedom Charter (as adopted on the 26th June 1955) provides that education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children, thus opening the doors of learning and culture to all. The equality of all citizens is enshrined in the Constitution of the democratic South Africa. Education post 1994 has transformed for the better but more still needs to be done. A learner from Mvenyane village in Alfred Nzo District must have access to the same tools, resources and information as a learner in Sandton. In 2019, President Ramaphosa delivering the State of the Nation Address committed that public schools will go digital, with pupils provided with digital textbooks and tablet devices. We must invest in the foundation of learning, ensure safety for learners and improve the education system for all.

Access to devices help children to improve their learning. Digital access and the use of correct tech-

nology will enable governments to focus the education budgets on education content as opposed to fighting theft and re-stocking tech at schools each year. Savings from this, will make it possible to invest in upskilling and paying educators adequately, as well as upgrading facilities, connectivity and school conditions.

Education provides our children their first introduction to the real world and empowers them for the future. The bigger portion of budgets should be used to educate our children, improve learning and not to continuously buy new devices. There are several lessons learnt ever since the rollout of the tablet programme. Critical is an investment into the correct technology, rather than stop the rollout of devices. Rural and township learners still need these devices. There are solutions for tamper-proof educational devices, making device management easy, as well as creating devices that have no street value, minimising the risk

that these devices get stolen and safety of learners thereof.

We need a streamlined cloud-based learning system, holistic e-learning solution designed to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by our education system. From missed lessons and textbooks to non-standardized delivery methods across schools. Lessons can be recorded, homework tracked, and progress reports automatically generated, reducing the administrative burden on teachers and ensuring that learners remain engaged even outside the classroom. This investment from early child development all the way to matric, will improve our system, empower and produce learners with digital skills that are in demand in the digital era.

We need a single, digital platform where all educational content is stored. This will eliminate the need for cumbersome physical books and allows learners

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to access past lessons, homework, and curriculum data with the touch of a button. We need a platform that enables seamless interaction between teachers, learners, and parents, promoting accountability and transparency in the learning process. Such a system should also provide ability to monitor teacher performance and track student attendance to address another key issue in our education sector-absenteeism. Technology solutions can offer real-time reports and progress monitoring, hold educators accountable, while providing learners with a consistent and uninterrupted learning experience.

For example, in search for solutions, I found that there is a local patented technology applicable to tablets, laptops and smartboards. This technology, whilst reducing the risk of theft, also incorporates other mechanical improvements to reduce the recurring cost of repair. This solution is for fully South African manufactured and supported devices made for the purposes of education. These devices can be programmed for maximum digital use by police in fighting crime; social workers in the collection of data and in pursuit of the Social Development Department mandate; Home Affairs; extension officers and workers in agriculture; health workers (onompilo); inspectors of Department of Employment and Labour; Judicial system and case management system, etc. We must maximise the benefits of this digital transformation through full automation and integration of systems. This is in line with recommendations by the **Presidential Commission Fourth Industrial Revolution Report (PC4IR)** published by the Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies, October 2020.



As South Africa grapples with the challenges of the modern classroom, the need for a technological revolution in education has never been more urgent. For this article, I am focusing on solutions for education. A key part to education is access to connectivity and to material while not being at school or where there is Wi-Fi connectivity. Historically, sim cards have been provided in devices and because these can be removed, they have been used in other devices, not for the purposes of education.

We need to invest in this groundbreaking e-learning tool, that would offer a unique opportunity for the government to bridge the digital divide, close digital gap and improve educational outcomes for millions of learners. Investing in this locally designed, rugged, and tamper-proof educational device is not just a technological upgrade—it is a critical investment in the future of our country and digital economy.

This solution would stand apart from conventional devices for several reasons. Currently, commercially available products, such as laptops and tablets are provided to students making them a very attractive commodity

to criminals. They are also not designed in a way to withstand the harsh educational environments. The tablets and laptops referred above are designed to be more than capable of withstanding the rigors of daily use in schools. The tablet boasts a rugged design, rubberized covers, 6H-strength tempered glass, and an 8mm bezel for superior protection against drops and accidents. Unlike consumer-grade tablets, these will be built to last, addressing a key problem plaguing many schools: the frequent and costly replacement of broken devices.

As I understand, one of the most compelling features, is an integrated anti-theft and anti-tamper system. Theft of digital devices is a persistent challenge in schools, where students and teachers often find themselves at the mercy of criminal elements. An embedded Internet Of Things (IOT) tracking system, non-removable e-SIM, and tamper-detection features provide unparalleled security. These tablets detect the back cover being opened or operating system tampering immediately going into a recovery shutdown mode preventing further use. Even if the tablet is stolen, it cannot be reactivated without authorization, rendering it use-

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less, however still trackable. This makes these devices a deterrent to theft and a safeguard for government investments.

The benefits of investing in new technologies extend far beyond the classroom. By reducing theft and ensuring that devices are used for educational purposes only, the government can protect its investment and direct savings towards improving school infrastructure and teacher salaries. Additionally, the potential for advertising revenue through the device's management console, opens up new streams of funding for schools, further enhancing their financial sustainability.

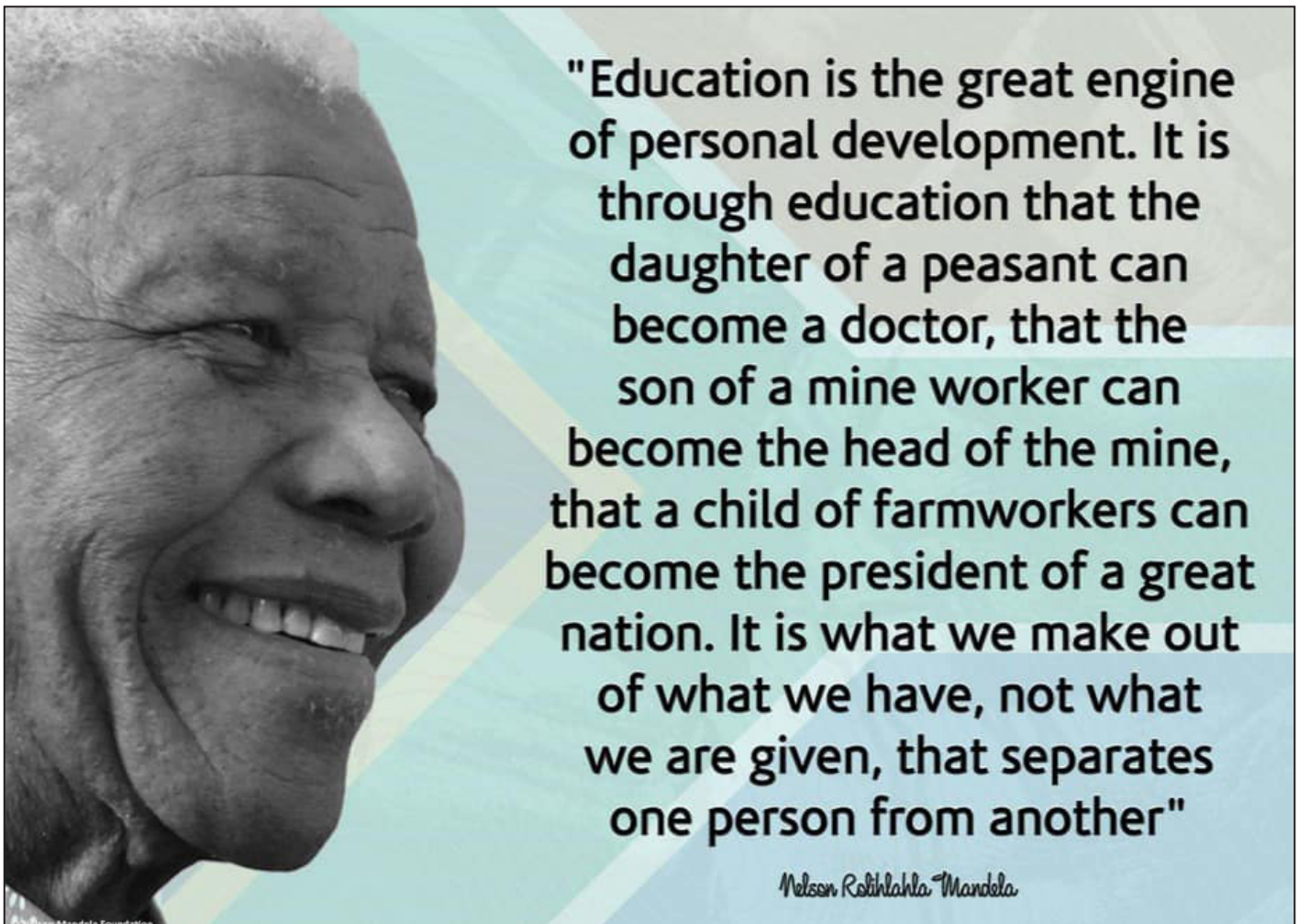
The South African government has made strides in recognizing the importance of digital

transformation in education, but more must be done. Investing in smart, sustainable solution that addresses the root causes of inefficiency, theft, and unequal access to learning materials. As we go digital, we should also ensure data privacy, cybersecurity readiness and compliance, through developing strategies and plans that safeguard and protect our country, in line with the Cyber-crimes Act of 2020.

We need to ensure that every learner, regardless of their background, has access to a world-class education that prepares them for the demands of the modern world and digital economy. The future of education is digital and there are long-term benefits, like improved learning outcomes, reduced costs, and enhanced se-

curity. Supporting South African solution, designed to respond to specific local challenges, can position our country at the forefront of the global digital education movement, empowering our learners and securing a brighter future for all, thus meeting the Freedom Charter objectives and complying with the Constitution.

Lumko Mtimde is an award-winning, vast experienced and long serving public service executive and former CEO of public entities, is a former Special Advisor to the Minister of Employment and Labour and the Minister in the Presidency. He is also a former Chief of Staff (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) and Chief Director responsible for broadcasting policy (Ministry of Communications). Former IBA and ICASA Councillor. He writes in his personal capacity.



Part Two

SOUTH AFRICA: A BRIEF REFLECTION

■ By **KHAYA NGEMA**

PART one of this series reflected on the national democratic movement and the State. In this second part, the author provides a synopsis of the Economy and what role society can play to achieve the developmental goals of the country.

The Economy

The most immediate and visible manifestation of our triple challenges is the phenomenon of unemployment, especially youth unemployment. As per the last Quarterly Labour Force Survey in the Q2 quarter of 2024, the current official unemployment rate stands at 33,5%. For those aged 15-24 years the rate is 60,8 %, and from 25-34 years the rate is 41,7%. If we add the discouraged work seekers the unemployment rate overall rises to 42,6%. This is a profoundly serious challenge, and a disaster waiting to happen.

A lot has been said about dealing with the structural constraints to economic growth, economic inclusion, and employment creation. An economic recovery plan has been adopted by government to try facilitating

economic growth.

But there is the matter of the highly concentrated structure of every sector of the economy, which particularly intensified when the old apartheid economy was a subject of international sanctions, that has never been boldly and courageously attended to by the democratic government. This reality makes it exceedingly difficult for any new entrant, but especially for previously disadvantaged entrants, to survive and succeed.

There are many structural, non regulatory barriers to micro, small

and medium enterprises overall in the economy. Particularly devastating is the inaccessibility and the culture of extreme conservatism of the financial sector. This effectively subjects the bulk of new enterprises formed to financial strangulation. There is an exceedingly high failure rate of most businesses started in South Africa.

Public procurement rules and opportunities have helped somewhat (especially for black-owned and women-owned businesses), but many even there are still hampered by poor access to timeous enterprise funding,



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AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Creating One African Market

the ultra-bureaucratic nature of government procurement processes, and the serious corruption that has embedded itself in procurement and invoice-payment systems of many public institutions.

Much needs to be done to grow economic activity in the country, but also to maximise employment from the growth that occurs. It does not help that in some of the most labour absorbing sectors, especially agriculture and tourism, a considerable proportion of employers are looking to casualise their labour force by avoiding SA citizens and preferring undocumented foreign migrants. This is one of the principal reasons that has elicited in some quarters very disturbing anti-foreigner sentiments.

This situation can be mitigated through better compliance of the country's laws by employers, better and regular enforcement by labour inspectors, better and regular enforcement of bylaws for buildings and trading establishments by municipalities (in partnership with relevant provincial and national regulators, as well as police), better border

management, and more efficient and, where applicable, digital- (to remove undue discretion) processing and adjudication of applications for refugee status, as well as for developmental permits and licences of various kinds (by the respective regulators at all spheres of government).

Key to the creation of stable labour force with an acceptable quality of life is a drive to re-industrialise, and create new industries, in the country. Reversing the deindustrialization of the past decades is urgent, especially to add value to the primary produce of the country, especially agriculture and mining.

However, before we talk to the supply side of this effort, let's talk to the demand side. If SA accelerates its production of valued added goods, who are the likely buyers of those products? Of course we aspire to compete across the globe, but a particular opportunity for SA is the recently approved African Continental Free Trade Area that has been set up by the agreement signed in 2018. This is a major development for the continent, and many Africans in

the continent and the diaspora expect SA to play a leading role in helping the continent to realise this opportunity meaningfully. This includes providing manufactured produce, but also capital and know how for investing in the continent to ensure that the base infrastructure networks for energy, logistics, digital, and water are available, on the basis of which goods and services can flow, and Africans can enjoy economic opportunities and jobs in their respective countries and regions.

It is a fundamental misconception to think that the African continent is a burden for SA, and a perpetual source of economic migrants. The continent is what will drive SA industrialisation and double-digit growth, and lead to its path to becoming a high-income developed economy. However, this becomes possible if the continent itself is growing. SA continues to be the hope for many Africans to regenerate the continent. It is important to keep and grow this goodwill. Many economic competitors are waiting to exploit any negative sentiment about SA in the continent, to the benefit of their own economies.

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It is thus important that all South Africans have a balanced and clear-headed conversation about their role in the continent, and the opportunity that the continent represents to their country. There is truly little to be gained by simply relying on very high and electrified walls (physical and figurative) everywhere as a solution. What is needed are policy and strategic responses (in SA, in the region/continent via the regional economic communities) that emphasises legality, regulation, and mutual benefit in the flow of goods, capital, and people (there are positive and negative lessons to be learnt from the European Union, historically and currently, in this regard)

In that context, it then becomes important to work with the different neighbouring governments and relevant stakeholders in those countries (obviously their attitudes and willingness are critical, and are beyond the control of SA, but we can start with those that are willing and able), as well as the coordinating structures of Southern African Development Community and the Southern African Customs Union, to promote, stabilise, and accelerate inclusive growth in our neighbourhood. A stable and prosperous SADC, for a start, will be a solid foundation for the growth of the whole continent.

With the African market evolving and growing, solid initiatives are essential to develop and grow industrialists in the country. An ecosystem of professional expertise, skilled employees, funding, and enabling supply chains in-country and for export, is needed to support them. Helping much of the youth especially to be able to start various initiatives in this direction is essential, so that as the economy grows, it

becomes inclusive at the same time. We cannot afford to simply reproduce the current highly unequal pattern of growth in our respective countries. South Africa's SOCs and Development Finance Institutions are key in investing in these opportunities, as well as linking emerging entrepreneurs especially (but not exclusively) to opportunities in the continent and elsewhere.

The extent of unemployment in SA, especially that of young people, is a 'powder keg' that will destabilise the political economy at some point, and a serious structural constraint to growth and development. It also makes the idea of 'Freedom' seem hollow. Deliberate and bold initiatives are required to deal with this very serious societal challenge. Alongside the 'supply side interventions' to grow and industrialise the economy, extensive employment incentives and initiatives, at scale, are required. Collaborative initiatives with the business sector especially, as well as with the defence sector, will be particularly effective and sustainable. The Presidential employment initiative is very important, but lacks scale currently.

A (non-compulsory) extensive national youth service, properly conceived and managed, comprising both civilian and military streams, would also be extremely useful, and is an example of what is possible. It can be structured to provide life education and civic awareness, practical economically portable skills, credible work experiences, school-to-work transition for categories of youth from basic, tertiary and vocational education, and can be concluded with an exit package that assists exiting participants to seek work opportunities or start whatever livelihood support arrangements they prefer/can access. It can also be practically tied in with a targeted land reform program (with agricultural extension support).

The services that such a program provides could easily substitute outsourcing of certain public delivery programs like cleaning the towns and cities, pothole prevention, public arts programs, grass cutting, provision and maintenance of small bridges in rural areas, civilian administrative support to the police stations, disaster management support duties, small water schemes



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in rural areas, off-grid energy solutions, organic off-grid sanitation solutions, greening and beautifying of public spaces, teaching people swimming as a survival skill, managing rivers and wetlands sustainably, reblocking well located informal settlements, etc. All these examples are practical, accessible value-creating programs that a national youth service can anchor, and accommodates different categories of youth from an educational, abilities/disabilities, age, etc perspectives. In many of these projects the young people will be led, supervised and guided by the relevant registered professionals, who will both mentor and quality assure. Obviously the military will run its own categories, based on its skills and requirements, and these will also contribute to public goods. This is a program that would create value to its participants, but equally to society, and on exit, to the broader economy.

And obvious issue that will be raised is funding, in the context of limited finances available to government, and competing priorities. Perhaps controversially to some, but deliberately, it would be worth flagging a possible trade-off between making the SRD grant permanent, and massively scaling up a National Youth Service. While there is no diminishing of the survival effects of the SRD grant, but the life changing impact, with abilities built for future livelihoods of the NYS is compelling. Obviously the NYS doesn't deal with everyone, so some elements of SRD could remain. But targeting young

people in a massive way is not an unworthy trade off, and warrants exploration. Of course there are other areas of government spend that could be considered also, but this is just one contribution. And obviously there will be other programs also that target differently, beyond the NYS

The Society

As we conclude, we need to highlight that overall aim of this effort is not simply to grow economic opportunities and liveable incomes, but overall to advance human development and the quality of (and the meaning/purpose) of life. As Prof Amartya Sen, a Nobel Prize Laureate for Economics, observes about 'Freedom': "Freedom implies not just to do something, but (also) the capabilities to make

it happen". The movement that gave South Africa "the Freedom Charter" must take the lead in ensuring that all South Africans can truly claim 'freedom'. Not just be doing things, but have the capabilities to make those things happen

There is much that a focused, capable, ethical, and well-led developmental state can provide to make life better in communities. As much as ordinary people have been their own liberators, they also have a critical role to play also in their own development, to give meaning to the 'Freedom' that Amartya Sen describes, and that the Freedom Charter has so articulately defined.


(Note: The article was written in July 2022, and revised in November 2024 for publication.)

FREEDOM CHARTER

26 JUNE, 1955 - AS ADOPTED AT THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, KLIPTOWN


7 THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY

There Shall be Work and Security captures the right of workers to form trade unions and to collective bargaining, the right to decent work for all, equal pay for equal work, health and safety issues and against slave labour and the tot and compound system.




The Constitution encapsulates these rights, and progressive labour legislation give expression to the exercise of those rights. The Gender Pay gap, although shrinking remains large.

Unemployment is a key fault-line towards the realisation of this aspiration, and the commitment to put South Africa to work, creating jobs, facilitating and supporting entrepreneurship therefore looms large.



LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

The Importance of BRICS to South Africa in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's Re-election in the US

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

DONALD Trump's second tenure as US President brings new impetus within the geopolitical landscape. He is not revered by some, but certainly a favourite character to many, particularly those Americans who have endorsed his re-election, mainly due to his demagoguery and populism. He is credited, especially by the American working class, for not shying away from taking unpopular and/or undiplomatic decisions, if those are perceived to be in the best interest of the US. With so much power now vested in him and the Republican Party, his abrasive and brazen impudence might further fuel international instability, or even worse, hasten the looming WWIII, depending on how he would approach the highly volatile Russian-Ukrainian and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. In his election campaign, he vowed to end those conflicts, and it is how he would do it that intrigues everyone.

There have been concerns that South Africa's relationship with BRICS members like Russia and China could jeopardize South Africa's international trade relations with the West, including the US. There were rumours of probable economic sanctions against



South Africa by Israel and its allies, especially the US. There was apparently a Bill before the US Senate to discuss whether South Africa should continue to benefit from AGOA, against the backdrop of it reporting Israel to the ICJ. Some US hardliners were apparently at pains looking for justification to impose economic sanctions against South Africa. However, some of those fears were allayed when the South African delegation, led by Minister

of Trade and Industry, Parks Tau, saw AGOA back on track.

Now that those Republican hardliners have gained an upper hand, there are now well-placed concerns that they might push for the reversal of some of the decisions by the Democrats. With Donald Trump at the helm again, the future of AGOA trade agreement by the US with African countries, including South Africa, could be in jeopardy. The future

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of South Africa's continued participation in AGOA hangs in the balance, due to his biased protectionist approach towards international trade.

Besides, the odds seem to be stacked against South Africa for doing the right humanitarian thing – reporting Israel to ICJ for committing genocidal acts against innocent civilians in Gaza, mainly women and children. When initiating the ICJ process against Israel, some sort of backlash from the culprits and their allies was certainly expected.

However, South Africa is not a pariah in global politics and economy. There are many regional and international trade agreements that keep South Africa's economy afloat. AGOA is just but one of those trade agreements. It must intensify establishing trade relations with countries that understand what it stands for in geopolitics, and strive to further strengthen new trade relations with its BRICS partners.

Unfortunately, there are South Africans who are still not sure whether joining BRICS was in the best interest of the country or not. In view of the latest geopolitical developments, South Africa's membership of BRICS

should actually mean a lot to all South Africans, and be accorded utmost respect. As a global economic and geopolitical bloc, BRICS is growing fast, and South Africa should remain part of that growth. South African economy could grow exponentially as BRICS grows. BRICS members encompass about 30% of the world's land surface and 45% of global population, and still counting. The multipolar world order led by BRICS is unfolding right in front of our eyes. BRICS is rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with, and South Africa should not sell itself short.

It would be prudent to optimize its privileged position to accelerate its economic growth, and not remain the weakest link amongst original BRICS founder members. It should remain a fulcrum between BRICS' big markets and the rest of African continent. Therefore, every South African, particularly those forming part of Government of National Unity (GNU), should understand and value South Africa's enviable position in BRICS.

BRICS is about global peace, security, economic and geopolitical wellbeing of countries that needs to narrow down trade gaps among the nations – developed,

developing, and underdeveloped. The idea behind BRICS's formation is to move away from unilateralism, and strengthening multilateralism amongst the nations.

South Africa's continued global economic and geopolitical survival depends on BRICS. It therefore has to make use of its unique position in BRICS to scramble for its place in the sun in terms of economic growth, peace, and security. It has to take advantage of the rarest opportunity of standing on the shoulders of economic giants like Brazil, Russia, India and China in BRICS, and catapult itself into being one of the fastest growing economies of the world, and be able to address socio-economic triple challenges plaguing the country - poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

Therefore, South Africa stands to continue deriving massive economic opportunities through existing trade relations with the US and the West, over and above extended trade relations with current BRICS member countries, and other countries aspiring to become members as well. There is no reason why trade relations with either should be exclusive of the other. Nothing should take the place of the other.

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There are indications that the dominance of the US and the West in global politics and economy is waning, and there are writings on the wall for everyone to see. As it grows further, BRICS could ditch the US dollar (USD), and establish new currency to transact in oil, gas and other commodities. At the BRICS Summit in South Africa in 2023, it was unclear about new currency to replace USD as currency for oil transaction, i.e. de-dollarization of USD. The USD's dominant status as the major reserve currency and main currency for global trade could be diminished, leading to devaluing of the US currency, and subsequent inflation of unparalleled magnitude for the US economy.

Talks of developing new BRICS currency to minimize the dominance of USD has been gaining momentum over the years.

De-dollarization is inevitable, as most countries around the world are set to phase out or drastically reduce their dependence on the USD. About 85 countries, including members of ASEAN, Argentina, Turkey, Iran, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, have reportedly joined the de-dollarization trend. In January 2023, BRICS announced it might soon explore the possibility of creating its own currency to bypass the USD. The reasons why most countries developed negative attitude towards the US currency is that *"the US is using its reserve currency hegemony to promote instability all over the globe ... to suppress other nations through arbitrary economic sanctions, and to fund its military aggression of other nations"*.

Although the 2024 XVI BRICS Kazan Summit in Russia was not



about de-dollarization, the Summit made serious strides in that direction. XVI BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia's Declaration provide, inter alia, that, *"We welcome the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners"*.

However, the USD is still going to remain the dominant currency for some time as, *"More than 80 percent of international trade is conducted in US dollar and it accounts for 58 percent of global foreign exchange reserves"*.

The USD remains important to both China and Russia, and their global economic positions. Both China and Russia, as do most other countries, still rely on USD, and the decision to drop the USD for now seems to be a bit far-fetched. China tried for some time to de-dollarize its trade and investment, with some limited success, because China holds 50%-60% of its foreign exchange reserves in dollar-denominated assets. China and

Japan hold most of US Treasury bonds, which are denominated in the USD. The idea of reducing the USD's dominance in global trade and finance, gained further traction following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which saw the US impose heavy financial sanctions on Moscow. The US unilaterally and arbitrarily froze almost \$300 billion of Russia's foreign currency reserves and removed Russian banks from SWIFT, the global messaging system that facilitates international payments.

In conclusion, BRICS offers solutions to South Africa's stunted and sluggish international trade in sectors such as agriculture.

Besides abundance of mineral resources, agriculture was identified as one of the sectors in which South Africa could play a meaningful role within BRICS.

South African entrepreneurs should look at ways to benefit from bilateral and multilateral agreements made through BRICS.

TRIBUTE

Naphtal (Naph) Manana, Heroic Combatant, principled Cadre, Thinker and Ideologue

■ Reflections by **SPONGY MOODLEY**

NAPHTAL (Naph) Manana was born to Solomon and Lettie Manana in Soweto on 5 September 1956 and died on 7 November 2024. Naph although quietly spoken with an impish smile and a wicked, wonderful sense of humour will be fondly remembered in the ranks of freedom-loving people for his heroic opposition to apartheid rule. He lived a full life, none so dramatic and unprecedented as his time on Death Row when he/they thought it was the end of their natural lives. On death row they vowed to be free one day, to live the life they deserve, and so to be remembered by history as brave, selfless, fearless, substantial, kind and thoughtful and to be in the service of the masses till their dying days – a commitment Naph and the others upheld proudly. Fortunately fate intervened, positively for them. Naph's name became part of the MK folklore that was feted, together with the likes of Vuyisile Mini, Basil February, Solomon Mahlangu, Barney Molokoane, etc.

Following the formative 1976 uprisings, Naph became an MK combatant with the rank of a platoon commander. He trained in Zambia, Angola, Tanzania and

the old Soviet Union; he achieved (with his fellow combatants in the Soekmeaar police station attack, together with the “Silverton siege”) international recognition. Judge Jaap de Villiers saw fit to impose the death sentence on them, for the first time since the 1960s that the ultimate punishment had been imposed for political acts. Their

heroic and daring attacks inspired many young activists to leave the country into exile to seek training to overthrow the brutal apartheid regime. In those dark days, songs were sung in celebrations of their deeds.

Their conviction drew international condemnation and concern.

COMRADE
NAPHTAL “NAPH” MANANA
05 SEPTEMBER 1956 – 07 NOVEMBER 2024

The African National Congress (ANC) mourns the loss of one of its committed, loyal and fearless veterans, Comrade Naphtal “Naph” Manana.

In honouring his memory, the ANC recommits itself to the revolutionary principles that defined his life. May his legacy inspire future generations to carry forward the struggle for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa as envisioned by the National Democratic Revolution.

Hamba Kahle Mkhonto!

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

112th ANNIVERSARY
112 YEARS
ANC LIVES, ANC LEADS

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

TRIBUTE

A campaign unfolded, including within the United Nations to save them. This international solidarity campaign made Naph to always link struggles globally and saw him being a fervent supporter of Cuba in the face of the long-standing unjust sanctions against them by the USA. From “no future but the rope” with no hope other than death staring them in the face, their sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, and they found their lodgings for the next many years on Robben Island. Here Naph and the others’ political knowledge was qualitatively deepened. Um-rabulo was part of his very fabric, like daily sustenance was all the theories and politics that was instilled in him in political cells, the underground, military camps, Robben Island and the countless workshops and meetings he was part of over a period of more than half a century.

Comrade Amos (Ambi) Masondo, another fellow Robben Island “graduate” relay the story of how he lent a copy of Spartacus by Howard Fast to Naph’s older brother Siphon popularly known as “Daiza”. Naph read it and became inspired by Spartacus the gladiator. Spartacus’ revolt against the Roman Empire transformed him into a revolutionary with life-long commitment in pursuit of freedom, justice, equality and peace for all humanity. His legacy has endured, influencing figures like Karl Marx and being likened to the “Black Spartacus,” Toussaint L’ouverture who led the successful slave revolt in Haiti against the French. Marx described Spartacus as “the greatest general in antiquity, a noble character and a representative of the ancient proletariat”. The celebrated duo of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht that led the insurgency of



January 1919 in Germany went by the name, the “Spartacus League” and for which they were summarily and brutally executed.

In this vein, Oenomaus uttered the immortal words “A Gladiator Does Not Fear Death. He Embraces It. Caresses It...” to which Naph and his fellow combatants subscribed – willing to pay the ultimate prize for our freedom. One always left Naph enriched after an interaction. He invariably referred to some aspect of dialectics. One of his favourite sayings was “you are a soldier” as shorthand for the ability to deal with all aspects of life.

We, younger activists, first became aware of him through the heroism of him and his fellow cadres through the Save the Pretoria Three Campaign. This was an international effort supported by the United Nations to bring attention to the conditions of political prisoners.

I met Naphtal Manana (Director Department of Political Education and Training), he together with Manny Cowen (Director Human Resources) had come to conduct interviews for vacancies at the ANC offices in St Georges Street in Durban July 1996.

The ANC programme was largely concentrated on building ANC and Alliance structures post the 1994 unbanning of liberation organisations and the first democratic elections. During this period (1993 to 1996) Naph Manana was an integral part of the ANC’s Training and Mobilisation Machinery working closely with the likes of Beatie Hofmeyr, Mandla Nkomfe, Ntombi Mekingwe, Kisa Dlamini, Bandile Sizani, Charm Govender and Steven Zintel amongst others in Voter Election, Election and Training Unit (VEETU).

The ANC NEC re-established the Department of Political Education and Training in 1996 as part of its effort to renew, rebuild and reorganise the organisation in the post electoral period. The period had ushered in new challenges with seasoned activists and cadres of the movement being deployed to national and provincial legislatures, municipal councils and other organs of the state machinery.

Naph Manana was selected to head the Department of Political Education and Training working closely with the NEC Political Education Sub Committee, headed by Joel Netshitenzhe. Together with Mandla Nkomfe they recruited the following dedicated cadres to carry out this task; Thobile Bam and Carmel Joseph (Eastern Cape), Kenny Tokwana (Free State), Naud Moitsi (Gauteng), Stitch Ngubane (KZN), Rudolph Phala (Limpopo), Sylvester Sibozza (Mpumalanga), Neville Mompoti (Northern Cape), Supra Mahumapelo (North West Province), Mcebisi Skwatsha (Western Cape), Vanapalan (Spongy) Moodley, Bagaisi Mocumi, Rosalia Storey Morutua and Philip Gu-mede (National). Over the years

TRIBUTE

the composition of the department at a national and provincial level changed to include Zweli Sizani, Shiraz Ebrahim, Papi Tau, Thabane Mabuya and Rachmat Lamera amongst others.

The mandate of the department also incorporated the building of the capacity of the ANC branches and its membership, developing and implementing a Political School Programme, establishment of the ANC Journal Umrabulo and lending support to cross cutting programmes which included the leagues, alliance and MDM structures. These were all informed by national imperatives, but adapted to suit provincial and regional conditions.

Naph's interaction with the DPET complement of the time was one that was politically engaging in a comradery spirit, but simultaneously demanding delivery and accountability on programme imperatives. The Department of Political Education later became the Political Education and Training Unit (PETU – 1998 – 2023) that together with the Secretary General's Office (Organising & Campaigns and Media & Communications, Presidency (Policy), Leagues and ETU aimed to integrate, coordinate and implement capacity building and campaign programmes for ANC branches.

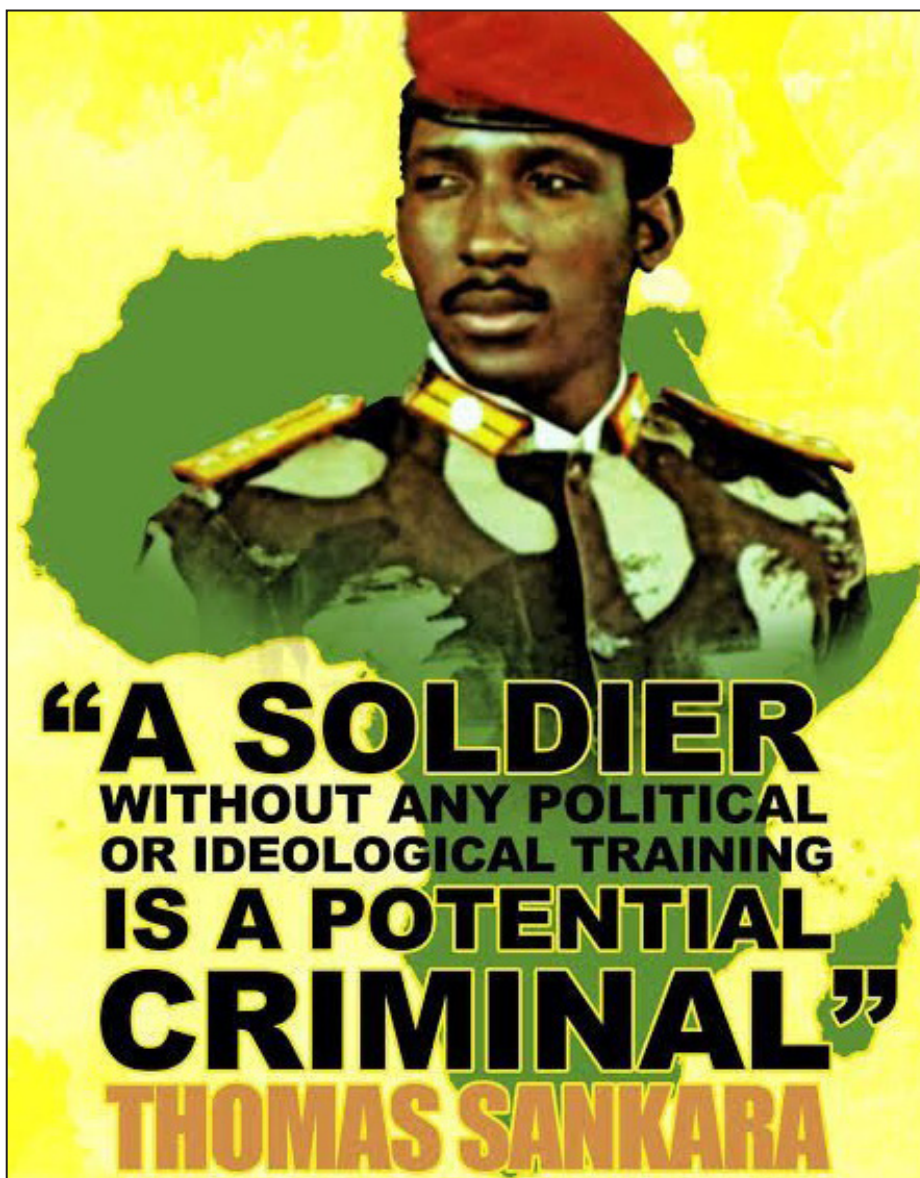
Naph was part of a team led at Shell House by the then Deputy Secretary General Cheryl Carolus who became Acting Secretary General in 1997. The team included Ronnie Momoepa, Beryl Baker, Yusuf Salojee, Lucky Mabasa, Toine Eggenhuizen, Ka Shabangu, and Miles Nzama. They undertook the implementation of the ANC's programme which included the restructuring of the ANC and preparing ANC,

Alliance and MDM structures politically for policy discussions at the 50th National Conference in Mahikeng in 1997. From 1998 he would serve under Secretary General Kgalema Motlanthe and Deputy Secretary General Thenjiwe Mtintso and later from 2007 to 2012 under Secretary General Gwede Mantashe and Deputy Secretary General Thandi Modise heading the Political Education Unit. It was during this phase of his work at HQ that Naph engaged with alliance partners, academics, ANC structures and his counterparts with the various debates that raged around the ANC's adoption of Growth,

Employment, and Redistribution (GEAR) policy.

The Political School Programme gained traction in 1998, and the curriculum was developed and piloted under the guidance of Naph, Mandla Nkomfe and Febe Potgieter upon the conclusion of her term as ANC Youth League Secretary-General. The programme target included members of Provincial Executive Committees and was extended to ANC Caucuses, with particular emphasis on ANC Women Public representatives.

The role of Political Education



TRIBUTE

was not limited to serving the internal needs of the movement but also interactions with organisations such as the PLO, Southern African Liberation Movements and the Social Democratic Party of Sweden via the Olof Palme Institute amongst others.

Naph's style and approach to work allowed for political education staff to conduct much of their tasks independently of micro scrutiny. He was contended to be appraised by the collective interaction, once a quarter. He placed a great deal of trust in those around him to execute their tasks in an ethical and honest manner and ensure that the resources and integrity of the organisation were not squandered. Naph was committed to the academic advancement of all the staff of the ANC and to this end DPET later PETU facilitated support for various academic endeavours of ANC staff in academia and enhancing skills, particularly in computer literacy.

Naph was not dogmatic in his approach and was always open to new ideas. He did not stifle independent thought and encouraged debate. He was a deep thinker who did not slavishly follow the line and abhorred "lazy thinkers" that followed positions blindly without engaging with the intricacies of theories and policies. He loved to relate experiences and had a keen sense of humour and laughed easily with his eyes that sparkled with intelligence, humanity and insights, that played off against his dark skin. He laughed at himself, the sign of a humble, self-effacing person that did not take himself too seriously. He took the struggle very seriously, though.

He was a human being with his

own challenges, not surprising given his harrowing experience of torture and being on death row. He would for example withdraw when someone upsets him instead of engaging directly at that point. He chose to calm down, instead of launching a volley of invective that he might regret later. He would engage the issue later once he felt sufficiently calm and having worked through the issue on his own.

Naph was an integral part of the SGO and had dynamic relations with officials of the ANC, NEC members, Alliance, MDM, those working on international work and various think tanks. This did not exclude him from interacting with the rank-and-file staff of the ANC and people of the community. He loved time spent in SOWETO, although he had moved out of that township in the early 1990s.

He remained a confidant to many staff who were experiencing work-related or personal challenges and where possible he gave invaluable guidance and support. Through his role at Political Education, he supported and enabled the career of many individuals, and he always was happy with those that achieved higher political or public office.

Naph was a devoted and loving father. He was totally involved in the upbringing and lives of his children and grandchildren – a duty he never neglected, right up to his death.

Naph was not merely about politics, he had other interests. He was a lover of jazz music and an avid experimental cook and foodie – no wonder his daughter is an accomplished professional chef. He was always willing to try new dishes. His love for West

African cuisine, for example is well known. When Mr Manana encountered a new cuisine and if it appealed to his sophisticated palate, he would not hesitate to acquire the skill to try them out, rather than ask others to prepare the dish for him.

Naph enjoyed his fitness routines even during the latter stages of his illness. This is a discipline he acquired from his training in exile and incarceration on Robben Island. He was a keen squash player and pursued road running for a while until he was deployed as Ambassador designate to Cuba, a position he held from January 2013 to June 2017. He was an ardent football fan and a self-confessed "Happy Person" that would make his way to football matches, especially the ones played in the greater Soweto area.

Upon his return from Cuba, he was reappointed at Luthuli House as Alliance Coordinator serving with comrades Gwede Mantashe and Jessie Duarte. In the latter half of 2022 he was diagnosed with cancer a fight he bravely fought, but he succumbed to that particular "grim reaper" on 7 November 2024.

As Naph journeys into the unknown realm, I envisage him with the clarinet in his mouth, joining his fellow comrades in the great beyond, him singing one of his favourite tunes and being welcomed with mirth. May your life and struggle contribution continue to inspire us as we strive to make "a better life for all" a daily reality for the people of our beloved country.

Go well my friend and comrade. Mr Manana, Hamba Kahle Mkhonto

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

16 – 22 November 2024

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

16 November 1860 First Indian indentured labourers arrive in South Africa

The first Indian indentured labourers imported by the Dutch in South Africa were reported to have arrived on board the *Truro* from Madras to work in the sugar cane plantation in Port-Natal. The group was made up of 197 men, 89 women and 59 children. Most returned to India at the end of their term, but a few stayed behind. Those that stayed quickly established themselves as industrial and railway workers, clerks and interpreters. Today, Durban in Kwazulu-Natal has the highest population of people of Indian origin, outside of India.

16 November 1930 Author Chinua Achebe born



Chinua Achebe (1930–2013) is one of the most prominent African writers, famous for his nov-

els and other writings on Nigeria and the African continent. Achebe was born in Ogidi, Nigeria, the son of a teacher in a missionary school. He attended Government College in Umuahia, followed by the University College of Ibadan, where he studied English, history and theology. He worked as a journalist and public servant and during the Nigerian Civil War (1967–70) Achebe was in the Biafran government service, and then taught at US and Nigerian universities. Achebe wrote his first novel, *Things Fall Apart* (1958), the most translated African novel; followed by novels, essays and poetry collections *No Longer at Ease* (1960), *Arrow of God* (1964), *A Man of the People* (1966), *Beware, Soul Brother* (1971), *Girls at War* (1972), *How the Leopard Got His Claws* (1972), *Christmas in Biafra* (1973), *Morning Yet on Creation Day* (1975), *The Trouble with Nigeria* (1983), *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987), *Hopes and Impediments* (1988), *Home and Exile* (2000), *There was a Country. A personal history of the Biafra* (2012). In 1975 he gave a landmark lecture on postcolonial discourse, “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s Heart of Darkness”. He attended the iconic African Writers Conference held at Makerere University in Kampala in 1982. He went on to become the General Editor of the African Writers Series. In 1990 Achebe was

paralyzed from the waist down as the result of a serious car accident. Despite the setback, he remained active and continued writing and publishing. In 2007 Achebe won the Man Booker International Prize for fiction. Albert Chinualumogu Achebe passed away on 21 March 2013.

16 November 1989 South African beaches open to all races

The Separate Amenities Act of 1953 divided all public (and private) amenities on the basis of race, from hospitals, buses, trains and government offices, to parks, cinemas, restaurants and beaches. After the second Defiance campaign started by the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) in 1989, where activists defied apartheid petty laws by going to swim on whites-only beaches, then President De Klerk announced on 16 November 1989 that South African beaches would be opened to all people across the racial lines. The Act was repealed in October 1990.

7 November 1952 ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa born

President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa was born on 17 November 1952 in Soweto, Johannesburg. Ramaphosa began his studies at the University of the North in 1972,

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



where he became involved in student politics, joining the South African Student Organisation (SASO) and the Black People's Convention (BPC). He was detained in 1974 for organising pro-Frelimo rallies that were held to celebrate the independence of Mozambique. He was detained for the second time in 1976 following the Soweto student uprising and later imprisoned. Ramaphosa became the first general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers in 1982. In 1991, he was elected ANC Secretary-General and subsequently became head of the ANC team that negotiated the transition to democracy. Following the country's first democratic elections in 1994, he was elected chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly, which wrote South Africa's new democratic constitution. Comrade Ramaphosa moved into the private sector in 1996. He was the executive chairperson of Shanduka Group, which he founded in 2001. He served as the deputy chairperson of the National Planning Commission from 2010 until 2014. Comrade Ramaphosa was appointed Chairman of the National Planning Commission on 3 June 2014. In December

2012, he was elected Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC) and at the 2017 national conference he was elected as President of the ANC, and reelected President at the 2022 national conference. He served as Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa from 25 May 2014 until 15 February 2018. Cde Ramaphosa serves as President of the Republic of South Africa since his election on 15 February 2018.

17 November 1989 Anton Fransch killed by apartheid police



Anton Fransch was born and raised in Bonteheuwel, Cape Town. He was the second youngest of 7 siblings. He attended Modderdam High School where he joined COSAS. He joined Bonteheuwel Military Wing and went to Angola to join Umkhon-

to we Sizwe and receive military training. He returned in 1989 to expand the Western Cape MK operations. His position was discovered and on the 17th November 1989. He was killed in a house in Athlone, Cape Town, after a 6 hour gun battle with apartheid security forces.

17 November 2004 Breyton Paulse included in Springbok team after challenge by ANCYL

Although South African rugby was united after years of apartheid segregation and discrimination, leading to the return of the Springboks to international rugby in 1992 and winning the Rugby World Cup in 1995, transformation remained difficult. In 2004, Breyton Paulse, a Black rugby player was omitted from the Springboks prior to a test with England. The ANC Youth League challenged this decision, stating that *"transformation cannot be put in reverse. Attempts to keep rugby as an exclusive sport for Whites will never work"*. On 17 November 2004, Paulse was included in the national team. Breyton Paulse is known for his tremendous speed on the pitch. He was selected for both the 2003 and 2007 World Cup finals. He played for the French Clermont Auvergne and the local Stormers and was named as player of the year in 2000.

18 November 1951 Clements Kadalie passed away in East London

Founder and Secretary General of the Industrial Commercial Union (ICU), Kadalie died in East London. The ICU was formed in 1919, and by the end of that year Kadalie led the dockworkers strike in Cape Town. Kadalie

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

was born in Nkhata Bay District, Malawi in 1896. At 16, he graduated from the Livingston Missionary Institute as a teacher, with honours. He taught for a year, but went travelling southwards, working as a clerk in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and visiting other parts of Southern Africa, and eventually ending up in Cape Town, where he settled in 1918. Kadalie became a militant leader of black workers, and eventually settled in East London with his family, where he was also organiser for the ANC, and lived till his passing. Academic, activist and author Rhoda Kadalie is one of his granddaughters.

18 November 1989 Chikane, Lekota and Molefe convicted of Treason

Popo Molefe, Patrick Lekota and Moses (Moss) Chikane, prominent UDF leaders and anti-apartheid activists were arrested in April 1988 and charged with treason. The government accused the United Democratic Front (UDF) of being responsible for the Vaal uprising and arrested UDF officials Lekota, publicity secretary, Molefe, national secretary, and Chikane, Transvaal Provincial secretary, together with more than 20 other suspects. Though several were released on bail after one year, the three were kept in Pretoria Central Prison. Lekota, Molefe, Chikane and Tom Manthatha were found guilty in Delmas of treason on 18 November 1988.

19 November 1981 Griffiths Mxenge assassinated

Griffiths Mxenge, African National Congress (ANC) veteran and apartheid lawyer and activist from



KwaZulu Natal, was assassinated and his body was severely mutilated in an act of barbaric brutality on 19 November 1981. The magistrate at the inquest into his death found that his death was caused by the act of some unknown person or persons. In 1996, at the Truth and Reconciliation, his self-confessed murderers applied for amnesty. They are Dirk Coetzee, Almond Nofomela, Joe Mamasela, Brian Ngqulunga and David Tshikalanga, policemen and agents of the apartheid government's death squads. They were granted amnesty by the TRC.

20 November 1604 Emperor Fasilides, Founder of Gondar born

Ethiopian Emperor Fasilides is born in Bulga, Shewa. A noted planner and builder, he established Gondar as the Ethiopian Empire's capital city and created civic complexes, bridges and churches. He cut ties with Europe, banished Catholics and supported the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He was emperor from 1632-1667.

20 November 1923 Nobel Laurette Nadine Gordimer born

Author, cultural activist and winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for Literature, Nadine Gordimer, was



born in Springs. One of South Africa's most prolific novelists, she also wrote non-fiction on various South African subjects and made TV documentaries. She was one of the founders of the Congress of South African Writers (COSAW). Gordimer received 15 honorary degrees from universities all over the world. She published 13 novels and 10 short story collections (translated in 40 different languages). Gordimer passed away in July 2014.

20 November 1957 University College Hospital of Ibadan commissioned

West Africa's largest hospital, the 1000 bed University College Hospital of Ibadan in Nigeria is commissioned after completion on this day. Today, it remains The flagship tertiary health care institution in Nigeria, offering world-class training, research and services.

20 November 1988 UN condemns South Africa's actions against neighbours

After decades of terrorism by South Africa against its neighbours who gave support to liberation movements, including invading these countries, planting bombs and killing not only liberation fighters but also citizens of

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

these countries, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed resolutions condemning South Africa's aggression against its Southern African neighbours. The UN General Assembly re-affirmed the legitimacy of the region's struggle against apartheid and the legitimacy of armed resistance.

20 November 1994 **Lusaka Protocol for Angola peace signed**

The Lusaka Protocol to end the 19-year civil war in Angola is signed in Zambia, between the Angolan government led by MPLA and the UNITA rebel movement. Despite the Protocol, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi continued the war, until his death in 2002.

21 November 1947 **Poet Jared Angira born**

The poet was born in Siaya, Kenya. Angira published his first collection of poems, *Juices* in 1970, edited literary magazine *Busara* and was a founder of the Kenya Writer's Association.

21 November 1984 **Operation Moses starts**

The operation to airlift 8,000 Ethiopian Jews from refugee camps in Sudan where they fled famine in their country to Israel starts. Today there are some 160,000 Israelis of Ethiopian origin.

21 November 1985 **Mamelodi Massacre**

Thirteen residents were gunned down in Mamelodi by South African police during a peaceful protest. This followed the declaration of a State of emergency on 25 July 1985 by President PW Botha

in 36 of South Africa's 260 magisterial districts. Within the first six months of the Emergency, 575 people were killed in political violence. Under the provisions of the Emergency, organisations could be banned and meetings prohibited; the Commissioner of Police could impose restrictions on media coverage of the Emergency; and the names of detained people could not be disclosed.

21 November 1989 **Last SADF troops withdrawn from Namibia**

The Citizen reported that the remaining 1 500 South African troops in South West Africa (Namibia) had been withdrawn during November. South Africa ruled Namibia as a protectorate taken over from the Germans after World War 2. The SADF fought against those fighting for the liberation of Namibia, led by SWAPO and also used the country as a basis to destabilise its neighbours. The battle of Cuito Cuavale in 1988, was a turning point in the history of southern Africa, and soon after negotiations started. On 21 March 1990 the country gained independence from South Africa as the Republic of Namibia, with Swapo leader Sam Nujoma elected as president.

21 November 2000 **Baphumelele origins**

Retired teacher Rosie Mashale found a toddler abandoned on her Kayelitsha doorstep and expands into an orphanage and daycare centre, which eventually provides refuge and service to some of the 14,000 homeless street children in Cape Town. She established the Baphumelele Foundation (meaning 'you have progressed') to teach job skills to homeless teens.

21 November 2004 **NCOP Chairperson Joyce Kgoali passed on**



The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Joyce Kgoali, passed away following complications after a minor operation. Kgoali was also a National Executive Committee (NEC) member of the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) and a Provincial Executive Committee member of the ANC in Gauteng. She was MEC for Public Works and Transport in Gauteng before appointed as substitute to Naledi Pandor as the chairperson of NCOP. Mam Joyce was born in Lesotho on 13 January 1950, and worked in the textile sector where she joined the trade union movement and became a leader in SACTWU. She was also active in the ANC underground structures, in the UDF and the Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW).

21 November 2013 **First CubSAT satellite**

Students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology launched South Africa's first CubeSat, type of nano-satellite, into space. It provides valuable space weather details, orbiting Earth up to 15 times a day at an altitude of 600km.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

21 November 2017

President Mugabe resigns

After 37 years in power, Zimbabwe President Robert Gabriel Mugabe (93) resigned after internal ructions in his party ZANU-PF following the sacking of former vice-president Emmerson Mnangagwa. His letter of resignation was read out in Parliament, and he was replaced by President Mnangagwa.

22 November 1497

Vasco Da Gama passes the Cape of Good Hope

The Portuguese expedition, to find routes from Europe to India set off on the Atlantic ocean, southwards in July 1497, led by Vasco Da Gama. The three ships set foot on the island of St Helena on 4 November 1497, where he made first contact with the Khoi Khoi. Da Gama passed the Cape of Good Hope on 22 November 1497, landing in Mosselbay after being battered by storms, with the second encounter with the Khoi Khoi, where the exchange ended in a stand-off and Da Gama and his ships left with some haste, after firing canons at the Khoi. The next landing point was Durban, and then Mozambique.

22 November 1909

Educationist Moses Josiah Madiba born

The author, educationist, linguist and first African chancellor of the University of the North, was born at Uitvlucht, Polokwane district. He was the first secretary of the Maune branch of the Transvaal African Teachers' Association in 1930. He played an important role in the development of the Northern Sotho language, and his books *Thuto ya Polelo* (1941), *Tsiri* (1942), *Mahlontebe series* (1952) and *Nkotsana* (1955) are



still widely read. In 1960 he was appointed first chairperson of the advisory council of the newly established University College of the North, a position he held until 1973 and on 13 May 1978 was installed as the first African chancellor of the University of the North. A lay preacher, he was also served as first president of the Transvaal synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from 1963. He died on 2 January 1985 in Seshego, Pietersburg district.

22 November 1943

Film maker Safi Faye born

Senegalese film maker is born in Dakar, after directing documentary and short films, she made a movie *Kaddu Beykat* (Letter from my Village) in 1975, the first movie by a Sub-Saharan African woman to be commercially distributed as a feature film. Faye has directed many feature films, and today is recognized as one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most prominent directors. Her 1996 film *Mossane* received the Un-certain regard award at Cannes. Faye passed away at the age of 79 in 2023.

22 November 1962

Paarl Insurrection by Poqo

Poqo members from Mbekweni, Paarl, met and resolved to attack security installation in the town.

Over 200 men armed with axes, pangas, sticks, sabres and possibly a few revolvers gathered at about 02h00 and split into two groups, one to attack the prison and the other the police station. The latter group approached the police station and began attacking police patrol vans. Three were shot dead in front of the police station and others were wounded. Several were arrested. As the rest of the group fled, they met those who had been planning the prison attack and formed a new group which began attacking houses in Loop Street. Two residents, Ms Rencia Vermeulen and Mr Frans Richards, were killed. The final death toll was seven, including five Poqo members: Godfrey Yekiso, Madodana Camagu, John Magigo and Ngenisile Siqwebo. Matthews Mayezana Mali was shot by the South African Police (SAP) on the following day. Mali was shot in the head and chest while marching in front of a group of Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) demonstrators on their way to the Paarl police station to hand over a list of grievances on the day after the uprising. Historian Tom Lodge wrote about the insurrection in the edition of *African Studies Review* journal (1982).

22 November 1973

Boesman and Lena released

The motion film by playwright Athol Fugard and directed by Ross Devenish, is released, with its theme on apartheid forced removals. The play also is performed off Broadway, starring James Earl Jones and Ruby Dee in 1970, running for 205 performances. In 2000, another Boesman and Lena film, starring Danny Glover and Angela Basset was released.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

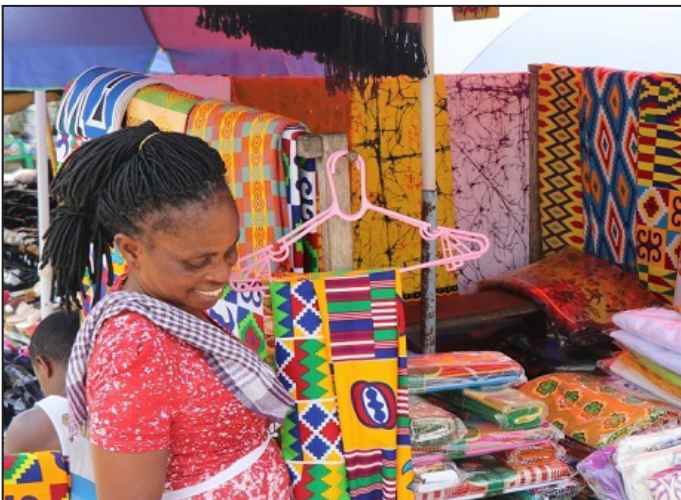
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

16 – 22 November 2024

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

15 November

Global Women's Entrepreneurship Day



Women still face disadvantage in the labour markets, with higher unemployment and under employment. Entrepreneurship therefore provides an important avenue for economic inclusion and financial independence. 80% of employment in the continent is offered by SMEs. The United Nations reports that women reinvest around 90% of their income in the health and education of their children and community, compared to just 35% by men, indicating the importance of supporting women's entrepreneurship to effect socio-economic upliftment. The UN further notes that women are responsible for around 70% of informal cross-border trading in Africa.

16 November

International Day for Tolerance

The day is celebrated by the United Nations to strengthen tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. This is at the heart of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is more important than ever in this era of rising and violent extremism, racism and other intolerances, gender-based violence and widening conflicts that are characterized by a fundamental disregard for human life.

18 November

African Statistics Day

The day was designated by the African Union, to strengthen statistics capacities in member states. Statistics help us to understand our communities and countries, major trends and form the basis of public policy.

18 November

International Day of Islamic Art

The day raises awareness of past and contemporary artistic expressions of Islam, and the contribution of culture through Islamic Art to civilization. Islamic art spans a period of over 1400 years, and include architecture, calligraphy, painting, glass, ceramics, and textiles, among others. Islamic art has become an integral part of the art expression of the African continent, with the first Islamic Diaspora found in Africa, when the Prophet Muhammed sent some of his family to safe refuge in Ethiopia as he fled Mecca for Medina.

19 November

World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse



Globally, countless young individuals are victims of sexual misconduct and exploitation. Such violations are pervasive, cutting across all nations and societal strata. Children, especially girls, are at a

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

greater risk of experiencing forced sex and sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, including both online and offline, and it's also a common situation during armed conflicts. Rising inequalities, deepening poverty, and structural discrimination on intersecting grounds, continue to exacerbate the situations that expose children to exploitation, abuse and violence. Child victims and survivors of such crimes can face long-lasting negative impacts on their physical, mental, and sexual health and development. Such trauma on children may even amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Many victims and survivors never disclose and/or seek justice, rehabilitation or support because of the shame.

19 November World Toilet Day



The day raises awareness about the importance of clean and accessible sanitation. Human waste creates illnesses, and access to toilets is therefore a basic human right. We still have more than 4.2 billion people living without safely managed sanitation options in the world today. In South Africa, pit toilets in schools and communities continue to take lives of children, and we must recommit to eradicate pit toilets from our schools, and access to sanitation for all.

19 November International Men's Day

International Men's Day is celebrated to look at alternatives to toxic masculinity, and a chance to teach boys about the values, character, and responsibilities of being a man. Focus areas for the day therefore include health, well-being, integrity, improving gender relations and working for gender equality, highlight positive male role models, fighting gender based violence and promoting human rights of all. When men lead by example, they help to create a fair and safe society. Their positive actions allow everyone to prosper.



20 November Africa Industrialization Day

It was declared African Industrialisation Day by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1989, to promote industrialisation and value addition in the continent, with its rich natural resources. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) *"industrial development is (important) for sustained and inclusive economic growth in African countries. Industry can enhance productivity, increase the capabilities of the workforce, and generate employment, by introducing new equipment and new techniques. Industrialization, with strong linkages to domestic economies, will help African countries achieve high growth rates, diversify their economies and reduce their exposure to external shocks. This will substantially contribute to poverty eradication through employment and wealth creation."*



20 November Universal Children's Day

Launched in 1954 by the United Nations, Universal Children's day aims to raise awareness on child

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child



- Non-discrimination.
- Special protection, opportunities and facilities to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.
- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to social security, adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.
- The differently-abled child to be given special treatment education and care.

welfare worldwide, the promotion, defense and advancement of children's rights and to promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children. The day also marks the day of the adoption of the Declaration and Convention of Children's Rights.

20 November

Geographic Information Systems Day

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are digital platforms for storing, analyzing, and visualizing geographic data. These systems help users understand patterns and relationships in spatial data.



GIS technology combines location data with descriptive information to provide detailed maps and analyses. It's widely used in various fields, such as urban planning, environmental management, and public safety. GIS Day falls on the third Wednesday of every November.

21 November

World Television Day

Television continues to be the single largest source of video consumption. Though screen sizes have changed, and people create, post, stream and consume content on different platforms, the number of households with television sets around the world continues to rise.

21 November

World Philosophy Day

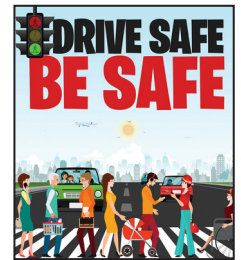
Every third Thursday in November, World Philosophy Day promotes the intellectual culture of phil-

osophical debate that respects dignity and diversity. The day also encourages academic exchange, highlighting the role philosophy plays in addressing global issues. It underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and individual. Philosophy refers to the approach to and the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.

21 November

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

Every third Sunday in November, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) seeks to remember the millions of lives lost or injured due to road crashes. Sunday marks the 30th Anniversary of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The day is also held to pay tribute to emergency responders and medical professionals. These people deal with the trauma of road deaths and injury on a daily basis. According to the WHO, road accidents caused over 1.35 million deaths in 2016, which is one person every 25 seconds. In South Africa many lives are lost daily on our roads through reckless and careless driving. The situation worsens over weekends and during the festive holidays. The theme for 2024 is "Remember. Support. Act." This call on all of us to Remember those lost to road crashes. Support the bereaved. Act to prevent further casualties.



21 November

World Fisheries Day

More than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming. The World Fisheries Day highlights the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean. Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies.

SA IN NUMBERS

SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBERS

GLOBAL WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY



GLOBAL WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

15 NOVEMBER 2024

7.9% VS 4.1%

Percentage of men who owns an established business (more than 3 and a half years in business) vs women entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs in South Africa are largely concentrated in areas of crafts, hawking, personal services and retail.

11.8% of men's business ventures reach the threshold of employing 20 or more people, against only **4.9%** of women-owned businesses.

Women who receive start-up loans have a lower default rate than their male counterparts.

Women's involvement in entrepreneurship increased from 9.5% in the 2022 to 13.5% in 2023, men's involvement showed a greater increase, from 11.1% to 19.9%.

11.3%

low involvement of young women in entrepreneurship

Young women are less likely to view themselves as being capable of starting a new business, at 66.2% compared to men at 72.4%.

38%

of black women formally banked, compared to 44% black men, 94% white men and 91% white women in 2021

Barriers to entry, participation and sustainability for women entrepreneurs:

1. access to business knowledge, education and training programmes;
2. access to finance for new business start-up or expansion,
3. access to (profitable) markets;
4. compliance requirements, bureaucracy and administration; and
5. access to women networks or support structures.

SOURCES:

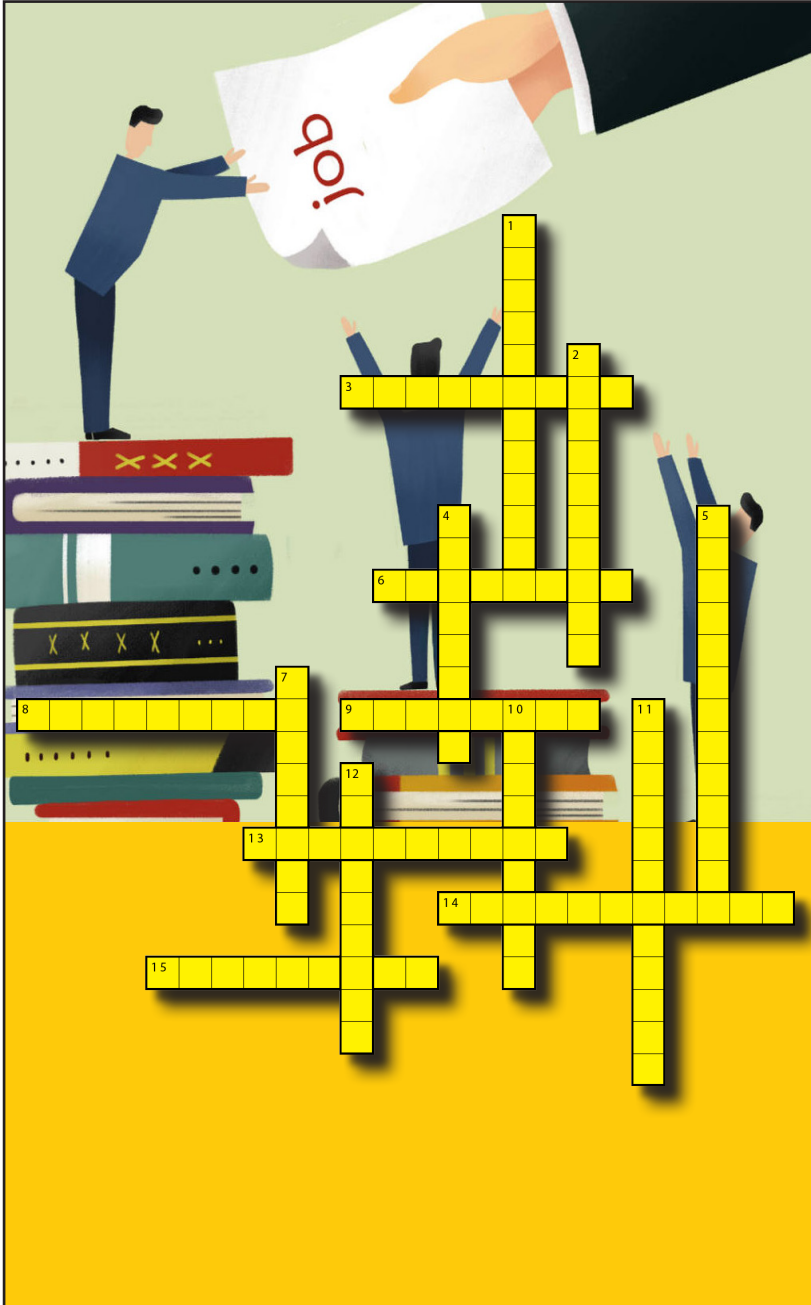
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X-WORD

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Quarter 2 2024 (StatsSA)



- ACROSS**
- 3. Number of unemployed.
 - 6. ... sector increased by 48 000 jobs.
 - 8. Province with highest expanded unemployment rate in Q2:2024 (54.2%).
 - 9. 12.4 million people unemployed according to the ... definition.
 - 13. Number of... persons increased from 5,2 million in Q2:2014 to 8,4 million in Q2:2024.
 - 14. 19.6% of not economically active are ... work seekers.
 - 15. Number of people employed in quarter 2 of 2024.

- DOWN**
- 1. The... ..accounts for 68,9% of total employment.
 - 2. 41.3 people in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old).
 - 4. 33.5% is the ... unemployment rate.
 - 5. ... sector recorded largest increase in employment (+3%).
 - 7. 37.1% of the not economically active are ...
 - 10. Employment ... by 92 000 in the second quarter of 2024.
 - 11. Province with largest increase in unemployment rate (by 3.7%).
 - 12. Discouraged workers.

WORD BANK

- | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| 6.7 million | 8.4 million | 3.2 million | decreased | working age |
| official | students | discouraged | expanded | North West |
| Northern Cape | unemployed | formal sector | informal | manufacturing |

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