



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ALLOWED A CARING, NURTURING CHILDHOOD

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**



On Saturday we observed National Children's Day, when we take stock of the progress we have made in advancing the rights of South Africa's children.

We celebrate this day on the first Saturday of November, which is the month in which the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The Convention was the first international treaty ratified by our newly democratic government in 1994 in recognition of the centrality of children's rights to our national development.

The Convention requires all countries to advance the social, economic, political and cultural

rights of children. The Convention asserts that every child has a right to:

- Survival
- Development
- Protection
- Participation
- Identity
- Health
- Education
- Non-discrimination
- Privacy
- Freedom of Expression.

These rights are also aimed at creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children, allowing them to grow and thrive.

The adoption of the Convention by the democratic South Africa was a critical step towards addressing the legacy of our past.

Colonialism and apartheid ruined the prospects of millions of black children, who were the youngest victims of deprivation, discrimination and exclusion. By the end of apartheid, the mortality rate for black children was six times higher than that of white children. These disparities reflected everywhere else, from living conditions and access to basic services, to access to social care and services, to education.

Since 1994 we have registered considerable gains in giving effect to the provisions of the Convention, which are mirrored in our Constitution. Successive democratic administrations have established laws and policies to develop the potential of South Africa's children.

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To ensure children's right to survival, we have implemented free primary health care for children under six, free basic services to poor families and child support grants.

The school nutrition programme has made a significant difference in improving the educational and health outcomes for millions of children from indigent families.

To advance the right of children to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation, we have passed laws outlawing child labour, corporal punishment and child marriages.

We have a prescribed minimum sentencing regime for cases involving the sexual abuse of children. During the sixth democratic administration, we strengthened the legal regime to expand the definition of sexual offences against children, improve our capacity to combat child trafficking, and introduce more stringent conditions for the registration of sex offenders.

One of the areas in which we have made the most progress in implementing the UN Convention

on the Rights of the Child is in the right to education.

As the UN Children's Fund has noted: *"Since 1994 South Africa has made great strides in realising the right to education, rapidly building an efficient, accessible and quality education system for children and adolescents."*

At the advent of democracy, only half of all six-year-olds went to school. Now there is almost universal school enrolment for learners from 6 to 15 years. The number of no-fee schools has grown significantly. Three out of four learners are exempted from paying fees.

More than 1.5 million children across the country are enrolled in Early Childhood Development programmes as a critical preparation for their entry into formal schooling.

As much as we have made progress, we are keenly aware that much more needs to be done to give effect to the rights of our nation's youngest citizens, and to protect them from abuse.

We have seen a number of recent

criminal cases of children being trafficked into the sex trade, raped, murdered and subjected to the worst forms of abuse – often by those closest to them.

Such tragedies are a stark reminder that progressive legislation must be matched by social and other forms of support. These efforts must capacitate caregivers and offer greater protection to vulnerable children in particular.

We have seen how poverty and under-development deprive children of their childhoods. We have seen how many children are forced to leave school and find work because their families have no money. The ongoing abuse of children – whether physical, sexual or emotional – is among the worst forms of deprivation. It is a stain on the nation's conscience.

As we mark National Children's Day, we must therefore strengthen our collective resolve to ensure that every child has a safe, caring and nurturing childhood.

Working together we can continue to build a better world for our nation's children.



ANC STATEMENT

ON THE TRAGIC DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

DELIVERED BY **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) extends its heartfelt condolences to the families and communities mourning the recent tragic loss of young lives due to contaminated food purchased from spaza shops and vendors. We are deeply saddened by these devastating incidents that have impacted our communities, particularly affecting the lives of our children. These tragedies underscore a growing concern over the health, safety, and hygiene practices in shops and food outlets across our communities and highlight the urgent need for regulatory improvements in these essential establishments.

Spaza shops have long played a central role in our local economies, providing affordable goods, creating jobs, and serving as accessible points of service for our communities. Their significance, especially in underserved areas, cannot be overstated. However, the rise in cases of food borne illnesses, particularly affecting children, calls for immediate intervention. The ANC, in collaboration with the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) and community partners, is engaging with



stakeholders in law enforcement, government, and local business associations to introduce stricter health and safety protocols for these establishments. We are exploring the development of tailored local by-laws to better regulate spaza shop operations and ensure public health is prioritized.

The ANC is closely monitoring investigations underway by the National Consumer Commission, the South African Police Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health's Environ-

mental Directorate, coordinated by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD). This collective response aims to uphold public safety by setting and enforcing rigorous health standards across our communities.

We also urge parents and community members to remain vigilant about food safety, especially around schools. Vendors, producers, and consumers alike must ensure adherence to safe food practices to prevent further tragedies.

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Update on the ANC's Position on Electoral Reform

The ANC has recently submitted its initial input to the Electoral Systems Panel, which is tasked with exploring electoral system options for future National and Provincial Elections. Our submission reflects our commitment to the principles of the Freedom Charter and our enduring dedication to democracy. We believe firmly in the principle that "The People Shall Govern" and that no government is legitimate unless based on the will of the people.

The Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system has served South Africa well for over three decades, fostering an inclusive, representative government that reflects the diversity of our society. This system has enabled fair representation for various social groups, including women, youth, LGBTQI+ communities, and persons with disabilities. In 2024 alone, 55 political parties contested the national ballot, with 18 securing parliamentary seats, underscoring our nation's open and democratic spirit.

The ANC's submission emphasizes the importance of maintaining accountability, diversity,

and transparency in any potential reforms. As we explore options with the Electoral Systems Panel, we will continue to advocate for a system that reflects the values and aspirations of the South African people. The ANC will actively engage in this process, aligning our contributions with public feedback and democratic principles.

On Walking with the People's Walk

Today, 08 November, the ANC hosted the Walking with the People's Walk in Tshwane, uniting and mobilizing citizens around a people-centered agenda. With an expected participation of thousands of masses, the walk aims to reinforce the people's mandate for transformative policies that prioritize service delivery, economic transformation, and tangible benefits for the people. The walk reflects our commitment to engaging with communities directly, ensuring their voices continue to guide our efforts.

The ANC recognizes that our legitimacy is grounded in the trust and confidence of the people. This walk is a demonstration of our solidarity and resolve to address community concerns with accountability and dedication.

Together, we advance our shared vision for an inclusive, prosperous South Africa.

On the South African Communist Party (SACP)

The ANC acknowledges the concerns raised by the South African Communist Party (SACP) and reaffirms the value of our longstanding alliance within the Tripartite Alliance. However, we have noted the recent public statements by SACP General Secretary Comrade Solly Mapaila, which appear to challenge ANC leadership and particularly target President Cyril Ramaphosa. While the ANC respects the SACP as a key ally, we believe that differences within the alliance should be managed internally with the appropriate decorum, honouring our shared history and revolutionary principles.

The ANC-SACP alliance is rooted in a mutual commitment to the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) and a free, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa. We remain committed to addressing differences constructively, following the example set by revolutionary leaders such as Cde Chris Hani, who valued unity and strategic compromise in advancing the people's interests.

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The ANC will meet with SACP leadership to clarify whether recent statements reflect the official stance of the SACP or personal views.

On Helen Zille

The African National Congress (ANC) categorically rejects the baseless claims by Helen Zille regarding their alleged role in shaping South Africa's Government of National Unity (GNU). We view these claims as not only false but deliberately misleading, aiming to distort historical facts and elevate her importance in national matters where she lacks any foundational relevance.

Zille's repeated urge to interference in the internal affairs of the ANC and her ongoing public attacks on President Cyril Ramaphosa expose a shameless bid for power and influence – one she has neither earned nor will attain through such reckless posturing. We see through these calculated attempts to undermine the ANC's leadership. It is clear that Zille and her party seek only to weaken the ANC from within, hoping to gain what they cannot secure at the ballot box.

As the ANC, we don't need any external figures to "prop up" our President. Our internal unity and the resolve of our members is testament to the mandate we have been entrusted with by the South African electorate. We stand as the legitimate representatives of our people, continuously renewing and strengthening our movement to uphold the will of the people.

DA's claims of "introducing" public-private partnerships to South Africa are nothing short of ludicrous. The ANC-led government

has long pioneered cooperative projects that have led to significant milestones, such as the successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the development of the Gautrain, all achieved through effective planning and coordination under ANC leadership. To suggest otherwise is a transparent attempt to hijack the legacy of ANC-led governance for her party's political gain.

In her remarks, Zille exposes her agenda: to push herself into a position of undue influence within the GNU while undermining the ANC's foundational role. These divisive narrative lacks both historical truth and relevance to our current transformation efforts. Her intent is clear—to delegitimize the ANC's leadership and derail the transformative projects that are central to our National Democratic Revolution. However, these tactics will not deter us.

The ANC remains resolute in delivering on its commitments, including the National Health Insurance (NHI) rollout, strengthening social cohesion through the BELA Act, and attracting investments to build a thriving economy for all South Africans.

Zille attempts to portray herself as influential in our country's future, the reality is that, South Af-

ricans have repeatedly chosen the ANC to lead, a mandate reaffirmed through democratic processes. Zille's conduct is a vivid reminder of her own deep-seated racial biases and a divisive agenda that attempts to exploit identity politics rather than foster genuine unity. From orchestrated marches to the Voortrekker Monument to openly exclusionary rhetoric, the Zille's pattern of behaviour speaks volumes about her intentions and underlying values.

As the ANC, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve all South Africans with policies that address our country's real, structural challenges. Zille's opportunism and identity-based divisions are a dangerous diversion, one that undermines the very fabric of our democracy and perpetuates the inequalities we are determined to eliminate. South Africans entrusted the ANC with a mandate to lead the GNU, and we will fulfill this responsibility with integrity.

We reaffirm our commitment to building a South Africa that is inclusive, progressive, and reflective of our democratic ideals. The ANC will continue to drive forward the transformation agenda, heedless of the Zille hollow rhetoric and relentless in its dedication to the prosperity and unity of all South Africans.



TACKLING THE CONSTRUCTION MAFIAS WITHIN THE WATER SECTOR

■ By **PEMMY MAJODINA**

CURRENTLY, South Africa across the broad spectrum of society is witnessing a dramatic expansion of the construction mafias which are posing an existential threat especially to its democratic institutions, economy and people.

The construction mafias are preying on critical services on a large scale specifically on the transport, energy, water, communication and fuel sectors, eroding the state capacity to deliver on its strategic mandate of creating a united, non-racial and non-sexist country and of securing the country's prosperity to benefit the lives of millions of South Africans.

In all these sectors, the construction mafias' modus operandi is largely similar. They act as extortion and protection fee syndicates which hold construction companies to ransom demanding 30% cuts.

These construction mafias have been a terrible nightmare for construction companies which want to finish their projects. As such, communities are daily experiencing the heavily armed murderous



and extortion gangs, paralysing infrastructure projects worth millions of rands, forcing businesses to pay protection fees and bringing many of them to their knees.

The South African water and sanitation sector, especially its multi-billion rand infrastructure is heavily affected by being destabilised and held at ransom by the construction mafias. The infrastructure projects are suffering from sustained and organised theft and distraction on a large scale and interruptions are happening across water related and sanitation projects especially at

local level.

This includes extortion and Kidnapping for Ransom or Extortion (KRE) which has been increasing in recent years. These criminal acts undermine the rule of law and challenge the role of the state as provider of security. They also impact on economic growth and investment.

Since 1994, the democratic government has built 18 new dams while there are 15 major national water resource infrastructure water and sanitation related projects valued at more than R100 billion

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which are in different stages of implementation. These include the projects which are implemented by the Water Boards and those of the municipalities which are financed through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

Many of these construction projects are disrupted and delayed by the construction mafias which are mostly heavily armed, causing water supply disruptions in communities. There is also an increasing problem of water theft, where sometimes these extortionists make illegal connections to the pipelines or water distribution systems and then sell water to communities.

While our township economy, fuelled by the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of our communities, has long been a vital part of our nation's economic fabric, it is unfortunate that the threat posed by extortion and protection fee syndicates disrupts the peace and security necessary for such economy to thrive.

Businesses, especially small enterprises, are hit hard by the financial losses caused by extortion, leading to reduced investments, stifling growth, and in some cases, complete closure or inability to complete water projects. This in turn, leads to job losses and reduced economic activity within our communities.

It is essential to understand that extortion as perpetuated by the construction mafias is not just a financial problem. It is a social problem that affects the very fabric of our communities. It creates a climate of fear and insecurity, which can have far-reaching con-



sequences beyond the immediate financial losses.

In this regard, people may be reluctant to start new construction businesses or invest in existing ones, knowing that they may become targets for extortion. This can stifle entrepreneurship and innovation and prevent communities from reaching their full potential.

Furthermore, extortion can also have a negative impact on the reputation of our communities and our country as a whole. It can deter potential investors and tourists and create an image of lawlessness and instability. This can have long-term consequences for the country's economic growth and development.

While our township economy is facing several challenges such as lack of access to capital, inadequate infrastructure and skills gaps, there are also numerous opportunities for growth and development. By leveraging the talent and creativity within our communities, we can foster innovation and create sustainable livelihoods.

Supporting township entrepreneurship is crucial to our eco-

nomical growth and dismantle the construction mafias. Initiatives that provide access to capital, training programmes, and mentorship opportunities are essential for the water and sanitation construction sector. It is vital to create a supportive ecosystem that not only nurtures the growth of small businesses in this sector but also enables them to thrive and compete on a larger scale.

Revising procurement processes to prioritize and support local enterprises is another way to support our local companies in order to address extortion by construction mafias. This will help them to have access to business opportunities within the sector and can contribute to job creation and economic growth within the townships.

Our approach to township socio-economic development must therefore be comprehensive and holistic, encompassing not only economic aspects but also social and infrastructural development.

Collaborative partnerships between the government, private sector, and community organizations are necessary to drive sustainable development and help communities.

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In addition to these measures, the Government of National Unity is working hard to bring an end to the scourge of extortion syndicates, the construction mafia and associated criminality.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) has deployed extra capacity to various provinces to clamp down on extortionists and gangs. Operatives from the National Intervention Unit and Crime Intelligence Officers have also been deployed in the affected areas.

There is also a multidisciplinary team working to prevent, combat, investigate and arrest those who are behind incidents of gang violence and extortion. It must be understood that fighting crime is a shared responsibility between the police, the community and the business sector, working together to stamp it out wherever it resides.

Through **Operation Shanyela**, the SAPS has been playing a critical role in decreasing the scourge of extortion and protection fee syndicates. This operation is a testament to the government's dedication to creating a safe and secure environment for our communities and businesses.

The government has emphasised its commitment to cracking down on the construction mafia and

other gangs involved in the extortion of businesses across the country, warning those that are involved in such activities that they will be held accountable for their actions. To this end, 20 economic infrastructure task teams have been established throughout the country with 18 at district and two at provincial levels, consisting of 946 experienced personnel. Special focus must be dedicated to the water and sanitation sector for this purpose.

The Task Teams have made significant progress in combating extortion and other crimes. More than 4,000 arrests have been made related to damage to essential and critical infrastructure since they were established in June 2022. The Task Teams have also arrested 70 suspects for extortion at construction sites, and 3,000 for illegal mining, and for confiscated copper, rail tracks, and other water related materials.

Furthermore, the government has acknowledged the need for more resources to make the Task Teams to be more effective especially when construction mafias are morphing into gangs. This emphasises the need for continued support and resources to reinforce the Task Teams.

To discourage extortion as a

business venture, strong law enforcement and judicial responses are crucial. Investing in community awareness programmes that educate the communities about the negative impacts of extortion and protection fee syndicates is essential. Additionally, there is a need to encourage community cooperation and reporting of extortion activities to relevant authorities.

It is quite obvious that combating extortion and protection fee syndicates requires a collective effort from all stakeholders – the government, the private sector, and our communities. Through our combined efforts, we can overcome these construction mafia challenges and continue to grow and thrive.

Condemning these disruptions and subsequent extortions linked with to these syndicates and construction mafias is not enough. We need to work together to build a future of peace, security and prosperity for all.

It is important that the society must speak with one voice in condemning site disruptions and extortions. It is even more important that we should act together to root out these illegal practices which are dragging away investments in the South African construction and property sector.

Apportioning blame, pointing fingers and playing politics over such a sensitive matter will not eradicate it. The time is now that our hands are on deck and that we do everything within our power to deal with it.

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



The privatisation of SOEs is not the answer to their poor performance

■ By **LEBOGANG MAILE**

OVER the past five years, the national government has spent hundreds of billions of Rands bailing out struggling SOEs. The scale of the bailouts is astronomical. Consider that over the past five years alone, nearly R300 billion has been invested in bailing out Eskom, Denel, Transnet, the South African Post Office and South African Airways. During this period, with scores of SOEs receiving bailouts, only one – SAFCOL – has declared a R1 million dividend to the government shareholder. As things stand, most if not all the SOEs that have been receiving bailouts will be needing more bailouts to stay afloat.

Rather than stabilise SOEs as hoped for, the concurrent bailouts have contributed to the steady deterioration of the financial and operational performance of major SOEs. At the heart of the problem is inefficient corporate governance, obsolete business models and crippling cost structures. Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana has stated that the daily operations of SOEs have grown reliant on fiscal intervention from the government, acknowledging



that the performance of SOEs, development finance institutions and social security funds is broadly negative. There is no debate that the state of SOEs leaves much to be desired, and that simply pumping more money into them without dealing with the governance issues that are the root of the problem will yield the same negative results.

The national government's intervention has been to establish a

new state holding company that will centralise the operations of the country's commercial SOEs. While this move has been welcomed by some, it has also received a lot of criticism, with many arguing that a state-centric approach to resolving the SOE crisis is doomed to fail. It has been argued that privatising SOEs rather than bailing them out would resolve the problem. This argument for privatisation goes against global practice

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when it comes to vital SOEs. In fact, in developed countries, the approach is to commercialise SOEs and provide support to them as a result of the recognition that they are an important instrument for economic and social development. This same principle has been applied to even private companies that are deemed to have strategic value to national and regional economies.

In 2008, the world faced a devastating economic recession that was precipitated by the subprime mortgage crisis in the United States of America. The crisis led to a severe global economic recession, with millions losing their jobs and many businesses going bankrupt. The US government intervened with a series of measures to stabilise the financial system. One of the key interventions was the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), wherein the government purchased toxic assets and equity from financial institutions to strengthen its financial sector.

Toxic assets are financial assets that have fallen in value significantly and for which there is no longer a functioning market. Such assets cannot be sold at a price satisfactory to the holder. The TARP cost the US government US\$426.4 billion.

For many people, and certainly for ordinary Americans and human rights activists, this move was deemed problematic as it was essentially a bailout for the same financial institutions that had created the mortgage crisis by facilitating subprime high-risk mortgages to individuals and entities that could not repay them, inevitably leading to unprecedented numbers of borrowers missing mortgage repayments

and becoming delinquent. The dominant story in the 2008 financial crisis is that of millions of job losses, foreclosures on hundreds of thousands of properties and the bankruptcy of many businesses. Across the pond in Europe, social unrest took place in countries such as Greece and Iceland, which had been devastated by the recession.

But there is another story that is not told, and it is that the US government's intervention in rescuing the financial system by bailing out banks did register some significant successes. The TARP programme officially ended on the 19th of December 2014 when the US Treasury sold its remaining holdings of a financial asset – Ally Financial. The US government booked US\$15.3 billion in profit as it earned US\$441.7 on the US\$426.4 billion that it had invested. This profit enabled the country to reinvest in infrastructure development and importantly, job creation.

In 2008, the unemployment rate in the US stood at almost 10 percent. Today, the country has an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. Furthermore, it doubled its gross domestic product from US\$14.76 billion in 2008 to an expected US\$27.78 billion by the end of 2024.

The example of how the US government bailed out financial institutions during the 2008 global recession must be studied in its fullness. SOEs are an important instrument of socio-economic development in South Africa, especially given our country's history.

The state is an instrument for inclusive economic growth and development, and in a country where the majority has historical-

ly been hurled at the margins of economic participation, the state is the only instrument that can even-out the playing fields and facilitate much-needed transformation through these SOEs. Privatising SOEs is an extreme solution to a problem that can be resolved. Furthermore, the private sector's objective of profit maximisation does not align with the constitutional objective and mandate of redress for a historically disenfranchised people.

There are various mechanisms that should be explored to strengthen SOEs in our country and make them viable. The establishment of a state holding company to supervise the management of SOEs and coordinate policy strategies is one. It is necessary to conduct a comprehensive review of SOEs across all spheres of government and specify the conditions under which the state is to use SOEs.

The National Treasury and Provincial Treasuries must rationalise government departments, entities and programmes. The National Treasury estimates that the government could achieve a potential saving of R27 billion in the medium term if it deals with overlapping mandates, closes ineffective programmes and consolidates SOEs where appropriate. Another intervention is the establishment of an independent and transparent process for appointing boards and executives. This is crucial for strengthening governance in SOEs, which is one of the key challenges that they are facing.

Lebogang Maile is the Gauteng MEC of Finance and Economic Development and a member of the ANC Provincial Executive Committee.

Helen Zille's Claims and the DA's Game in the GNU:

A Distraction or a Strategy?

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

TWICE in recent days, Helen Zille has alleged that the ANC's insistence on managing the international relations portfolio in the cabinet was a ploy to "pay back" Iran for financial support, and she has claimed that the DA was pressured by business interests to join the Government of National Unity (GNU) as a way to shield President Ramaphosa. At first glance, it's easy to dismiss these as yet another of the DA's theatrical stunts to assert its influence in the GNU – or even as an attempt to destabilize it from within. Yet, a closer look reveals a more strategic approach by the DA, as none of these claims bear any truth. In fact, at this point, the DA arguably needs the GNU more than the GNU needs the DA.



Consider the practicalities: the DA is well aware that any departure from the GNU would be risky, as other parties would eagerly fill its seat. The DA, despite its frequent criticisms, knows that being within the GNU grants it a certain level of influence it wouldn't have outside it. So, why this public display of alleged grievances and pointed accusations?

The answer lies in understanding

the DA's strategic goals. The DA stands to benefit if it can sow instability within the ANC. Its repeated messaging on sensitive topics, regardless of factual accuracy, appears to be an effort to keep the ANC on its back foot, particularly with the 2026 local government elections approaching. The DA's biggest fear, and the fear of its allies in sections of the media and NGOs, is the prospect of a stable, united ANC heading into

the next election cycle. History has shown that internal division is the ANC's Achilles heel, the very factor that has eroded public trust in recent years. But a cohesive and focused ANC remains a formidable political force – one the DA cannot afford to contend with unchallenged.

Hence, the DA's tactic appears to be a concerted effort to keep divisive issues circulating in the

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news, issues that could sow confusion within the ANC if accepted at face value. By bringing up topics like alleged “paybacks” to Iran or insinuating that corporate interests are manipulating the GNU to protect certain leaders, Zille seeks to inject doubt into the minds of ANC members and the public alike.

But why target the ANC’s internal unity? The DA understands that its electoral fortunes improve when the ANC appears divided and distracted. The DA has learned that direct confrontation with the ANC doesn’t necessarily yield results, as the ANC’s broad base and historical legitimacy in South Africa make it difficult for any opposition party to directly dislodge it. Instead, the DA’s strategy is to weaken the ANC from within by exploiting its vulnerabilities, using the news cycle to amplify minor issues into perceived major crises.

It’s crucial, therefore, for members and supporters of the ANC to critically evaluate these statements from Zille and other DA representatives. Every inflammatory claim or sensationalized story should be taken with a degree of skepticism. The ANC must stay focused on the tasks at hand, avoiding distractions that serve only to undermine its unity

and, ultimately, its public image.


This approach by the DA is nothing new, but it is especially potent during an election cycle, where perceptions can easily become reality in the minds of voters. Zille’s statements are carefully crafted not only to stir controversy but to make headlines, adding fuel to an already complex political landscape. The ANC, however, has a responsibility to remain

vigilant, recognizing these tactics for what they are: strategic maneuvers meant to destabilize.

Ultimately, the ANC’s path forward must be guided by a clear understanding of its own goals and values, rather than being swayed by external noise. Staying united and focused on serving the people remains the best response to these attempts at distraction.

Let us remember that our mandate is to continue the work of rebuilding trust, demonstrating unity, and addressing the pressing issues facing South Africans today.

By keeping our eyes on the ball and resisting unnecessary distractions, the ANC can rise above these attempts at manipulation and continue to earn the trust of the people as we move forward.



FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE PROVISION

BELA ACT

The Act stipulates that if a school has a single language of instruction and an additional language is needed, discussions will be held to address this barrier to access.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

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ANC



Misinterpreting Non-Alignment: South Africa's Firm Stance Against Geopolitical Bias?

■ By **CHRISPIN PHIRI**

AS Kwame Nkrumah once said, “*We face neither East nor West; We face forward.*” This sentiment not only encapsulates but also reaffirms South Africa’s unwavering commitment to non-alignment, a central tenet of our national foreign policy. This commitment is a testament to our independence and our dedication to making decisions that serve our national interests, that of the Continent and the wider developing world.

Non-alignment is a strategic approach to navigating the polar-

ties and complexities of international relations, and to this day, the Non-Alignment movement’s Heads of State and Government Summit’s Durban Declaration of 1998 remains instructive. For a country grappling with high rates of inequality, poverty, and unemployment, it is crucial not to pin its interests solely on one side of the geopolitical spectrum.

South Africa’s foreign relations cannot be understood without considering its historical context. The continent’s history of colonisation and imperialism has naturally influenced the new societ-

ies constructed post-liberation. The approach of determining our own future has its roots at the Asian-African Conference held in Bandung in 1955 by newly independent Asian and African states who decided to form the Non-Aligned Movement to advance our own interest, independent to that of the major powers.

South Africa’s historical ties with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which included Ukraine, and the German Democratic Republic (“East Germany”), are part of this context, and recognising and honouring these ties does

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not imply an anti-Western stance. Our struggle enjoyed the solidarity of peace loving people in the world, both in the East and the West.

As a matter of fact the anti apartheid movement was the biggest solidarity movement in human history and it comprised of people from all corners of the world irrespective of whether their governments supported the anti-Apartheid movement or not (as is being seen today). In many Western countries, it is the people rather than their governments which support the rights of marginalised, colonised and occupied people)

The South African government has made its position clear in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Our progressive internationalism outlook necessitates an approach framed on the peaceful resolution of conflict in a world on the brink of a polycrisis. It also requires us to look beyond the historical fact that some Western countries supported the apartheid regime in the interest of developing our nation.

South Africa, with its historic ties and ongoing strong bilateral relations with both Russia and Ukraine, has used these connections to advance an anti-war, pro-peace proposition. Post-Apartheid South Africa has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution of conflict. This stance has at its roots, the call in the Freedom Charter that *“South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation – not war”*.

The country’s participation in the Ukraine Peace Formula and the recently formed Group of Friends



at the UN General Assembly in New York reflects its commitment to peace. These initiatives resonate with the intention of the African Peace Initiative. One element that African Leaders committed to in the African Peace Initiative was addressing humanitarian issues, including releasing prisoners on both sides and returning children. In this context, South Africa has agreed to work with Qatar and the Holy See to engage with both parties to the conflict regarding the return of children. We will continue to seek avenues and partner with those that aim to end the war peacefully and ease the humanitarian situation.

The multifaceted landscape of international relations regularly sees the dichotomy of non-alignment and neutrality, with each embodying distinct philosophical and practical implications. With the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement, non-alignment emerged as a significant doctrine during the Cold War. The term “non-alignment” denotes a proactive strategy in which a group

of countries decide not to align with any major power groups, be they Western or Eastern. Instead of conforming, they strive to pursue their interests and actively establish their position in the global arena, reassuring the world of their active role in shaping the global order.

This proactive stance ensures that countries that are Non-Aligned are not mere spectators but active participants in shaping the global order by advancing the principles of the Movement. In contrast, neutrality represents a policy characterised by abstaining from involvement in international conflicts and maintaining a stance of impartiality that does not favour any participant, regardless of the circumstances at play. Neutrality, in essence, can often be perceived as a passive approach to global affairs, where nations sidestep the complexities of international confrontations to preserve their internal tranquillity. It is important to understand these distinct approaches to foreign policy to appreciate the nuances of global affairs.

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Grasping the crucial disparity between these two paradigms is vital for comprehending their implications for diplomacy. Non-alignment is about decision-making that reflects a nation's aspirations and objectives. It empowers countries to navigate the intricate and often conflicting interests that characterise international politics, free from the entanglements associated with dominant power narratives.

In contemporary geopolitics, where power dynamics are evolving, non-alignment offers a framework that upholds the principle of state sovereignty while promoting collaborative partnerships built on equality and mutual benefit. Non-alignment encourages principled and proactive engagement to establish an equitable global order. This approach becomes increasingly vital as the world faces unprecedented challenges where often geo-political divergences are resulting in a zero-sum game.

When envisioning the future of global diplomacy, non-alignment emerges as a rational strategy for nations striving to fulfil their constitutional obligations while preserving their agency in an intertwined world.

To assert that non-alignment equates to neutrality, one must examine the ten principles in Bandung and demonstrate how these principles, which include respect for fundamental human rights and nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity, reflect a progressive and active stance. Interestingly, one can draw connections between these principles and South Africa's constitutional framework and liberation history. This connection underscores South Africa's commit-

ment to South-South solidarity and steadfast opposition to colonialism while advancing North-South partnership.

In a global context marked by increasing insecurity and the military expansion of various superpowers, overlooking the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty is perilous. We have advanced these principles in multilateral fora, including at the United Nations, and directly to President Zelensky and President Putin.

Inaction is unacceptable when new and old forms of colonisation undermine the right to self-determination of Palestinians and the Sahrawis. The principle of non-alignment fosters cooperation, engagement, and vigorous diplomacy. A non-aligned position respects a nation's territorial integrity and political indepen-



dence. South Africa has consistently called for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, reinforcing the idea that every nation's right to choose its path is paramount. The issue of Palestine should be analysed through the appropriate historical framework established by non-alignment principles. This perspective is part of the larger effort to dismantle colonialism, oppression, and occupation in the Palestinian territories, emphasising the critical role that the United Nations must play in these struggles.

Ultimately, it is crucial to acknowledge that non-alignment and neutrality are two distinct poles in international relations. Understanding these differences will help foreign policy writers interpret South Africa's policy more accurately. In simple terms, non-alignment helps our foreign policy navigate the complexities of global diplomacy whilst striving to create a more just and equitable world order where all nations can thrive unencumbered by outdated paradigms of power. The alternative to non-alignment is pandering to superpowers, thus sacrificing our sovereignty. To paraphrase former President of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement, South Africa will not be *"the plaything of others."*

However, it is shocking that even prolific foreign policy voices, such as Peter Fabricius, Ray Hartley, and Greg Mills, often misinterpret South Africa's non-alignment as mere neutrality. Their latest opinion piece goes further, asserting that South Africa's foreign policy is not just non-aligned but misaligned with the country's Constitution. This misinterpretation does a disservice to the com-

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plexity and nuance of our foreign policy.

Hartley and Mills are affiliated with the Brenthurst Foundation, which lends significant credibility to their work. Articles from the foundation often appear in the Daily Maverick, cross-referencing each other. The foundation boasts an impressive roster of advisory board members and associates, including former presidents and high-ranking officials from various countries. This association undoubtedly enhances the perceived authority of their opinions. Naturally, it raises the question of whether these luminaries align with the narratives that Hartley and Mills present in the name of the Brenthurst Foundation.

In conclusion, while Hartley and Mills' contributions to the debate on South Africa's foreign policy, backed by the Brenthurst foundation, carry an aura of credibility, it is imperative to approach their claims with a critical mindset.

The interplay between non-alignment, our national interest, and the country's constitutional and democratic principles requires a nuanced understanding beyond surface-level analysis.

P.S. In their latest column, Hartley and Mills make a fleeting comment about a Russia Today microphone being in the room when Minister Lamola met his Ukrainian counterpart. Freedom of the Press applies to all, not just the ones we like. Does that not align with our Constitution?

Chrispin Phiri is an ANC Activist who serves as the Spokesperson for the Minister of International Relations and Co-Operation.

30 Years OF FREEDOM THE SOUTH AFRICAN STORY

TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA

- Renowned Constitution and Stable Democracy** (Icon: Scales of justice)
- Beacon of Hope and Reconciliation** (Icon: Handshake)
- Champion of Human Rights Globally** (Icon: Hand holding scales)
- Gateway to Africa** (Icon: Hand holding a key)
- Tourist Destination** (Icon: Map with location pin)
- Attractive Investment Destination** (Icon: Money bag)
- Resilient Economy** (Icon: Hand holding a coin)
- Vehicle Manufacturing Hub** (Icon: Car with key)
- Equal and Free Education** (Icon: Open book)
- Advanced financial services and banking sector** (Icon: Bank building)

Source: Business Media Mags. A progressive Constitution... Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: International Institute for Management Development. South Africa remain... Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: Mail & Guardian: Inran Khalid. South Africa emerges... 2024/01/15 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: Moneyweb: Chrissy Botha. 10 reasons to invest... 2023/05/16 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: The Telegraph: Pippa de Bruyn. What makes South Africa... 2023/07/16 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: Moneyweb: Akhona Matshoba. SA still an... 2023/04/25 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: Stats SA: The state of South African... Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: International Trade Administration: 2024/01/30 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: @AfricaFactsZone: Africa's Leading Medical... 2023/05/23 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Source: Moneyweb: Chrissy Botha. 10 reasons to invest... 2023/05/16 Accessed on 2024/05/27

Part One

SOUTH AFRICA: A BRIEF REFLECTION

■ By **KHAYA NGEMA**

“... the crises consist precisely in the fact that the old is dying, and the new is struggling to be born. In this interregnum, a great variety of morbid symptoms appear ...”

Antonio Gramsci

WE need to reflect on the state of our movement, our state, our economy, and our society at this moment when too many things are happening, so that what we do next is thought-through, is evidence-based, and is intentional. There is no reason why South Africa cannot, like Singapore, China, Japan, South Korea, etc, aspire to have the human and economic development levels normally associated with so-called ‘First World’ countries, starting in this generation.

The Movement

The national democratic movement, led by the African National Congress, has a glorious history that once earned it the envy and respect of progressives and the



oppressed across the globe. Its ideas, its leaders, its conduct, and its achievements were admired across the world. However, this movement has gone through a dramatic decline.

Problematic organisational choices, in a context of decades of continuous government incumbency in much of the country, have drastically diminished this once glorious movement.

An almost complete neglect of its cadre development or activist talent pipeline was one of the first errors. As the movement

integrated its various elements from the different arenas of struggle, behaved as if it had an excess of cadres and potential leaders (many of whom were fiercely competing with each other to prove who was more **“Ready to Govern”**).

In the context where leading roles in the movement tended to create privileged access to government opportunities, and later to business opportunities, this competition morphed from being principally about ideas and values, to being about patronage and power brokering.

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The character and dynamics of this movement was changing much faster than its constitution, its organisational design and its governance processes and capabilities were capable of managing.

Given the centrality of governance and developmental challenges at the time, there was an almost complete neglect of the issue how the character of the organisation was evolving. Like the Bolsheviks in an earlier era, the Secretaries of the organisation at all levels inherited control and responsibility of this organisation almost by accident, with all other office-bearers focused elsewhere.

Another almost accidental development was how the movement financed its activities. Instead of learning from the then existing mass movements, some of which were trade unions, on how to finance its activities, the emerging political organisation did not make the choice to be financed by its own membership, which the unions had proven was possible. Membership systems and membership fees were not configured according to affordability, and a very minimal amount (R12) was set across. Efficiency of collecting even these fees was not good, and no robust rules, governance processes and oversight for fundraising were put in place. At the beginning the consciousness and selflessness of the cadres in leading roles masked this weakness. This did not last too long. Thus, the flow of money between the party and business was never properly thought-through, regulated and governed from the beginning. Given its leading role in government, and the hostility of the predominantly white business



community to the newly installed ruling party, there was always going to be a temptation at some levels to try and monetise this influence for the benefit of party activities, despite the discipline that was shown by the higher levels of the party for some time. And once that happened, there was always going to be the risk that these 'wink-wink'/'hush-hush' flows between the party and business would be taken over by the individuals assigned to manage the processes. Once that process started, it could only get worse, and it did.

As leadership contestation in the movement grew, and at some levels became toxic, it became clear that numbers translate into power brokering. Increasingly, winning the battle of ideas within the organisation became less important, what was important was winning the battle of numbers. The ordinarily valuable function of organising, recruiting active members into the organisation, based on conviction and commitment, with a view to be an activist, increasingly became a quantitative contest (at all costs, whatever it takes 'wink-wink') for winning nominations

and elections within branches, then regions, provinces and nationally.

Despite all these developments being pointed out in many conversations, the movement took no steps to have movement-wide conversations to eradicate these processes and modernise organisational design and systems, for an extended time.

A particular casualty of this development was the non-racial character of the movement. If numbers are the principal consideration, then it is a game of majorities, why bother with minorities. In reality, open regionalist and ethnic mobilisation, once previously shunned as part of the progressive and nation-building character of the movement, became noticeable in parts of the organisation.

Another organisational design challenge of the organisation that has never been reviewed and discussed was the decision to make allowance only for one type of branch, which is a voting district ward-based branch. While this was understandable at the

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time when the movement was reconfiguring itself to engage effectively with its governance duties, it has become noticeably clear over time that this form of branch does not work well for everyone. It limits the ability of many members and potential members to take part in the political life of the movement.

Given that the movement does not only exist to take part in local government processes, it is not obvious why this form of branch has been elevated into being an exclusive one. It is not obvious, for instance, why workplace branches are not allowed, to better suit employed members and prospective members. It is not obvious why campus branches are not allowed, to better suit those in academia. It is not obvious why digital branches are not allowed to suit members that tend to be mobile, even overseas stationed members. Especially when the ability to conduct business digitally, including debates and votes, is tried-and-tested in the COVID and post-COVID era. It is unclear

why this conversation simply never happens, even though it has been flagged and highlighted since the Stellenbosch National Conference.

Incidentally, the proven ability to work digitally also raises the possibility of having all registered members, who register themselves in a voters roll ahead of conference, take part in leadership elections. There can also be party referendums of members on significant, potentially divisive, policy positions.

The State

The National Developmental Plan is specific about the need for a capable and developmental state, with good reason. Our aspirations and our path to being a dynamic and developed country requires the ability to develop a country long term developmental strategy and plan, and to execute it effectively and consistently. To achieve the developmental outcome we need, it is important that we can execute well and consistently

across electoral terms. That then requires that we do not just depend on the vision and abilities of any individual leader or leadership collective, but that we depend on institutions that are stable, competent, ethical, and professional. This must be true for national, provincial, and local layers of the state, as well for the state-owned companies, public agencies, and regulators.

The current generation of political and administrative leaders then have two equally compelling goals: firstly, to competently execute the programs and priorities of the current electoral cycle; as well as to frame and build a network of capable state institutions and companies that will underpin the implementation and further refinement of our developmental vision and priorities across the electoral cycles.

If this is the dual task of the current generation of leaders, political and administrative, it imposes a burden on those who have the responsibility to select

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN

1 ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT 		2 ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE 	
3 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY 	4 INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY 	5 GLOBAL POSITIONING 	6 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT
7 EDUCATION & TRAINING 	8 PROMOTING HEALTH 	9 SOCIAL PROTECTION 	10 SAFER COMMUNITIES
11 STRONG STATE & INSTITUTIONS 	12 FIGHTING CORRUPTION 	13 UNITING THE COUNTRY 	2030 NDP

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such leaders to ask, first and foremost, whether the pool of leaders they consider for election or appointment have what it takes to take the country forward in relation to these tasks.

Some countries have successfully undertaken this task, and we should be willing to learn from how they went about this task. The successful developmental states of Asia especially have particularly important lessons in this regard. Among the key lessons from them is to strive for merit and proven competence as far as possible in the choice of the pool of leaders that then come up for election.

This requires that members of political parties, and the electorate overall, regards the abilities of leaders to take the country forward to be the most important consideration in electing or appointing leaders into state roles. Any pool of prospective leaders, if only merit is the criterion, would inevitably reflect the ethnic, gender, regional and age composition of a given country (though circumstances and evidence may at various times require targeted interventions to rebalance the leadership pool, without undue interference with the democratic essence of the process, to correct for what evidence would have shown to be structural limitations).

Having found the right pool of leaders, it is important to move quickly to build capable and developmental public institutions.

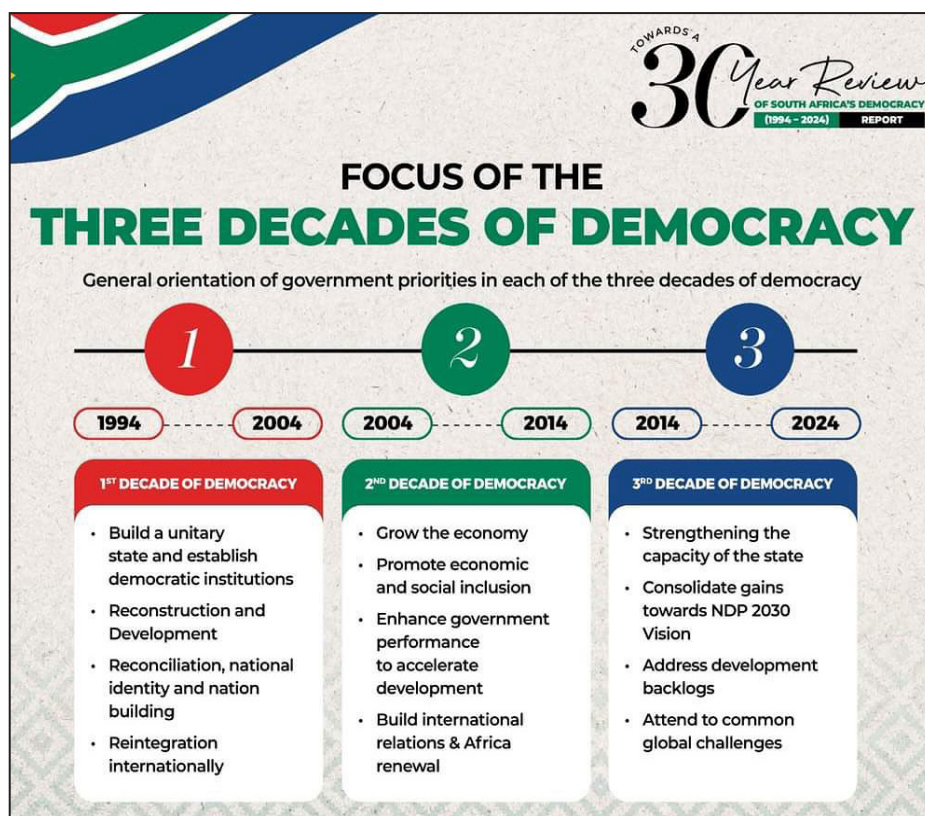
Among the priorities set by the National Development Plan for this purpose is a public service that is immersed in the developmental agenda, but insulated from undue political interference, as well as

stable, competent state-owned companies (SOCS), governed transparently and professionally to achieve their developmental, commercial competitiveness and financial sustainability mandates. The National Development Plan (NDP) requires open and competitive appointments of staff across the public services and SOCs at all levels, as per the constitution, and a proactive approach to managing the inter-governmental system to ensure all levels of government perform optimally.

Also important to the NDP is attending to the problem of corruption. Apart from improving systems to enable greater visibility of administrative actions, and effective oversight by various structures, the NDP emphasises the need for well-resourced investigative structures, as well as personal liability for political and administrative office bearers for acts of corruption. Many countries in the world have been able to

achieve the above not simply through better structures and better skills, but also through digitisation of key business processes, such as procurement of goods and services, and appointment of officials. In South Africa, the tax authority has been a remarkably successful and globally respected example of what can be achieved in this regard.

In addition to building institutions, the current state must ensure the implementation of current priority programmes that strive to diminishing, with a view to eradicating, unemployment, poverty, and inequality. To achieve such impact, we need effective and consistent execution of government programs at all levels. Most commentary by citizens indicates that the challenge is the quality and capabilities of government institutions and SOCs. Steps to stabilise and optimise the quality of public institutions and SOCs, especially those who have been



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systematically hollowed out over time, are extremely urgent.

These are essential to be restored so that essential national priorities to stabilise and optimise the energy grid, to stabilise the national logistics system for cargo and passengers, to stabilise the national water and sanitation system, to grow the national digital infrastructures, to stabilise and modernise the public health system, to stabilise and grow a quality public education system, to fight violent crime, gender based violence, and corruption, to build food security in urban and rural areas, to regulate regional/continental migration and trade, to develop and enforce bylaws in towns, townships and villages, etc can be implemented successfully.

Much of the local government system, which has the biggest cross-cutting impact in many of these national development priorities and more, is found woefully wanting, after much abuse for decades by many who had the fiduciary duty to advance and protect the system.

When a critical mass of leaders (and those with the influence or authority to choose such leaders) conspire to do the wrong thing, even the best institutions will eventually fail. Even the best constitution cannot protect us from that. Hence the saying: *“the price of freedom is eternal vigilance”*.

Part 2 will reflect on the Economy and the role of society.

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



ARE WE COMMITTED TO A COMMON VISION OF A UNITED SOUTH AFRICA?

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**

IN the run-up to the 2024 National General Elections South African President Cyril Ramaphosa signed a number of Bills into law. These laws were to revolutionize South Africa’s legal regime through the introduction of radical reforms aimed at entrenching equality, ensuring universal access, choice over language, the sanctity of education, equality in the labour market and other progressive legislation across a number of sectors ranging from health to education.

This was done by assenting a string of laws from the National Health Insurance Bill, Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill, Na-

tional Council of Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill to other laws.

Some of these pieces of legislation were met with resentment in some quarters. The timing of their signing into law was construed as an electioneering stratagem to boost the ANC’s fortunes at the polls, according to those who voiced their discontent and rejection.

As a legislative requirement, all these Bills were subjected to public consultation, debate by both houses of Parliament and ultimately their adoption and assent by the President. The onslaught

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continued unabated, a move interpreted by political pundits, experts, commentators including progressive civil society as an anti-transformation agenda.

On the 29 May 2024 the county went to the polls where there was no electoral winner. To its mastery and sage, the ANC wooed all political parties to join it in forming the Government of National Unity (GNU) based on national interest, common bond and citizenry, national unity and consensus, amongst the cardinal principles of the Statement of Intent.

All parties save for some joined in the project of nation building which culminated in the formation of the GNU. However, the cacophony became louder.

The elections were not without controversy, hurt and insults were hurled, directed at the ANC. The painful phantom that character-

ized the past was rekindled. With shame, we saw the trampling and burning of the flag of the country by one opposition party during the election campaign.

The President extended an olive branch, making an overture to seek consensus and to cement national unity by suspending clauses under contention. The President extended his hand despite the Bills having been passed by the 5th administration. Legally, this was a *fait accompli*. At the time, the Bills were law.

To the nation's shock and unsuspecting of the magnitude of discontent and revulsion against the GNU, the mood eerily enveloped the atmosphere. An obscure Koos Malan rose, castigated and lampooned President Ramaphosa on the GNU, drew a divisive wedge between the Gauteng ANC and the ANC National Executive Committee.

He attacked the NHI and BELA Acts, the GNU and our policy of non-aggression and non-alignment. Another gossip tabloid entered the arena in a failed attempt to validate Koos Malan's blatant lies. His was to paint the Gauteng ANC Chairperson as a chaff in the wheat. His strategy was to balkanize and polarize the ANC irrespective of its unitary character and the battle of ideas. Just as we digest Koos Malan, the nation woke up to the putrid colours of the yesteryear apartheid whose painful vestiges of inequality and indignity are still palpable, separating the nation on languages, colour and inequality, land and many issues that are still elusive 30 years into democracy.

In 1996, on the adoption of the Constitution and in giving effect to the Freedom Charter which is the foundational pillar of the Bill of Rights and the nature of society we envision, we declared through our preamble to:

"Heal the injustices of the past and establish a society based on the democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people where every citizen is equally protected by law."

On citizenship, the Freedom Charter reminds us that:

"...South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people."

On language it further teaches us that:

"All national groups shall have equal rights. There shall be equal status in the bodies of the state,

Rightwing march against the BELA Act.



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in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races; All people shall have equal right to use their own languages and to develop their own folk culture and customs; All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride; The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime; All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.”

Section 29(2) of the Constitution reads thus:

“Everyone has the right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions where that education is practicable...”

Section 30, read together with **Section 31** of the Constitution (1996) states that:

“Everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice...”

These injunctions are the cornerstones of the Constitution which the erstwhile oppressor, wistful of the tragic past, longing the rule of the minority over the majority, separate development, superiority of one language above the rest and secondary citizenship dismally attempted to subvert negotiations by storming CODESA, the killing of Chris Hani in 1993, the maiming of the people of Boipatong on the 17 June 1992.

As a GNU blackmail, we are reminded that our freedom is an act of charity because of the absence of outright electoral victor.

Our freedom is a feat attained through the ultimate sacrifice. Our freedom was not bequeathed to us on a silver platter. It is a product of struggle. It is for this



BELA ACT

The ANC will never support any restrictions to limit a single language against another as such actions are against the freedoms and rights in the Constitution that was established through blood and painful sacrifices of our people and this is inconsistent with the values of Oom Gov’s organisation, which opposed Vorster’s apartheid policies.



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

reason that we vowed to defend democracy, advance freedom in defence and consolidation of the gains of the democratic state.

The ANC cannot be forced into an abusive marriage all under the GNU. It cannot be a one-sided relationship, it must be reciprocal in the spirit of national unity and nation building.

Contemptuous of the Constitution and the project of nation building, disdainful of the national flag and anthem, they came out in numbers, trekked to the Voortrekker Monument as Vry Burgers, nostalgic of the ancestral Dutch gods and beginnings, scatterlings and lost in their own country, sitting and marching under the hot cooper sun. They carried the old flags, wore the apartheid paraphernalia, sung De LaRey and many offending songs which

have no place in modern South Africa.

In our context **“The People Shall Govern”** has wider meanings, and cannot be narrowed to mere voting but activism, patriotism, allegiance to the state and commitment to constitutional values. It enjoins all South Africans to participate in nation building and unity, to foster national reconciliation, to uphold the rule of law, to respect the Constitution and its symbols. All what happened at the Monument was a shameful act of incitement more the BELA Act.

The acts of the Voortrekker Monument fall outside of the inalienable right to protest and freedom of expression. It was a scarecrow that sought to sow divisions and hardened relations. This happens when the ANC strives to heal the division of the past, promote uni-

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ty, social cohesion and equality of languages, common citizenship and human dignity.

An analysis of sections (3), (7), (9), (10), 29 and (30) exposes self-suppressed bitterness that has been there since the advent of democracy in 1994. Like the Sicilian volcano, spewing lava on its destructive path, it has instilled, insidious yet naughty tensions enveloping the atmosphere, the trust that has been the umbilical cord uniting the nation has been betrayed.

The laager of the Voortrekker Monument which harboured the deep-seated anger of those who don't share in nation building broke from a cocoon out of which came hostility as witnessed at the historical monument of the Afrikaner lineage and heritage. This is the heritage recognized by the Constitution which is falsely flagged as a symbol of oppression as opposed to freedom, common citizenship, equality and patriotism.

Sadly, neither does the NHI, BELA and other acts trample upon minority rights but seek to heal the injustices of the past, ensure equity, equality, inclusivity, equal education and universal health care, transformation of the workplace and the economy.

Regrettably, it seems, the opposition and the racist minority are not contend with the GNU arrangement. To them the GNU is a sell-out without their electoral mandate, no matter how negligible.

To the ANC this is an eye-opener that as we approach future elections, we need to garner outright majority to avoid abusive marriages where those who mastered less votes than the ANC see

themselves as equal partners to the GNU. No matter how unpalatable, truth is, the GNU is not a marriage of convenience but in the best interest of the nation.

Our strategic setback is a lighthouse that would be a beacon for future elections and the future of the National Democratic Revolution.

There is no iota or evidentiary proof that the BELA Act is discriminatory. Otherwise it would have been in conflict with the supreme law of the land. This progressive law, the same with the NHI Act, promotes equality, unfettered access to education and use of language of choice.

In a unitary state such as ours and the values enshrined in the Constitution, there is no place for separate development and secondary citizenship. All what we witnessed

at the Voortrekker Monument and the ill-treatment of black members of those parties was shocking but not surprising.

Any assertion that the BELA Act and any other law is discriminatory, designed towards elimination of certain languages and racial groups is misleading, dangerous and pestilent to nation building.

This view must be dismissed as laughable, spurious and preposterous to the extreme. We are plunged into the new age of fear and polarization. We traversed this path before, including walking the most dreaded ecclesiastical shadow of the valley of death under the apartheid propaganda and lies peddled by STRATCOM.

We reaffirm, South Africa belongs to those who live in it, united in our diversity.



BELA ACT

The protest against the implementation of the BELA Act, which seeks to promote social cohesion and provide dual mediums of instruction, is emblematic of their commitment to preserving apartheid-era policy thinking





Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

Unpacking Youth Opportunities

Interview with **Nonceba Mhluli** on YFM

THE radio interview and public announcement meeting, hosted by 'Extreme' on the Morning Break show, addressed the pressing issue of youth unemployment in South Africa, highlighting that 42% of individuals aged 15-34 are neither employed nor engaged in education or training.

The discussion featured an interview with the Deputy Minister in the presidency, who outlined the goals of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, which aims to facilitate the transition from learning to earning, empower young citizens, and support entrepreneurship. Key initiatives such as the National Youth Service and workplace experience opportunities were detailed, along with strategies to enhance awareness and accessibility to these programmes, particularly in rural areas. Resources for applying to these initiatives were provided, including the SA Youth MOBI website, a dedicated toll-free number, and an invitation to attend the upcoming presidential imbizo in KwaZulu-Natal for further engagement and support.

Youth unemployment in South Africa is an urgent national crisis. R As of 2024, 42% of young people between the ages of 15 and 34 remain outside of employment, education or training. Now many more have given up



on looking for opportunities. But there is hope. There is hope. And that is why this interview is so important. In 2020, the President launched the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, designed specifically to address the South Africa youth unemployed crisis. Now the goal is very simple, to transition young people from learning to earning.

To date, more than 1.3 million opportunities have been accessed by young people, with 70% of these opportunities being accessed by young women. The revitalized National Youth Service promotes paid service communities to unemployed South Africans, mobilising them to become more active and also engage citizens while earning an income and increasing their employability. Through the National Youth

Service, 115,698 workplace experience opportunities have been facilitated and about 149,371 enterprise support opportunities were released. 68,195 paid service opportunities provided. Now these are just the beginning steps and the journey to empower young South Africans continues. You can visit www.stateofenhancement.gov.za. Now, to tell us more about this, we interviewed The Deputy Minister in The Presidency **Ms Nonceba Mhluli**.

Extreme: "Deputy Minister, can you provide more insights into the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention which is launched by the President. Now specifically, let's talk about its key objectives, strategies and the expected outcomes in addressing South Africa's youth unemployment crisis."

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Nonceba: “Yes, as you stated that this initiative was launched by the President precisely to respond to the crisis of youth unemployment, particularly ourselves as young people who are part of that youth cohort, who are acutely aware of our peers not being in employment. So, the objective is one, to transition young people from learning into earning. What does this involve? It involves providing young people with the necessary skills, training and support for them to be able to secure employment opportunities. Secondly, also to create a conducive environment for youth employment. This includes stimulating local economies, building partnerships with businesses, and that includes addressing the barriers that young people experience in terms of accessing those opportunities. And of course, to also empower young people through active citizenry.

So, beyond skills, beyond employment, also ensuring that young people get into the practice of active citizenry through community service and volunteer work. And lastly, to ensure that those young people who are even in business are supported through the various government initiatives..”

Extreme: “I love that and I love the play on words. I mean, from learning to earning, which is what we want as the youth. Let’s talk more about the youth development opportunities that are available and what role young individuals play in these initiatives.”

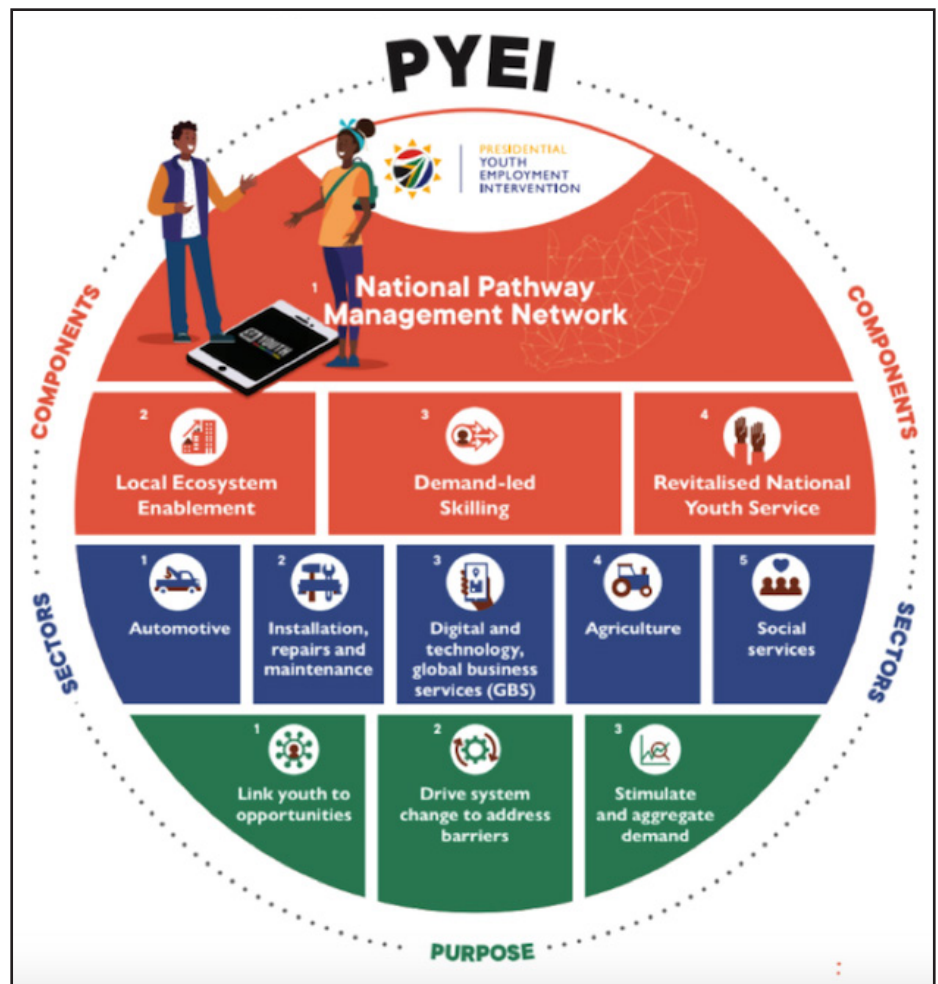
Nonceba: “Yes, so there are a couple. The first one is a programme which is called the National Pathway Management Network. This is a programme

run by the Department of Labor and Employment. If your audience want any more information about it, they can go to that website as well as the website that you quoted earlier on, which is the State of the Nation website. And what that basically does is that it connects young people to opportunities in terms of them being able to access information, as well as earning opportunities, guidance and support. We also have the Youth Employment Service, which is a private sector initiative, and also, which is one that assists young people with workplace placements, especially for training opportunities.

If, for example, you’re a graduate, you need work experience or work placement that is run by the Presidency PMO, as well as

with the Department of Education and Training. And then you also have opportunities that are under the NYDA which is your National Youth Development Agency. And there’s a programme called the National Youth Service, which looks at community service and volunteer work that young people can get involved in. This programme also ensures that it’s not just volunteer work, but also paid service opportunities. So, one can gain experience, develop your skills, but also have some level of income in that regard.”

Extreme: “Deputy Minister, considering the government’s various initiatives to empower youth, what strategies would you suggest to increase awareness and also accessibility of these programmes amongst young people?”



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DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN ACCESS HUSTLING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON SAYOUTH.MOBI?

Nonceba: “Firstly, the interview that we’re having right now is one of the strategies that we’ve employed to ensure that we speak to yourselves, particularly, platforms that particularly speak to young people, such as YFM and other platforms. Government is also engaged in a number of outreach opportunities, for an example, today, the president will be having the Presidential IM-BIZO in eThekweni and as part of the build up towards what we hope young people will come in numbers. There are also various departments that are already in eThekweni that are involved in different outreach programmes to ensure that we speak to young people about these opportunities.

You obviously have your online

platforms such as the website that you quoted, the **SA Youth Mobi** website as well, which is zero rated with the toll free number and that has all of the information. Our social media platforms, I’m sure young people, are the biggest cohort of users of social media. So, these are just some of the platforms that we’ve employed as government to ensure that we speak to our target audience which is ourselves as young people around these opportunities for them to be able to access the system.”

Extreme: *Could you walk us through the process of applying for workplace experience opportunities and also what qualifications or requirements may be considered?”*

Nonceba: “The first point would be to identify or rather to go to where these opportunities are and that would involve going to the websites that we’ve mentioned. The most relevant in this regard would be the SA Youth Mobi website. You go onto the website zero rated, there’s a toll-free number as well. There’s a link for job opportunities where you go into that link. There’s a link for entrepreneurial opportunities for those who are looking for support for their entrepreneurial projects. There’s a link for the youth programme, specifically and then there’s also a link for skills opportunities as well.

And within that there’s also a helpful resource platform where it assists you with interview tips,

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SAYouth.mobi

PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:
JOIN SAYouth.mobi

This site gives young people free access to online work-seeker support resources and free access to learning opportunities.



you know, how to search for a job, digital skills and how to hustle as well for those who want to set up their own businesses and you just go to the website and you join. Once you've joined, you log in and then you can just browse through it."

Extreme: "I mean these opportunities. Are they accessible to youth in rural areas as well? And if so, how are they being reached and supported?"

Nonceba: "Yes indeed. When we talk about these opportunities, we are largely focused on the urban youth who already are in a better position as opposed to youth in rural areas, which is why the outreach programmes are so important, which is currently the ones that I mentioned earlier on that government embarks on with the different departments and with our private sector partners. We also have mobile career centres where we set them up, which are mobile units to provide information and assistance in your remote areas that don't have per-

manent functional offices.

We obviously also partner with local organizations, your local NGOs, your local schools, community centres to facilitate these programmes as well as your online programmes as well as mentorships and coaching programmes as well."

Extreme: "Thank you very much for your time. I mean, for more information. I know my listeners are listening and they want more information on this. Where can we go?"




Nonceba: "So for all of the opportunities that are available to young people, as I said, they can go to the SA YOUTH MOBI website which is zero rated. So it's a free website. There's also a toll free number which they can call which is 0800727272 which is a toll free number for that particular website. And if they want just more information about the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative itself, they can visit *The State of The Nation* Government website which will give you updated reports in terms of what has been done and what are the plans for the future as well."

Extreme: I was actually on that website and like you're saying, they updated and it gives the most recent reports in terms of everything that you need to know as the youth.

What has been achieved since inception?

The PYEI continues to make significant progress towards achieving its targets for supporting young people and linking them to earning opportunities.

The PYEI has three overarching targets that capture how the intervention seeks to support young people on their journey to sustainable earning. This includes reaching the most vulnerable young people, particularly young women, and providing them with targeted support that helps them build their profile and earning potential.

TARGET (2020 – 2025)	ACTUAL (2020 – to date)
At least 5 million young people are engaged in the National Pathway Management Network and access services to help them grow their employability and pursue opportunities.	Over 4.5 million young people are registered and accessing opportunities in the National Pathway Management Network. 
Young people supported to access 1.5 million temporary earning opportunities including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid service opportunities.	Young people have been supported to access 1.46 million earning opportunities including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid-service opportunities. Over 70% of these opportunities have been accessed by young women . 
500 000 young people engaged in sustainable earning opportunities through workforce development programmes.	Work-in-progress. Evaluations and tracing studies have commenced. 

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9 – 15 November 2024

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

9 November 1907 Cullinan Diamond gifted to King Edward VII

The colonial government in South Africa gifted the largest rough diamond ever found to England's king as a birthday gift, and was incorporated into the Crown Jewels. The diamond was found two years before in Cullinan, South Africa on land belonging to, but seized from, the Bapedi people.

9 November 2008 Mama Africa, Miriam Makeba passes on



South African singer Miriam Makeba died at the age of 76 after a performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed 'Mama Africa', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the music industry in the 1950s, singing for the Cuban Brothers, the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959 Makeba starred in

the anti-apartheid documentary *Come Back Africa*, after which she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn, leading to her exile. When her mother died in 1960, she could not return for her funeral. In 1963 Makeba testified before the United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcaster in South Africa. Makeba lived across the world and whilst in exile, received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, yet was denied a South African passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing and acting career.

9 November 2004 Mbeki welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defense Minister Mosiua Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to

the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out on the streets to greet President Thabo Mbeki and his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.

10 November 1985 Dr JS Moroka passed on



Dr James Sebe Moroka, a medical doctor, political leader, and great-grandson of Chief Moroka I of the Barolong Boo Moroka in Thaba Nchu died in his village of Ratlou. He was an active member of the African National Congress and in 1949 became its president until 1952.

10 November 1995 Ken Saro-Wiwa is executed

Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa was a

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member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the toxic wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 10 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Lawsuits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered \$15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions.

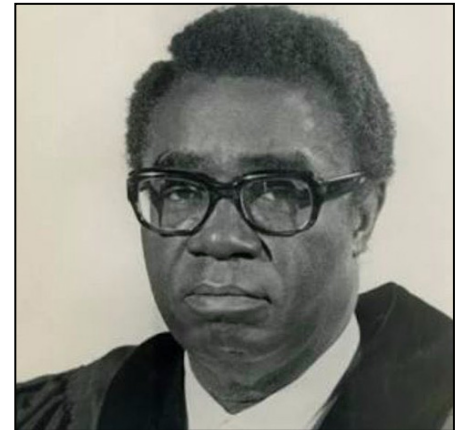
10 November 2006 Red Location Museum opens



The museum was opened in Gqeberha to the public on 10 November 2006 as a tribute to the struggle against Apartheid. It is situated in a shack settlement that is one of the oldest townships in Port Elizabeth. It was designed by the award winner Architect Joe Noero and derived its name from a series of corrugated iron barracks buildings, which were rusted a deep red colour. These were part of a Boer concentration camp in Uitenhage and moved in 1900's, to Red Location, where the first urban Black families settled. It became a site of struggle during the years of Apartheid. The Museum also comprises an Auditorium, Library, art gallery, offices, a Memorial space to commemorate the local heroes of the struggle, and an adjoining tomb where Raymond Mhlaba and Govan Mbeki, national struggle heroes and Izithwalandwe, are buried.

11 November 1914 Judge Taslim Olawale Elias born

The first African to become President of the International Court of Justice (1982–1985) was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He was Nigeria's first Attorney General and Minister of Justice after independence. In 1972, he became Chief Justice



of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1972. Through his judgements and various books published, he made an invaluable contribution to Nigerian customary law and to Africa in international legal context. Judge Elias passed on in 1991.

11 November 1933 Miriam Tlali born

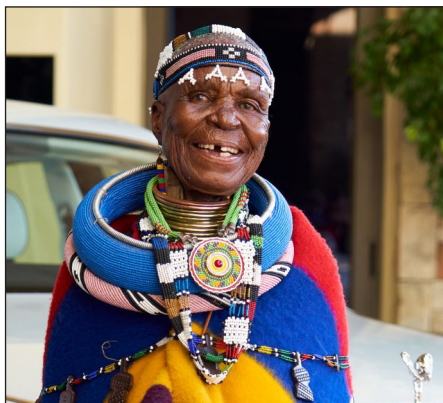


Miriam Tlali (1933–2017) was a South African novelist and the first black woman in the country to publish an English Language novel, *Muriel* at the Metropolitan (1975). She was born in Doornfontein and grew up in Sophiatown. She applied to study at the University of Witwatersrand, but was refused because she was black, and went on to study in Lesotho. She completed her first book in 1969, but only managed to publish it in 1975, and it was banned in 1979. She was co-founder of *Staffrider* magazine, and penned

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a regular column called “Soweto Speaks”. Tlali went on to lecture in the USA, where she wrote her second novel, **Amandla** (1980) about the Soweto uprising. In an interview with Barbara Boswell in 2006, “*Tlali recalled being brutally beaten in her home in Soweto by police on several occasions. During those years, she would wrap her manuscripts-in-progress in plastic shopping bags at the end of each day, and bury them in her back yard to avoid police confiscating them during raids.*” Mme Tlali passed away in 2017, after receiving many rewards for her contribution to literature and publishing.

11 November 1935 Dr Esther Mahlangu born



Dr Esther Mahlangu is a South African artist best known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings that reference her Ndebele heritage. She was born on 11 November 1935 on a farm near Middleburg in Mpumalanga. Mam Esther was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the University of Johannesburg, 9 April 2018. She painted her geometric patterns on a BMW 525i in 1991 and was invited to decorate the inside of a Rolls Royce Phantom. In 2006 Mam Esther was conferred the Order of Ikhamanga, silver class by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Today Mam Esther’s work is represented in private, corporate and public galleries around the world. Her village home in Mpumalanga is inundated with visitors from around the world, keen to explore her complex approach to wall decoration. Even at the age of 75, she is involved in sustainable development in her community and trains young women in this art of their forebears.

11 November 1956 President Edgar Lungu born



The President of Zambia, Edgar Lungu (2015-2021), an accomplished military officer prior to his presidency, was born in Ndola. He served one full term as president, before losing his re-election bid.

11 November 1975 Angola gains independence from Portugal

Angola became independent after 14 years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Soon thereafter,

a civil war broke out. The MPLA which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union and UNITA which went to war was supported by apartheid South Africa and the USA. The independence of Angola paved way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military training. For instance, the Zimbabwe African People’s Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People’s Organization (SWAPO) established bases in Angola. In 1976 the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola.

11 November 1992 Church of England Votes to allow Women to become Priests

The Synod of the Church of England on this day voted to allow women to be ordained as priests, following a trend in the Anglican Church across the world. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted for the ordainment of women priests earlier in 1992, whilst countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the US had women priests ordained since the 1970s. The first female Anglican bishop was ordained in Canada in 1994, and the first Southern African female bishop in 2012. The Church of England’s first female bishop was ordained only in 2015!

11 November 1996 Malawi Stock Exchange opens

The first national stock exchange opened in Blantyre, the industrial and commercial capital of Malawi on this day. On the first day of business, 2300 Malawians bought stocks in the first company to be

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listed, the National Insurance Company. Today, The MSE also runs two other market platforms, namely, the Alternative Capital Market (to raise capital for small and medium-sized companies at lower cost) and the Debt Market. Today, there are over 30 stock exchanges across the continent. These include three regional exchanges: the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM), based in Côte d'Ivoire; the East Africa Exchange, based in Rwanda; and the Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de l'Afrique Centrale (BVMAC) in Gabon.

11 November 2018 New bank headquarters dominates Addis skies

The new headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) was completed, with the 198 storey skyscraper now the country's highest building. The bank's history dates back to 1942, when established as the State Bank of Ethiopia, and evolved as the CBE in 1963 as a share company. It has over 37.9 million account holders and 1900 branches across the country.

11 November 2020 Magician Wian van den Berg becomes Tik Tok legend

The magician became one of the top SA Tik Tok star when his followers passed 10 million and over 200 million watching his videos (@Wianmagic). A self-taught magician, Wian was born in 1995, and grew to fame when he appeared on SA Got Talent.

12 November 1906 How Pretoria became Jacaranda City

On this day, flower and tree sup-

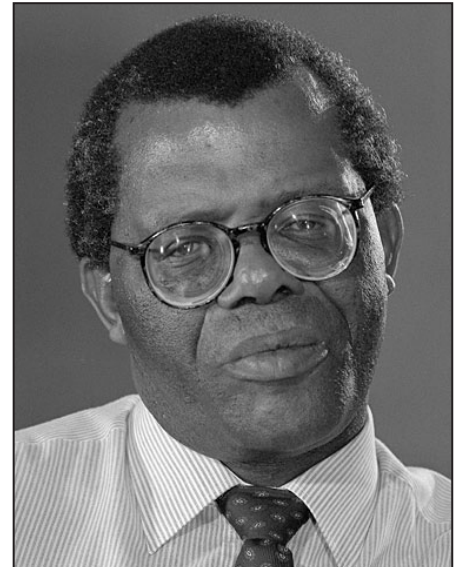
plier James Clark, who imported jacaranda seedlings from Australia and began growing them on a large scale, donated 200 tree saplings to the Pretoria City Council. They were planted and by 1971 the city had over 55,000 jacaranda trees (70,000 by 2022), hence the nickname Jacaranda City, as it turns purple when the trees bloom in October each year.

12 November 1930 Black Sash leader and activist, Molly Blackburn born



Political activist and civil rights campaigner Molly Blackburn was born in Port Elizabeth. In 1981 she started her political career by winning the Provincial Council seat of Walmer, Port Elizabeth, for the Progressive Federal Party (PFP). A year later she became involved in the advice office of the Black Sash, where she learned more about the problems that faced South Africa. The National Party (NP) regarded her as a trouble maker, for her constant questioning of police actions and the dealings of the Development Board in the upliftment of Black areas in the Port Elizabeth region. Her unselfish life of service came to an abrupt end on 28 December, 1985, when she died in a car accident.

12 November 1938 Steve Tshwete born



Steve Vukile Tshwete was born in Springs on 12 November. He spent his childhood in the village of Peelton, and later in King William's Town and East London. His parents, Vuyelwa Nolayiti and Brongher Palamente Tshwete, were workers but placed great emphasis on education and kept young Steve in school despite being poor. As he was growing up, the treason trial of the 50's dominated the headlines and was a catalyst for his consciousness and after leaving school he began working for the African National Congress (ANC). He joined the African Students Association, joined Umkhonto we Sizwe and became secretary of the regional command of the Border region MK. He was arrested in 1963 and sentenced to 15 years on Robben Island, where he earned a BA from UNISA, majoring in English and Philosophy. After his release in 1978, he worked as a teacher and during the 1980s became president of the UDF Border region. After being declared a persona non grata by the apartheid regime, Tshwete left for exile, where he became Umkhonto we Sizwe commissar. On his return to South Africa in 1990 after the un-banning of the African Na-

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tional Congress (ANC) he became its National Organiser, responsible for rebuilding the organisation's structures, and later as coordinator on sports matters. This is when he got his nickname of "Mr Fixit" for his interventions to build non-racial sporting codes. In 1994 he became the first democratic Minister of Sport and Recreation and in 1999 President Thabo Mbeki appointed Tshwete as Minister of Safety and Security. He passed away on 26 April 2002.

12 November 1967 Association of African Universities formed

The association was founded in Rabat, Morocco bringing together the heads of African universities, many formed after independence. The decision to create the AAU was taken at a meeting of Heads of African Institutions of Higher Education held for this purpose at the University of Khartoum, Sudan in September 1963. The AAU Secretariat is hosted in Ghana since 1970. With an initial membership of 34, the Association now has over 360 members, cutting across the language and other divides.

12 November 1984 Morocco leaves OAU

The Kingdom of Morocco, one of the founder members of the Organisation of African Unity, leaves the OAU in protest against the admission of the Saharawi Democratic Republic as a member, claiming Western Sahara as its territory.

12 November 2021 Storm brings scorpions to Egypt

Three people died and nearly 500 hospitalised when a freak storm

and flooding blew thousands of scorpions from the desert into Aswan. The scorpions swarmed cars and houses, injecting people with venom in panic.

13 November 1956 Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula born



Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula was born on 13 November 1956. She served as the Speaker of the National Assembly from 19 August 2021 to 3 April 2024. She was a cabinet minister from 2004 to 2021, including as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans between June 2012 and August 2021. She was an elected member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) between 2002 and 2022 and is a former president of the ANC Women's League. Raised in the Eastern Cape, Mapisa-Nqakula trained as a teacher and worked in youth development until 1984, when she left South Africa to join Umkhonto we Sizwe in exile. She returned to the country in 1990 and became a national organiser for the newly relaunched ANC Women's League; she was later its secretary-general from 1993 to 1997 under league president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. She joined the National Assembly after the April 1994 general elec-

tion and chaired Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence from 1996 to 2001.

13 November 1967 Artist Bonnie Ntshalintshali born



Bonnie Mayvee Ntshalintshali was born in Winterton, Natal. She fell into art when she apprenticed as a studio assistant for ceramics artist Fèe Halsted-Berning. Her talent in ceramics and painting soon shined through and Halsted-Berning encouraged her to pursue her own path. In many of her works, Ntshalintshali drew inspiration from her early years at mission school. She won numerous awards throughout her career, among them the Corobrik National Ceramic Award in 1988 and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 1990. Her work is represented in collections locally and overseas. Ntshalintshali died in 1999 and was buried at the farm where she was born.

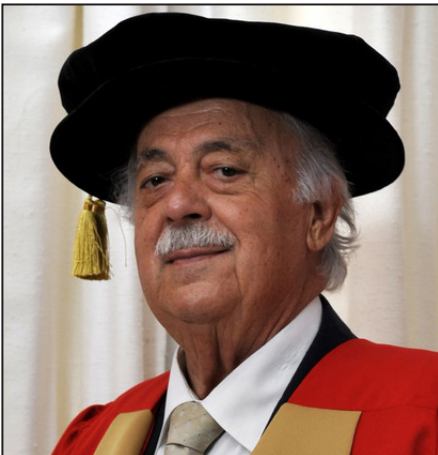
14 November 1922 Boutros Boutros Ghali UN Secretary General born

The first African elected as UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali (1922–2016) was born in Egypt on 14 November 1922. He studied International Law and International Relations,

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and was appointed as a Professor in both these fields at the University of Cairo. Ghali started his political career as a member of the Arab Socialist Union in 1974, later serving as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs before moving to the United Nations (UN). He was elected as UN Secretary General in 1992, with the 1994 Rwanda Genocide without intervention from the UN as well as the Bosnian War, taking place on his watch. He failed to win a second term as UNSG in 1996, and was succeeded by Kofi Annan in 1997

14 November 1927 Advocate George Bizos born



The Human rights lawyer and anti-apartheid campaigner, was born in Vasilitsi, Greece on this day and came to South Africa as a refugee from the Second World War in 1941. He was part of the defense team that represented Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others during the Rivonia Trial. In 1969 he acted for the defense of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and 21 others on charges of contravening the Suppression of Communism Act and Unlawful Organisations Act. Bizos became a senior member of the Johannesburg Bar in 1978. He was also a member of the National Council of Lawyers for

Human Rights, which he helped found in 1979. Bizos represented the families of anti-apartheid activists killed by the apartheid government, throughout the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Bizos became a member of the ANC's Legal and Constitutional Committee in 1990 and served as advisor to the negotiating teams and participated in drawing up the Interim Constitution. In 1994 he was appointed by President Mandela to serve on the Judicial Services Commission. Bizos was awarded with the Order for Meritorious Service Class II by then President Mandela in 1999. George Bizos passed away at home on 9 September 2020 at the age of 92 and was given a special state funeral on 17 September.

14 November 1961 Egypt launches first rocket

Egypt launches its first rocket from Al Kahir launch site. Its space programme started in the 1950s.

14 November 1962 Eritrea made an Ethiopian province

On this day in 1962, the Ethiopian parliament and Eritrean Assembly voted unanimously for the abolition of Eritrea's federal status, making Eritrea a simple province of the Ethiopian empire.

14 November 1975 Spain hands over Western Sahara

Spain gives portions of Western Sahara to Mauritania and Morocco in the Madrid Accords, as it pulls out of the territory. One month before, the International Court of Justice ruled that neither Mauritania nor Morocco

has a claim to Western Sahara, and that it is up to the Saharawi people to determine their future. The Madrid Accords were signed without the Saharawi people.

14 November 1977 Biko inquest starts



Steve Biko died on the cement floor of a cell in a Pretoria prison hospital after torture at the hands of the police. An inquest into his death was held two months later in Pretoria. His death and the inquest received worldwide coverage. Police admitted to keeping Steve Biko shackled and naked for two days, but still dismissed allegations of assault. As it would later come to light, the inquest proved to be just one big conspiracy to conceal the real cause of Biko's death, with all the witnesses and all court officials playing a part.

14 November 2006 SA Parliament approves Bill for Same-sex Marriages

On 14 November 2006, parliament approved the Civil Unions Bill, which provided for same-sex marriage, making South Africa the first African country to do so and one of only a few in the world at the time. MPs from the African National Congress were required

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to support the bill, which was passed by the National Assembly 230 to 41. The measure was opposed by almost all opposition parties except the Democratic Alliance. The DA allowed its members a free vote on the issue. The bill provided for opposite-sex and same-sex couples of 18 years or older to register a voluntary union, either by marriage or civil partnership. Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka signed the bill into law on 30 November 2006. The first couple to wed, Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls, did so in George, Western Cape, the following day, 1 December 2006.

15 November 1884 **Start of Berlin Conference that formalized Scramble for Africa**

On 15 November 1884, the Berlin Conference of Western colonial powers was convened by Germany's first chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, lasting until February 1885. It resulted in the General Act of the Berlin Conference that divided Africa amongst colonial powers, set colonial boundaries, rules for further colonization of African coastal territories, internationalised the rivers Niger and Congo, and gave King Leopold of Belgium control over the Congo. The 14 countries represented at the conference, in addition to Germany, were the Austria-Hungary Empire, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, United States of America, Italy, France, Britain/United Kingdom, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Sweden-Norway and the Ottoman Republic.

15 November 1920 **First General Assembly of the League of Nations**

The League of Nations, formed after World War I was the fore-

runner to the United Nations Organisation (UN). It was formed on 19 January 1920 with 48 member countries, including the Union of South Africa. Its first General Assembly was held on 15 November 1920.

15 November 1931 **Sculptor Lucas Sithole born**



Lucas Sithole, renowned South African sculptor, was born in KwaThema, Springs, Transvaal (now Gauteng) to a Zulu father and a Swazi mother. He created more than 800 sculptures in wood, stone liquid steel and bronze. Sithole often used to give an explanation why he made his sculptures. As one of South Africa's best known sculptors internationally, about 200 works are in collections in the Americas and Europe. Lucas Sithole passed on in 1993, but his work can be viewed on the commemoration site <http://www.sithole.com>

15 November 1988 **Barend Strydom kills 8 people in Pretoria**

On 15 November 1988, 21 year-old Barend Strydom went on a killing spree with his pistol and attempted to shoot every Black person he encountered. He killed 8 people and seriously wound-

ed 16 before he was confronted and stopped by Simon Mukondoleli, a taxi driver working in the capital. Strydom claimed to be the head of a white supremacist group called the Wit Wolwe. Upon investigation, it was found that the organisation did not exist and was a figment of Strydom's imagination. He claimed that his actions were a necessity to the survival of his tribe. An eyewitness account of the event is contained in the book, *Undercover With Mandela Spies: The story of the boy who crossed the square*, by Bradley Steyn.

15 November 1994 **RDP White Paper tabled in Parliament**

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) was the ANC's blueprint for the transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous democracy. It formed the basis of the ANC's elections Manifesto of 1994, with its credo of a Better Life for All. The White Paper on the RDP tabled in 1994 addressed the issues of transformation, but within a fiscal and monetary framework that eventually laid the basis for the GEAR. It also introduced the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC).

15 November 1996 **Vanessa Nakate born**

Ugandan environmentalist activist, founder of Youth for the Future of Africa was born in Kampala. Nakata staged protests for months across Kampala, including outside the parliament, to raise awareness of climate change and the degradation of the country's rain forests. She wrote her autobiography, *A Bigger Picture* in 2022.

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INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

9 – 15 November 2024

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

9 November

Visit an Art Museum Day

This day invites everyone to explore the fascinating world of art by visiting museums. Whether you're a seasoned art lover or just curious, it's a perfect opportunity to experience the diversity and beauty of art collections near and far. Museums across the globe participate, offering a unique glimpse into both historical and contemporary works.

10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development



World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. **The link between science and peace is particularly important in current uncertain times, when artificial intelligence and other technologies are used on a mass scale to kill and maim, instead of directed towards solving the key challenges of humanity and our planet.**

10 November

International Accounting Day

The history of accounting as a recognised profession goes back thousands of years. Modern day accounting is credited to 15th century thinker and

mathematician Luca Pacioli, who introduced the double-entry method of accounting, for traders to keep track of incoming and outgoing revenue and stock. As time progressed into the industrial revolution, it became evermore necessary to hire teams of professional accountants to manage large sums effectively and oversee a company's finance. Accountancy today is a global profession, used in small and large enterprises, and by individuals, to manage finances.

12 November

African Universities Day

The day celebrates the founding of the African Association of Universities in 1967, highlighting the contributions of the higher education sector to the development of the African continent.

13 November

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting and celebrating acts of kindness. This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world

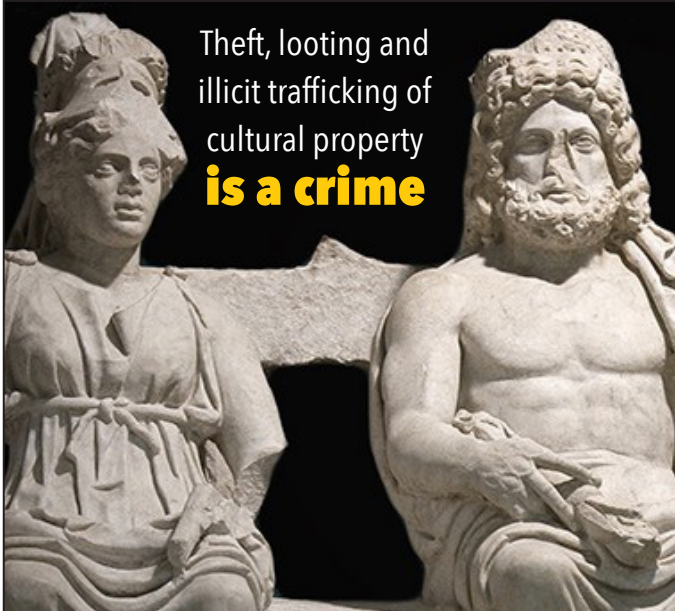


at large. It encourages people to perform intentional acts of kindness and foster a culture of compassion and generosity. World Kindness Day is observed on November 13th each year. It is an annual event that encourages individuals to practice kindness in their daily lives. It highlights the importance of empathy, understanding, and cooperation to create a more harmonious and caring world.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

14 November

International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural objects

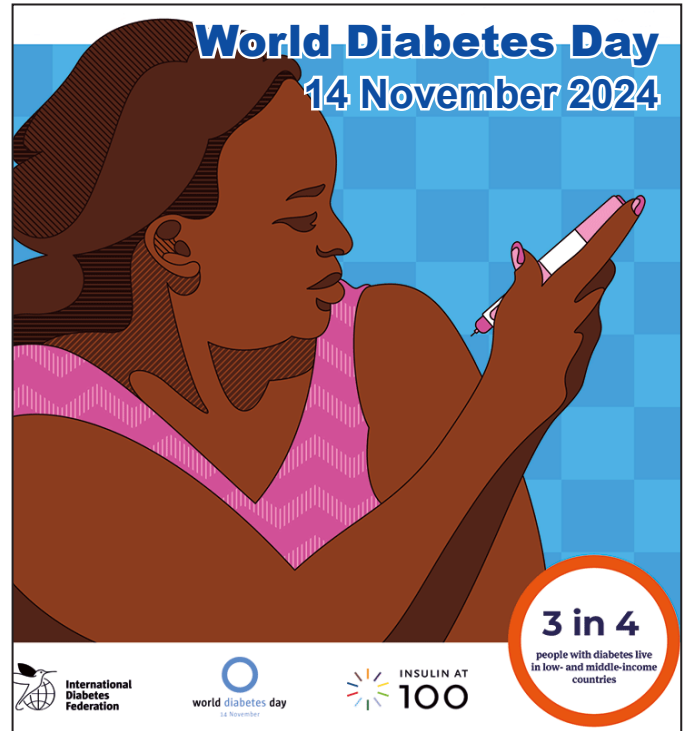


illicit trafficking of cultural property takes place in every country, robbing people of their culture, identity and history, and that we have to work together to combat this crime. As a result of colonialism, a report by Sarr and Savoy (2018) indicated that up to 90% of African material cultural heritage is outside the continent. For example, according to this report, the Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale in Belgium holds 180,000 African artifacts, the Humboldt museum in Germany 75,000, Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac 70,000 and the British Museum 69,000. African ministers of culture have been lobbying for the return of African cultural objects since the days of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

14 November

World Diabetes Day

Globally, an estimated 422 million adults were living with diabetes in 2014, compared to 108 million in 1980. The global prevalence of diabetes has nearly doubled since 1980, rising from 4.7% to 8.5% in the adult population, and an increase in associated risk factors such as being overweight or obese. Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower limb amputation. Healthy diet, physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In addition diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medication, regular screening and treatment for complications.



15 November

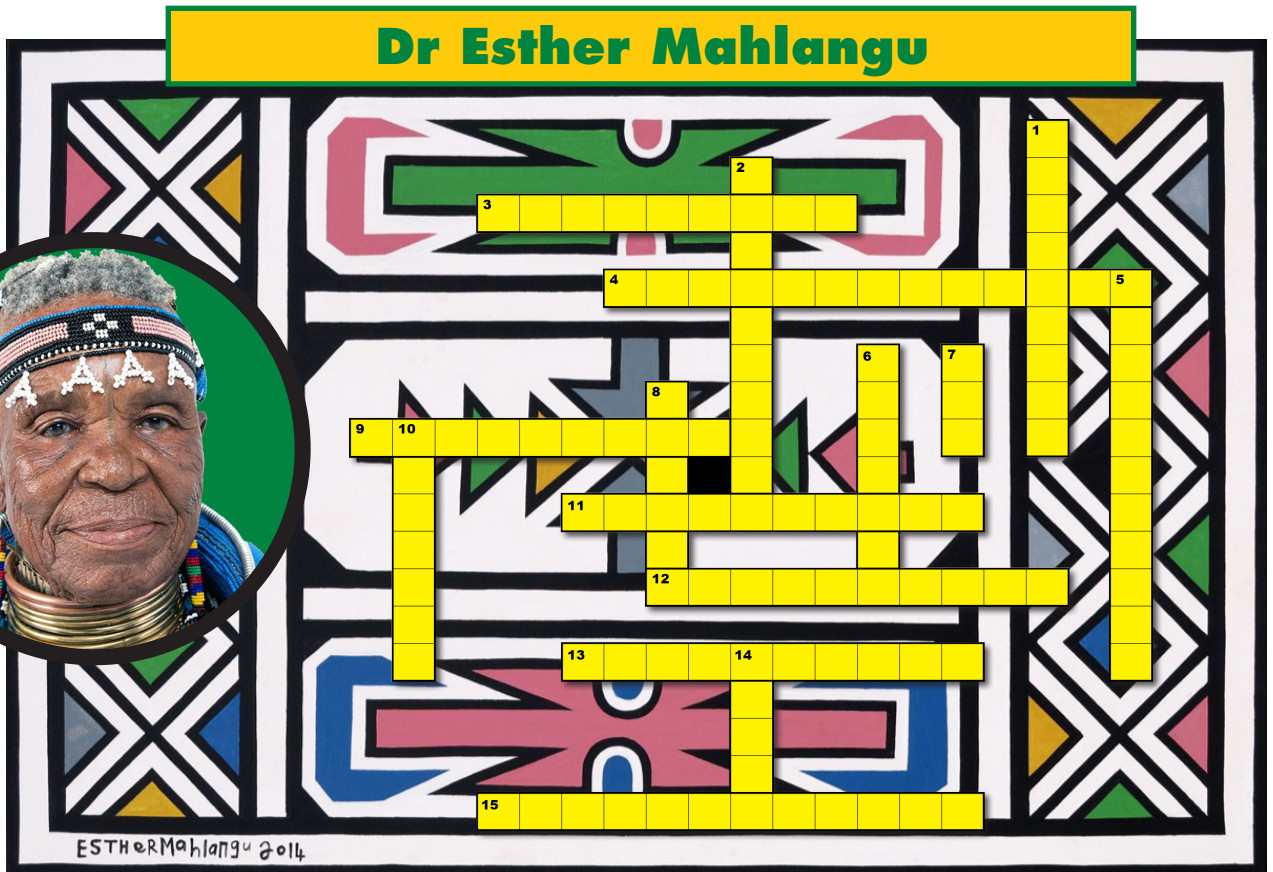
International Day against Transnational Organised Crime

Organised crime thrives worldwide, affecting governance and political processes, and weakening the advancement of the rule of law. It encompasses, inter alia, illicit trafficking of firearms, drugs, protected species, cultural property, or falsified medical products and, among its most severe manifestations, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. It also includes the laundering of proceeds of crime and obstruction of justice. Moreover, with all forms of organized crime shifting ever more to being dependent on or incorporating online aspects, including the use of virtual assets, its reach and capability of harm is increasing. Organized criminal groups are flexible in changing or expanding their illicit businesses for profit. They misuse vulnerabilities and crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturns, natural disasters, and armed conflicts exploiting them for their own purposes.



X-WORD

Dr Esther Mahlangu



ACROSS

3. Received national Order of ... in 2007.
4. Her designs also featured on these items for Paris Fashion Week.
9. Her work is in the private art collection of this comedian.
11. Worked with Belvedere and this singer in campaign against Aids.
12. Birthplace of Esther Mahlangu in Mpumalanga
13. Served as resident artist from 1981 to 1991 in this open-air museum.
15. The University of ... awarded her Honorary Doctorate in 2018.

DOWN

1. Mathematical abstractions key to her art.
2. Other artist featured as part of the Car Art Collection.
5. Her work appears in this prestigious institute.
6. Her designs practiced over more than 7 decades draw inspiration from which art form.
7. First African and woman as part of which Car Art Collection in 1991.
8. Her massive 78' by 19' mural appeared at which museum in Germany?
10. Her art appears on tins for this typical SA tea.
14. As a child she used to draw on the back walls of her parents ... when they were away.

WORD BANK

Ndebele
house
Ikhamanga
Botshabelo

BMW
John Legend
Trevor Noah
geometric

Andy Warhol
Rooibos
Eytys Sneakers
Bochum

Middleburg
Smithsonian
Johannesburg

write for us 

Maximum contributions of 600 words, in an accessible language – any South African language – adequately referenced. We reserve the right to edit articles.

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