



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **President**



We will continue to work together to improve the lives of persons with disabilities

By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

3 DECEMBER, marks the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*.

It is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made with respect to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also an opportunity to consider what we still need to do to implement inclusive policies and to elevate the representation of persons with disabilities in our society.

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights enshrines the right to equality for all. It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability.

Approximately 3.3 million people in our country live with some form of physical or intellectual impairment.

Many of them have to contend with stigma, stereotyping, prejudice and other forms of social exclusion. A lack of proper understanding about disability continues in some communities.

Some people see having a disability as a 'curse' or the result of witchcraft. This sometimes has horrific consequences. People with albinism, for example, have been victims of violence and even murder.

Persons with disabilities face an 'invisible barrier' in access to public spaces, amenities and facilities. The lack of wheelchair ramps, braille signage, suitable toilet facilities and devices that cater for the hearing impaired pose a challenge for persons with disabilities.

Most South Africans rely on public transportation, and this too can be a frustrating experience for disabled persons. Minibus taxis, for example, have limited capacity for accommodating wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

As a result of these serious

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 December 2024

Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future



challenges, many in the disabled community find themselves poor, unemployed and excluded. They suffer ill-health and poor quality of life.

Under democracy we have been steadfast in our determination to ensure that persons with disabilities are supported to lead lives of dignity.

The Constitution obliges the state to take legislative and other measures to promote the achievement of such equality, and to protect persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

We introduced employment equity laws to promote equal opportunity in the workplace. By law, employers have to ensure that at least 2% of their workforce comprises persons with disabilities.

We amended labour legislation to broaden the scope under which persons who sustain a temporary or permanent disability at work can apply for compensation. The Depart-

ment of Employment and Labour has labour desks to provide specialist employment advice services for persons with disabilities.

One of the most far-reaching legislative reforms is the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act. Among other things, this makes miners and former mineworkers eligible for compensation if they sustained permanent disability in the course of their employment.

To ensure that measures to advance the empowerment of disabled persons receive attention at the highest levels of government, a Presidential Working Group on Disability was established in 2016. It brings together government departments and about 45 civil society organisations from the disability sector. It is tasked with guiding the implementation of policy to advance the rights of the disabled.

One of the key issues the Work-

ing Group has been lobbying for since its inception was the recognition of South Africa Sign Language as an official language. This was achieved in 2022 with a constitutional amendment.

Another issue occupying the Working Group is gender-based violence. Women and girls with disabilities are often vulnerable to sexual and other forms of abuse.

As part of strengthening the fight against gender-based violence, the previous administration passed a series of laws that, among others, provide for harsher penalties for sex crimes against persons with a mental disability.

The Presidential Working Group continues to support government-wide efforts to ensure that programmes to support people with disabilities are adequately resourced and, importantly, that they are informed and guided by representatives of the disability sector.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

We have always sought to promote the principle of **“nothing about us without us”**.

We continue to make progress in education. The network of special needs public schools across the country has been expanded. The Department of Basic Education continues to take steps to ensure the public school environment is more inclusive.

The Working Group has been advocating for Early Childhood Development facilities for children with disabilities to receive equal attention and resources.

At this year’s Transport Summit on Universal Mobility, I underscored the need for public transport to be made more accessible for persons with disabilities.

Cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town offer specialised transportation services for people who have physical disabilities. The rejuvenation of passenger rail will also go a long way, with many of the new urban commuter trains able to accommodate the needs of passengers with disabilities.

Though we have made progress with respect to legislative and policy frameworks, realising the rights of the disabled is a society-wide effort.

The civil society organisations doing commendable work in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in communities deserve our full endorsement and support.

As communities, we must educate ourselves about disability. We must be part of education and awareness-raising to counter myths about disability.

Employers must make a greater effort to employ persons with disabilities. According to the Commission on Employment Equity, most employers are below the 2% target, and are only achieving around 1.2%.

Employers are also urged to comply with the Code of Good Practice on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities by taking measures to remove physical barriers preventing disabled persons from working in safety and comfort.

Unions need to ensure that persons with disabilities are protected from discrimination and that their rights are upheld.

Business is called upon to lend corporate support to endeavours to advance excellence in the disability community. This

includes providing more study scholarships to persons with disabilities.

A positive example in this regard is the corporate support for our Paralympic Team. These stellar athletes took glory in this year’s Games in Paris – bringing home two gold and four bronze medals at the Games. The success of our Paralympians bears witness to their personal courage, their resilience and their perseverance against considerable odds.

As a country we should be proud of the progress we have made on disability rights, but we need to do more to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights.

As we observe the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I call on all South Africans to build a country in which everyone is included, represented, accommodated and able to achieve their dreams.



EDITORIAL

ANC STATEMENT ON CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

WE have convened this Press Conference to take the nation into confidence against developments taking place in the country and as a way of closing the vacuum against a false narrative that the country is rudderless. These falsehoods instil uncertainty and worry in society.

The leadership role of the African National Congress is uncontested. We therefore reaffirm our ability to address problems confronting the country and we call upon society to defend democracy and collectively explore solutions.

The African National Congress (ANC), as the leader of society and the custodian of the aspirations of the people, takes this opportunity to address critical issues facing our nation. We assure our people that the ANC will not stand idle while lawlessness, criminality, and opportunism undermine the sovereignty of our country and the well-being of our citizens.

Local Government By-Elections

The African National Congress expresses heartfelt gratitude to South Africans for the electoral support in the December 4th



by-elections across the country. This reaffirms the people's trust in the ANC as the custodian of their aspirations. From expanded access to essential services like water, electricity, and healthcare to equity in opportunities and South Africa's respected standing in the global community, our 30-year transformation journey proves that South Africa today is a better place than we found it.

This electoral outcome is a solemn mandate for the ANC to deliver, act, and lead decisively. We direct all ANC-led municipalities to act with urgency and discipline, ensuring the swift implementation of service delivery projects. Leaders must serve

with humility, remain accessible, responsive, and transparent, particularly prioritizing the needs of women, youth, and people with disabilities, as they represent not just their offices but the millions who entrust the ANC with hope for progress.

The ANC will not tolerate underperformance, inefficiency, or corruption within its structures. Leaders who fail to meet their mandate must rise to the challenge or step aside. We expect all our deployees to be guided by revolutionary morality in discharging their public duty. When services are delayed or promises broken, it is the ANC as a whole that is held accountable. We call

EDITORIAL



on all leaders to honour the trust placed in them and work tirelessly to restore dignity and hope to our communities.

South Africa cannot afford complacency, and the ANC will not allow self-interest to undermine progress. The time to act is now!

Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity Through Partnerships, Collaborations and African Union Agenda 2063

We reaffirm the ANC's commitment to South Africa's partnerships with nations across the globe, particularly the African nations with whom we share common developmental objectives, based on mutual growth and shared prosperity.

In furtherance of this developmental vision, Nigeria is one of the countries with whom we share mutual interests and reciprocal growth. The relationship with Nigeria has strengthened trade, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation between the two countries. The call to have more Nigerian products on

the shelves of South Africa is informed by the fact that we have less than 10 Nigerian companies operating in South Africa, while we have hundreds of South African companies operating in Nigeria. Our trade exchange value amounts to around US\$ 3 billion in 2023, a significant partnership representing over 65% of trade, the highest in West Africa. However, to all immigrants residing in South Africa, whether from Africa or elsewhere in the world, we are clear: you are welcome here only if you respect the laws of our country and contribute positively to our society.

There are those who exploit South Africa's generosity and believe they can operate outside the law without consequences. We make it abundantly clear: South Africa is not a playground for lawlessness. As the President said, the relation of VISA laws as they relate to Nigerians does not equal entry into the country without a passport including necessary administration requirements. Anyone who undermines our legal system or compromises the safety and economic opportunities of South Africans will face

the full might of the law. This includes immigrants who engage in criminal activities and South Africans who enable this criminality by illegally registering businesses or aiding criminal behaviour, zama-zamas, drug peddlers and drug laboratories and illegal immigrants.

Our patience has been overstretched. South Africa's hospitality must never be mistaken for weakness. Our communities cannot live in fear. The law must be enforced. The time is now!!

As an organisation, we continue to make strides in reclaiming the spaza shop sector as part of revitalizing township and rural economies. Many spaza shop owners are registering in line with the President's call, ensuring that South Africans benefit from this important sector of our economy, women, youth and people with disabilities. The R500 million allocated to this initiative will impact thousands of lives, creating opportunities, economic growth and jobs.

The time has come to enforce compliance more rigorously. We

EDITORIAL

must not falter in ensuring that the laws of the country are fully implemented. This includes ensuring that no illegal immigrants are allowed to operate tuck shops. Those who are legally in the country must proof investment in the business of over R 5 million as required by the law. We are pleased that as of last night, 51 788 spaza shops have been registered with 45 percent being KwaZulu-Natal. 800 Spaza shops have been closed to date. With 93% of these being foreign owned. We call on the government to employ additional inspectors to monitor the sector and ensure that it serves its intended purpose: empowering South Africans and restoring economic dignity to our communities.

The spaza shops that are not compliant as per the President's grace period should cease operating or face the law. We cannot watch when our children die, and the local economy suffer as a result of lawlessness.

Comrade Thembi Simelane's Matter

On the matter of Comrade Thembi Simelane, the ANC is guided by its principles of integrity and ethical leadership. While the Integrity Committee addresses this matter internally, state investigations are continuing independently. The ANC does not prejudge the outcomes of these processes, but we remain resolute in our principle of stepping aside when charged, as a demonstration of accountability. The ANC respects the constitutional prerogative of the President when it comes to Cabinet appointments.

We however note the heavy strain and impact of this matter on the organisational brand and

image and the voices of civil society for her to step aside pending a full inquiry and other legal processes and independent bodies. We believe and trust in the ability of the independent bodies to discharge their mandate and responsibilities.

The Release of Janusz Waluś

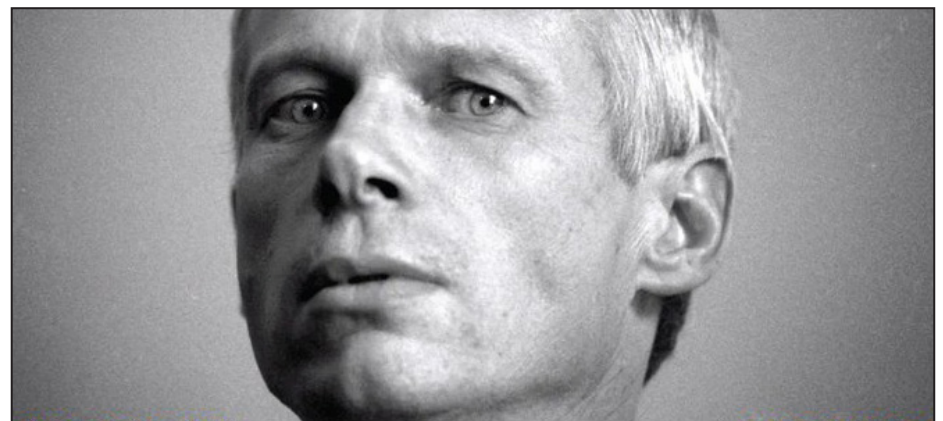
Today, the murderer of our leader, Janusz Waluś will be released from prison, taking with him to his homeland the truth of the assassination of our leader, Comrade Martin Thembisile Chris Hani. We are reminded of the immense loss inflicted on our movement and our nation. Janusz Waluś deprived South Africa of one of its greatest leaders, and his release without a full confession of his actions and conspiracies remains an injustice. The heavy blow that he inflicted on the nation is palpa-

bly fresh, considering its painful effect on Comrade Chris' children and his wife Cde Limpho.

The assassination of Comrade Chris Hani was a well-orchestrated scheme designed to plunge the country into chaos, an attempt to subvert the course for a negotiated political settlement, thus deferring a dream for a democratic South Africa after many years of apartheid subjugation. This move was well calculated.

Ironically, the brutal killing of Comrade Chris Hani, his selfless dedication to the struggle as a disciplined commissar of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the People's Army, brought us the freedom and rights we enjoy today.

This is a sad and painful moment for the Hani family, the ANC, the working class and the poor and the South African Communist



JANUSZ WALUŚ

The release of Janusz Walus painfully reminds us of the bullet that pierced through our hearts, assassinating a father and comrade.

Your dastardly hand drips of the blood of a martyr and freedom fighter who paid the ultimate price for the freedom and love for humanity, democracy and justice.

Your release does not make you innocent. You are a cold-blooded assassin. We shall not close the chapter in quest for justice and the truth.



EDITORIAL

ARRIVE ALIVE

As we travel to our various destinations, let's exercise extreme caution and care in using our roads.

Let us comply with the rules of the road and respect fellow road users and pedestrians.

- **Don't drink and drive.**
- **Fasten your seat belts.**

The loss of one life is one too many.

Life is precious.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

Party for which he was the General Secretary.

We put it to the conscience of Janusz Waluś to tell the whole truth about the forces that orchestrated this heinous act. We call for a comprehensive inquiry into the assassination of Comrade Chris Hani to expose the full scope of this crime and bring closure to his family, the ANC, and the people of South Africa. South Africa is no home for assassins and murderers.

Walus must leave the country now.

So-Called National Shutdown

We dismiss the so-called national shutdown as nothing more than a failed attempt to sow chaos. These opportunists have no plan for building South Africa but only

destruction. To our people, we say reject these distractions and remain focused on rebuilding our communities and creating opportunities for all.

The ANC remains resolute in defending South Africa's sovereignty, uplifting its people, and ensuring that our country is a home for all who respect its laws and contribute positively to its growth. We are here to lead, and we will not falter in this responsibility.

We will not betray our values and principles nor abandon our goal of a non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa and a cause of *"A better life for All."*

Our democratically elected President, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa remains our president and will be defended.

The People Shall Govern!

STOP GBV

16 DAYS

OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

25 NOVEMBER 2024 – 10 DECEMBER 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

IN THE 6TH ADMINISTRATION, THE ANC-LED GOVERNMENT PASSED THE FOLLOWING LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV:

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act – This law seeks to strengthen the regulation of the National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO) by expanding the scope of (NRSO) to include the particulars of all sex offenders.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

South Africa's G20 Presidency: A Moment to Lead Amid Global Distractions

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

FIRST of December 2024 marked a historic milestone for South Africa. On this day, we assumed the Presidency of the G20, stepping into a pivotal role that places us at the center of global discourse for the next year. This moment is an extraordinary opportunity to showcase South Africa's leadership, advocate for the priorities of the Global South, and help shape the international agenda on critical issues like climate change, economic recovery, and sustainable development.

However, just a day before this historic occasion, on Saturday, 30 November 2024, U.S. President-elect Donald Trump posted a statement on X (formerly Twitter) that threatens to overshadow South Africa's moment in the global spotlight. Trump wrote: *"The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER. We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye*



to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy. They can go find another 'sucker!'"

This inflammatory rhetoric, although typical of Trump, now carries added weight as he prepares to assume the presidency in January 2025. While it is clearly intended to appeal to his domestic base, it risks dominating global discourse and detracting from South Africa's significant achievement.

To understand Trump's statement, it is essential to see it for what it is: political posturing. Trump has always been adept at crafting rhetoric that resonates with his supporters, and this statement is no different. By targeting BRICS nations, he reinforces his tough-on-trade image and his defense of the U.S. dollar's dominance.

However, the realities of global trade and economics undermine the feasibility of Trump's threats.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Consider these facts:

1. **The Interconnected Global Economy:** The U.S. accounts for only 4.3% of the world's population, while 95.7% resides outside its borders. International trade is indispensable to its economic prosperity, and isolationism would harm the U.S. more than its trading partners.
2. **Economic Shifts:** While the U.S. economy contributes about 26% of global GDP today, projections indicate that it could account for as little as 6.2% to 18% within the next three decades. This shift reflects the rise of emerging markets, particularly in Asia and Africa, rather than a decline in U.S. potential.
3. **The Dollar's Role:** The U.S. dollar's share of global reserves has already declined, from 71% in 2000 to 59% today, and is projected to drop further to around 40% by mid-century. This decline is a natural consequence of a multipolar world economy.

Trump knows these realities, and his rhetoric is primarily designed to generate headlines and galvanize domestic support. While his threats may create short-term tension, they lack the substance to alter the trajectory of global economic trends.

Amid this distraction, South Africa's G20 Presidency offers a beacon of focus and purpose. This is our moment to lead, to advocate for Africa's development priorities, and to champion multilateralism as the solution to global challenges.

The G20 is not just a forum for the world's largest economies; it is a platform for addressing transnational issues that affect us



all. As the G20 President, South Africa has a unique opportunity to:

1. **Promote Multilateralism:** At a time when isolationist rhetoric is on the rise, South Africa can emphasize the importance of global collaboration and collective problem-solving.
2. **Elevate Africa's Voice:** As the only African member of the G20, we have a responsibility to represent the continent's priorities, from fair trade policies to debt relief and sustainable infrastructure development.
3. **Demonstrate Leadership:** Successfully managing the G20 Presidency will rebuild international confidence in South Africa's governance and reaffirm our relevance on the global stage.
4. **Drive Critical Conversations:** Issues such as energy transition, food security, and equitable access to technology are not just global challenges – they are also deeply relevant to Africa's development goals.

While Trump's rhetoric may dominate news cycles, South

Africa must not lose sight of the significance of our G20 Presidency. This is our chance to lead with integrity and purpose, reaffirming our role as a key player in global governance.

The Presidency is not just symbolic – it is a call to action. It is a chance to shape the international agenda, advocate for the priorities of the Global South, and ensure that Africa's voice is heard in conversations that will shape the future.

The success of South Africa's G20 Presidency will depend on our ability to set clear priorities, engage constructively with partners, and deliver measurable outcomes. It will also require discipline in resisting distractions, whether they come from abroad or at home.

Trump's post, while provocative, should not derail our focus. South Africa's role in the G20 is about more than just representing our country; it is about helping to shape a global agenda that reflects the aspirations of billions of people across the Global South.

First of December 2024 will be remembered as the day South Africa assumed its rightful place at the forefront of global leadership. Let us honour this occasion by staying focused on the work ahead and ensuring that our G20 Presidency leaves a lasting legacy of progress and partnership.

The world is watching, and this is our moment to shine. Let us rise to the occasion, not just as South Africans but as global citizens committed to building a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all. ■

CURRENT AFFAIRS



THE BLACK, GREEN AND GOLD FLAG FLUTTERS WITH A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

■ By **PHAKAMILE W. XIMIYA**

BELIEVE it or not, the long awaited renewal train of the ANC has left the station with its Black Green and Gold flag flying fluttering high above with vigour as the train gathered momentum confirming a new lease of life in the fortunes of the Movement which had for a moment appeared mortally wounded about five months ago.

During the past three months we have witnessed in the Movement a flurry of activities that seem to indicate that the long awaited renewal train of the ANC has finally left the station and has once again begun its journey of hope for a better life for all, pulling carriages of repatriation and reburial in front to reclaim its integrity cre-

dentials as its first priority.

Three Conferences, of 2012, 2017 and 2022 had instructed that the gigantic movement embarks on a renewal programme and true to its huge and sluggish nature has appeared slow, tired, lacking energy and sense of direction.

It is always a challenge to run a mass organisation, composed of people from different cultures, literally different backgrounds and keep it on track, on agreed principles and values for a long time. It becomes necessary from time to time to make a conscious effort, of renewing itself and ensure it stays relevant to the challenges of the moment.

Throughout its history of over 100 years, like all living organisms, it has been a story of constant renewal and rebuilding of itself, adjusting to challenges of the moment with a focused eye on the objectives of the national democratic revolution. Failure to have done so could have long led to its demise and to its credit, it has on each of those past situations been able to rise to the occasion.

By the look of things, finally, there are all indications of a willingness to move out of the denial mode, confront past mistakes, genuinely search for answers to what needs to be done for this phase of struggle. There is evidence of a new re-awakening, energy and hope.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

This Movement of the People has been fortunate for many years to have had the privilege of being led by very wise men and women who would be able to understand the need for shedding off the dead wood and grow itself new branches and earn itself a new lease of life.

Outcomes of recent elections over the past few election cycles have highlighted the existential crisis facing the ANC. The last election results left no doubt to any dedicated and loyal supporter of the liberation movement, that the long spoken renewal programme has to be urgently speeded up if the ANC is going to survive and remain a relevant weapon for the masses that can be used to attain the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

It was with great relief for many staunch cadres to witness the Renewal programme train gathering pace, on the 1st of September, through a virtual session of Veterans' League and the ANC Political Desk, represented respectively by Wally Serote and David Makhura who placed on the table a Renewal Base Document from the Veterans' League and the ANC Foundational Course also developed by stalwarts of the organisation by the names of Mac Maharaj, Sue Rabkin and Pallo Jordan.

Beyond the 1st of September 2024, the Renewal Programme has gathered momentum and had President Cyril Ramaphosa and members of the ANC NEC and PECs honouring, at the beginning of October, a virtual session that publicly launched the ANC Foundational Induction Course of 6 programmes. It has now been presented together with the Re-

**UNVEILING THE
ANC FOUNDATION
COURSE PROGRAMME**

POLITICAL RENEWAL

RENEW, REBUILD, REIGNITE

Join the largest political education program since 1990 (unbanning of the ANC). Strengthen South Africa's future by leading with integrity.

Add yourself in the Renewal

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newal Plan on several platforms like the Women's League, Youth League structures, Legislature ANC Caucuses, MKLWV etc.

The last was a physical session of over 200 identified Political Instructors, on the 15th to 17th November 2024. They were being prepared to lead the ANC branch political discussions, reproduce and multiply their numbers in ANC branches and in society.

At the end of the workshop, the political instructors were given instructions to go and rekindle the culture of political discussions of the organisation. By the 16th of December 2024, they must have produced 3 political instructors per branch, across the country.

It was also with great appreciation to observe, during the same month of September 2024, after

witnessing a forward movement of the Renewal programme train, to see the President of South Africa and of the ANC, receiving the remains of those who died in exile being brought back for reburial, on home soil.

This was in keeping with the words of the late President OR Tambo during the funerals of those who died in exile, that at the appropriate time, their remains will be brought back to South Africa. This of course was not practically possible, at the time of their death and also at the time of the repatriation of exiles.

To honour the commitment of OR Tambo, the ANC was reclaiming its values of integrity, especially as it moves forward with its Renewal agenda. The Repatriation and Reburial programmes are something that can be used to

CURRENT AFFAIRS

measure the ANC commitment to the Renewal Programme as both are tangible projects run by the ANC. The ANC's enthusiasm in the implementation of the Repatriation and Reburial programme will go a long way in helping it to win the confidence of society.

That it took so many years to repatriate the remains of the fallen in exile, was of course a pain to their loved ones. An outstanding promise that the liberation movement definitely felt awkward about, but remained determined it will be fulfilled.

It was with great pleasure not only to the families of the departed and friends alone when the repatriation began, but also for those who had lived with them as comrades in lands, far away from home. This is where they developed a comradely attachment that was born out of interdependence as they faced common dangers that created life long bonds, close to those of brothers and sisters.

The Repatriation programme has also taken off. It started with those who fell in Zimbabwe and Zambia. The programme is going to touch other countries in Southern Africa, other African countries and the rest of the world. The majority are still to be repatriated and only 42 so far have been brought back by government.

The first reburial of the 42, were those of Sithembiso Madikizela, which took place in Mbizana, in the Eastern Cape on the 27th of October 2024. It was followed by that of Basil February in the Western Cape, on the 29th of October 2024 and on the 23rd October 2024, it was the reburial of the remains of Luvuyo Tayi, also from the Eastern Cape in Mdantsane.

Other Provinces are also going to follow suit. In the KZN, for instance, a mass reburial is planned for the 16th of December 2024, probably as a way of marking the 63rd Anniversary of the people's army Umkhonto We Sizwe.

Of interest is the apparent simultaneous gathering of momentum, of these 3Rs (Renewal, Repatriation and Reburial) programmes of the ANC. A close scrutiny of the processes around them building up the momentum in September and October 2024, showed there was no deliberate intent by the living, but a coincidence. For those who are able to stretch their imagination, will probably talk of an intervention from beyond.

Repatriation and Reburials programmes have a healing effect to all concerned. That is, to the families of the departed, the comrades of the departed, the ANC and broader society in general. There was no way South Africa could effectively claim to have done proper closure on the past without finding some kind of a satisfactory discussion with regard to what should happen with those who got buried outside the country.

It was some outstanding emotional issue that had to be decently confronted and not be left hanging. It is fitting well with the Renewal Programme of the ANC, as it has appropriately taken up the Repatriation and Reburial with vigour and zeal. As families, comrades and the ANC itself, all now can finally begin to find closure on this rather difficult painful period of our past and move confidently forward into the renewal mode.

At the moment, the ANC is working hard to recapture the lost ground it suffered as was painfully displayed through the election results, of 29 May 2024. It was denied the required majority to rule alone. Today the ANC finds itself in a Government of National Unity (GNU) that is completely different from the one it had immediately after the 1994 election results.

The GNU is a strategic objective of the ANC. The ANC formed the GNU with parties that are committed to constitutionalism, the rule of law, clean and ethical governance.

The strategic objectives of the GNU which is led by the ANC are: inclusive social and eco-



CURRENT AFFAIRS

conomic development, sustainable investment and growth, decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods. Having been forced by the electorate to establish the GNU, the ANC had to do deep self-inspection and ask itself awkward questions and whose answers were in the National Conference resolutions whose directives had consistently instructed that the ANC must go through a renewal phase. A route it always followed when it found itself in a rut.

But for some reason in recent years, the instruction kept-on falling on deaf ears. The reality of 40% forced the ANC to seek support from its opponents, terrible though that it had to get to that, it probably led to sobriety and caused a re-think as we see the Renewal Programme beginning to get traction.

What appears to be disastrous results to the naked eye may to those with a third eye be a deliberate intervention to return the ANC to its roots of a humble, disciplined and principled organisation that understands the importance of ethics, morality and integrity. It is a lesson for those uninitiated in ANC culture to never take the masses for granted. Its survival is intrinsically tied to the masses.

It is interesting to note that despite the fact that the 29 May 2024 results got the ANC out of power, it was still given a 40% by the electorate, allowing it to hang on and still be at the helm of a ruling arrangement. It was taken out of power but was not humiliated.

By the look of things, it does appear like it was being given shock treatment, to assist it find the values and principles of its founding fathers. ■



JHB Water crisis: Why do we wait for things to break

■ By **YONELA DIKO**

SOUTH AFRICA has a very sophisticated water monitoring network which tracks and collects data on a regular basis on both the quantity and quality of the country's surface water. The network monitors dam levels, evaporation and rainfall, streamflows and chemicals, and eutrophication, which assesses the nutrient enrichment of water bodies.

According to the Department of Water and Sanitation's National state of water report, the surface water monitoring network has 1450 stations across all provinces, almost all at 90% data availability with a singular purpose to provide information on the available water resources to assist Water manag-

ers in decision-making.

Such a sophisticated systems tells us that we know our water problems coming from a decade away. The critical question becomes, why are we then caught off-guard when our taps run dry or when demand exceeds supply.

Waiting for a crisis

While the department must be commended for setting up a comprehensive water monitoring system, which gives the department the ability to anticipate and quantify the scale of the problem, the tendency to then wait until the problem is a crisis, is an unconscionable failure with grave consequences.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The City of Johannesburg is in a water crisis which has been years in the making. This follows the water crisis in Cape Town, Makhanda, Butterworth and PE and just about every other district. There is a looming water crisis in almost all the 54 regions of the country and the reasons are the same.

That the current Johannesburg's water crisis is a result of municipality's failure to maintain its water infrastructure is not an original thought or a new discovery.

That almost half of the city's water brings no revenue due to aging infrastructure that causes leaks is also not a particularly unknown fact.

There are illegal connections and wrongly metered water which is a problem that is also well understood.

All these are recurring problems that plague all municipalities and none have acted decisively and timeously to repair and replace their infrastructure.

Its also not blinding insight that the Gauteng's per capita water demand is 279 litres per person per day, while the international average is 173 litres. This information however is provided with little detail of who exactly is consuming this much water and for what purpose.

This is important because in other water stressed metropolises, agriculture still consumes the most amount of water while contributing the least to local economy. Blaming population growth always feels lazy and populist, a fear to call out the actual powerful



water guzzlers, especially when such agriculture production is not only for locals. Curbing water wastage in agriculture, managing water licences and releasing water from private dams usually unlocks the litres of water needed by ordinary people.

According to the CSIR, although agriculture consumes the most water countrywide, Industry consumes the most water in Johannesburg.

Adaptation plans

The Department of Water and the City of Johannesburg do in fact claim that the long delayed Lesotho Highlands project was in fact an early response to the looming water challenges of the City which could have decisively solved the City's water challenges.

There has to be punitive measures for those who fail to maintain water infrastructure, those who fail to build new infrastructure and those who delay construction of new water basins and water transfer projects.

While it is paramount for the City to fix its aging water infrastructure and save almost half of its water that is lost to leaks and damaged pipe system, such necessary programmes may solve the immedi-

ate and short term problems but demand is not standing still and reckless water usage by various stakeholders will always consume whatever water reserves is made available.

Demand Management

Unfortunately, experiences from other metropolises like California tells us that the more water projects one builds to increase water supply, the more water is consumed at higher levels and the less care is given by water consumers on quantity used and wastage.

The experience of Cape Town immediately after facing its worst water crisis (aptly dubbed Day Zero) is that water demand can be cut in half in moments of survival and people can do just fine.

The best and quickest way to manage water consumption is through price. Water must be properly priced and whether it's agriculture or industrial use, everyone must pay a fair price for water and punitive measures must be implemented, including cutting off of access to water where payments are not honoured.

Even if all our supply problems can be fixed, without a proper demand management that seeks to control demand through price, we could build new dams every year and fix every possible leak and meter problems, the demand for water will keep going up and the careless usage will make water challenges worse. It is time to govern. ■

Yonela Diko is a Former Spokesperson to the Minister of Water and Sanitation.

WARD DEMARCATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2026: ANC MUST LEAD FROM THE WORD GO!

■ By **MOUTIE RICHARDS, SABELO MHLATI, CALVYN GILFELLAN, and ABE BEKEER**

WHILE most of us are still licking our wounds after the May 2024 General Elections, preparatory work has already started on the 2026 Local Government Elections. One of the crucial parts of this preparatory phase is the demarcation of wards, a process often left to the technocrats in municipalities. Given the narrow margins with which many wards are won or lost, the ANC must be seized with this process.

Demarcation of Wards

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) demarcates wards between metropolitan and local municipalities for electoral purposes every five years. During this process, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) provides a common voters roll segmented by a municipality.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) determines a formula for calculating the number of councillors in each municipality. Simultaneously, the MECs of Local Government may adjust the number of councillors and pub-



lish a new number of councillors per municipality.

After this, the MDB determines the number of wards for each municipality by dividing the published number of councillors by two to determine the number of wards. (remember that half of the councillors are wards, and the other half is proportional).

On paper, this seems to be a run-of-the-mill technical process with little room for political input. Nothing can be further from the truth because every step of the way should be interrogated.

Lessons from Drakenstein's municipality

We from Drakenstein Municipal-

ity want to share our experiences with comrades in branches across the country. Drakenstein is the second-largest municipal area in the Western Cape. It is one of the target areas of right-wing and neoliberal secessionists, with towns such as Stellenbosch and Paarl. Ironically, Drakenstein, particularly the Mbekweni/Paarl area, also used to be an ANC stronghold during and after the liberation struggle. Therefore, the stakes are high.

Driven by ANC councillors and leadership from branches, we re-established our Demarcation Committee. This Committee has some contact meetings, but mainly, we exchanged ideas on a social media group. Information such as ward maps, population

CURRENT AFFAIRS

densities and voting stations was shared and discussed. Using the areas set out by the IEC we then interrogated where possible manipulation of ward boundaries weakened our position to either retain or lose a ward.

Drakenstein has a total of 132,012 voters – a fact that we are disputing because most of the unregistered voters are located in areas with a realistic chance of the ANC being victorious. In addition, the IEC informed us that we have almost 7000 “floating” registered voters currently residing in a ward where they are not officially registered. The number of unregistered and wrongly registered voters is arguably our most significant political problem. On this basis, we were allocated 65 councillors, of which 33 were ward councillors.

The number of registered voters in each ward may not vary more than fifteen percent from the norm. In our case, the norm was 4000 voters, which means that there should not be less than 3 400 or more than 4 600 voters in a ward.

With this knowledge, we identified at least four wards with a maximum number of voters of more than 4,600, mainly in informal settlements. Based on this

understanding, we put together a proposal that the surplus voters should be allocated to an adjacent ward. While communities must be fragmented, illogical cuttings of ward boundaries should also be avoided.

Working with technical people and sympathetic municipal officials, our ANC branch ensured that voters were allocated near their voting districts. There should also be no confusion about which ward voters should or should not vote in. This is another political task branches must take up.

Lastly, ANC branches should be concerned about the availability and location of a suitable place for voting and counting. We have had problems with people finding their closest VD, especially in large rural wards.

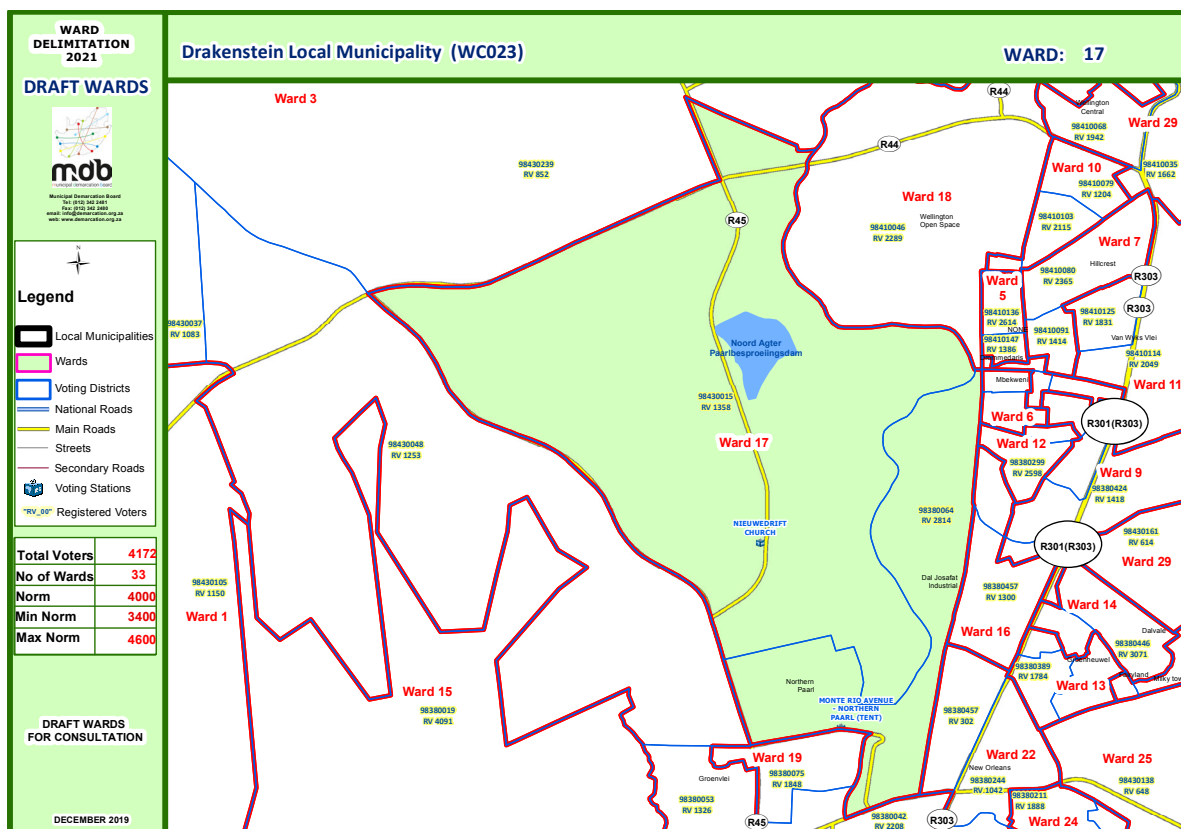
There are also cases in which farmers control where and when their workers vote. The

ANC must avoid this, especially where farmers can pick up their workers’ voting trends and target them for victimisation.

Conclusion

Demarcating wards, drawing ward boundaries, and identifying voting stations are parts and parcels of our election preparation. It also provides us with the realities on the ground and an opportunity to engage at branch, community, and personal levels with the people we want to support us in Local Government Elections 2026. Where possible, the ANC must lead this process without undermining the IEC and other formal structures set up to deal with this process. ■

Comrades Moutie Richards, Sabelo Mhlathi, Calvyn Gilfellan, and Abe Bekeer are members of the ANC Veterans League (ANCVL) in the Western Cape.



The U.S War Machine: Congress Sidelines Itself

■ By **SIKHUMBUZO THOMO**

BURIED beneath the grandiose slogan of “democracy”, the United States hasn’t declared war since World War II. The US Congress, the body constitutionally mandated to oversee such vital decisions, has been relegated to a cheerleading squad while the executive branch wields unchecked power like an emperor commanding legions.

This is imperial fiat masquerading as consent of the governed. From Vietnam to Iraq, Libya to Syria, the U.S. war machine roars on, fueled not by congressional debate but by rubber-stamped resolutions, appropriations, and the all-too-familiar “*Authorizations for Use of Military Force*”. These legal fig leaves allow the White House to bomb, invade, and occupy without a whisper of accountability.

Let’s be blunt: Congress sold its soul. Since World War II, it has surrendered its constitutional prerogative to declare war, instead passing vague resolutions that grant presidents a blank check to wage war wherever and whenever they see fit. The result? Endless wars with no rational objectives, no exit strategies, and no accountability.

And what happens to the billions of dollars funneled into these

wars? Enter the military-industrial complex, the world’s most sophisticated money-laundering operation. These wars are about enriching defense contractors, lobbyists, and Pentagon officials who shuffle through the revolving door between government and industry. From Lockheed Martin to Raytheon, the same corporations profiting off the carnage also fund think tanks and political campaigns to keep the war machine running.

While the bombs fall, contracts worth billions flow into the coffers of weapons manufacturers. A significant chunk is then laundered back into Washington DC,

disguised as campaign contributions or lucrative speaking gigs. The Pentagon’s own accounting is so opaque that \$2 trillion in spending has been deemed “untraceable.” And let’s not forget Ukraine or Israel, the Military Industrial Complex’s (MIC) latest cash cow, where tens of billions in U.S. aid vanish into a black hole of corruption.

The wars of the 21st century don’t even bother with pretense. Forget declarations; the U.S. now engages in hybrid wars, proxy conflicts, economic strangulation through sanctions, and information warfare. Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, these are not declared



CURRENT AFFAIRS

wars, but they are wars nonetheless, waged in the shadows with the same deadly consequences. And behind every drone strike or sanction lies another bloated defense budget, another no-bid contract, another slush fund for the MIC.

The Declare War Clause was meant to check power, to ensure that the decision to spill blood was taken soberly and democratically. Instead, it has been sidelined by an empire that cannot stop expanding, an empire that feeds on forever wars. This is not about defending freedom, but controlling resources, securing markets, and maintaining hegemony at any cost.

And as BRICS rises, as the Global majority asserts its sovereignty, the Empire grows more desperate.

Its (losing) wars: kinetic, economic, and informational, are not signs of strength but of fragility, the thrashing of a system that cannot adapt to a multipolar world that is upon us.



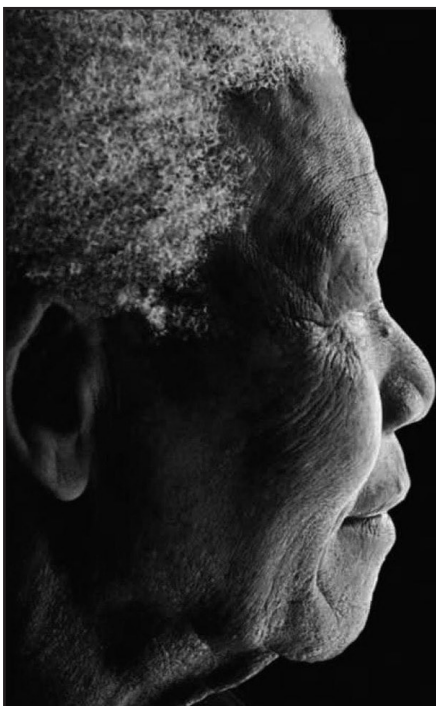
Who benefits from this endless bloodshed? Not the American people, saddled with \$38 trillion in national debt and over \$200 trillion in unfunded liabilities. The winners are the same cabal that profits whether the bombs drop or not: defense contractors, Wall Street speculators, and the political elite.

The MIC is not just about war but about money laundering on an imperial scale. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? Cash cows.

The conflict in Ukraine? A feeding frenzy for weapons dealers and their political masters.

This is not just America's problem. The endless wars waged by the U.S. ripple out, destabilizing nations, wrecking economies, and displacing millions.

The Empire stumbles, but it won't fall on its own. It's time to push harder. The age of unaccountable wars and untraceable profits must end. ■



"Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste or any other social markers of difference"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Part Two

CHRONICLE OF THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION

The Beautiful Daughters of Sandino: Embracing the Age of Dedication, Selflessness and Quest For Human Freedom

■ By **AMB. PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO**

IN 1961 young revolutionaries, Carlos Fonseca Armador, Silvio Mayorga and Tomas Borge Martínez formed the Sandinista National Liberation Front, waging underground struggles against the Somoza dictatorship. The revolutionary movement waged relentless struggles and guerrilla warfare until they defeated Somoza family in 1979.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front was the fertile garden that germinated the beautiful flowers of Sandino, the mothers who gathered the socio, economic and political foundations of the Nicaraguan nation. Imbued in the discipline of the lofty historical role, the beautiful daughters of Sandino, who constituted more than thirty percent of the guerrilla army, believed that the significance of a revolution is not just in the victories of the military endeavours, but in the capacity to grow into columns of steeled combatants, for the victory of the struggles of the people for total liberation.



During one of his famous political speeches, defining the role of women in the new Nicaragua, the leader of the revolution, Tomas Borge, said the following:

“We are aware of the Compañeros that are revolutionaries in the streets and workplace, in all parts, but are feudal lords of the gallows and the knife at home. We must wage a difficult and prolonged ideological struggles, a struggle equally undertaken by men and women in Nicaragua. Therefore, it

is normal, and absolutely logical, that we now speak about a new revolution, a women revolution”.

When the husband of one of the daughters of Sandino discovered that his wife was part of the underground machinery of the Sandinista National Liberation Front involved in the underground activities to defeat the Somoza military regime, he instructed his wife to choose between him and the struggles for liberation, she said

HISTORY

to him, *“of course the choice has already being made, between you and the revolution. I choose the revolution.”* Thus the women of Sandinista, the beautiful daughters of the revolutionary struggles, created fertile conditions for a revolution within a revolution.

The women of the Sandinista did not only want to oust the Somoza regime, but to also fight patriarchal relations in society which sought to plant equal relations between men and women, therefore building an egalitarian society. Women of Sandinista fought for socio, economic and political equality, creating a new Nicaragua, of human freedom and equality, vowing that there is no revolution without women emancipation and there is no emancipation of women without a revolution.

Before the revolution, women of Nicaragua were not allowed to own property, not allowed to collect their salaries directly from their employers (but through their husbands), not allowed to attend formal education, no protection of children, no punitive punishment for rape, and many other diminishing social behaviours, dumping the moral standing of women in society. After the triumph of the revolution in 1979, Nicaragua became one of the leading countries of the world to promote women’s rights and gender parity.

The people we lead, or the people who give us the opportunity to lead, and therefore giving us the opportunity to learn how to lead and serve in their best interest, do so hopeful that we shall use the mandate they give from time to time, to change their material conditions for the better. Our people cannot eat the fatigue of our ideological fabric, but they need a better education, housing, security, health, jobs and a better life.

There is a growing onslaught to diminish revolutionary liberation movements across the world, not because of the work of the enemy from without, but because of ourselves, destroying the revolution from within. The tendencies of the leadership of liberation movements staying in power for half centuries, transforming the power of the people for democracy into tales of family affairs, is not the aspiration for the creation of a new men and society of the modern century.

So, we chronicle this history in memory of the colossus of the human race such as the beautiful daughters of Sandino, guerrilla women who firmly believed that falling down is not a failure, but failure comes when you stay where you have fallen. This is the true spirit of the garden of the great souls of the angels of our revolution.

They have not faltered in their determination to serve humanity, building glorious milestones on

the pathways of our revolutionary struggles, and harnessing the future of the coming generations of mankind. The calling of the beautiful flowers of Sandino is the creation of a new order of the universe, and a better future for all humanity.

Taking from the wisdom of Sandino’s great teachings, the question we must ask all of the revolutionaries across the world, is whether we still have the caliber of Sandino and his beautiful daughters amongst our ranks, whether we are still committed for the noble cause of our struggles for the better future of humanity. We shall remember the echoes of his revolutionary words when he said the man who doesn’t ask his country for even a handful of earth for his grave deserves to be heard, and not only to be heard, but to be believed. ■

Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso is a member of the African National Congress. He writes in his personal capacity.





CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SOSHANGUVE (ABRIDGED)

■ By **TITUS MAFOLO**

AS we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Soshanguve, we have a duty fully to map the contours of the township that emerged in the middle of some epoch-making socio-political and economic processes.

Around Tshwane, Mabopane Township was established in 1972 as part of consolidating some areas under the envisaged Bophuthatswana Bantustan. Many Tswana-speaking residents in different urban areas were relocated to Mabopane.

But in some politically schizophrenic state, and since urban housing in 'white South Africa' had stopped in the late 1960s, Soshanguve was established in 1974 and called Mabopane-East.

Yet, the majority of those resettled

in Soshanguve did not have Setswana as their first language. Unsurprisingly, Bophuthatswana Bantustan leader Lucas Mangope was unwilling to incorporate 'non-Tswana' people into his Bantustan as he moved towards a sham independence from South Africa.

Nevertheless, the apartheid apparatchiks ensured that the residents of Soshanguve were housed consistent with apartheid policies. Thus, people were divided according to their home languages, hence the name Soshanguve. Most of the original people in Soshanguve had been forcefully removed from Wallmansthal, to make way for a military camp.

Later, many others came from Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Ga-Rankua as well as rural areas of South Africa. But to their eternal glory, the people of this largest

township in Tshwane defied the many divisive mechanisations and by the 1980s, had formed strong, vibrant and formidable organisations that immensely contributed to the demise of apartheid.

Earlier, before Soshanguve was created, some of the finest sons of our country who were to make this township their home, were differently, and possibly not knowing each other, making their historical sacrifices for our liberation.

Theophilus Cholo, a founder member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), a member of the ANC and its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, belonging to the Luthuli detachment, and being one of the founders of the military camps had trained in the Soviet Union, then entered the country in

HISTORY

1971. However, he was arrested, tortured and in the 'Great Pretoria Six' trial was sentenced to 16 years.

Almost simultaneously, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa was working in Witbank, and being part of the important conclave of the clergies at the forefront of the Black Theology.

These brave theologians were critical in very important ways both in enriching the evolving ideology of Black Consciousness that mobilised across the country with the zenith of its activities coming in the form of the Soweto Uprisings, as well as being at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid.

Most importantly, through the many years of heavy repression, they opened their venues for countless meetings that helped to enhance the political consciousness of many people.

Again, in 1973, a year before the establishment of Soshanguve, George Sammy Shane Maluleke was admitted as an attorney. He soon realised the harsh injustices of apartheid towards black lawyers.

Accordingly, he joined forces with already seasoned lawyers like Godfrey Pitje, President of the ANC Youth League in 1950. Together with other lawyers, they formed the Black Lawyers Association.

From then henceforth, Maluleke worked hard to ensure that the BLA became one of the formidable legal arms of the liberation movement.

Together with members of his family, they also established



One of the early resident's of Soshanguve, Veteran of the Luthuli Detachment, Cde Theophilus Cholo

flourishing businesses that have been loyal to the people of Soshanguve. After the 1976 student uprisings, collaborating with another lawyer from Soshanguve, Moss Mavundla, they teamed up with two other compatriots – Dikgang Moseneke and Willie Seriti to form one of the most formidable black legal firms in the country, where they also defended many revolting youths and political activists against the harsh apartheid repression.

It was during those tumultuous times that Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa was posted to Tshwane as the Secretary of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC). After a stint at the University of Louvain in Belgium, Father Mkhathshwa was to use that strategic position as the Secretary of the SACBC to help mobilise

resources, especially in the critical period from 1976, doing so to train starry-eyed restless youths to engage in community projects as part of their practical political training.

As a new township with people from different areas, obviously not knowing one another, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa was the first to initiate early efforts at mobilisation and organisation. Once he was banished to Soshanguve, he sought creative ways of mobilising the community, using his position as a Priest.

Fortunately for Mkhathshwa, there were other priests that were prepared to collaborate with him. Accordingly, Father Matshikinya of the Anglican Church, allowed Mkhathshwa to hold his services after the Anglicans had finished with theirs.

But soon resources were mobilised to build the Saint Charles Lwanga Catholic Church in Soshanguve. This was to be the centre of much activities of various organisations.

These included Reverend Hans Hlaethwa, Elizabeth Matsemela, Engie Mliilwane, Reverend Nong, Peter Mosala, Mthunzi Nkosi, NN Ramoncha, Jack Pahlamohlaka, Jeremiah Mathibela, Norman Moloto and others.

Their efforts culminated in the formation of one of the strongest civics in the country – the Soshanguve Residents Association (SOREA), which affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Meanwhile, young people were also rising up in to mobilise through different formations. These included the Young

HISTORY

Christian Students, CIRO, a cultural group called Ilima and then the Congress of South African Students as well as the Azanian Students Organisation (AZASO), then changing its name on 1986 into South African National Students Congress (SANSCO).

In the early 1960s, Tshwane had a fairly strong presence of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC). One of the strategic mistakes committed by the organisation was to believe that it was possible to overthrow the apartheid regime within a period of three years after the Sharpeville massacre.

Accordingly, the nascent organisation, which was not yet five years old, threw everything into organising a possible insurrection by 1963. However, the regime had highly infiltrated the organisation and by 1963 dozens of PAC activists were arrested throughout the country.

In Tshwane, both Smangalis Mkhathswa and Moss Chikane, soon to be joined by Kanakana Matsena – all of them former leading activists in the black consciousness movement, started discussion groups that focused on converting activists into the ANC.

This is the history that has not been told and we have a duty to fully record it.

Again, as an expert communicator, Father Mkhathswa organised what he called 'Communication Weekends' where we all learned and appreciated the value of communication as a critical tool of struggle.

As we know, he made it possible for us to have The Eye community



newspaper that was central to the mobilisation and organisation of the civics, youth, women, students, unions and others in Tshwane and beyond.

Importantly, he started the New Nation newspaper that was edited by the late comrade Zwelakhe Sisulu.

As the township expanded, more schools were built. The Soshanguve Education Coordinating Committee (SECC) worked hard to ensure a smooth infusion of new educators into the system. This was helped by the education leadership that embraced the ever-changing socio-political changes. These school inspectors and principals, that included Strike Moropane, Elias Mahuma, Mr. Chokoe, Mrs. Makgatho and others.

Indeed, from 1990, Soshanguve, like many townships and villages had gone through ups and downs. The scent of freedom unleashed suppressed energies and enthusiasm.

As Soshanguve marks the 50th anniversary of its existence, it is important to remember those many people who made it possible for the 1994 democracy to be achieved.

Again, as Soshanguve celebrates 50 years of its existence, let us encourage young people to yearn for education; let us help young people to appreciate the irrefutable fact that today, education is the best liberator.

Together let us guide and mentor them into better human beings. The baton has been passed on to the new generation. And none would better represent that generation other than the Auditor-General of South Africa, Ms. Tsakane Maluleke.

Let the youth of Soshanguve and indeed of every township and village be defined by the attributes and hard-work of Tsakane Maluleke.

Let every young person – male and female – be inspired by the work and achievements of this exceptional woman.

To pull ourselves from the debilitating conditions of despondency and helplessness that define many young black people, let the example of Tsakane Maluleke be an inspiration that nothing is impossible; and what seems like an obstacle is but a step-ladder towards higher achievements. ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7 – 13 December 2024

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

7 December 1900

Emily Hobhouse travels to South Africa

Emily Hobhouse, a British campaigner travelled to South Africa as the Anglo Boer War drew to a close and exposed conditions of Afrikaner women and children held in concentration camps by the British. She also encouraged the Guild of Loyal Women, who advocated around this issue to visit camps for Blacks. Emily Hobhouse was deported from South African in 1901.

7 December 1973

Robert Resha passed on in exile



Robert Resha was born in 1920, in Bolotwe, Queenstown. Resha, an activist and journalist, was a prominent member of the new generation of leaders who emerged from the ranks of the ANC Youth League. He completed eight years of formal schooling and in his late teens went to work as a miner on the Reef. After several years, he was dismissed as a

troublemaker, after which he took up freelance journalism, moving to Sophiatown around 1940. He later became sports editor of New Age and also wrote for The World. Resha was co-opted onto the ANC's National Executive Committee in December 1952. In early 1953, he replaced Diliza Mji as Transvaal president of the Youth League. Resha took over as acting president during 1954 and 1955 when bans restricted the league's national president, Joe Matthews. He was jailed for participating in the Defiance Campaign as a member of the ANC Youth League. Resha was one of the Treason trialists, but was acquitted in 1961, after which he left the country for Algiers, where he became ANC representative. Resha was instrumental in enlightening the international community about the struggle of black South Africans. He died in London in 1973.

7 December 1988

Mandela moved to Victor Verster Prison in Paarl.

Mandela contracted tuberculosis in prison and was hospitalised. On 7 December 1988, he was moved to Victor Verster Prison, jailed in a house separate from other prisoners. He was eventually allowed to meet with other leaders as a precursor to negotiations, and on 2 February 1990 was released from prison, after 27 years.

8 December 1991

Chris Hani elected as SACP General Secretary



Former Umkhonto we Sizwe commander and ANC National Executive Committee member, Chris Hani, was elected as secretary-general of the South African Communist Party (SACP) at its first legal congress in four decades after its unbanning in 1990. He took over from Joe Slovo, who resigned as result of ill-health. Hani served in this position until he was assassinated in 1993 by right-wingers, Clive Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walus.

8 December 1988

Second major Archeological find at Sterkfontein

One of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century was documented in the South African Journal of Science on this date. Dr Ron Clark of the paleo-anthropological research institute of the University of the Witwatersrand discovered

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

the petrified skeleton of a 3,5 million year old hominid in the Sterkfontein Caves near Krugersdorp. The near-complete skeleton, belonging to the Australopithecus species, is 1.22 metre tall. Australopithecus preceded the genus Homo, to which we belong. Scientists believed the find to be the most significant since the discovery in 1924 of a skull belonging to the so-called Taung child, also in the Sterkfontein caves. Sterkfontein was declared a World Heritage Site in 2000. The area in which it is situated, was named the Cradle of Humankind.

8 December 1993 Winnie Madikizela-Mandela elected ANC Women's League President



At the national conference of the ANC Women's League held in Durban in 1993, following its re-establishment in 1991, Mam-Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was elected as President of the ANC Women's League, succeeding MamGertrude Shope, who was elected President at the 1991 conference in Kimberley. Mam-Winnie was elected despite opposition from sections of the ANC leadership, and was re-elected in 1997 at the Rustenberg ANCWL Conference, a position she held till 2003, when Cde Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula succeeded her as president of the League.

9 December 1805 Comet Biela sighted

The comet, said to have originated from Jupiter was first sighted and recorded in 1772. In 1805 it passed about 15.8 million kilometres from earth, visible in the African skies not yet light-polluted.

9 December 1961 Tanzania gains independence

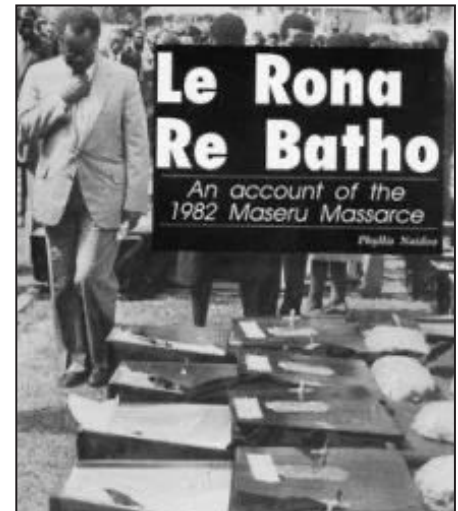


Tanzania, formerly known as Tanganyika was colonised by Germany, after World War I, handed over to Britain, and later under the trusteeship of the United Nations. Liberation movements like the Tanganyika Africa National Union (TANU), headed by Julius Nyerere fought for and won the independence and freedom from colonial rule.

9 December 1966 Choirmaster and composer Mkhonto Kumalo passes on

Alfred Assegai (Mkhonto) Kumalo, choirmaster and composer who was a founder member and first secretary of the Bantu Social Centre in Beatrice Street, Durban (YMCA), died in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg. He showed a talent for music from an early age and his first attempt at composition was in 1899. Most of his songs were widely acclaimed and are still regarded as amongst the best of Zulu choral music. He retired in 1961, continued to write church music until his passing in 1966.

9 December 1982 Apartheid government carries out Maseru Massacre



In the early hours of December 9th, 1982, South African Defense Force commandos crossed the border into Lesotho. Their target was a cluster of houses on the outskirts of Maseru where members of the African National Congress (ANC) were believed to be in hiding. Meeting no opposition from Lesotho's 2 000-man paramilitary force, they blasted their way through numerous homes. By morning 42 people were dead, 30 of them believed to be members of the ANC. The remaining victims were Lesotho residents, including five women and two children. Their mission accomplished, the members of SADF returned across the border to South Africa without incident. In a dawn announcement in Pretoria, General Constand Viljoen, chief of the South African Defense Force, explained that the raid, named "Operation Blanket," had been a pre-emptive strike against the ANC. The "**Maseru Massacre**" as it came to be called, was one of many brazen cross-border raids conducted by the SADF during the 1980s. The late Phyllis Naidoo wrote a book about the Maseru Massacre, called **Le Rona Re Batho**.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 December 1981

BBC announces HIV epidemic in USA

On 10 December 1981, the BBC reported that concerns about the disease were spreading in the United States due to the death of 75 people who were thought to have been infected. This was compounded by doctors' inability to pinpoint the cause of the epidemic. This unknown condition was eventually named the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus.

10 December 1939

Artist Allina Khumalo Ndebele is born



Allina Ndebele was born on 10 December 1939 at Ekuhlangeni Mission, in KwaZulu-Natal. She was one of six children raised by her mother because the migrant labour system forced her dad to work in Johannesburg. Ndebele obtained a junior certificate, and in 1962 applied to Ceza Hospital for nursing training. While waiting to be accepted, she worked as an interpreter for occupational therapists. A Swedish couple named Pedar and Ulla Gowenius, who taught spinning, weaving, drawing and sewing awakened and nurtured Ndebele's latent talent and creative spirit. She was the first to enroll when the Rorke's Drift Arts and Craft Centre was set up in 1963, and soon won a scholarship to the Dals Langed Art School

in Sweden to train as a teacher of weaving. Back at Rorke's Drift, she spent 12 years devoting her life to teaching weavers. She returned to her birthplace near the Black Umfolozi River and constructed a small workshop in her father's kraal, installed two second-hand looms which had been her farewell present from Rorke's Drift and embarked on her life's work. She started weaving classes for local women and, in the evenings, worked on her own tapestries. Her inspiration came from Zulu folktales told by her grandmother, the vivid pictures in her mind being transferred directly to the tapestry without any preliminary drawings. Dyeing wool required a walk of almost two kilometres to the river, and the work on her tapestries done by the light of candles or paraffin lamps because there was no electricity. She formally exhibited for the first time at the Pretoria Art Museum in 1985, later exhibited in other galleries, including Sweden's Orebro Lans Museum. Since then, she has exhibited as far afield as Washington DC and the Netherlands, and has received several awards. Today Allina Ndebele's tapestries with their depictions of African myths and legends as well as Bible stories can be seen in a number of major art galleries and collections. Each piece represents not just an irreplaceable part of the broader South African heritage, but a small monument to the indomitable spirit of an artist who overcame many obstacles to bring her art to her country and to the world.

10 December South Africans awarded Nobel Prize

10 December each year is the day that the Noble Peace Prize is announced and four South Africans were honoured on this day. Nkosi Albert Luthuli in 1960, Archbishop



Desmond Tutu in 1984 and joint Nelson Mandela and FW De Klerk in 1993. Three of the four Nobel Laureates also at some point in their lives lived on Soweto's famous Vilakazi Street.

10 December 1996 Mandela signs Constitution into law

Two years after the first democratic election, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, signed the final draft of the constitution into law at Sharpeville, Vereeniging on 10 December 1996. The date on which the constitution was signed marked International Human Rights Day.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

11 December 1911 Naguib Mahfouz, Egyptian and Nobel laureate born



Naguib Mahfouz was born in Cairo, Egypt. He knew from a very young age that he wanted to be a writer. He began writing at the age of eleven and at 17 published his first article. At 21 he published his first novel entitled **Old Egypt**. Mahfouz's most controversial novel, **The Children Gebelawi**, with its religious overtones, angered the conservative Muslim community and threats were made on his life. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988, the second African writer after Wole Soyinka (1986) and the first Arab to be so honoured. He published more than 50 novels and several short stories and screen plays throughout his career. Mahfouz died in 2006 at the age of 94.

11 December 2013 President Nelson Mandela's remains lie in state at Union Buildings

On 11 December 2013, Nelson Mandela's body was taken to the



Union buildings in Pretoria. As the body was transported from the Military Hospital, people waiting guard of honour was formed in Madiba Street near to the Union Buildings. The body lay in State for three days with a glass top coffin so that people could view Mandela's body.

12 December 1913 Emperor Melenik II passes on

Menelik II was emperor of Ethiopia from 1889 to his death on 12 December 1913. Menelik gained great fame and respect for defeating the Italian colonizers; after which he expanded his kingdom to include areas that were previously not a part of the Abyssinian kingdom. He was passionate about modernising Ethiopia and hailed for laying the foundation of the modern-day Ethiopian state and identity. He was succeeded by his eldest daughter Empress Zewditu I.

12 December 1933 Manu Dibango born



Cameroonian musician and songwriter was born in Douala. Manu Dibango's familiar saxophone, combined with traditional Cameroonian music and jazz, with elements of funk creates an infectious danceable sound, with widespread influence.

12 December 1963 Kenya declares Independence



Kenya gained its independence from Britain with Jomo Kenyatta as the country's first Prime Minister. The Union Jack was replaced by the black, red and green flag of the new nation. This followed the first all-inclusive elections on 27 May 1963. A year later Kenya was declared a Republic. The campaign for independence in Kenya dates back to the 1940s before Kenyatta became the leader of the Kenya African Union (KAU) in 1947 and birth of the Mau Mau rebel movement. In 1952 in response to the Mau Mau rebellion, the government declared a state of emergency which lasted for eight years. During the state of emergency a number of Mau Mau operatives, including Kenyatta and Achieng Aneko were arrested. In 1953, Kenyatta was charged with leading the Mau Mau rebellion and sentenced to seven years in prison. When Kenya became a Republic on 12 December 1964, Kenyatta was named Kenya's first president, with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga as his vice-president.

12 December 1964 Ringo born

Sandile 'Ringo' Madlingozi, was born in Peddie, Eastern Cape. He found fame as member of the bands Peto and later Gecko

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Moon, as well as his first solo album Vukani. Ringo combined traditional Xhosa instrumentalism with contemporary elements.

12 December 1968

Arthur Ashe ranked #1 in tennis

African-American Arthur Ashe became the first man of African descent to be ranked number 1 in professional tennis. He was a direct descendant of Amar, an enslaved West African woman brought to America in 1735 on the slave ship *The Doddington*. Ashe's family were kept as slaves by Samuel Ashe, the governor of the state of North Carolina, and given his surname.

12 December 1984

UDF leaders charged with Treason

Three leading members of the United Democratic Front (UDF), Archibald Gumede, Paul David and Billy Nair were charged with high treason. These anti-apartheid activists sought refuge in the British consulate in Durban after the South African Government was trying to arrest them for organising a boycott of elections in August 1984 of the racist Tricameral Parliament and a 90 days sit-in protest.

12 December 1996

ANC and PAC handed in Amnesty applications to TRC

The African National Congress (ANC) confirmed it had forwarded 300 applications from its members to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) for amnesty and was expecting to submit at least another sixty. The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) announced that at least 600 of



its members, including the 'high command' of its armed wing Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), had applied.

12 December 2000

Algiers Agreement ends Ethiopia-Eritrea War

Eritrea, made an Ethiopian province by vote of parliament in 1962 gained independence from Ethiopia after a referendum in 1993 overwhelmingly (99%) voted for independence. In 1998, a dispute that led to one of the continent's most bloody wars between two African countries broke out, over the disputed territory of Badme, hence also known as the Badme or Ethiopian-Eritrean War. The Algiers Agreement signed on 12 December 2000 affirmed the ceasefire agreed on earlier, provided for exchange of prisoners, the return of displaced persons, a Boundary Commission to demarcate the border and a Claims Commission to assess damages caused by the conflict. Despite the Agreement, sporadic hostilities between the two countries continued for decades, known as a No-War-No-Peace situation.

12 December 2012

Casablanca Tramway opened

The Casablanca Tramway was opened by King Muhammad VI, and within a year the system met its goal of transporting 100,000 passengers a day. It has two lines, which intersect at two points, forming part of a 47 km network with 71 stations throughout the city. Two additional lines are scheduled to open in 2024.

13 December 1941

Petros Matseke, social campaigner and activist dies

Matseke was born in 1878 in Pretoria, and drafted as a driver into the Boer Commandos during the Anglo-Boer War. He worked as a court interpreter, fluent in African languages and Dutch. Appointed to the Pretoria Location Advisory Board (PLAB) in 1928, he used this position to campaign for improved policing, the appointment of black nurses and against rent increases in black areas. Matseke served on the National Executive of the African National Congress (ANC), and as ANC

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Deputy Speaker and Organizer in the 1930s. He was a member of the Transvaal African Congress (TAC) and succeeded S.M. Makgatho as president. As TAC President, he presided over a conference that led to the founding of the African Mineworkers' Union (AMWU) in 1941. Matseke was active in the Lutheran Church and later joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). On 13 December 1941, Simon Petros Matseke passed away in Pretoria, survived by his wife and five children.

13 December 1946 Zomba floods

The heavy rain in the former capital of Malawi started on Friday the 13th, and by the second day over 50 cm of rain had fallen, leading to roads being covered, flashfloods and trees and mudslides from the mountains damaging buildings. The city is at the foot of the Zomba Plateau, which has forest trails, waterfalls and sweeping views over the surrounding plains. The plateau is home to baboons, giant butterflies and raptors. In 1948, the Paseli Brothers Band recorded a hit titled Napolo (meaning flash-flood), in which they described the Zomba flood.

13 December 1975 Visual artist, Alexis Preller dies

Alexis Preller was born on 6 September 1911 in Pretoria. Before pursuing a career in art, he worked as a clerk. He left for England in 1934 to study at the Westminster School of Art, returning to South Africa in 1935 before leaving for Paris. Preller's work defied classification, and was one of the most innovative artists of his time. He died in Jo-

hannesburg, on 13 December 1975, from a heart attack.

13 December 1989 Brazzaville Protocol signed

The peace agreement, brokered in the Republic of Congo, was signed by Angola, Cuba and South Africa, bringing an end to the South African war on Angola, which started in 1966, also called one of the 'last great conflicts of the Cold War.'

13 December 1990 Oliver Tambo returns from Exile

President of the African National Congress (ANC), Oliver Tambo, returned to South Africa after going into exile nearly thirty years ago. Tambo was one of the founder members of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) in 1944, and was elected as ANCYL Secretary. He served as ANC Secretary General from 1954. With the banning of the ANC and other liberation movements in 1961 Tambo was given the mandate to establish ANC mission offices in exile. He started both the UK/Ireland and Lusaka Missions and was at the fore of mobilisation of the armed struggle and sanctions campaigns against apartheid. When ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli died in 1967, Tambo was appointed as Acting President. He was elected as President of

the organisation during the Morogoro Conference in 1969. Oliver Tambo passed away on 24 April 1993. South Africa's main airport in Johannesburg is named after President OR.

13 December 1996 Kofi Annan appointed as UN Secretary General

The Ghanaian diplomat is appointed UN Secretary General by the UN Security Council on this day, later approved by the General Assembly. Annan served two terms as UN Secretary General from 1997 to 2006.

13 December 2015 First Nyege Nyege festival begins

The annual festival of electronic music, arts and culture was held for the first time in Kampala, Uganda. The festival, now in its 8th year attracts thousands of visitors from across East Africa and the continent, now takes place in Jinja, on the banks of Lake Victoria. It is organised and curated by the Boutique Foundation, a community-based organisation aimed at developing culture in Uganda. In 2023, the Nyege Nyege festival brought together over 300 acclaimed instrumentalists, producers, bands, emcees and deejays from across the continent for three days of non-stop music celebration on over nine acres of forest at the source of Nile River.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

7 – 13 December 2024

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

7 December

Africa Telecommunications and ICT Day



Africa Telecommunications and ICT Day is celebrated under the leadership of the African Telecommunications Union, to highlight access and innovation in the continent's participation in the information revolution. The continent is making giant strides, but there are still major challenges. Although cell-phone penetration has reached 63% and above of Africans, only 15.4% of African households have access to the internet, according to the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa.

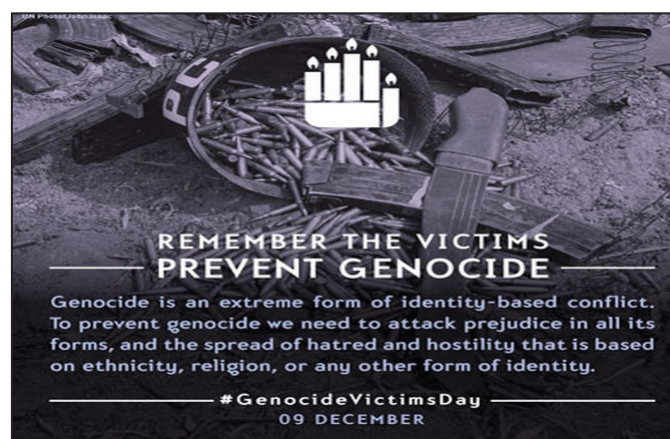
7 December

International Civil Aviation Day

The day commemorates the importance of civil aviation and raise awareness on the industry. Civil aviation (which includes both commercial, state and private) are one of the two branches of aviation, the other is military aviation. Most countries are part of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which sets regulations, standards and practices for the sector across the world. The aviation sector in Africa provides over 500,000 direct jobs, supports 7.7 million jobs and contributes around 63 billion USD to the continental GDP. Through the African Union and African Civil Aviation Authority, there is a programme to create a single African Aviation market.

9 December

International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Genocide



9 December marks the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. The Genocide Convention (article 2) defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group ...”, including: Killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. The Convention confirms that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law which parties to the Convention undertake “to prevent and to punish” (article 1). As we speak though, for over a year now a genocide against the Palestinian people is unfolding in Gaza.

9 December International Anti-Corruption Day



Fighting corruption is a global concern because corruption is found in both rich and poor countries, and evidence shows that it hurts poor people disproportionately. It contributes to instability, poverty and is a dominant factor driving fragile countries towards state failure. Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, the media and citizens around the world are joining forces to fight this crime. International Anti-Corruption Day is commemorated annually on 9 December in recognition of the United Nations Convention against Corruption which was signed in Mexico in 2003.

10 December International Human Rights Day

International Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR proclaims the inalienable human rights of all – regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, and is available in over 500 languages.



11 December International Mountain Day

Mountains are home to 15% of the world’s population and host about half of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. Their conservation is a key factor for sustainable development. Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change and overexploitation. As the global climate continues to warm, mountain people – some of the world’s poorest – face even greater struggles to survive. The rising temperatures also mean that mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, affecting freshwater supplies downstream for millions of people. This problem affects us all. We must reduce our carbon footprint and take care of these natural treasures.

12 December World Choral Day



Choirs form an important part of musical traditions, in religious and educational institutions but also more generally for the love of music. Every second Sunday of December, choirs across the world come together to perform on World Choral Day. South Africa has a rich tradition of choirs and choral forms, including isicathamiya, the isiZulu music form brought to the world stage by Ladysmith Black Mambazo and amakwaya, with choirs emerging from mission schools. South Africa also hosts Ihlombe!, one of the largest international choir festivals in the country, according to the Cape Times, with over 90 choirs competing.

12 December International Day of Neutrality

Neutrality in international relations is defined as “as the legal status arising from the abstention of a state from all participation in a war between other states, the maintenance of an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents, and the recognition by the

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

belligerents of this abstention and impartiality...". Countries can practice neutrality in a particular conflict or permanent neutrality in all future wars. Switzerland is an example of a permanent neutral country, with its policy of "armed neutrality in global affairs". It's the oldest and most well-known of neutral states (since 1515), but Costa Rica, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Japan and Ireland are amongst modern day neutral states, although definitions differ. (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/neutral-countries>)

12 December International Day of Universal Health Coverage

In the context of the global Coronavirus pandemic, the importance of public health and universal health coverage have once again been pushed to the fore. The WHO defines universal health coverage as "ensuring that all people have access to needed health services (prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective... (without exposing the user the financial hardship... is fundamental to ensuring social protection for health. The poorest populations often face the highest health risks and need more health services. A key element of financing for universal health coverage is sharing resources to spread the financial risks of ill-health across the population." South Africa has universal health coverage,

because any person can go for treatment to public health facilities. However, it needs the National Health Insurance (NHI) to ensure that resources for health are equitably distributed and shared. At the moment, health resources are extremely skewed. 17% of South Africans have private medical insurance, yet private health care accounts for 4.2% of GDP, as against 4.4 of GDP accounted for by the public health sector (Section 27).

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)

Quality Healthcare For All South Africans



To deny people their **human rights** is to **challenge their very humanity**. To impose on them a **wretched life of hunger and deprivation** is to **dehumanize them**.

NELSON MANDELA

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