



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



REDUCED LOAD SHEDDING SHOWS THAT OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS ARE WORKING

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

AS OF this past Monday, the country will have had no load shedding for over a month and a half. This welcome development shows that the Energy Action Plan we announced in 2022 is working.

It is too early to say that load shedding has been brought to an end. However, the sustained improvement in the performance of Eskom's power stations – as well as the new generation capacity we have added to our energy system – gives us hope that the end of load shedding is in sight.

A renewed focus by Eskom on maintenance and the return to service of several units is now showing results. Losses due to unplanned outages have reduced

by 9% between April 2023 and March 2024, adding the equivalent of 4,400MW of capacity to our national grid.

Better maintained and more reliable power stations have increased the country's Energy Availability Factor (EAF), which is the amount of electricity available from our power stations at any given time. The EAF has been above 60% since April, compared to 53% over the same period last year.

Through dedicated support from our law enforcement agencies and the National Prosecuting Authority, great strides are being made in rooting out corruption at Eskom. Work is continuing in disrupting criminal syndicates and protecting our power stations from sabotage.

The leadership, management and staff of Eskom, particularly the power station general managers and their teams, are to be commended for their efforts. The work of the National Energy Crisis Committee, which coordinates the response across government, has also been vital. The strong partnership with business and the support of other social partners has enabled the deployment of valuable resources and expertise.

The stabilisation in the availability of electricity and reduction in breakdowns signal a real trend in improved plant performance.

Yet, against all the available evidence, some people have claimed that the reduced load shedding is a political ploy ahead

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



of the elections. Some have speculated that there is less load shedding because Eskom is using the diesel-fuelled peaking plants to 'keep the lights on' in the run-up to the elections.

This is not borne out by the facts. Eskom is actually using these peaking plants at a much lower rate than the last two years. For example, last month Eskom spent more than half as much on diesel as it did in April 2023.

Another key factor driving the reduction in load shedding is our success in adding new generation capacity, mostly from renewable energy sources.

Removing the licensing threshold for new power generation projects has led to significant private investment in the energy sector. There is now a pipeline of more than 130 private energy projects, representing over 22,500 MW of new capacity, some of which are already starting to connect to the grid.

As a result of the tax incentives and financing options we introduced for businesses and households, by November last year the capacity of rooftop so-

lar had reached over 5,000MW, more than doubling in just twelve months. This has helped to alleviate pressure on the national grid. More bid windows have been released for new capacity from solar, wind, gas and battery storage, with more than 10,000 MW currently in procurement through public programmes.

Load shedding has been reduced due to a combination of all of these measures: fixing Eskom, unlocking private investment in energy generation, accelerating the procurement of new capacity and supporting rooftop solar.

While we have made progress in addressing the current crisis, we have also put our country on a clear path towards a reliable, affordable and sustainable supply



of energy. We have embarked on fundamental reforms to the energy sector that will ensure we don't experience load shedding in the future.

The Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill, which we tabled in Parliament last year, will establish a competitive energy market in South Africa for the first time. This will encourage investment and bring down electricity prices. We are also expanding our transmission network to accommodate renewable energy in provinces like the Northern Cape, with a plan to build over 14,000 km of new transmission lines across the country.

Just as we note this progress, we must be clear that we are not out of the woods yet. The risk of load shedding remains. We must therefore all continue to play our part by using electricity sparingly and paying for the electricity that we use.

What we can say for sure is that our plan is working. We are determined to stay the course and to continue this work until the energy crisis is brought to an end once and for all.

EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY: Celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

■ By **MAHLENGI BHENGU-MOTSIRI, ANC National Spokesperson and NEC Member**

SOUTH AFRICA's ground-breaking decision to legalize same-sex marriage in 2006 marked a pivotal moment not only on the African continent but also globally. This historic step was a testament to our nation's commitment to equality and human rights, reflecting the hard-won constitutional freedoms and democratic values that underpin our society. It was a significant stride toward creating a more inclusive and just society, acknowledging the sacrifices made by many to achieve this progress. As a young democracy, our progressive stance on human rights sets us apart on the global stage.

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia, celebrated worldwide on May 17th, aims to promote understanding and acceptance of gender and sexual diversities. This day is dedicated to coordinating global events to raise awareness about the violations and challenges faced by the LGBTIAQ+ community. Various networks and stakeholders come together to highlight these issues and advocate for change. The choice of May 17th is particularly meaningful as it commemorates the day



in 1990 when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its classification of international diseases, a milestone in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

As we commemorate this important day, it is crucial to center our activism on raising awareness about the violence, discrimination, and repression experienced by the Queer community worldwide. This day also presents an opportunity to engage with key policymakers, host dialogues, and take actionable steps with stakeholders to address these pressing issues. It is a reminder of the continuous effort required to protect and promote the rights

of all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our country has a proud history of championing the rights of all people, including the LGBTIAQ+ community. As the fifth nation globally to legalize same-sex marriage, we have set a precedent for other countries to follow. For instance, since the legalization, we've seen tangible improvements in the quality of life and mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as increased social acceptance. One notable example is the increased visibility and support for the LGBTIAQ+ community at

CURRENT AFFAIRS

pride events across the country, reflecting the growing social acceptance.

We have consistently been at the forefront of promoting diversity, a commitment that has yielded positive results throughout our democratic period. This dedication to diversity is evident in our political landscape, where the candidate list for our national parliament and provincial legislature showcases one of the most diverse groups of representatives. This diversity enriches our democracy and ensures that a broad range of voices and perspectives are heard in our legislative processes. It is a source of strength and a testament to our inclusive approach to governance.

The recently signed Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill is one of the latest achievements of the South African government, showcasing its commitment to upholding constitutional values. This bill is particularly significant for the Queer community, as it provides legal protection against hate crimes and hate speech directed at individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.

Given that the Queer community often faces violence and targeted hate, this legislation is crucial in ensuring that such heinous acts are addressed with the seriousness they deserve. By establishing clear legal consequences for hate crimes and hate speech, the bill promotes accountability and deterrence, making it clear that prejudice-motivated violence and discrimination will not be tolerated. For example, hate crime cases will now be prosecuted more vigorously under the legal framework, providing justice for victims



and their families.

While this is a significant step in the right direction, we acknowledge that more work needs to be done to change societal attitudes and how the community is treated. The bill wisely includes provisions for social and community programmes as part of its preventative measures. These initiatives aim to educate and foster understanding, helping to create a more inclusive and respectful society. Public education campaigns, school programmes, and community workshops are essential components that will drive this cultural shift.

The enactment of this bill not only reinforces the rights of the LGBTIAQ+ community but also strengthens the broader framework of human rights in South Africa. It demonstrates our nation's dedication to creating a safe and equitable environment for all its citizens.

Under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC), we have made significant strides

in securing equal rights for minorities, which has been a cornerstone of our democratic gains. The ongoing struggle for human rights reflects the core values of our political organization and accentuates our commitment to a democracy that serves the interests of all citizens, not just a privileged few. For example, recent legislative efforts to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from hate crimes and discrimination highlight our continued dedication to these principles. We have consistently safeguarded and upheld these fundamental rights, demonstrating our unwavering belief in a democracy that is equitable and just. Our dedication to advancing human rights

is not just confined within our borders but extends to advocating for these principles worldwide. South Africa's active participation in international forums on human rights underscores our global commitment to equality and justice.

Let us continue on this path of progress and inclusivity, knowing that our collective efforts will pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future for all. By standing together and advocating for the rights of the LGBTIAQ+ community and other marginalized groups, we can build a society that truly reflects the values of equality, justice, and human dignity. Our actions today will shape the future, ensuring that South Africa remains a beacon of hope and a model of progressive values for the world. I urge every citizen to engage in this ongoing dialogue, participate in community initiatives, and support policies that advance human rights. Together, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Johannesburg Declaration on Israel's Settler-Colonialism, Apartheid and Genocide:

TOWARDS A GLOBAL ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT FOR PALESTINE

WE, delegates from more than two dozen countries around the world, expressing the views of millions of people from all walks of life, of all faith and non-faith persuasions, of diverse political and ideological views, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 May 2024, are outraged by a century of colonialism; 75 years of ongoing Nakba; 75 years of Israeli genocide, colonialism, and apartheid; more than 75 years of land theft; 75 years of repression and denial of basic rights and freedoms. Palestinians in the West Bank (including Jerusalem), Gaza, the '48 areas, the refugee camps, and in the diaspora have suffered for decades under the Zionist military machinery.

We have witnessed seven months of ongoing genocide. The world has watched Israel brutally bombard Gaza from land, sea and air, turning it into an extermination camp. Israel has destroyed the conditions for life of Gaza's people, including medical care, nutrition, education, and infrastruc-



ture. Israel uses sexual violence, starvation, the deprivation of water, medicines and medical assistance as weapons of war against 2,3 million civilians in Gaza – in violation of international law and any sense of ethics and morality. The extent of the Gaza carnage is still being revealed as mass graves are discovered. Israel is deliberately murdering children and women; women who create, sustain and defend life. We oppose Israel's reproductive genocide. Israel is destroying Gaza's

environment and infrastructure to make it uninhabitable.

Israel's powerful western allies, primarily the United States of America and some European states, continue to enable this genocide against the Palestinian people with their supply of the most sophisticated weaponry. They also protect Israel diplomatically and politically, including the use of the UN Security Council veto, and the refusal to sanction the apartheid state despite

CURRENT AFFAIRS

its egregious violations of international law. Western political and economic elites profit off the blood and lives of Palestinians in a form of indefensible war capitalism.

The war prosecuted for decades by Israel and its genocidal enablers is not only against the Palestinian people, it is against humanity as a whole.

But the Palestinians and the people of the world have not been silent.

Palestinians have been heard across the world, from beneath the rubble, from within the refugee tents in Gaza, echoed through the resistance all over occupied Palestine. Their pain has become the pain of us all; their anger, our anger; their steadfastness, our steadfastness; their struggle, our struggle.

The voices of justice-loving people across the world have been heard in our streets, in the media, on social media, in our student encampments, places of worship, courts, workplaces and schools.

These voices have been amplified in multilateral institutions, in international courts, by those of our political leaders and governments with conscience. The relentless efforts of the Government of South Africa at the International Court of Justice stand out in this regard. These efforts must include the prosecution of all Israeli war criminals. We will be unrelenting in our mobilisation to pressure governments to sanction Israel.

All these voices inside Palestine and outside, stand firmly against the Zionist settler-colonial, racist,

apartheid and genocidal project. We are inspired by the African Charter on Human and People's Rights which 'undertak[es] to eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, zionism and to dismantle... all forms of discrimination'. Zionism is racism!

We further amplify those voices of anger against and resistance to Israel's violence and injustice, and against imperialist machinations on the Palestinian and other people around the world.

We, inspired by, and many of us having been part of, the global Anti-Apartheid Movement that helped end apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, now rise, as the continuation of that movement, to confront the settler-colonialism and apartheid of Israel and its backers, to ensure Israel and those complicit in its genocide are held accountable, to support the struggle for the liberation of

the Palestinian people, for the restoration of their rights to freedom, dignity, self-determination, return, resistance, as guaranteed by international law.

We rise now as part of a Global Anti-Apartheid Movement for Palestine, in solidarity with the Palestinians of all faiths, backgrounds and ideologies, who struggle against occupation, colonialism, apartheid and genocide in Palestine and globally. Their heroism, strength and sumud (steadfastness) inspires us to greater heights and to urgent action.

We rise with a determination for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire to end Israel's genocide, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, ending settler and military terrorism in the West Bank and lifting the siege on Gaza. Palestinians are entitled to reconstruction of all that Isra-



CURRENT AFFAIRS



el has destroyed, compensation and reparations. We will not rest until the end of the ongoing Nakba and until Palestine is liberated. We will use all strategies and tactics to work towards our goal, including working for the total isolation of the Israeli apartheid state – as was done by the Anti-Apartheid Movement against the South African apartheid state – using boycotts, divestment and sanctions campaigns, and other strategies in our Plan of Action.

We call for the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners, detainees and hostages, and demand an end to arbitrary arrest, administrative detention, abductions, and torture of prisoners.

We salute governments that have shown their commitment to confront Israeli injustices and oppose colonialism and apartheid and act in line with their moral and legal obligations as members of the international community. We condemn governments that have enabled or been complicit with the Zionist project, which – from Balfour to Biden – remain complicit even as Israel perpetrates a genocide, and violates international law with impunity. Israel's assault is on human values

of truth, rights, justice, equality, and fairness; it entrenches racism and violent repression, and threatens humanity with nuclear devastation.

Standing with the Palestinian people means standing with humanity, justice and equality; it means standing against all forms of racism: anti-Palestinian racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia. Our Plan of Action lays out the unfolding and growth of a Global Anti-Apartheid Movement. We are determined to urgently work until the complete liberation of the Palestinian people.

In this first Global Anti-Apartheid Conference for Palestine, we have initiated a process to build on widespread mobilisation across the world over decades, to escalate Palestinian solidarity and build the Anti-Apartheid Movement, including that at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban in 2001, and the 2005 Palestinian civil society call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel. We call on all solidarity movements across the globe to join this effort of building a Global Anti-Apartheid movement, which will stand with all oppressed and exploited

people.

We are committed to isolate apartheid Israel by intensifying consumer, academic, sports, arts, and cultural boycotts and escalating the campaign for economic and financial sanctions. We will prioritise blocking its shipping routes, campaigning for an arms' embargo against Israel, targeting those supporting, funding, supplying weapons to and joining the Israeli Occupation Forces, and expelling Israel from international sporting, cultural and academic bodies.

Just as the Global Anti-Apartheid movement did not make concessions to the apartheid South African state until the complete dismantling of the apartheid system, we too refuse to concede until the total dismantling of Israel's settler-colonial project. To that we are committed and we shall not stop until our purpose is fulfilled.

Palestine will be free, from the River to the Sea!

Amandla!

Awethu!

Power to the People!

CURRENT AFFAIRS



WHY I WOULD VOTE FOR THE ANC

■ By **MOHAMED ENVER SURTY**

SEVERAL months ago, as I was driving from Midrand to Houghton, I could see from the highway two huge Palestinian flags unfurled and hanging from the white tall imposing minarets of the West Street mosque. It appeared as if the twin flags were embracing the sturdy minarets from which they were hoisted. The West Street mosque is visible from – and very close to – the busy M1 North Highway which takes motorists to and from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Sandton, Midrand, Alexandra and many other destinations.

The flags are a powerful public symbol of solidarity with the Palestinians and a reminder of their

eighty-year struggle for justice and freedom from occupation and colonisation. I respect and admire the resolve of the trustees, leaders of the congregation (Imaams) and the congregation at large for demonstrating their solidarity with the oppressed and colonised people of Palestine.

It became clear that in terms of the centres of political power, the ANC (in Gauteng) and elsewhere in the country permitted the flying of the flag and other forms of public support for Palestine, but the DA in the Western Cape unashamedly and against the will of the people prohibited such artistic expression. The prohibition by the DA was aimed at stifling any

demonstration of support for the Palestinians who were dispossessed of their land and kept in a densely populated, open-air concentration camp at the mercy of the Israeli Occupying Force and government.

The Palestinian flag is a powerful symbol of the struggle and with the keffiyehs (traditional head-dress) are symbiotic expressions of solidarity. Yet, unashamedly the DA in its recent advert took the flag desecration a step further. They burnt – in an advert – our South African national flag, a powerful symbol of our national unity and a democratic South Africa for all people. They did this for their parochial and narrow po-

CURRENT AFFAIRS



litical opportunistic gain. This is racist and highly insensitive and challenges the national unity and social cohesion which the ANC continues to work hard for.

They ought to be reminded that the flag, its value and meaning is embedded in our Constitution. It belongs to no political party, including the ANC, but the nation of South Africa, united in its diversity. It represents a break from our repressive past from dehumanisation to dignity. It symbolises our collective struggle for freedom and unity.

The bold and principled stand taken by the ANC and the ANC-led government to take Israel to the ICJ and seek provisional relief on the basis that it was plausible that genocide and ethnic cleansing were taking place, must be applauded. The central role of Naledi Pandor, a Muslim, must also be noted. The Court (almost) unanimously found in favour of South Africa. There was so much history among the coterie of South African lawyers and representatives present at The Hague. Minister Naledi Pandor,

an astute and courageous woman, would not be intimidated into submission. The argument was led by two Muslims. She would probably remember the reference to the Intifada and the Bosnian massacres as she argued most eloquently for the limitation. How right she was!

We cannot and should not forget the role of Ahmed Kathrada and many Muslim activists who made democratic change possible. Their struggle was not only for the Muslim community but for the broader Black community of which we are a part. The leadership of Dr Yusuf Dadoo and Dr Monty Naicker in creating a common front for the struggle for non-racialism cannot be forgotten. Many among whom were Imaam Abdullah Haroon, Ahmed Timol and Mr Suliman Saloojee were ruthlessly tortured and murdered by the security police whilst incarcerated.

It is clear that the ANC and the ANC-led government is endowed with human resources and the political will and courage to bring about revolutionary change,

even where the odds are stacked against it. In the same vein, it has recognised, admitted and committed through organisational renewal, to deal with corruption, malfeasance and inefficiencies we have witnessed during the state capture epoch. It cannot also avoid the reality of poverty, unemployment and crime and has to focus with meaning and purpose to overcome these challenges.

The ANC's struggle for justice, equality, human dignity and freedom is aligned with our Muslim religious beliefs. The ANC's commitment to non-racialism and non-sexism cannot be faulted. It should not be forgotten that it is the ANC that nominated our first Chief Justice, Ismail Mahomed, a muslim and our first Minister of Justice, Mr Abdullah Omar, an advocate and also a Muslim.

Very few Muslim youth participate in the branch or Regional activities of the ANC and there is an expectation among some youth to be parachuted into higher positions, solely because of their skills and intellect. The reality is that the ANC needs both

CURRENT AFFAIRS

– intellectual ability and skills as well as passionate commitment to the national democratic revolution through service to the people through its organisation.

Muslims continue to play an important role in critical structures of the organisation like the Integrity Commission where Dr Essop Jassat served for many years, the National Disciplinary Committee, and the National Appeal Commission (Advocate Yahya (Johnny) de Lange). Mr Mohamed Bhabha is also in the prosecution team of the National Disciplinary Committee. This presence and participation are critical as it must not appear as if the Muslims have withdrawn from the National Democratic Revolution or the political strata of our broader society by retreating, becoming insular and unwilling to serve the ANC or assist in its renewal initiative.

Young leaders in Parliament and our legislatures such as Ms Fasiha Hassen and Ms Tasneem Motara are a positive sign of renewal. In Cape Town, we have Faiez Jacobs and Mohamed Khaled Sayed. This is promising as they bring with them considerable experience, skill and a great deal of energy.

Tolerance and Respect

The national election is imminent and one wonders whether the Muslim community in particular would be influenced by the ANC and ANC-led government's bold step in support of justice, peace, equality and freedom. The answer seemed obvious but there is always a competition between values and material comforts and occasionally material comforts trump a value-based and principled approach.

One may ask whether the action in the ICJ was an opportunistic intervention. Certainly not. No conference of the ANC or its annual January 8 statement for decades was delivered without pronouncing the ANC's support for the rights and freedoms of the Palestinians. There was also a case launched by South Africa opposing the intention of the US to move its embassy to Jerusalem. This case has not been finalised.

The magnanimity and compassion of the Muslims is well known. We saw it in the recent upheaval in Durban and surrounding areas, we see it in Muslim-led organisations such as the Gift of the Givers, Al Imdaad and Islamic Relief Fund, South African National Zakaat Fund, Awqaf and a host of many other organisations committed to supporting the poor,

destitute and needy. We should continue to be the gift of the givers reaching out to the poor, the destitute and those afflicted by disaster.

Notwithstanding the challenges we face, I shall vote ANC and continue resisting attempts at corruption and malfeasance and try to help the ANC and our government in its effort to build a better South Africa for all, a better Africa and a better world. I would hope in all humility that Muslims do likewise and allow the ANC to renew itself.

Mohamed Enver Surty is Former Deputy Minister of Education, Basic Education and Minister of Justice, Member of the National Disciplinary Committee and Member of the National Legal and Monitoring Team for the ANC.

REASONS TO VOTE ANC

BUILDING THE NATION

The **ANC promotes unity, social justice, and freedom** for all South Africans through reconciliation efforts and inclusive policies.

LET'S DO MORE TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

African National Congress **ANC** **A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL**



Reopening of inquests into the deaths of Albert Luthuli, Mlungisi Griffiths Mxenge and Booi Mantyi

■ By **CHRISPIN PHIRI**

THE Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, has accepted and acted on the recommendation from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to reopen inquests into the deaths of Albert Luthuli, Mlungisi Griffiths Mxenge and Booi Mantyi.

Chief Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli

Chief Albert Luthuli, former President-General of the ANC, a renowned anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, tragically passed away on 21 July 1967. The official reports stated that he was hit by a train near Gledthrow station. His untimely death led to various speculations and inquiries, but the exact circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear to this day.

21 September 1967, an inquest was held by the apartheid regime at the Magistrates' Court in Stanger, in the district of lower Tugela. This inquest found that the cause of death was due to a fractured skull and cerebral. According to the court at the time the *"evidence did not disclose any criminal culpability on the part of South African Railways and anyone else."*

As a result of representations made to the National Director of Public Prosecutions which brought to the fore that in 1967, the inquest did not consider certain mathematical and scientific principles. This mathematical and scientific report reveals that

it is highly unlikely that Chief Luthuli was struck by a train and died because of that.

Considering this information amongst others and the investigation done by the Truth and Reconciliation Unit of the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation, Minister Lamola accepts and agrees that it is necessary and in the interest of justice to approach the Judge President of High Court of South Africa in the KwaZulu-Natal Division to reopen the inquest into the death of Chief Albert Luthuli.

Mlungisi Griffiths Mxenge

On November 20, 1981, the esteemed anti-apartheid activist and African National Congress member, Mxenge, tragically lost his life under mysterious circumstances. His body, bearing 45 lacerations, was discovered on a sports field in Umlazi, a grim testament to the violence inflicted upon him. In the wake of his death, an inquest in 1983, conducted under the apartheid regime, failed to identify the perpetrators, despite clear signs of foul play, including evidence of surveillance on Mxenge's office and the poisoning of his dogs.

A thorough investigation was not done into the death of Mxenge. The Harms Commission and Truth and Reconciliation Commission revealed that orders to kill Mxenge came from Vlakplaas head Dirk Coetzee. Dirk Coetzee and his accomplices Nofomela, and Tshikalanga were granted amnesty for the mur-

der of Mxenge.

There is new evidence that certain critical information was not presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the initial inquest, although the perpetrators were clearly identified. Minister Lamola accepts that it is necessary and in the interest of justice to approach the Judge President of High Court of South Africa in the KwaZulu-Natal Division to re-open the inquest into the death of Mxenge.

Booi Mantyi

Booi Mantyi was killed in an alleged altercation with members of the South African Police force on 16 June 1985 in the Northern Cape. A formal inquest held in De Aar in 1985 ruled that no one was responsible for the death. A new investigation has revealed that an eyewitness who has not previously testified has been identified. Considering the above, Minister Lamola is of the view that it is necessary and in the interests of justice to request the Judge President of the High Court of South Africa, Northern Cape Division to re-open an inquest into the death of Mantyi.

Minister Lamola, in agreement with the recommendations said ***"With these inquests, we open very real wounds which are more difficult to open 30 years into our democracy, but none the less, the interest of justice can never be bound by time. The truth must prevail."***

Embracing My Diversity and Unshaken Resilience

■ By **MEGAN ADONIS CHAUKE**

AS I reflect back on my journey as a young African woman, mother, daughter, sister and friend with a disability, I am reminded of the hurdles I've overcome, the battles I've fought, and the strength I've discovered within myself. It hasn't been an easy road.

Every day is a testament to resilience, a commitment to purpose, and an unwavering determination to be the voice of the voiceless.

I hear the cries of women who have suffered, felt pain, and considered giving up. I feel their heartaches, their struggles, and their moments of despair. But amidst the darkness, there is always a flicker of hope, a spark of resilience that refuses to be extinguished. To all these women, I offer words of motivation, encouragement, and empowerment.

As women with disabilities, we carry wounds, scars, and pain, but we also carry a strength that is unparalleled. We must remind ourselves, and women across the globe, of our resilience, our courage, and our ability to overcome any obstacle. Our journey is uniquely ours, and the race we run is the one destined for us alone.



The struggles I face as a young woman with a disability are not uncommon. Rejection, failure, and the constant need for self-motivation are part of my daily reality. But I refuse to be defined by my challenges. Instead, I choose to lift my spirit, motivate myself, and surround myself with positivity and support.

To all women, from different backgrounds, demographics, and walks of life, I extend a motivational call to action. It is our collective responsibility to take our rightful place in society, to em-

brace diversity, and to promote inclusion. Democracy, humility, love, peace, and stability require our active participation and engagement.

As women with disabilities, we understand the importance of diversity, inclusion, and advocacy. We must continue to uphold democracy, advocate for economic and social justice, and work towards equality for all. Let us be the beacon of hope, the voice of change, and the catalysts for a more inclusive and equitable world.

ANC Election Fortunes Take a Turn for the Better

■ By **HANIEF EBRAHIM**

“YOU may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I’ll rise!” These are the words of none other than the courageous and gifted American memoirist, poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou.

Indeed, the unrelenting hatefulness, the unyielding negative sentiments and the downright shameful reporting against the ANC by the Fourth Estate has been a grave concern of mine over the last while. I was astonished to read, only a few days ago, that everything that we, as the ANC government, have done around the social welfare net is considered as an almost “*unbearable burden on the state*”. In fact, analyst and commentator, Ms Ann Bernstein is quoted as saying “*It’s an enormous mark of failure, and it is not sustainable ... We’re on a very risky path*”.

The fact that a growing number of people requiring social assistance – more than 24-million in 2024 – is benefitting directly from the system is simply not part of the thinking. And then the killer line: “*Its future could depend on whether it chooses the EFF or DA as a coalition partner if it los-*

SOCIAL GRANTS

R92.13 BILLION

3.8 MILLION BENEFITTED R92.13 BILLION

The ANC is investing in our seniors by expanding basic support services. Through the continued efforts to support older persons with vital social grants, it has benefited R3.8 million people in 2022, totaling R92.13 billion today.

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC

African National Congress **ANC**

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

es its majority, as polls suggest”.

Well, “... *but still, like air, I’ll rise*”.

And so did I. I could simply not hide my excitement! Positive news, at last, at the polls, I thought. Admittedly, I was rather pleasantly surprised, if not emboldened to see the article in News24, which the ANC’s support is ticking up as

it intensifies its campaign and it may even reach 50%!

This was in reference to the latest observable trends in polling released by Mr Frans Cronje and his Social Research Foundation (SRF) outfit. According to Cronje, the ANC’s support was “*slowly and steadily*” ticking upward just days before the crucial 29

CURRENT AFFAIRS



May 2024 national and provincial elections.

Not unsurprisingly, polling from various think-tanks and market polling research companies have been placing the ANC's support at around 40%, with some even suggesting lower ratios, at 39%, in recent months.

Cronje added an interesting line – “*And let me also say above 50% is not impossible*”.

Importantly, in their defence, the SRF has maintained polls do not predict the outcome of the election but gauge the temperature of the electorate in the run-up to the polls.

Notwithstanding everything else to the contrary, it appears not only perceptions around the ANC are on the up. Our own Greater JHB Branch campaigning efforts have also indicated an appreciation that the ANC is the leading force in the South African political landscape.

As the ANC, we are now in the phase of the “*rolling-mass-volun-*

teer” elections campaign where we have deployed our senior leadership together with our cadres across the length and breadth of our country. This is always what we as the ANC do best – connecting to and engaging with the people. Call it Umrabulo, call it *Motho Mothong* – it is during ‘door-to-door’ campaigning where we excel and are at our very best. Of course, this did not start now only during election time – it is in our DNA and defines us as the ANC for over three decades.

We have once again listened to and heard our people – they want an ANC for the next five years and the foreseeable future that will not only listen to them but keep our promises that we made. Implement, implement and more implementation has been the cry.

So, as we go about intensifying our campaigning duties over the next 14 days, we will ask again and again, “*Please vote ANC*”, but know that as the cadres of the ANC we will ensure that we discharge our commitments, responsibilities and promises to the people.

By all means, we must celebrate our successes and achievements, over the past three decades. However, we really must and will go the extra mile to make sure that the ANC, when it makes promises like it has done in its 2024 Manifesto, actually will ensure that we will implement the promises made. I for one, together with a few of the ANC veterans, have volunteered to work in the space of an “ANC Monitoring and Evaluations Framework” to ensure that we hold our feet to the fire. Our overarching outcomes, commitments and performance must be measured. What gets measured gets implemented!

The ANC is an illustrious 112-year organisation and the reason it survived for more than a century is precisely because it always did what it said to the people it would do. So we must again make entirely and absolutely sure that the people regain that confidence.

If we, as the ANC led government say that we are going to solve the energy challenges – we must solve it; if we say we are going to solve the water-related prob-

CURRENT AFFAIRS

lems, let us commit to solve it. Ditto, with the dire challenges of crime, corruption and the like.

As the ANC Veterans' League, we are constituted of a committed cohort of veterans who are not interested in any positions and or deployments. We want to ensure that the ANC goes back to the qualities that gave us a sense of purpose and meaning where we served for over forty years. We prosecuted the struggle for a free and liberated South Africa not for any personal gain, or glory, save only to ensure that the fruits of freedom and liberty will be shared amongst everyone.

We, the veterans are amongst those who are fully committed to serve the people of South Africa, in our villages, townships and community forums. And what we want to ensure is that the ANC is again an ANC that listens, that cares and that acts for the people and the common good. We owe it to the people and we owe it even to the ANC itself. We cannot and will not betray the ANC.

Over the last 30 years, we have built a new nation, together. Also a new country – one that all South Africans can call home. We have worked together, black and white, women and men and the young and old to improve the lives of all our people.

We have shown what can be done when people come together in a common endeavour to serve the people. As we face the challenges lying ahead, we will need to display the same fighting spirit, determination and resilience in continuing our efforts at building a prosperous nation.

In government, we as the ANC have worked tirelessly with all

South Africans, not only our supporters, to tackle poverty, grow the economy, build peace and stability and improve lives and livelihoods. We have shown what is possible when we work in partnerships as the alliance, the social sectors and just generally across the various social strata's toward a common cause. A better life for all!

More, much more, still needs to be done. Working together we can and must do more. We need to overcome a rather brutal chronicle of both triumphs and trials, over the past three decades. We all will know the self-evident truths: three decades ago, we inherited an entirely fractured and disintegrating nation – a literal drapery dragging all and sundry down and peppered with institutional fragmentation of race, class, gender and spatial inequities. Our 'fork in the road'

too was obscured by the shadows of apartheid, yet our people yearned and demanded that we come together for a greater common good.

As the ANC, our resolve remains unyielding. All our programmes in government will be dedicated to reinforcing and enhancing state capacity to deliver services and implement policies effectively.

It was also Maya Angelou who said: *"Ask for what you want and be prepared to get it!"* Now, I am going out to campaign even longer and harder! I am asking that the ANC get to a 50%-52%-55% voting range in the National elections. That is my target range. I am preparing to get it.

Will you care to join me, please?

VOTE ANC!

SIYANQOBA
RALLY 25 MAY 2024

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FNB STADIUM GATES OPEN 07H00

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. African National Congress

VICTORY IS INDEED CERTAIN FOR THE ANC AS OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE IN DISARRAY JUST BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

■ By **SEPHOKA DAVID SEKGOBELA**

WITH less than two weeks before the elections, ANC members and supporters are encouraged to be courageous and resilient. There are evident signs that the ANC is going to emerge victorious with decisive victory out of these much contested 2024 national elections. The ANC election machinery is in full swing, and it looks like no one would stop the ANC on its way to victory. Against all odds, the ANC has pulled all stops, and it does not need more than one functioning brain cell to realize that nothing is going to stop the ANC from clinching outright majority victory on 29 May 2024.

Though subjective and sponsored media and polls would like to push a certain narrative to influence the outcome of the elections, propagating and wishing for the demise of the ANC as the ruling party, and making people to believe that the ANC is indeed going to lose these coming elections, the reality is that the forthcoming elections are really taking toll on the opposition parties.



What works in ANC's favour is that the opposition parties that clubbed together against the ANC have started to fight amongst themselves. There is nothing sensible that brings them together, except for their common hatred for the ANC. For instance, with Action SA taking the DA to the Press Ombudsman for fake and sponsored polls, and MK Party founder purportedly suspending the face of the organization, Jacob Zuma, and asking IEC to remove him, the wheels are coming off.

With the suspension of loadshedding, opposition parties have been disarmed. They certainly cannot make loadshedding their bargaining chip anymore. They have used almost all ammunition at their disposal against the ANC.

The truth will always prevail. There have been many attempts to derail the ANC campaign trail or to distract it, but the ANC leadership, in its wisdom, has been able to see through all those antics, and never lost focus. The ANC's election campaign is

CURRENT AFFAIRS

bolstered by the ANC's bigwigs who had to come forward in defence of the glorious movement. Seeing former leaders of the ANC like Thabo Mbeki, Kgalema Motlanthe, Tokyo Sexwale, Mathews Phosa, David Mabuza, Baleka Mbete, and many more, coming to talk about the ANC that they know, to dispel the lies told by those with nefarious intentions, was the best thing that could ever happen to the ANC election campaign under these hostile circumstances. It was the seal of approval that the ANC is indeed unstoppable.



The corporate world has been heaping lot of money to a myriad of small-scale parties, just to reduce the ANC to size, and to enable white-dominated opposition parties or the so-called Moon Pact Coalition, to grab the much coveted power from the ANC. All those smaller parties would be largely feeding on the ANC's electoral constituency.

Some of the reasons why the ANC should be returned to power include, inter alia, the following:

- The ANC government developed the National Development Plan that serves as the blueprint for the advancement of the country.
- The ANC government is playing a crucial role in international geopolitics as well, and it cannot just abandon the fight against injustices, masochism, terrorism and genocide acts committed against innocent civilians in Gaza and elsewhere. However, all these would be halted or reversed if the ANC is not returned to power to continue with its good deeds.
- The ANC has a duty to continue with the implementation of its pro-poor policies, and it

would be a mistake to allow it to be outvoted. Many people who, for reasons beyond their control, live below the breadline, would like to see the ANC continuing to implement its pro-poor policies that their lives depend on.

- Under DA-led government: – The gains attained under the democratic dispensation of the ANC government would be reversed. White-dominated parties like the DA and Freedom Front are on record saying that, should they assume power, the first thing that they would do is to scrap ANC policies such as Affirmative Action, BB-BEE, Employment Equity, cut down what they perceive to be bloated public service, review SA's international relations, etc.

The sheer desperation by the opposition parties to unseat the ANC is leading them to take desperate and absurd measures – telling blatant lies that nothing has been attained in the last 30 years, making empty promises that could never be fulfilled, burning the national flag, clubbing together to fight the ANC, etc. All these are signs of desperation.

There are genuine concerns about threats of national security and sovereignty of the country posed by the DA. DA has the propensity to alienate the nation with their racial inclinations. They have done it before, and there were no consequences, and they have just repeated their treasonous deeds once again. The past wayward and treasonous behaviour of DA MPs, Emma Powell and Kobus Marais, that could have disastrous consequences for the country, have not been taken seriously and the culprits have not been taken to task. Hence, the DA think that they can do anything, including the burning of the national flag.

In 2023, DA MP, Kobus Marais, provided false information about the Russian ship, Lady R, that docked on our shore, to the US Ambassador in South Africa, Reuben Brigety. On the basis of false information about South Africa, the US Ambassador called a press conference, making false accusations that South Africa was selling arms to Russia to be used in the Russia-Ukrainian war. A Commission of Enquiry was urgently convened to conduct thorough investigation into

CURRENT AFFAIRS

the allegations. It came out that the information provided by the DA to the US, and who knows who else, was false. Mr Marais was not held personally liable for his treasonous deeds.

DA MP, Emma Powell's recent letter to the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, and her attendance of NATO 2024 Security Conference recently was deemed to be the last straws to break the camel's back, but no. The DA has just done the unthinkable - burning the SA flag in its purported draw of attention of the electorate. I am not even interested in the reasons thereof.

These are the worst treasonous deeds by people owing allegiance to South Africa, namely Kobus Marais and Emma Powell. They exposed South Africa to risks of foreign-sponsored regime change. The national security and sovereignty of the country are under serious threat. Besides apparent commitment of High Treason, MP Emma Powell seems to have violated the South African electoral system as well. Her letter is in stark contrast to the provisions of the Electoral Act and the Electoral Code of Conduct. One would have liked criminal charges of High Treason to be laid against the two DA MPs.

The actions of the two delinquent DA MPs met all the requirements of the crime of High Treason, and they should not have been let get away with it.

With the suspension of loadshedding, opposition parties have been disarmed. They certainly cannot make loadshedding their bargaining chip anymore. They have used almost all ammunition at their disposal against the ANC.



A precarious political and governance future: Is SA ready for coalition governance?

■ By **THOBANI MTHETWA**

IN several instances, coalitions can be understood as incomplete contracts and are characterized by a give-and-take situation. Coalition leaders are sometimes forced to implement decisions against their ideology and principles to make coalitions continue. Coalition governments in South Africa have become a common electoral outcome. All political parties had to settle on a joint programme, and this meant that they had to compromise and concede to something that would ensure that the

African National Congress (ANC) does not find expression or power to make decisions at the local government level.

However, it requires all sides to compromise and concede something to the others. Not only must favoured policies unacceptable to the coalition partners be jettisoned, moved down the list of priorities, or watered down, but it is also likely that all partners will have to accept and actively promote some measures they believe are misguided or even

CURRENT AFFAIRS

wrong. This circumstance puts the political integrity of the politicians involved in question. The suggestion arises that they have betrayed themselves and their parties by abandoning their principles and undertakings to toters to attain office.

One reason is that junior partners can only enact a few of their promises before the election. To govern, they must compromise with their senior partners. Although they campaigned on specific policies, they often need help implementing them. But there is another reason. Minor parties in the coalition usually need help to differentiate themselves sufficiently from their more significant coalition partner. Even though junior parties typically pursue their own distinct policy goals, they only sometimes succeed in communicating their policy stances. Voters see little difference between junior and senior partners and thus see no reason to vote for the junior, less powerful party in the next election. A party can only form a coalition with those with an ideological overlap. A coalition needs a well-defined

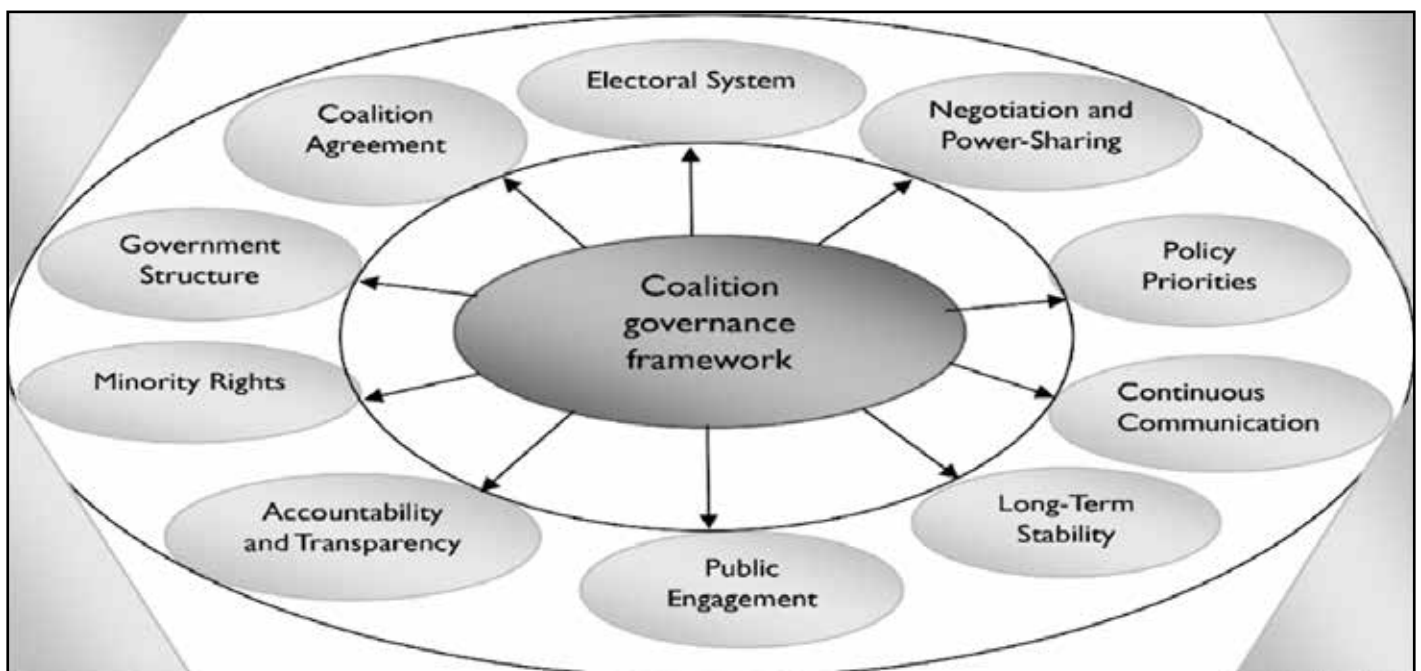
agreement regulating how the government will operate.

At a practical level, public officials' disengagement from service delivery means that citizens now must develop mechanisms to protect themselves from failures that their governments perpetrate. However, these coalitions were formed by political elites who perceived local municipalities as a powerful ruse to advance their interests at the expense of the poor. Essentially, coalitions are established by elite groups who believe that they are agents who can pick the options that best serve the needs and objectives of the people. Theoretically, coalitions have been perceived to be the new order that will ensure transparency, accountability, and stability.

Coalition politics and governments in South Africa have emerged for various political and economic reasons. One could further say that coalitions do not represent democratic elements currently, but coalitions represent nothing more than new right-wing political parties to gain preferen-

tial access to the resources of the state in order to satisfy short-term interests. This further indicates the inability of coalition partners in most municipalities to constrain the behavior of actors, and the mandate of service delivery is ignored. There is more focus on the party and personal economic development, and this has caused tensions that will cause instability in the country.

The fratricidal contestations between the coalition partners at the local state seem to suggest that political leaders and public officials only view governance as a ruse to pursue their self-interests. Therefore, service delivery protests and violence at the local level will manifest in South Africa because political leaders have not taken the time to consider that citizens will never flourish in a country that is faced with underdevelopment and a lack of sensitivity to the people's basic needs. To promote government stability in South Africa, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs must enforce formal and informal rules and procedures, routines,



CURRENT AFFAIRS

norms, and conditions upon the coalition partners.

It must promote political consultation among its members, set standards of behavior to which members are expected to conform, enforce procedures to settle disputes and promote peaceful cooperation between coalition partners. However, the most significant limitation facing COGTA in South Africa is that political parties are less disciplined and cannot reach a consensus on the

different policy promises to voters during the election campaign. They lack the governance and political maturity to aggregate preferences into a single outcome for any given proposal.

The unresolved issue of unstable and unregulated coalition administrations, mainly prevalent in local municipalities, becomes more concerning as the 2024 South African general elections draw near. However, South African political parties and politicians have

demonstrated that they lack the wisdom and political maturity the constitution assumed when it predicated a multi-party system of democratic government as one of its values. This indicates that South African politics are fragmented and will become more unstable if there is a power change at a national level and in certain provinces.

Finally, South Africa requires an outright political victor because political parties and politicians have demonstrated that they lack the wisdom and political maturity to formulate clear objectives.

The mandate of being a developmental state has become paralyzed because decision-making in coalitions rests upon political calculation, and the law does not regulate it. South Africa's political landscape has yet to have the fertile ground nor the political maturity to adopt this method solely as a mechanism; instead, it requires a multidisciplinary approach, which combines both prescriptive legislation and political rules.

It is presumptuous to assume that coalition governments in South Africa have created a sense of shared identity and belonging and enhanced cooperation and legitimacy as promulgated by the Intergovernmental Relations Framework. Coalitions have demonstrated an unwillingness to cooperate. Therefore, speaking about a unified coalition government in South Africa is still premature. Furthermore, it cannot be said that there is consensus over the meanings, roles, and limitations of coalitions, and there needs to be more consensus over when interventions should be made in municipalities governed by multiple parties.

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ANC's Renewal Gains Traction

■ By **SIZWE ALHAJRA ZINGITWA**

The African National Congress (ANC) has embarked on a renewed mission to reclaim its revolutionary legacy and purge itself of corrupt and rogue elements. The party's commitment to this cause has been underscored by the return of former leaders such as President Thabo Mbeki, Treasurer General Mathews Phosa, and Cde Tokyo Sexwale to the forefront of the party's campaign efforts.

The ANC's dedication to organisational renewal was first formalised during its inaugural National General Council (NGC) in 2000 in Port Elizabeth, now known as Gqeberha. President Thabo Mbeki emphasised the imperative of unwavering commitment to the ANC's revolutionary aims, asserting that those who do not embrace and actively

engage in the struggle for these aims have no place within the ranks of the ANC.

The NGC's historical significance lies in the formalisation of the ANC's renewal process, recognising the strategic threat it poses to the organisation's very survival. Notably, the ANC has previously confronted dissenting elements within its ranks, exemplified by the expulsion of eight senior ANC leaders, known as the Group of Eight, led by the Makiwane brothers, for their opposition to white members of the Communist Party. This decisive action reflects the ANC's steadfast commitment to upholding its revolutionary agenda.

The renewal process within the ANC has been steadily advancing, with the establishment of the

MK Party (Umkhonto we Sizwe Party) and ACT (African Congress for Transformation) serving as positive indicators of the party's determination to cleanse itself of corrupt and rogue elements. Drawing inspiration from the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) renewal process, particularly in terms of ideological rectification and party unity, the ANC aims to regain the trust and confidence of the South African people.

The CCP's history of engaging in self-criticism, rectification, and renewal serves as a compelling example for the ANC to follow. The CCP's expulsion of prominent figures such as Bo Xilai and Zhou Yongkang was not merely symbolic; it was an essential step in the party's rejuvenation. Similarly, the ANC's renewal process

CURRENT AFFAIRS



has not been without its challenges, as expelling influential figures from the party ranks can lead to internal divisions and resistance. However, the ANC's commitment to confronting these challenges head-on and prioritising its long-term survival over short-term stability has been instrumental in ensuring its continued relevance and success.

President Kgalema Motlanthe's poignant statement about Mr. Jacob Zuma's place in history underscores the significance of the renewal process for political leaders. Zuma's trajectory from revolutionary to a figure associated with controversy and allegations of corruption serves as a cautionary tale about the impact of individual actions on a party's legacy. Motlanthe's words highlight the importance of leaders' choices in shaping their own historical narratives and the enduring impact of their decisions on the organisations they represent.

The resurgence of former leaders within the ANC's election campaigns signals a significant momentum shift in the party's renewal process. These seasoned cadres bring with them a wealth of experience, institutional knowl-

edge, and a deep understanding of the party's historical trajectory. Their active involvement not only galvanises support within the party but also sends a strong message to the electorate about the ANC's commitment to its own renewal and unity of purpose.

As the wheels of renewal gain

traction, they symbolise a critical juncture in the ANC's evolution, demonstrating a collective acknowledgment of past challenges and a determination to chart a new course forward. The return of former leaders signifies not just a nostalgic nod to the past, but a strategic move towards harnessing the party's strengths, reconciling differences, and forging a path towards a more inclusive, progressive, and resilient ANC.

In conclusion, the ANC's revolutionary renewal, exemplified by the return of former leaders to the forefront of the party's campaign efforts, marks a pivotal moment in the party's history. This resurgence signifies a resolute commitment to reclaiming the party's revolutionary legacy and charting a renewed progressive path forward.

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The Year of United Action
To Deliver Our Programme and
Advance a Better Life for All
Founded in A Decade Struggle

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, HQ

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

Welcome to a new era in South Africa

THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT: Everyone should have a right to healthcare

■ By **HANIEF EBRAHIM**

This is the time for calm, for reasoning and for understanding. We have a multi-headed serpent in our midst that for too long has been waging a war on our young, our poor, our elderly, and our under-served communities. The face of this serpent sometimes manifests itself as poverty, the source of the most pervasive health problem we have in Mzansi. Sometimes they manifest themselves as diseases such as AIDS, sometimes as violence, and sometimes as racism, sexism, and classism. For too long these have pushed our young, our poor, and our communities to the back of the social justice obligations expressed in our constitution. It is time for us to ask the question: *“Do we agree that every South Africa should have a right to health care?”*

The outrage, vituperation and indignant threats following on from yesterday’s signing of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill into an Act are just the manifestations of an unwillingness, in some quarters, *“the known-knowns”*, to accept the fact that a new order

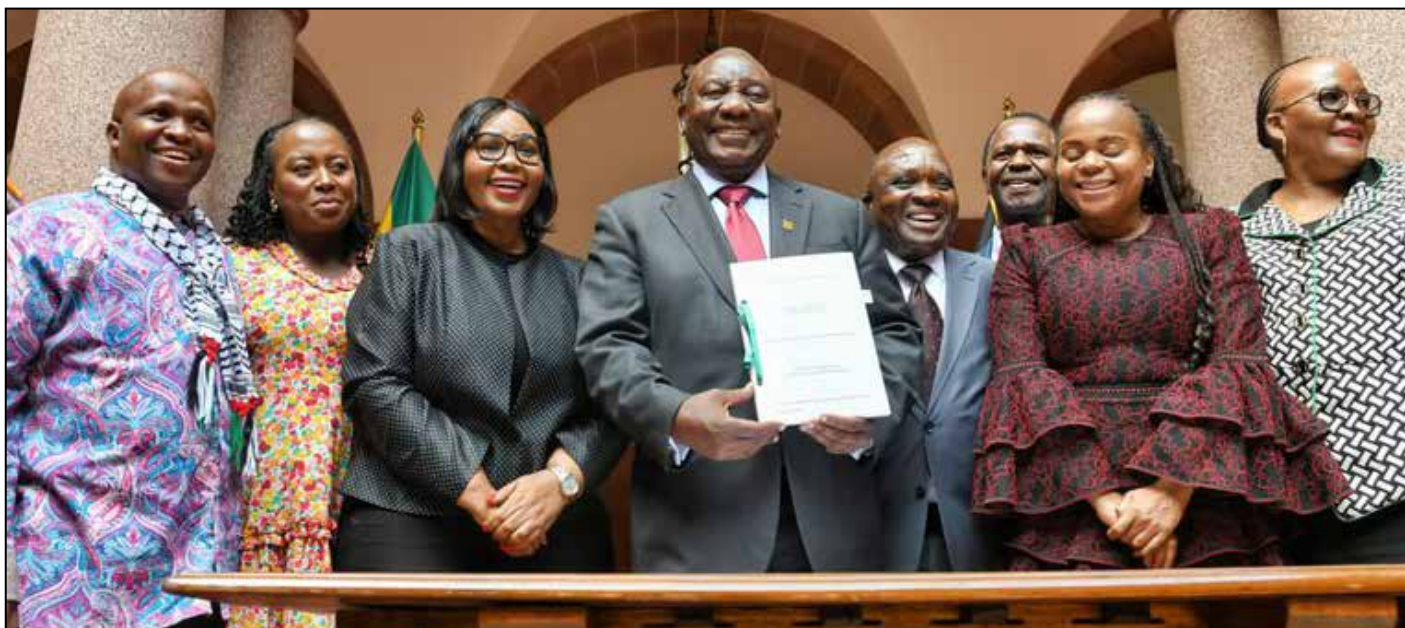


in the health sector was indeed what we had committed to, as the ANC-led government.

The new NHI law will now set in motion the ANC-led government’s plan for a full blown ‘universal health coverage’ regime. Please note: the finer implementation and details are still to follow. For the time being, the old existing platforms will continue to exist. Nothing has changed, not yet, at least. It is not “apocalypse now”.

Quite the contrary, we are on the eve of a most necessary revolution in the healthcare space.

Of course, there were always going to be all manner of threats and immediate legal challenges from none other than trade union, Solidarity, civil rights organisation, AfriForum and the Democratic Alliance (DA). The DA, not unsurprisingly, appears to have suddenly found their “moral compass” and expressed their views



that they will litigate against the NHI law. Why am I not surprised?

Yet, when innocent civilians, children, women and the aged, amongst others, in their tens of thousands in Palestine has suffered, and continue to suffer the most destructive, egregious and inhumane consequences of the ongoing genocide and loss of life and limb, the DA's silence was deafening. Some conscience, that they possess!

Business, organisations representing healthcare professionals and industry bodies for medical schemes have also indicated that they too intend to litigate but have yet to put their legal challenges into play.

Yet, reading the fine print matters: the NHI is our ANC-led government's stated commitment to eradicating the stark inequalities that have long determined who receives adequate healthcare and who suffers from neglect. Issues such as the detail, including the financial hurdles and the funding mechanisms facing the NHI, can and will be navigated with careful planning, strategic

resource allocation and a steadfast commitment to achieving equity, down the line. The ANC-led government has made this more than clear! It's in the NHI Act.

Thankfully, at least, we now have a full blown commitment to our constitutional obligations in the sphere of healthcare. So, it is important to appreciate, while signing the NHI Bill into law, as the ANC President did on Wednesday, it does not immediately change the status quo as none of the mechanisms required to implement the ambitious NHI scheme have yet come into effect.

“
The NHI is our ANC-led government's stated commitment to eradicating the stark inequalities that have long determined who receives adequate healthcare and who suffers from neglect.
 ”

Medical schemes will, for now, continue to provide cover for private healthcare services, and patients will be required to pay out of pocket for private care if they are uninsured. In fact, I was exceedingly pleased to hear that our Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla took the unusual step of urging medical scheme members to retain their cover.

NHI will require and take time to implement. The NHI Act is the first piece of enabling legislation for sweeping reforms aimed at scrapping South Africa's two-tier health system, which has seen the greater majority (between 85%–90%) of the population largely dependent on crowded and dilapidated public health facilities while only a minority could afford access to private healthcare services funded by their respective medical scheme premiums.

And this is the point: the stark inequities and inequalities that characterized our health system are unjustifiable and have always required the need for fundamental overhauling. No rational thinking person can argue against that.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The NHI scheme is based on social solidarity principles in which the rich and healthy subsidise the poor and sick, with healthcare provided free at the point of delivery regardless of a patient's socioeconomic status. Under NHI, a government controlled fund will purchase services for all patients from public and private providers. Medical schemes will not be allowed from covering services provided by the fund.

Importantly, the next steps that must still follow, will be for sections of the NHI Act to be proclaimed by President Ramaphosa, which he will do in consultation with the Minister Joe Phaahla. This will hopefully not be too slow a process.

As the ANC-led government, we will still be required to establish the governance structure for the NHI fund, accredit service providers and register beneficiaries before it can start providing free services to patients under the scheme. As noted, it will also need to introduce measures for financing the fund, which have yet to be determined.

Interestingly, critics of the NHI Act ranging from organised business to healthcare professionals say they support universal health coverage, but consider the legislation as unconstitutional, unworkable and leaves the NHI fund open to corruption. They say implementing the legislation in its current form will damage the health system, the economy and investor confidence. This is but one perspective.


Another view is this: it is my considered legal opinion, challenges to the constitutionality do not look particularly persuasive. I am gob smacked too at the fact

that some people seem to think the court should torpedo the NHI Act not because of any specific infringement of rights, but merely because they do not like the policy and/or fear it would disadvantage them, generally speaking. It is important to repeat, in my view, the NHI Act was the result of a thorough and proper democratic process. I am amongst those who appreciate the fact that the NHI Act acknowledges the gaps that must be addressed in future laws and regulations. These range

from the tertiary sector's training of future doctors, the provision of healthcare in distinct sectors like prisons, and perhaps most importantly, what is to become of provincial healthcare facilities like hospitals and clinics.

For us as the ANC, together with our alliance partners, the SACP, COSATU and SANCO, the NHI law that came into existence yesterday is a remarkable step towards the provision of quality healthcare for all regardless of


UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)



Will NHI provide adequate cover compared to current medical scheme benefits?


Yes, NHI's benefit package will be comprehensive. Unlike most current medical schemes, NHI benefits are not confined in attempts to contain increasing prices.


Medical schemes are regulated to pay a group of chronic conditions in full, but not all diseases are included in this group - meaning patients have to pay out of pocket, while still contributing to a medical scheme.



How does the NHI affect those who are currently insured by medical schemes?


NHI will be implemented over phases over the years. Regulations will be published to address the phased implementation of the NHI Fund and of service benefits as the money is moved to the Fund. Medical schemes will be given notice on the type of services that they will no longer be able to cover.







Will NHI take the reserves of medical schemes?

No, the Fund will NOT take the accumulated reserves of medical schemes since those belong to the members and not the schemes.


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For us as the ANC, together with our alliance partners, the SACP, COSATU and SANCO, the NHI law that came into existence this week is a remarkable step towards the provision of quality healthcare for all regardless of income, race, gender, class and geographical location.

income, race, gender, class and geographical location.

This is, by all accounts a watershed moment towards aligning our healthcare system with the principles of equality and social solidarity. Universal quality healthcare coverage – the purpose of the NHI – is indeed in line with the constitutional right to life.

The NHI epoch must represent an irreversible rupture with the present unequal two-tiered healthcare regime, which is underpinned by income and wealth inequalities. To tackle the inequalities in access to quality healthcare, the NHI has to focus on redistributing healthcare resources to benefit all the people, the majority of whom are the working class and poor. This requires system-wide structural transformation and development.

In alignment with the democratic aspirations of the greater majority of South Africans, the NHI Bill underwent extensive public consultation over a decade. Now

that it is signed into law, the monumental task will be to ensure the full implementation of the NHI, which includes the provision of robust primary healthcare.

My call to all progressive sections and forces of our society is to unite and defend the advance to quality healthcare for all, against the reactionary elements and the forces who want to perpetuate inequality in healthcare. Our constitution requires the government to institute progressive health-

care for everybody in a system that will ensure equitable healthcare regardless of someone's status in the community or the economy.

On the electoral terrain, the best way to defend the advance to quality healthcare for all is to vote for the ANC on 29 May 2024. Yes, I do agree, every South African should have a right to health care.

VOTE ANC!

UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)

What is the NHI and how will it change the system?

The NHI is a Fund from which government will buy health care services for all of us from health care providers in the public sector and private sector. If you feel unwell, you can go to your nearest GP or clinic of your choice that has a contract with NHI and not worry about the cost of care.

NHI Benefits

- Healthcare for all
- Improving Quality of Services
- Reduced Burden of Disease
- Financial Risk Protection
- Economic Development and Growth
- Integration of the Healthcare System

Will unemployed people be able to access healthcare services?

Yes, all users will be able to access health care services without paying anything at the point of care, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

How to register:

- Go to a clinic, GP or hospital that has a contract with the NHI.
- You will need your ID book, passport, or other identity document to register. Your fingerprints will be taken and put on the NHI Fund system - making it easy when you visit the clinic, GP or hospital again, or if your ID is lost.
- There is no fee payable for registration.

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30 YEARS OF FREEDOM

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM EMPOWERING MOTHERS KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE 30 YEAR REVIEW

PART D



Support for Breastfeeding Mothers

Implementation of policies to support breastfeeding mothers in the workplace and public facilities.

- South Africa's Basic Conditions of Employment Act includes guidelines that promote breastfeeding in the workplace (Code of Good Practice on the Protection of Employees during Pregnancy and after the Birth of a Child) that makes provision for two 30-minute breastfeeding breaks.

Maternity Leave Benefits

Improved maternity benefits through the Unemployment Insurance Fund, providing a higher replacement income during maternity leave.

- Introduction of a flat rate of 66% for maternity benefits, extending the application window for maternity benefits from 6 to 12 months.

Healthcare Access for Mothers

Expanded access to primary health care services for mothers and their children.

- The policy of free primary health care services was introduced for children under six and pregnant and lactating mothers in 1996, later expanded to all South Africans.



Maternal Health Improvements

Strategic initiatives to reduce maternal mortality through better healthcare services.

- Establishment of the National Committee of Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (NCCEMD) and consistent decline in maternal mortality rates since 1997.
- The current infant mortality rate in South Africa for 2024 is approximately 24.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.



30 YEARS OF FREEDOM



Impact of Child Support Grant

Significant reduction in child poverty and improvement in health outcomes through the Child Support Grant.

- Due to the grant, millions of children have been lifted above the poverty line, improving their nutritional and health status.

Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care

Comprehensive care, management, and treatment plans for HIV and AIDS, benefiting mothers and reducing mother-to-child transmission.

- Implementation of National Strategic Plans and the roll-out of antiretroviral therapy.



Childcare Facilities and Early Childhood Development

Expansion and enhancement of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

- Significant growth in access to ECD, ensuring foundational development for children, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Expanded access to family planning services, empowering women to make informed reproductive health decisions.

- Wide availability and variety of contraceptive options accessible through public health facilities.



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**#ANCForMothers
#30YearReview
#VoteANC2024**



30 YEARS OF FREEDOM



YEARS OF FREEDOM WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

**IN NUMBERS
& FUN FACTS** PART E



FREE ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Maternal childcare, pregnant women can access healthcare at all levels of health facilities anywhere in the country.

88.7%

INCREASED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

Households access piped or tap water in dwellings, off-site, on-site



61.4%

FEMALE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

Compared to **38.6%** of male students (2021).

30%

OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

Women Negotiated & Fought For Change

FIRST CABINET, WE HAD ONLY 2 WOMEN MINISTERS

2023, this number has grow to 48% of ministers being women.

IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY

Women creatives were central to the struggle. In music, from Miriam Makeba, Letta Mbuli, Sibongile Khumalo, Brenda Fassie, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, to freedom's generations like Lebo Mathosa, Thandiswa Mzwai, Zahara, Simphiwe Dana, Tyla and many others.

In **sports**, despite the obstacles, women are holding their own, such as Banyana Banyana, Caster Semenya, Kgothatso Montjane, Penny Heyns and many others.

We must therefore do more together to empower women in these sectors and close the gender pay gap.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

18 – 24 May 2024

Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives, Africa Today/Yesterday and The Africa Factbook (2020)

18 May 1912 Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe Walter Sisulu born



Walter Ulyate Max Sisulu is born in Engcobo, Eastern Cape. Sisulu worked as a miner, baker's assistant, domestic helper and factory hand and was an active trade unionist before joining the ANC in 1940. He was one of the founders of the ANC Youth League, elected as its first treasurer in 1944. He went on to become secretary general of the ANC from 1949 to 1954, as leader of the Defiance campaign and the adoption of the Freedom Charter (1955), and was a founder of Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1961. A Rivonia trialist, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964, and served on Robben Island till his release in 1989. After the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, he chaired the Interim Leadership Core to rebuild the ANC, and was elected as Depu-

ty President at its 1991 Durban Conference, a position he held until the 1994 Conference, when he retired. In 1992, the ANC honored Sisulu with the Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe award for his outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle. Walter Sisulu, according to ES Reddy, was *"the organizational genius of the ANC, ...He was the moving spirit behind all the great campaigns in the 1950's, as well as the transformation of the ANC in 1960-61 for underground work and armed struggle."* Sisulu passed away in 2003.

18 May 1899 Conference lays foundation for ICC

An International peace conference is convened at The Hague in the Netherlands. It adopts conventions on warfare and creates the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as a mechanism for peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts, as well as conflict between states and other parties.

18 May 1994 Race driver Naomi Schiff born

Naomi Schiff is a Rwandan racing driver and television presenter. She was born in Belgium, to a Belgian father and Rwandan mother, grew up in South Africa, lived in Paris, and joined Sky Sports as presenter in the UK in 2024.

18 May 2013 Television icon Vuyo Mbuli passed on



An icon of Morning Live, SABC Vuyo Mbuli (1967-2013) was a larger than life presence, yet humble, patriotic, able to relate to everyone and known for his sign-off "sharp-sharp" at the end of programmes.

19 May 1730 Porto Novo established as slave port

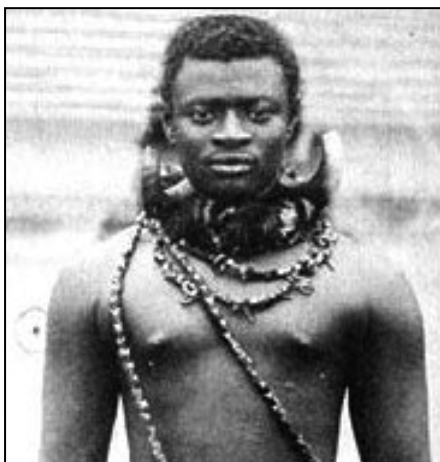
The settlement of Porto Novo is established as a location to transfer Africans enslaved for transfer to Europe and the Americas, mainly on Portuguese ships. Porto Novo today is the capital of Benin.

19 May 1956 Algerian students start strike

The General Union of Algerian Students start an indefinite strike at the University of Algiers in support of the Front Liberation Nationale (FLN), fighting for independence from France.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

20 May 1884 Dinizulu rises to Throne



HRM King Dinizulu kaCetshwayo succeeds his father, Cetshwayo as monarch of the Zulu Kingdom, at the age of 15 years.

20 May 1910 Hailey's Comet

Hailey's Comet passes 22 km from Earth, the closest in history. Comets are space snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust that circle in a fixed pattern around the Sun. When frozen, they are the size of a small town.

20 May 1935 Ethiopia calls on UN for support against Italian Invasion

A special meeting of the League of Nations, the forerunner of UN is called for by Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), requesting aid in defense against Italian aggression. Ethiopians, led by reigning Emperor Haile Selassie resisted this invasion of Mussolini's forces during the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-1940). This followed the First Italo-Ethiopian War (1895-1896) when Italy was defeated at the Battle of Adwa by Ethiopian forces led by Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taytu Betul, who commanded a force of cannoners at the frontline.

20 May 1952 Football star Roger Milla born



Cameroonian footballer and one of the first major African international star is born in Yaoundé. He was crowned CAF Footballer of the Year in 1976 and 1990, and played in the Cameroon national team in three World Cups.

20 May 1981 Rapper E-Sir born

Kenyan hip-hop singer, Issah Mmari Wangui, aka E-Sir is born in Nairobi, Kenya. He astounded with his quick-witted lyrics in kiSwahili. The young poet of Swahili rap died in a car accident at on 16 March 2003.

20 May 1981 UN and OAU take a stand against Apartheid policy

An International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa was hosted by the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at UNESCO in Paris, France. The UN had been vocal about apartheid policy since early 1950s. On 1 April 1960, the UN Security Council, in its first action on South Africa, adopted Resolution 134 condemning the policies and actions of the South African government in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre.

20 May 1986 SANDF cross-border raids

South African Special forces conduct raids against liberation movements based in neighbouring states, simultaneously in Gaborone, Botswana, in Lusaka, Zambia and in Harare, Zimbabwe.

20 May 2021 First Kenyan woman appointed as Chief Justice



Court of Appeal Judge Martha Koome, is appointed Kenya's first woman Chief Justice by President Uhuru Kenyatta, with approval from Parliament.

21 May 1665 Slave trader John Hawkins honoured by Spanish

Spanish authorities in Venezuela extend a trading license to slave trader, John Hawkins for the 400 slaves he brought from Guinea. Queen Elizabeth I also honored Hawkins for his profiteering from the Atlantic slave trade, issuing him with a coat of arms featuring a male African slave.

21 May 1906 Alfred Mangena files deposition against Natal Governor in London

Mangena, South Africa's first

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

black lawyer, who at the time was studying law in London, filed a deposition against Henry McCallum, governor of Natal, charging him with acts of oppression involving illegal proclamation of martial law and the homicides of 12 natives put to death. The British magistrate refused to receive the deposition in court.

21 May 1930

White women gain vote

The Women's Enfranchisement Act goes into effect in South Africa, giving white women 21 years and older the right to vote and run for office. Black women only gained the right to vote sixty four years later, in 1994.

21 May 1936

Conference on Protection of the African elephant and rhinoceros



An international conference was held to protect the African elephant and rhinoceros, endangered for their prized ivory tusks and horns. Three years earlier the "*Convention Relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in their Natural State (1933)*" was put forward for the protection of certain animal species, which included the African Elephant, the White Rhinoceros and the Black Rhinoceros. Governments who signed up to the convention, included the Union of South Africa, Egypt, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

21 May 1937

Mengistu Haile Mariam born

Marxist leader of Ethiopia (1974-1991), Mengistu Haile Mariam was born on this day in Wolyaita, Ethiopia. Mengistu overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, ending the 600 year-old Solomonic dynasty. He established the Government of The Derg promoting 'Ethiopian socialism', embodying slogan such as self-reliance, the dignity of labor, and the supremacy of the common good. The Derg also did comprehensive land reform and nationalization of key sectors of the economy. In 1978, after a failed assassination attempt, Mengistu unleashed what became known as the Red Terror, with an estimated death toll of more than 700,000. In 1991 Mengistu was overthrown and he was granted exile in Zimbabwe.

21 May 1946

Women Organises Food Strikes

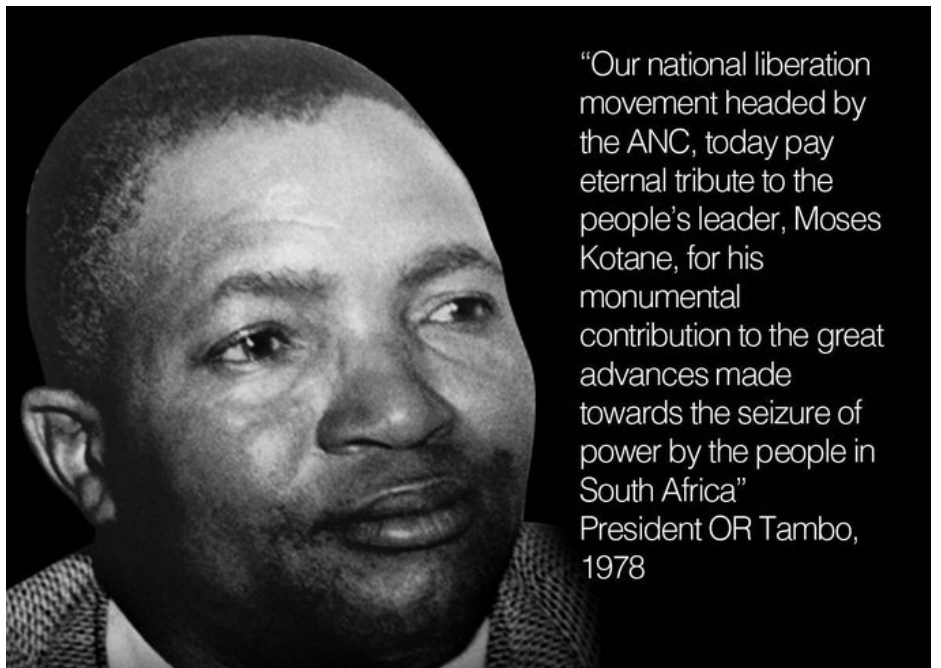
As a (albeit divided) participant and contributor in the Second World War, South Africa faced severe food shortages during the

1940s, with the poor especially vulnerable. Wholesalers and others hoarded food and sold it at exorbitant prices. A non-racial women's organisation formed in 1946, the Cape Town Women's Food Committee, organised food queues so that everybody could get food. Founders and leaders included Katie White, Dora Tamana, G Anthony, Hettie McLeod and Cissie Gool. On 21 May 1946, the women stormed warehouses and other places where food were hoarded to demand that they be released to the general population. These protests were known as the 'Rice Strikes'. The Women's Food Committee mobilised women under the slogan "*Today we fight for food, tomorrow for the vote, and then freedom for all.*"

21 May 1978

Moses Kotane passed on

Moses Kotane, South African Communist Party (SACP) and ANC stalwart passed away in Moscow, Russia where he was hospitalised after a long illness. In 1931 Kotane became an active member of the SACP, joined the



"Our national liberation movement headed by the ANC, today pay eternal tribute to the people's leader, Moses Kotane, for his monumental contribution to the great advances made towards the seizure of power by the people in South Africa"
President OR Tambo, 1978

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

ANC in 1946 was elected to the ANC NEC. Kotane was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act of 1951. In 1955 Kotane and I.M Cachalia sneaked out of the country without proper documents to attend the famous Bandung Conference in Indonesia, sent by the ANC as observers. In 1963, Kotane left the country for Tanzania, working tirelessly in ANC external missions.

21 May 1988

Mapantsula film released

The South African film about black South Africans under apartheid is released, starring Thomas Mogotlane as a gangster who must choose between self-interest and activism.

22 May 1942

ANC Intellectual and Veteran, Z. Pallo Jordan born



Zweledinga Pallo Jordan, ANC leader, intellectual and veteran was born in B Location, Kroonstad, Orange Free State. He is the son to Professor Archibald Campbell Jordan an African novelist, linguist and academic and his mother, Dr Priscilla Phyllis Jordan, was a teacher, researcher and lecturer. He became po-

litically active in the early 1960s, first in the Non-European Unity Movement, and later in the ANC. In exile, he worked in ANC offices in London and various African states. He also served as administrative secretary of the NEC Secretariat (1985–1988), on the NEC's Strategy and Tactics Committee as convenor (1985–1989), the NEC's Negotiations sub-committee and the NEC's Constitutional Guidelines sub-committee, and as the Director of Information and Publicity (1989). After 1990 unbanning, he served in various positions within the ANC, including in the Department of Information and Publicity, the ANC Elections Committee and as member of the ANC National Executive Committee. From 1994, cde Pallo served as Member of Parliament, as the first Minister of Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting (1994-1996), as Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (1996-1999), and Minister of Arts and Culture (2004-2009). An ardent patriot and intellectual, he continues to contribute to debates in the movement and the country, edited *Oliver Tambo Remembered* (2007) on the life of the ANC President in exile; and is the author of *Letters to my Comrades. Interventions & Excursions* (2017).

22 May 1945

SA Bureau of Standards established

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is established by an Act of Parliament. The SABS is responsible for quality control and safety of all products, and issue regulations and standards, running a product certification scheme and also provides testing and related services.

22 May 1964

Lake Chad Convention

Lake Chad in the Sahel, covering the territories of Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger was one of the largest freshwater lakes in Africa, at its height covering 17,800 square kilometre), then the sixth largest lake in the world. The Convention established rules on the use of the resources of Lake Chad and also the Lake Chad Commission to monitor the environmental and social impact of the lake usage. By 2010, due to climate change, rising human population growth and unplanned irrigation, Lake Chad has shrunken dramatically, to less than a 10th of what it covered in the 1960s.

22 May 1970

Campaign against all-white sports team



The anti-apartheid movement called for a cancellation of this all-White rugby South African team due to tour the UK. Veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain led a campaign called Stop the Seventy Tour, threatening to disrupt any matches played during the tour. African and Asian countries also threatened to boycott the Commonwealth Games that would be held in Edinburgh in the same year should the South African team be allowed to be a part of that tour. In May 1970, the British government requested that the English Cricket

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Council reverse its decision to invite the South African cricket team on tour. The English Cricket Council withdrew the invitation on 22 May 1970.

22 May 1970

Samora Machel becomes FRELIMO President

Samora Machel is elected as Frelimo President, after the assassination of Eduardo Mondlane on 3 February 1969.

23 May 1699

Sheik Yusuf, father of SA Islamic Faith passed on

In the late 1600s, many Muslim men of wealth and influence were banished to the Cape from Asia because the Dutch feared them as a threat to their colonial occupation and exploitation. Shaykh Yusuf of Macassar is the best known of the Orang Cayen from Sumatra. Shaykh Yusuf 'Abidin Tadia Tjoessoep was born in 1626 of noble birth in Gowa in the East Indies. He fought alongside and supported Sultan Ajung of Bantam, Gowa, in his war against the Dutch. Sheikh Yusuf was banished, along with his family and followers, first to Castle in Colombo, Ceylon, Sri Lanka and later to the Cape of Good Hope. The Sheikh arrived on board 'De Voetboog' on April 02, 1694 along with his entourage of 49 which included his two wives [Carecon-toe and Carepane], two slave girls [Mu'minah and Na'imah], 12 children, 12 imams [religious leaders] and several friends with their families. They were moved to a farm in Zandvleit on June 14, 1694 as a means to isolate him. However, Zandvleit became a rallying point for 'fugitive' slaves and other exiles from the East. It was here that the first cohesive Muslim community in South Africa

was established. Since many of the Sheikh's followers hailed from Macassar, the district around Zandvleit is still known today as Macassar. Sheikh Yusuf is regarded by many, as the founder of the Islamic faith in the Cape and South Africa. He died in Zandvleit on 23 May 1699. His Kramat has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

23 May 1926

Joe Slovo born



Joe Slovo, a lifelong Marxist-Leninist, SACP General Secretary, Congress of Democrats, Umkhonto we Sizwe and ANC leader, was born in Obellai, Lithuania. He moved with his parents to South Africa at the age of nine (9).

23 May 1939

Opera diva Evelyn Dalberg born

Opera singer, Evelyn Dalberg was born in Leipzig, Germany, married a South African and emigrated to the country in 1946. She lectured at the South African School of Music, and also performed for across the country.

23 May 1943

ANC leader and women's activist Rejoice Mabudafhasi born

UDF Northern Transvaal Secretary, FEDTRAW and NECC



organisers, ANC NEC member, former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mvula Trust board chairperson and Commissioner of the SA Human Rights Commission, currently serve as South African High Commissioner to Zimbabwe.

23 May 1994

South Africa admitted to the OAU

After the first fully democratic elections, South Africa was officially admitted as 53rd member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a summit, held in Tunis, Tunisia. The South Africa delegation was led by the Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, who was applauded after membership was authorised at an OAU Council of Ministers meeting.

24 May 1921

First Comrades Marathon

The first Comrades Marathon race is run from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, with 34 runners competing. The winner does the 87 km race in 8 hours and 59 minutes, in 2022 the winning time was 5 and a half hours.

24 May 1929

Poet James Matthews born

Poet James Matthews is born in

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Cape Town. A leading writer of the Black Consciousness movement of the 1960's, his poetry collection *Cry Rage* was the first book of poetry banned by the apartheid regime. Matthews established South Africa's first black-owned publishing house, BLAC, and first black-owned art gallery, Gallery Afrique.

24 May 1973 South Africa to start Uranium enrichment project

South African Prime Minister, BJ Vorster disclosed in July 1970 in the House of Assembly that the government has decided to make funds available for a uranium enrichment programme. Uranium was used to manufacture nuclear weapons by the South Africa government.

24 May 1993 Eritrean independence



Eritrea achieves national independence from Ethiopia, the date commemorates the day in 1991 when the Eritrean People's Liberation Front captured the capital Asmara, after a 30-year war for independence.

24 May 2018 MeerLICHT goes online

South African MeerLICHT, the world's most powerful wide-view visible light deep scape telescope goes online in the Karoo, with its clear skies and far from light pollution.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

18 – 24 May 2024

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

20 May Global Accessibility Day

20 MAY GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY DAY

Working Together to Embrace and Lead Accessibility

WHAT IS ACCESSIBILITY?

Giving people of all abilities the opportunity to participate in every day life.

Deafness or hearing loss	Intellectual or developmental disabilities	Physical disabilities	Mental health disabilities	Learning disabilities	Vision loss*

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) promotes digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities and impairments. GAAD is observed, to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion, and the more than One Billion people with disabilities/impairments, whether its visual, hearing, movement or cognitive.

20 May World Bee Day

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities. Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity. To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

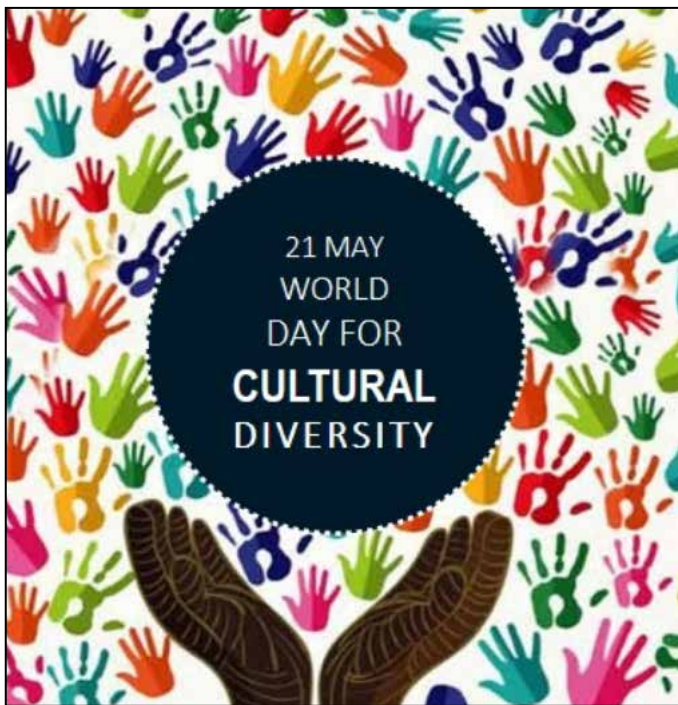
21 May

International Tea Day

Millions across the world start their day with a cup of tea, or drink it during the day. The International Tea Day raises awareness of the rights of those who make it possible, the workers in the tea value chain, to enjoy our favourite brew. The International Tea Conference in New Delhi came out with an International Declaration on the rights of workers and small growers to help regulate uneven competition, land ownership, safety regulations, rights of women, social security and living wages. Major African tea producers, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa account for about 30% of world exports in tea. As we also celebrate Africa month, buy local.

21 May

World Day for Cultural Diversity



Culture is defined as the ideas, customs, and social behaviour shared and/or manifested by people, groups or a society. All societies have a degree of cultural diversity, as well as the things that brings them together across cultures. The South African Constitution recognizes this, when it talks about our ‘Unity in Diversity.’

22 May

International Biodiversity Day

The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of protecting and promoting biodiversity.

23 May

Day of the Full Moon, Vesak

“Vesak”, the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C., that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and it was on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha passed away at age 80.

23 May

International Day to end Obstetric Fistula

Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries. A hole between the birth canal and bladder and/or rectum, it is caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment. It leaves women with incontinence problems, and often leads to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty. This problem is preventable with the correct medical assistance and its occurrence is a violation of human rights and a reminder of gross inequities.

An advertisement for the ANC app. At the top left is the ANC logo with the slogan "A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL". The main text reads "DOWNLOAD OUR APP TO BECOME PART OF THE ANC MOVEMENT". Below this are two QR codes for downloading the app from the App Store and Google Play. The background features a smartphone displaying the app interface, which includes a profile picture, the slogan "LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC", and election details for "Election Day 2024". At the bottom, there is a banner with the slogan "LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC" and the ANC logo.

X-WORD

National Health Insurance (#NHI)



ACROSS

3. NHI stands for National Health ...
6. Access to ... care is a basic right in Section 27 of the Constitution.
10. Nursing association strong advocate for the NHI.
11. 15% of South Africans are on ...
12. NHI will reduce cost of health, because of economies of ...
13. Percentage of South Africans who uses the public health system.
14. South Africa spends 8.5% of ... on health.

DOWN

1. The NHI will create a ..., which will ensure the public and private health sectors work together.
2. Our health care at the moment is ... and skewed against the poor.
4. The redistributive nature of the NHI is an important step towards eradicating ... in our country.
5. Since the dawn of democracy, the ANC government has build over 1700 ...
7. Medical aid provides only ... cover and is unaffordable to millions of working people.
8. Under the NHI, no South African will be turned away from any health facilities, because they dont have ...
9. Health care for all is a

WORD BANK

Insurance

eighty-four

Medical aids

Health

Fund

inequality

money

clinics

GDP

scale

DENOSA

public good

segregated

partial

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