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2025: THE YEAR OF RENEWAL TO MAKE THE ANC A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF THE PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THE VISION OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER: THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN! THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

Address by **President Cyril Ramaphosa** on the occasion of the
113th Anniversary celebration of the African National Congress, 11 January 2025

THIS year marks the 113th anniversary of the formation of the African National Congress, the people's movement for freedom that continues to unite our country in a national effort to transform South Africa into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

Today we gather in Khayelitsha in the City of Cape Town in the Western Cape province, on the southern tip of our country and continent – the point of convergence between east and west, wealth and poverty, justice and injustice, despair and hope – a Cape of Storms and a Cape of Good Hope.

It was on these southern shores that our painful history of colonial conquest, dispossession, oppression and exploitation started – driven by forces that sought to exploit our resources, both human and material.

The rapacious expansion of this quest led to the genocide of the Khoi and the San and prolonged wars that resulted in land dispossession and displacement of Africans communities in the interior from their communities. The colonialists imported Malay slaves and indentured labourers from India, China and countries along the east of our continent. The subjugation of all these people resulted in complex relationships

of domination and subordination – defining some as more, and others as less than human.

It is also here that the proud and unbroken tradition of resistance and struggle for liberation had its genesis – from the Battle of Salt River in 1510, where the !Urill'aekua Khoikhoi abaThwa/ Khwe defeated the Portuguese, through successive wars of resistance led by great heroes of our people such as Autshumato, Maqoma, Hintsa, Sekhukhune, Cetshwayo, Makhado, Mantso-pa, Modjadji, Moshoeshe and Ngungunyane. The spear was carried forward through the Bambatha Rebellion in 1906, mass resistance in the 1950s, the peo-



ple's army uMkhonto weSizwe, the 1976 generation, and the mass democratic movement of the 1980s.

Today we once again meet in a context of ongoing global crises and stubborn challenges at home. The people of the Western Cape and South Africa continue to be confronted by the persistence of unemployment, poverty and inequality and their attendant causes and effects: crime, violence, gender-based violence and femicide, drug abuse, service delivery challenges such as water, sanitation, roads, and housing and unequal access to education.

There is also a new post-election political environment in which the ANC no longer has a majority to form a government on our own and consequently we now lead a government of national unity with nine other political parties.

The ANC is committed to decisive action on three urgent and inter-related fronts in order to regain the confidence of the majority of the people in our ability to represent their hopes and aspirations for a better life:

Firstly, to improve the ability of our economy to create wealth and employment for all.

Secondly, to improve the quality of services and the integrity, responsiveness and accountability of government in all spheres.

Thirdly, to renew and rebuild the ANC so that it can provide decisive and ethical leadership in the resolution of our country's problems and the realisation of the vision of the Freedom Charter.

Seventy Years of the Freedom Charter

We take this moment to observe the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, a profoundly revolutionary document that serves as the enduring policy blueprint for the society we seek to create.

The adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 and the inclusive and participatory manifestations undertaken to compile the document, represents a watershed moment in the struggle against colonialism, apartheid and patriarchy.

People from all walks of life – from villages and farms, towns and mining compounds, factories and churches – sent their aspirations for the country they wanted to be debated by their representatives gathered at the Congress of the People in Kliptown.

The Freedom Charter was also inspired by the efforts of the women of our land, who the year before launched the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and adopted the Women's Charter. This laid the foundation for incorporation of the struggle for gender equality into the national struggle.

The Freedom Charter inspired generations that followed, from workers to women, the rural masses and people on farms, students and youth, professionals and small business persons.

It provided impetus for non-racialism and for the unity in struggle of all national groups.

The process initiated by the ANC to develop the Constitutional Guidelines in the late 1980s was aimed at operationalising the Freedom Charter as we were preparing for a democratic transition.

Thus, the adoption of the democratic and transformative Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996 was a decisive step in dismantling the institutional and legal foundations of racism in general and the various codes of colonial, apartheid and patriarchal power.

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

Out of the crucible of struggle, the people of South Africa made the clarion call in the Freedom Charter that: “**South Africa belongs to all who live in it: Black and White!**” In so-doing, it advanced the demands that: “**The people shall govern!**”, that “**All national groups shall have equal rights**”, that “**The people shall share in the country’s wealth!**”; “**The land shall be shared among those who work it!**”; “**The doors of learning and culture shall be opened**”.

The aspirations of the Freedom Charter have shaped the South African development path over the first three decades of freedom.

Given the stubborn nature of racism, patriarchy, inequality and ongoing economic exclusion, the Freedom Charter remains relevant.

The National Democratic Revolution: Our theory of social change

The National Democratic Revolution (NDR) is our theory of social change. It has guided our struggle for freedom over many decades.

Guided by the vision of the Freedom Charter, the goal of the NDR is to transform South Africa into a National Democratic Society by eradicating all manifestations of apartheid, colonial and patriarchal power relations.

The NDR is defined as such precisely because it seeks to achieve four objectives:

- Building a new nation with a new national identity of being an African country which is underpinned by non-racism, non-sexism and unity in diversity;



- Building a democratic state based on the will of the people, without regard to race, class, gender, belief, language, ethnicity and geographic location;
- Building a society based on the best human values – restoring the dignity and guaranteeing the freedoms and human rights to all the people and improving their quality of life;
- Building a transformed, inclusive and thriving economy that offers opportunities and decent livelihoods to all people, including restoration of the birthright of all South Africans with regard to access to the land, finance, skills and other resources.

The success of this vision is, objectively, in the best interest of all South Africans.

It is in this regard, the change envisaged by the NDR and encapsulated in the Freedom Charter and Constitution of the Republic represents the best in human civilisation, where no one is left behind.

The Alliance: an indispensable vehicle for fundamental change

The strategic alliance between the national liberation movement

(ANC), the working-class party (SACP), the trade union federation (COSATU) and later the civic movement (SANCO), is possibly one of the best examples of the success of united front politics in today’s world.

The Alliance remains the proven vehicle to uplift the working class and the poor. It has won many historic victories, including the adoption of worker rights, employment equity and broad-based black empowerment policies, investment in infrastructure, and public employment programmes.

It is a living organism that developed and matured over almost a century, under different conditions, constantly adapting its role as the phases of the struggle changed.

The National Democratic Revolution is our shared theory of fundamental change, and the Freedom Charter is our common minimum programme.

We have made substantial progress in achieving the objectives of the NDR because we have had an alliance that has been united and single-minded.

To continue to achieve the change we envisage requires strong organisation, ongoing mass mobilisation of society and unity of



progressive forces. Without unity, the revolution will be defeated by counter-revolution.

The counter revolutionary onslaught

In last year's January 8th Statement, we drew attention to the fact that there is convergence and common cause between the anti-transformation forces and the state capture forces to destroy the ANC from within and dislodge it from power.

These forces are two sides of the same coin: counter-revolution.

The ANC's Strategy and Tactics document asserts: *"[T]he immediate objective of the counter-revolutionary forces is to disorganise, weaken and destroy the ANC, the vanguard of the NDR, both from within and from outside its ranks... Counter-revolutionary mobilisation can only take root if there are real grievances to exploit, whether these grievances are deliberately engineered or not. The democratic movement itself needs at all times to be vigilant that its own actions and omissions do not assist such mobilisation."*

Part of the counter-revolutionary tactic is to promote break-away parties to erode the support base of the ANC. Some of these par-

ties masquerade as more radical than the ANC, but their revolutionary-sounding rhetoric cannot hide the reality that they have common cause with the forces opposing transformation.

The shared goal of all these forces is to deprive the ANC of the ability to use state power to effect change.

To pursue the NDR effectively, the democratic movement needs to have a decisive influence over the state and a clear mandate to govern in pursuit of fundamental change. Without state power, the NDR will not succeed.

The Outcome of the May 2024 Elections and the formation of the GNU

The outcome of the May 2024 elections has been characterised by the NEC as a strategic setback for the ANC-led National Democratic Revolution and the Congress movement as a whole.

For any liberation movement or progressive party, losing a majority in government is a strategic setback. Without an effective response, such a setback can halt or derail the progress of socio-economic transformation.

The reasons for the electoral

decline include the state of the economy reflected in the crisis of unemployment and social reproduction; poor basic services and deficiencies of capable, ethical and responsive governance; and the ANC's organisational weaknesses and damaged brand. A combination of some of these reasons led to many of our traditional supporters and voters staying away from voting and or voting for other parties.

The extent and depth of the electoral loss points to an organisation that has lost significant support and public confidence. This may be a painful reality for us to accept, but our healing lies in accepting the depth of dysfunction in our structures and among our members and leadership.

The question the ANC had to answer at that time was how under conditions not of our choosing, we do everything to safeguard the NDR and re-establish the ANC as a credible and well supported force for progressive change in society.

The NEC moved swiftly to start mapping out various scenarios and options based on the objective reality of an unfavourable electoral performance. Unanimously, the NEC arrived at the decision to advocate for the formation of an inclusive ANC-led government of national unity.

It is on the basis of this NEC mandate that negotiations were held with all political parties represented in Parliament and in some legislatures. Ten parties agreed to join the ANC-led government of national unity based on the Statement of Intent.

Through the Statement of Intent, the parties have made a firm

commitment to respect the Constitution and the rule of law and to promote accountability, transparency, integrity and good governance.

The formation of the GNU is a tactical decision to pursue the NDR under new conditions occasioned by the electoral setback. The ANC's strategic objective has not changed but we pursue this objective under conditions where we no longer have a majority to form a government on our own.

As the ANC, we are determined to regain public confidence and return as a majority party in the next elections.

In the meantime, we will work with other political parties, even those with whom we have fundamental differences, to secure space for addressing the needs of our people as articulated in our 2024 manifesto.

Many progressive parties in other countries have had to make similar tactical considerations of working with their adversaries at specific moments to secure peace and progress.

The false notion that the character of the ANC and strategic objective of the NDR has now been redefined by a single tactic of forming a broadly inclusive GNU, is a distortion of the realities our movement faced. This should be dismissed out of hand.

Similarly, the idea that a progressive party cannot engage its opponents in short term, tactical agreements without selling out, is ahistorical. Our own experience and the experiences of many revolutionary movements and parties show that there are moments

where conditions require that organisations work with their opponents to secure space for the revolution to regain momentum.

The movement therefore must ensure that the tactical initiative which it gained through the formation of the ANC-led GNU is used effectively to open space for a strategic advance to the benefit of the motive forces and all South Africans.

The correctness of our tactic is demonstrated by the broad public support for the GNU and the close alignment between the three strategic priorities for the 7th administration outlined by the President in the Opening of Parliament Address in August 2024 with the priorities of the ANC 2024 Manifesto.

The ANC remains committed to forge national consensus on fundamental issues that affect our diverse nation. While being flexible on tactics, we maintain firmness of principle in our determination to implement transformative laws and policies adopted by Parliament, such as the BELA Act, National Health Insurance and other pieces of legislation.

We call on all ANC cadres deployed in government to move with speed and confidently build strategic momentum for rapid implementation of the priorities of the seventh administration. This is not the time be tentative or doubtful, but rather to be decisive.

SIX PRIORITY ACTIONS AND SPECIFIC TASKS FOR 2025

The strategic task of advancing the National Democratic Revolution does not change year after

year because this is based on the resolutions of the National Conference.

However, the order of priority actions and specific tasks will change from time to time and additional tasks may arise in each year, depending on the changes in the objective conditions.

Renewal of the ANC remains the number one priority, while resolving the water crisis, fixing local government and fixing the economy remain the top priorities in the six tasks for this year.

1. Decisive and visible action to renew the ANC

The 2024 elections results confirm that we face an existential crisis: this is a moment wherein the ANC should either renew or perish. We must do much more work, with greater urgency and determination. The cornerstone of our renewal agenda therefore remains building our movement's capacity to discharge its historical mission.

This includes strengthening the presence of the ANC in communities through strong ANC branches as centers of development, that engage and listen to citizens, and work with them to address challenges and grievances. The work of building strong branches is the responsibility of all structures of the ANC.

Investing in the ideological development of ANC members and improving their skills will enhance the movement's ability to implement its Manifesto and govern our country effectively and ethically.

Renewal is as much about fixing the ANC as it is about improving the quality of governance and

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

service delivery and fast-tracking fundamental socio-economic transformation.

Pursuant to the renewal tasks we set last year, we launched the ANC Foundation Course to anchor all members on the history, mission and values of the ANC. We are serious and seek to enhance the ideological cohesion and leadership capacity of ANC members so that they are clear on our policies and vision for the country and they uphold our values.

To hold elected leadership and public representatives accountable, we have started to implement an Accountability Framework throughout the organisation. From now on, there shall be consequence management in the entire organisation.

With regard to fostering a culture of ethics and integrity, we have strengthened the terms of reference of the Integrity Commission. Further, we have introduced a compulsory course on ethics and integrity in the political education curriculum, starting with the induction of all newly-elected public representatives. There is no turning back.

Enhancing the quality of membership and leadership is key for the renewal of the ANC. The membership system of the ANC is also being overhauled to ensure that the movement attracts into its ranks the kind of people who are willing to serve the people of South Africa. The criteria for membership and screening process to rid the ANC of criminals is an important part of the renewal process. This includes tightening and enforcing the leadership election processes.

A renewed ANC must enforce

discipline in the ranks. As we said last year, *“as renewal gains momentum, those whose conduct is in conflict with our values and principles – the criminals, the corrupt, the careerists, extortionists and factionalists, and those who actively work against the organisation – will find themselves outside the ANC”*.

The renewal of the ANC must be reflected in our every-day behaviour, on how we conduct ourselves, and what we post on social media. Let us be known for excellence, ethics, humility, hard work and competence.

Renewal tasks for ANC structures in 2025:

- To build ANC branches grounded in everyday struggles of ordinary South Africans for a better life in every community and every ward throughout the country by participating and supporting key community organisations. These include school governing bodies, community policing forums, health and ward committees to promote clean and green communities and social cohesion, so we support service delivery, crime prevention, and combat gangsterism and substance abuse;

- To ensure ANC cadres work with local government to address illegal water and electricity connections and prevent vandalism of state infrastructure and assist indigent and elderly people to register for free basic services and access public health services and other forms of social support.
- One of the tasks of an ANC Branch is to mobilise community members to participate in mobile outreach programmes by Home Affairs, SASSA and the Department of Employment and Labour to make services accessible to communities.
- As part of a caring organisation that respects the fundamental human rights of all people, ANC members should always be in the forefront of advocating for the rights of persons with disability, persons with albinism, the LGBTQI+ community and other groups subjected to prejudice and discrimination.

The ANC Women's League and ANC Youth League, which held successful national conferences last year, are now making meaningful contributions to the life of the ANC and championing issues affecting women and young people.



As the custodians of ANC history and traditions, the ANC Veterans League is championing and giving momentum to the renewal process across the structures of the movement.

The MK Liberation War Veterans (MKLWV) continues to play a key role in championing the interests of ex-combatants of the People's Army, uMkhonto weSizwe and as a major resource for the political education and development of cadres. This year, MKLWV will convene its National Conference as part of the renewal process.

The National General Council, to be held later this year, will be an important forum for strategic assessment of the balance of forces globally and domestically and organisational stock-taking on the rebuilding and renewal of the ANC. Taking place immediately after the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter on 25 June 2025, it will also provide a platform to assess whether the NDR is on track, as we evaluate progress with the implementation of this blueprint of our peoples aspirations.

2. Fixing local government and ensuring water and energy security

In 2024, we set ourselves the task of resolving the energy crisis and ending load shedding as well as improving basic services and infrastructure.

The people of South Africa, in their homes and businesses, places of employment and recreation, public spaces and institutions providing education and health have now experienced almost 300 days without load shedding. This has improved both the economy and the quality of their lives.



We commend government and the management of Eskom for their resolute efforts in addressing the energy crisis.

Building on these advances, we call upon government to ensure the achievement of lasting and sustainable energy security through the implementation of the Energy Action Plan and the Electricity Regulation Amendment Act, in particular.

We call on government to also address problem of load reduction and power outages which still affects some communities in the townships and rural areas.

However, load shedding has been supplanted by the crisis of water security that poses a similar, if not greater threat, to the quality of life and economic prospects of all South Africans. Indeed, water is life and sanitation is dignity.

Accordingly, we have decided to elevate water security as a priority task for 2025. We are confident that drawing on the lessons learned from dealing successfully with the seemingly intractable challenge of load shedding, we will be able to deal with this crisis.

Therefore, the ANC calls upon

government urgently to implement the following measures:

- Water boards urgently to ensure security of water supply;
- Upgrade ageing municipal water infrastructure that contributes to significant water losses due to leaks by ring-fencing water revenue for critical maintenance;
- Implement a water and local financing framework that attracts private sector participation in the refurbishment of water infrastructure without relinquishing municipal ownership of water assets;
- Law enforcement agencies, working with municipalities, to tackle sabotage, theft and corruption by water tanker mafias and to deal with illegal water connections;
- Accelerate the programme to formalise informal settlements and ensure safe and legal access to water and electricity and the provision of free basic services to indigent persons.
- In the face of the high cost of living and increasing electricity tariffs, consideration needs to be to the development of a comprehensive indigent register across all municipalities to ensure all deserving households are cushioned.

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

- In co-operation with the south African Weather Service, all spheres of government must strengthen early-warning systems for extreme weather events; improve speedy access to disaster relief and build climate-resilience in human settlements and infrastructure.

The ANC re-affirms the important role traditional leaders play in the development of communities. We will continue to work these leaders to resolve service delivery challenges and all aspects of community development.

3. Speeding up inclusive economic growth to create jobs

Both the 2024 January 8th Statement and the ANC 2024 Election Manifesto emphasise speeding up economic growth and creating jobs as vital to resolving the structural challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, especially for women, young people and people living in townships and rural areas.

The fundamental transformation of South Africa's economy is central to advance the goals of the NDR.

The public employment programmes play a vitally important role in mitigating against the unacceptably high levels of unemployment. However, they do not replace the need for long-term jobs through growth and investment by both public and private sectors.

Manufacturing is the most reliable sustained employment creator with the highest jobs multiplier. Therefore, we must revitalise our industrial capacity. We must build

an infrastructure and export-led economy focused on manufacturing globally competitive goods and global business services and invest in technological capabilities.

We commend progress made in improving energy security and enhancing the stability and efficiency of our logistics networks – our ports and rail – as catalysts of economic growth and industrialisation.

We urge government to accelerate the leveraging of our critical minerals endowment working with other countries in Southern Africa,

Emerging technologies such as satellites for communication, virtual reality and artificial intelligence have the potential to deliver significant benefits across several sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, defence and security.

The ANC therefore calls upon government to:

- **On Youth Unemployment:** We need to Address youth unemployment through the following four strategic interventions focused on education reform, skills development initiatives, access to labour market information, entrepreneurship and targeted employment programmes:
 - Creating aggregate employment in the economy through the interventions we have outlined above,
 - Designing youth-focused interventions to stimulate demand for young workers,
 - Intensifying collaboration between the government, private sector, labour and civil society to create an

enabling environment for youth employment, and

- Promoting entrepreneurship and small business development to empower young people to create their own opportunities.
- **Public employment programmes:** Enhance the effectiveness and impact of interventions across many government departments aimed at addressing unemployment, including public works, community works programmes, skills training and development programmes and youth service programmes through greater collaboration and consolidation.
- **Industrialisation:** Expedite the creation of an enabling environment for investment in improved manufacturing competitiveness, Promote collaboration and integration of local and provincial economic development strategies with that national government is leading through the District Development Model.
- **High growth industries:** Focus on agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, the emerging green economy and digital technologies for accelerated interventions to stimulate job creation, participation and entrepreneurship.
- **Local economic development:** Build the local economic development capacity of district and local municipalities to contribute to transforming the spatial concentration of economic activity in our country and develop and grow the township and village economies.

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

- **Promotion of domestic business and labour:** Improve the competitiveness of South Africans in small scale economic activity such as local retail and enhance local ownership of retail, including through initiatives to improve their business models. Protect local job opportunities by regulating labour migration and enforce quotas on domestic labour in specified industries.
- **Digital economy:** Harness universal connectivity and digital technologies as critical enablers of economic development and ensure that digital infrastructure is widely available and affordable. Ensure that our education system is geared to the development of a digitally enabled society, including through collaboration with academia and research institutions.

4. Strengthening the fight against crime and corruption and building safe communities

Last year we emphasised that crime undermines and erodes the gains of freedom and shared prosperity and, ultimately, our constitutional democracy and the objectives of the NDR.

By November 2024, the actions of our law enforcement agencies, working with communities, Community Policing Forums (CPFs), and private security companies, were having an impact. Crime statistics indicated a significant decline in most reported crimes, and certain sexual offences.

The recruitment of 10 000 new police officers have contributed to improving community safety.

These interventions have been bolstered by initiatives such as Operation Shanela, which continues to sweep crimes out of communities across the country, and Operation Vala Umgodi which is dealing decisively with illegal mining activities.

We welcome the establishment of the Border Management Authority (BMA) and commend the effective interventions it is making to ensure our territorial integrity and to prevention the violation of immigration laws.

Notwithstanding this progress, women across our country, including those in rural and farming communities, continue to live in daily terror of gender-based violence and femicide.

This includes the unacceptable proliferation of statutory rape resulting in the impregnation of girl children. This perpetuates a cycle of poverty and deprivation. This is a crisis that no nation can afford to ignore.

Furthermore, organised crime, gangsterism, drug-trade and extortion impact on all sectors of our society – undermining personal security as well as economic, community and infrastructural development.

Therefore, the ANC calls upon government urgently to implement the following measures:

- Ensure the building of a united front of community leaders, civil society, businesses, and every citizen against crime;
- Finalise the establishment of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and ensure that it is adequately funded and resourced.

- Unite all sectors of society to inculcate social values and practices that support the eradication of GBVF in all spheres of life. This includes the important role of traditional and religious leaders. It also involves actively mobilising men in general to be positive role models for boy children.
- Act decisively against the employment of illegal and undocumented migrants in the agriculture, domestic, catering and other sectors of the economy.
- Ensure that the deaths resulting from foodborne illnesses, especially of children, are prevented through the registration of spaza shops, regular inspection of food vending outlets, enforcement of health regulations, and closure of those who do not comply with immediate effect.

5. Building a South Africa that belongs to all through National Dialogue

The major purpose of the National Dialogue is to create an inclusive and transparent process to shape a new socio-political consensus. Progressive forces in our country have a proud tradition of mass participation in dialogues that shaped the future of our country, which include the process leading to the adoption of the Women's Charter in 1954 and the Freedom Charter in 1955, the formation of the United Democratic Front in the 1980s, the Conference for a Democratic Future and the Constitutional Assembly that resulted in the first democratic constitution in 1996.

In establishing a Government of National Unity, we have built on the rich legacy of Nelson Mandela and his generation who taught

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

us the importance of building bridges across narrow divides of race, class, religion and party politics so we create a country that truly belongs to all who live in it.

The National Dialogues offers a comprehensive platform for all citizens to be part of the political process and re-claim agency to ensure that the people are their own liberators.

The National Dialogue will create an opportunity to discuss and find solutions to the difficult issues of economic exclusion, social inequality and societal marginalisation. Only by doing this can we ensure that the National Dialogue rekindles and restores public participation as the expression of people's power.

6. Build a better Africa and a better World

Globally, the world is in the throes of several crises, characterised by instability, fragility, conflict, injustice and insecurity.

The ANC remains committed to the principles of international solidarity, human rights, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism and Pan-Africanism.

We are committed to strengthening the capabilities of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), particularly on the 45th anniversary of its formation.

We will continue to champion Africa's development through the African Union (AU).

Multilateralism and respect for international law and its institutions are under attack by powerful countries and their leaders.

We are deeply concerned about the increase in regional, continental and global conflicts particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

The political and economic consequences of these regional conflicts continue to have a negative impact particularly on developing countries.

In this context, it is important that the countries of the Global South strengthen our international solidarity to ensure that the world moves away from the current unipolar disorder and domination by the Global North, towards a more multi-polar, multi-cultural, multi-civilizational, humane, fair and inclusive world order.

South Africa's Presidency of the G20 provides huge opportunities to advance the interests of the African continent and the Global South. The ANC will work hard to make sure that South Africa's Presidency of the G20 is an important pillar of our efforts to advance sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, justice, peace, stability, multilateralism and human rights across the globe. The transformation of the international financial agencies and the multilateral development banks is key to ensure inclusive sustainable development for all.

The ANC stands in steadfast solidarity with and reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara and Palestine to self-determination and independence.

We continue to call for an end to the decades-long US economic blockade against Cuba and to have Cuba removed from the list of terrorist states.

We continue to condemn the

genocidal slaughter and ethnic cleansing by the Apartheid Israeli government which has since October 2023 resulted in amongst others, more than 55 000 people being killed in Gaza and hundreds of thousands more injured. Sadly, more than 100 000 people were forced to flee Gaza. Palestinian people continued to be killed in the West Bank and other occupied areas.

The ANC calls on the seventh administration to remain seized with the cases at the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court. We reiterate our call for an immediate ceasefire in the assault on Gaza, the opening of corridors so that humanitarian assistance can reach those in dire need, the release of hostages and political prisoners and the settlement of the conflict based on the two-state solution, in terms of the 1967 borders.

We must remain resolute in advancing the African Agenda 2063 to build a peaceful, united and prosperous continent. In this regard, we remain concerned by the growing number of conflicts in Africa. Without the peaceful resolution of conflict we will not be able to ensure the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

And without the full implementation of the AfCFTA we will not be able to meet the economic integration ideals of Pan Africanism.

The ANC notes the consolidation of democracy in Southern Africa. Seven countries in the SADC region – Comoros, Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa – held elections in 2024. The ANC will host the much-anticipated Liberation Movements Summit this

year. This will further strengthen the people's liberation gains towards lasting regional stability and sustainable socio-economic development.

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing conflicts in the Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and post-election violence in Mozambique. We call on the AU and SADC to take urgent steps to work towards the resolution of these conflicts. We must also continue to work to advance industrialisation, infrastructure and inclusive intra-African trade. We need to advance food, water, energy and critical mineral security as well as infrastructural development in Africa. This is important to ending the historical extractive and fragmented commodity-based economies where all trade was with countries of the North rather than amongst ourselves in Africa.

ISITHWALANDWE AND AWARDS

We are proud to announce that the NEC has awarded the following three outstanding patriots and veterans of our movement the highest honour of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe: Dr Tlou Theophilus Cholo, Dr Mana Mildred Ramakaba Lesiea and Cde Nkosinathi Benson Fihla.

We also congratulate the Winners of the 2024 ANC Awards:

The **Sol Plaatje Award to the ANC Branch:** Ward 29 Collins Chabane Municipality in Vhembe, Limpopo, for the second year, as Best Performing ANC Branch in 2024.

The **Charlotte Maxeke Award** to the Reatlegile ANCWL Branch: Ward 18 Greater Taung, Dr Ruth



Mompoti Region, North West for Best Performing ANC Women's League Branch in 2024.

The **Anton Lembede Award** to the Zandile Sibeko ANC Youth League Branch, Ward 76 Selope Thema, Ekurhuleni. Gauteng for Best Performing ANC Youth League Branch in 2024.

The **ZK Matthews Award** to the Polokwane Local Municipality, the Ehlanzeni District, and the Ekurhuleni Metro Council for most deserving ANC Local Councils and Caucuses in 2024.

ANNIVERSARIES

We draw lessons and inspiration from a number of significant anniversaries taking place this year.

All of these underscore the non-racial and non-sexist character of the ANC, the Alliance and the broader Mass Democratic Movement.

They also demonstrate our ability to unite all those who love their country and people, and to adapt and renew – while remaining steadfast in pursuit of the ideals of Freedom Charter and objec-

tives of the National Democratic Revolution.

During 2025, we will celebrate the centenary of the births of:

- Alex la Guma (20 February 1925 – 11 October 1985);
- Ruth First (4 May 1925 – 17 August 1982);
- Andrew Mlangeni (6 June 1925 – 21 July 2020);
- Alfred Nzo (19 June 1925 – 13 January 2000);
- Patrice Lumumba (2 July 1925 – 17 January 1961);
- Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Ruth Mompoti (14 September 1925 – 12 May 2015);
- Liz Abrahams (19 September 1925 – 17 December 2008);
- Harold Strachan (1 December 1925 – 7 February 2020);
- Christmas Tinto (25 December 1925 – 14 August 2005);

We will commemorate the following anniversaries:

100 years since the South African Native National Congress changed its name to the African National Congress and a new black, green and gold flag. It also adopted *Nkosi Sikelel' i-Afrika* as its anthem and adopted the ANC Bill of Rights.

JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT

95 years since the launch of the National Liberation League for Equality, Land and Freedom was launched with Cissy Gool as president and James la Guma as general secretary. It aimed to unite all individuals, organisations to struggle for complete social, political and economic equality of black people in South Africa.

95 years since the All-Africa Convention brought together trade unions, civic, political, professional and religious groupings on 15–18 December 2024 in Bloemfontein under the chairpersonship of Professor Davidson Don Tengo (D.D.T.) Jabavu.

75 years since the coming into force of the Suppression of Communism Act on 17 July 1950 in terms of which our ally the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) was declared illegal and dissolved itself. 10 years later, on 14 July 1960 the South African Communist Party (SACP) that it had been reconstituted and was operating underground.

70 years since the formation of the Black Sash on 19 May 1955 as the Women's Defence of the

Constitution League that brought together white women against apartheid in defence of human rights.

70 years since the inaugural conference of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) on 5 March 1955, a progressive formation of the working class that committed itself to engage in both economic and political struggles. SACTU participated in the Congress of the People that adopted the Freedom Charter and would form an integral part of the Congress Alliance.

70 years since the ANC and SA Indian Congress (SAIC) sent Moses Kotane and I.M Cachalia to the Bandung Conference held in Indonesia on 18 April 1955. The Conference was attended by 29 newly independent African and Asian countries. It strengthened the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, laying the basis for the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

65 years since the banning of the ANC and the PAC on 7 April 1960 which compelled the ANC to adapt to new conditions of work and the implementation

of four pillars of struggle: mass mobilisation, underground work, international solidarity and armed struggle.

50 years since the passing of Abraham "Bram" Fischer (23 April 1908 – 8 May 1975), activist, lawyer and leader of the SACP. Sentenced to life imprisonment, he was released to die under house arrest.

40 years since the ANC held the Third Consultative Conference on 16 – 25 June 1985 in Kabwe, Zambia. The Conference led to the renewal and intensification of the liberation struggle and reinforced the non-racial character of the ANC by opening membership of the National Executive Committee to all national groups.

40 years since the launch of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) on 30 November 1985, under the slogan "*One Country, One Federation!*" provided the working class, the principal motive force of the NDR, with a more effective vehicle to advance both its economic and political interests, strengthening the Mass Democratic Movement and the Alliance.



30 years since the passing of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Joe Slovo, member of the ANC, SACP, General Secretary of the SACP, Chief of Staff of uMkhonto weSizwe and first Minister of Housing in a democratic government, on 6 January 1995.

TRIBUTES

During the course of 2024, we again bid farewell to a number of activists and patriots:

Comrades Tito Mboweni, Mem-bathisi Mdladlana, Pravin Gordhan, Violet Siwela and Sibusiso Bhengu; Mam Evelyn Lubidla, Yusuf Bhamjee, Prof Muxe Nkondo, Paul Zitha, Mam Celia Khuzwayo, Louise Asmal, Winnie Khumalo, Enos Ngutshane, Breyten Breytenbach, Mallele Petje, Betty Muhlana, Naphtanial Manana, Mandisa Monakali, Gerson Moagi, Steve Marais, Silas Mtongana, Alex Sithole, Tiny Mngomezulu, Elizabeth van der Heyden, Nicolas Wolpe, Thabiso Sikwane, Jessica Mbangeni, Dr Effie Schulz, Poloso Mokubedi, Vusi Skosana, Gideon Vakala, Tito Maleka, Peter Magubane, Nosipho Sicatsha, Mxolisi Faku, Reverend A.M. Zondo, Owenita Simpson, Patrick Ricketts, Lt Cln Mandla Moya, Mickey Tsagae, Prof Eddie Webster, Isaac Malawu, Keletile Mathata, Tandelakhe Mgijima, Momelezi Mbedla, Puleng Bhuda Tssebe, Joseph TS Pono, Christine Adams, Dr Motsoko Pheko, Ntombikayise Tom, Dinga-an Thobela, Legohang Masoetsa, Judge Yvonne Mokgoro, Emmanuel Ngubane, Joe Peter Mzondeki, Ntombikayise Tom, Harris Mbulelo Majeke, Alpheus Manghezi, Kegoilwe James Letebele, Lt Gen MJ Rasegatla, Thamsanqa Mbalula, Jeffrey Sehlare, Bongani Hlengetwa, Ronnie Watson, Vuyani Nobongoza, Aaron Mil-



ner, Gideon Vaks Vakala, Zonke Majodina

THEME OF THE YEAR

The baton of struggle in the South African people's quest for freedom and justice has been passed from generation to generation.

In both advances and setbacks, defeats and triumphs these generations have remained true to the solemn pledge by the delegates to the Congress of the People that adopted the Freedom Charter that:

"These freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty".

Today, every member, upon being accepted in the ANC, makes a solemn declaration which includes a commitment that: *"I will work towards making the ANC an even more effective instrument of liberation in the hands of the people."*

The transformation of our country into a united, non-racial, non-sex-

ist, democratic and prosperous nation, inspired by the Freedom Charter, and mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa will succeed.

Together, we will improve the ability of our economy to create wealth and employment for all.

Together, we will improve the quality of services and the integrity, responsiveness, capacity and accountability of government in all spheres.

The ANC will renew and rebuild itself to unite all South Africans and to provide clear, decisive and ethical leadership in the achievement of these objectives.

We therefore declare 2025 to be: **THE YEAR OF RENEWAL TO MAKE THE ANC A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF THE PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THE VISION OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER: THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN! THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!**

We salute the ANC on its 113th founding anniversary

SACP Message on the occasion of the ANC's 113th Anniversary

■ Delivered By **SACP Deputy National Chairperson THULAS NXESI**

AS Africa's oldest liberation organisation, the ANC has played a critical role in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. South Africa's democratic breakthrough in April 1994, a key part of our revolutionary Alliance's achievements, highlights the ANC's outstanding leadership in our liberation struggle. Together we defeated the apartheid regime.

However, let us be clear, comrades. We had strong support from united progressive trade union and civic movements as allies in the liberation struggle. We had the support of the array of united organisations that formed our mass democratic movement.

Our democratic breakthrough would not have been possible without the support of the majority of our people, with the working class at the centre. The ANC's 113th founding anniversary celebrations across the country give us the opportunity to reflect on what happened to the unity and support our liberation struggle received after our April 1994 democratic breakthrough.



That said, the SACP acknowledges the leadership role that the ANC has further played after the April 1994 democratic breakthrough through commendable social advances. These achievements have built on the foundation of the hard-won human rights enshrined in our Constitution, a product of our collective struggle as allies.

The ANC-led government has made significant strides in im-

proving the lives of millions, particularly workers, both employed and unemployed. Notable advances include workers' rights, the provision of free housing, large-scale household electrification, the expansion of education at all levels, improved access to healthcare and an extensive social grants programme.

However, alongside these achievements, there are pressing challenges.

Electricity provision, for instance, reached a point where it faced severe setbacks due to load shedding, load reduction and steep tariff hikes. This disrupted access to electricity, rendered it unaffordable for many and contributed to de-industrialisation.

Still, our country is grappling with multiple capitalist system-generated crises. Over 12 million people, both active and discouraged work seekers, are unemployed. Retrenchments and de-industrialisation exacerbated the unemployment crisis. This is

why the SACP is deeply concerned about the termination of contracts in public employment programmes by the GNU and the shutdown of key steel operations by ArcelorMittal. These developments unfold amid crisis-high poverty rates.

In 2024, approximately 39.7 million South Africans, or 63 per cent of the population, lived below the upper-middle-income poverty line of \$6.85, roughly R125.56 per day. This meant 2.2 million more people fell into the yoke of poverty than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Africa remains the most unequal country globally, ranking first among 164 countries.

The legacy of colonial and apartheid social engineering continues in the impacts of unemployment, poverty and inequality – it is the formerly oppressed national groups that bear the brunt of unemployment, poverty and inequality, while those who benefitted from white privilege remain better off. This divides our nation in many ways. Entrenched along historical fault lines, the division hinders genuine national unity and cohesion.

Closely associated with the crisis-high rates of unemployment, poverty and inequality, another crisis has emerged in the form of crime. This includes drug dealing, theft, robbery, housebreaking, hijacking, interpersonal and gender-based violence, murder and the destruction as well as looting of public infrastructure, to name but a few categories. Crime casts a shadow of fear over daily life and deters investment, contributing to the economic stagnation.

As if that were not enough, our country also faces severe infrastructure challenges and a lack of economic transformation, particularly in industrial sectors, such as finance.

The negatives in the objective factors – rooted in the racialised and gendered crises of unemployment, poverty and inequality – have impacted the ANC's electoral performance and political support. Internal divisions, fragmentation, state capture and other corruption allegations, have compounded the decline, with far-reaching implications not only for the ANC but also for our entire Alliance.

In light of these challenges, the working class – the majority of our people – urgently needs a clear way forward. This way forward should include the following.

1. A large-scale employment creation programme.
2. An adequately funded, high-impact industrial policy.
3. State-led infrastructure development, maintenance and security.
4. Expansion of public employment programmes, as opposed to retrenching workers, saying they are 55 years and above.

5. A comprehensive poverty eradication programme, including rural and township infrastructure and broader economic development.
6. A programme of radical class, race and gender inequality reduction.
7. Immediate implementation of the Sovereign Wealth Fund: revenues, royalties and a share of profits from the mineral wealth of our country must serve as part of the initial funding sources of the Sovereign Wealth Fund.
8. A comprehensive social security system, including a decisive advance towards a universal basic income grant.
9. Decisive implementation of the National Health Insurance to guarantee universal access to quality healthcare for all.
10. Financial sector transformation, with the establishment of a state banking sector and a public banking system as an apex priority, thereby fulfilling our manifesto commitments.

However, let us be clear. The crises and challenges facing South Africa are unlikely to be resolved quickly. Progressive proposals cannot succeed under macro-economic policies entrenched in fiscal austerity and restrictive measures. A new approach is essential. This approach must advance and deepen the “Revolution” in the “National Democratic Revolution”.

We want to take this opportunity to address the issue of Alliance reconfiguration, which remains unresolved despite over 17 years of dedicated efforts and engagements. We approach this matter with a clear understanding of the Alliance's character. Ours is a

ANC 113TH ANNIVERSARY

strategic Alliance of independent yet interdependent allies.

As things stand, however, the absence of Alliance reconfiguration is compromising the independence of its working-class partners. This is deeply undesirable. Commitment to our Alliance must go beyond rhetoric. It requires inclusive approaches in shaping the political, economic and social policies, as well as the strategies and tactics needed to advance our shared strategy, the National Democratic Revolution. This requires Alliance collective leadership and accountability – as opposed to an individual Alliance partner.

Consensus-seeking consultation within joint Alliance decision-making processes and Alliance participatory democracy are essential. This independence should strengthen our interdependence rather than undermine it. It must be a source of unity and collective power.

To be clear, our resolution is to exercise our independence across all fronts of the struggle, including the battle of democracy. This is not about leaving the Alliance, which we have painstakingly built since the late 1920s. It is about strengthening the foundation of the Alliance – especially our independence as a pillar of strength for our interdependence – towards fully realising our Alliance's historical mission.

The decision adopted by the SACP to contest the 2026 local government elections is not our General Secretary's personal decision but a unanimous decision of the SACP.

The SACP stands by this decision.



COSATU Message of Support to the ANC on its 113th anniversary

■ Delivered By **COSATU President ZINGISWA LOSI**

WE are honoured to join these celebrations, to remember our many liberation struggle veterans including Joe Slovo, Oscar Mpetha, Dulcie September, Dullah Omar; to feel the pain of our people from Khayelitsha to Beaufort West, and to rededicate ourselves to their liberation from unemployment, poverty and inequality, crime and corruption.

Some ask why is COSATU in Alliance with the ANC and the SACP? It is this Alliance that led the struggle to defeat apartheid

and liberate our people from the most brutal forms of oppression. Soon we will celebrate 31 years of freedom and democracy.

Others ask what has this meant for workers? Today workers' right to organise, to collective bargaining and to strike are protected by the Constitution.

It is the struggle led by the ANC that today ensures 60% of government's budget is invested in working class communities, from social grants for 27 million to NSFAS, public housing, healthcare, transport and no fee schools.



Parents are now guaranteed paid maternity and parental leave. Not long-ago farm workers in De Doorns and domestic workers in Constantia were paid as little as R6 an hour, today 6 million workers are protected by the National Minimum Wage of R27.58.

During COVID-19, COSATU working with government led by the ANC ensured more than R65 billion was released from the UIF to help 6 million workers feed their families. On 1 September 2024, the Two Pot Pension Reforms came into effect releasing more

than R40 billion to over 2 million struggling workers. In May President Ramaphosa signed the NHI Act into law laying the foundation for universal healthcare.

Yet all too often employers break our laws and abuse workers, from the construction workers who died in George to the Hout Bay fisherman who drowned at sea and taxi drivers forced to work long hours.

Whilst we celebrate our victories, we cannot rest when gangs are rampant in Manenberg and Tafel-

sig, schools are overcrowded in Crossroads and Eastridge, filth is overflowing on the streets of Mfuleni and Phillipi. We dare not rest when 4 out of 10 South Africans cannot find work and we remain the world's most unequal society.

Workers are looking to us to deliver a better life for all. This requires a well-oiled state to ensure effective policing, efficient hospitals, safe schools, maintained roads and that we do not have sewerage in our streets, including here in Langa, Paarl and Atlantis.

It requires an ANC and an Alliance that is united, on the ground, with the people, leading government and ensuring it delivers for workers and the poor.

We are confident the ANC is on the path of renewal, that the state is being cleansed and rebuilt, and the economy will turn the corner. We must accelerate these efforts, create decent jobs and improve the lives of the working class.

We dare not fail.

Thank you. Amandla!



2025 Will be a breakthrough year embracing renewal and rebuilding strong and credible structures of the movement

Message of the ANC Veterans League on the occasion of the ANC's 113th Anniversary

■ By **ANCVL President SNUKI ZIKALALA**

THIS year, 2025, we commemorate several events of enormous historical significance.

It is the 70th anniversary of the Congress of the People in Kliptown, where in 1955, the Freedom Charter was adopted. We recall the luminaries of our struggle who fearlessly paved the way to provide us with the vision of the National Democratic Revolution, a vision of a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it, a vision which continues to guide us.

2025 is also the 75th anniversary of the promulgation of the Group Areas Act, and we recall the leaders and activists who resisted forced removals, among them the residents of Sophiatown, which was cruelly demolished 70 years ago. It was also the year of the founding of the Black Sash, a veteran human rights organisation which supported communities resisting forced removals and the pass laws.

It is the 40th anniversary of the formation of COSATU, as well



as the imposition of the brutal 1985 State of Emergency following the rise of the mass democratic movement, making the country ungovernable.

We recall these anniversaries in honour of veterans who contributed to the downfall of apartheid and those who continue to serve as the conscience and guiding beacon of the ANC. Together we have a role in guiding our fami-

lies and communities remembering the legacy of those who have gone before us.

As the Veterans' League, we will continue to support the repatriation and reburial of the remains of comrades who died in exile. We will assist struggle activists who qualify to access special pensions. We will work to protect and support the rights of older persons.

We also recall the past to remind ourselves that the struggle to realise the vision of the Freedom Charter is not over. That apartheid spatial patterns of human settlement remain with us despite that there is no longer a Group Areas Act and that land restitution is still outstanding for many victims of forced removals.

As the leading party in the GNU, the ANC's challenge is to continue focusing on achieving the objectives of the Freedom Charter, albeit under new conditions.

Our ability to regain the trust of our people will lie in tackling today's many complex and wicked problems, resulting in service delivery failures, in a principled and courageous way.

In the run-up to elections, the Veterans' League warned that the ANC would pay a heavy price at the polls for failing to address corruption and malfeasance within our ranks adequately. We will continue to spearhead the ANC's renewal programme, including the rollout of compulsory political education for all ANC members, which has already commenced.

The other pillars of our renewal programme involve reviewing the role and structure of ANC branches to reconnect with the people, placing ethics and integrity at the centre of everything that we do and reasserting non-racialism and non-sexism in our struggle for a democratic and prosperous society.

We believe that 2025, the 113th anniversary year of the ANC will be a breakthrough year embracing renewal and rebuilding strong and credible structures of the movement.

Statement by the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) on the occasion of the **ANC's 113th Anniversary** and the **2025 January 8th Statement**

THE African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) joins the nation and progressive forces worldwide in celebrating the 113th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC). This milestone reminds us of the ANC's enduring commitment to the liberation of our people and its unwavering resolve to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa.

The January 8th Statement delivered by ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa at Mandela Park Stadium has set the tone for 2025 as a pivotal year in our ongoing journey to realize the vision of

the Freedom Charter. The declaration of 2025 as "The Year of Renewal to Make the ANC a More Effective Instrument of the People" is a rallying call for all progressive forces, particularly the youth, to strengthen their efforts in addressing the critical challenges facing our nation.

The ANCYL is deeply inspired by the President's reaffirmation of the Freedom Charter's principles during its 70th anniversary year. The Charter, born out of the struggles and aspirations of ordinary South Africans, remains a revolutionary guide for building the National Democratic Society envisioned by the ANC. As young





people, we are reminded of our historical role as torchbearers of this vision and commit to ensuring its continued relevance in addressing modern challenges.

We welcome the six strategic priorities outlined by the ANC for 2025, which include decisive action on renewal, fixing local government, addressing water and energy security, fostering inclusive economic growth, combating crime and corruption, promoting national dialogue, and advancing Africa's development. These priorities are a blueprint for tangible transformation and a reaffirmation of the ANC's leadership in addressing the most pressing needs of our people.

Youth Participation and Economic Empowerment

As the custodians of the future, the youth of South Africa face the brunt of unemployment, inequality, and poverty. The ANCYL commends the ANC's commitment to youth employment through targeted interventions in education reform, skills development, and entrepreneurship. However, we call for greater urgency in the implementation of these initiatives.

The youth must not only be beneficiaries of these programs but active participants in shaping

them. The ANCYL will intensify its engagement with government, business, and civil society to ensure that the youth agenda is prioritized in every sphere.

The ANCYL also calls for an expansion of support for small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMEs) and township economies, which serve as critical avenues for youth empowerment. The revitalization of industrial capacity


and the promotion of high-growth sectors such as agriculture, technology, and green energy must place young people at the center of these efforts.

Renewal and Accountability

The renewal of the ANC, as highlighted in the January 8th Statement, is an existential priority for our movement. The ANCYL wholeheartedly supports the measures to strengthen the ideological foundation, ethical standards, and organizational capacity of the ANC. The introduction of the ANC Foundation Course, the focus on consequence management, and the overhauling of membership criteria are vital steps in restoring public confidence in the ANC as a credible vehicle for transformation.

As the ANC undertakes this jour-





Economic Freedom & Social Change Now, Not Later!



**ANCYL CELEBRATES THE ANC'S
113TH ANNIVERSARY THEME FOR
THE YEAR 2025:**

**“THE YEAR OF RENEWAL TO
MAKE THE ANC A MORE
EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF
THE PEOPLE.”**

**2025 marks the 70th Anniversary of
the Freedom Charter - reaffirming
its principles as a guide for building
a National Democratic Society.**

ney of renewal, the ANCYL commits to being a vanguard of integrity and accountability within our ranks. We will lead by example, ensuring that our members and leaders are deeply rooted in the principles of service, humility, and excellence.

Building Safe and Thriving Communities

The scourge of gender-based violence, crime, and corruption continues to undermine the gains of our democracy. The ANCYL calls for the urgent finalization of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and for resources to be directed toward its effective functioning. Furthermore, we echo the ANC's call for a united front of community leaders, civil society, and every citizen against these social ills.

The youth league will amplify its campaigns to combat substance abuse, gangsterism, and other societal challenges that disproportionately affect young people. We will work closely with Community Policing Forums, schools, and local government structures to build safer and more cohesive communities.

Advancing the African Agenda

As part of the broader ANC movement, the ANCYL remains committed to the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the principles of international solidarity. We stand firmly with the oppressed peoples of Western Sahara and Palestine in their struggles for self-determination. The ANCYL will also actively participate in programs to advance the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the implementation of the African Continental

Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which hold the promise of economic integration and development across the continent.

A Call to Action

The ANCYL calls upon all young South Africans to join hands in driving the renewal of the ANC and in building a South Africa that truly reflects the vision of the Freedom Charter. This is a time for action, determination, and unwavering commitment to the ideals that have guided our liberation struggle and continue to define our democracy.

As we step into this new chapter, the ANCYL reaffirms its role as a militant and dynamic force within the Congress Movement. Together with the ANC, we will work tirelessly to ensure that 2025 becomes a year of renewal, progress, and hope for all South Africans.

ulates the top three branches awarded the prestigious **Anton Lembede Award** at the 113th anniversary celebrations for their outstanding contributions to youth development and activism:

1. **Zandile Sibeko Branch**
– Ward 76, Selope Thema Zone, Ekurhuleni Region, Gauteng.
2. **Lebogang Lichoane Branch**
– Ward 39, Zone 8, Mangaung Region, Free State.
3. **Hector Peterson Branch**
– Ward 13, Matjhabeng Sub-Region, Lejweleputswa Region, Free State.

These branches are shining examples of the vitality and strength of the ANCYL. We applaud their leadership, commitment, and ability to mobilize young people in the pursuit of our shared goals. May their achievements inspire all ANCYL branches to strive for excellence in their service to the youth and the nation.



Economic Freedom & Social Change Now, Not Later!

YOUTH FOCUS AREAS

- **Youth Economic Empowerment:**
Expanded support for SMMEs & township economies.
- **Prioritizing high-growth sectors:**
agriculture, technology, & green energy.
- **Focus on education reform, skills development, & entrepreneurship.**
- **Active Engagement:**
ANCYL to ensure youth participation in shaping & implementing policies.



ANC



113TH
ANNIVERSARY



ISSUED BY ANCYL HQ



2025



EMBASSY REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

IN CONMEMORATION OF 113TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)

Pretoria, South Africa, 9 January 2025

The Embassy of Nicaragua in the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity and the Sandinista National Liberation Front send our fraternal and affectionate greetings on the commemoration of the 113th Anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress (ANC). The stewardship of the oldest liberation movement in the continent in fighting against minority rule and oppression against the marginalized Africans in the Apartheid era provided encouragement and strength to the likes of our own Sandinista National Liberation Front and the people of Nicaragua during the most difficult times of the Nicaragua Revolution.

The ANC has been an inspiration for the liberation movement of the struggles for the liberties of the peoples of the African Continent, mainly in the struggle against the apartheid regime that the heroic people of South Africa suffered for many decades.

Since the advent of democracy 30 years ago under the leadership of the African National Congress, South Africa has succeeded in establishing a state that looks after the welfare of the neediest and historically discriminated and marginalized. The African National Congress steered the nation in the most critical times and established policies that have bettered the lives of millions of South Africans.

We celebrate with the heroic people of South Africa and the leadership of the African National Congress and his allies, wishing them greater victories for all South African families.

Forever Beyond...!!

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Phone: +27 665669247
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Palestinian National Liberation Movement - Fatah
Central Committee
Secretary General Office



حركة التحرير الوطني الفلسطيني - فتح
اللجنة المركزية
مكتب امين السر

Date: 9-1-2025

Mr. Fikile Mbalula
Secretary General
African National Congress - ANC.



Dear Comrade,

Please accept our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary 113th of the African National Congress (ANC). This is an occasion that we can celebrate as ours.

We are particularly making use of the occasion in order to once again thank you for your unshakeable commitment with our national liberation struggle, including your latest efforts at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for their Genocide in Gaza. This represents a legal, diplomatic and popular landmark for the entirety of the global south, decolonizing the use of international organizations.

The example of the ANC shows that victory is inevitable for the people of Palestine, that we will break the chains of Apartheid just like you did, and that a future of justice, freedom and equality is possible. We also know that we will continue to count with you through this process, just like you can always count on the Palestinian people, as we proudly did for decades before your own liberation.

The Palestinian National Liberation Movement - Fatah, reiterates its commitment to strengthen our relations on all levels, uniting our peoples for a better world under the joint values that strengthened the brotherhood between the late Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat. We are not going to

Palestinian National Liberation Movement - Fatah
Central Committee

Secretary General Office



حركة التحرير الوطني الفلسطيني - فتح
اللجنة المركزية
مكتب امين السر

forget when Nelson Mandela compared our struggles by saying "we identify with the PLO because just like ourselves they are fighting for the right to self-determination (...) Arafat is a comrade in arms, and we treat him as such".

Hereby we reiterate the assurances of our highest esteem, respect and brotherhood between the peoples of South Africa and Palestine and between Fatah and the ANC.

Long live South Africa!

Long live Palestine!

Your sincerely

LTG. Jibril Rajoub

Secretary General of Fatah Central committee

9.1.2025



Message to the African National Congress (ANC) on its 113th anniversary

By Hon. Dr. Faisal Aranki State Minister and Member of the Executive Committee of the **Palestine Liberation Organization**

Dear comrades

On behalf of H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine and the PLO, Members of the Executive Committee of the PLO, as well as the Palestinian people, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the ANC on its 113th anniversary.

We appreciate the role of South Africa's solidarity and its courageous step in prosecuting Israel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as well as before the International Criminal Court (ICC). We also thank you for your solidarity and progressive decisions, whether at the level of the presidency, the government, or the progressive parties, especially the Tripartite Alliance.

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation for the invitation to the ANC's 113th-anniversary celebration. The ANC has long stood as a symbol of resistance and hope for those fighting oppression. Its legacy of championing justice and equality continues to inspire the Palestinian people in our own pursuit of freedom and self-determination. We deeply value the ANC's unwavering solidarity and wish you continued progress. On this occasion, we salute all your efforts in the struggle for freedom for the people of South Africa and express our deep pride in the historical bonds of struggle between our two peoples.

Dear Comrades

Our request to the world is an end to the Israeli genocidal war. The crimes committed by the barbaric Zionist army and settler gangs, including the killing of tens of thousands of civilians and the destruction of villages and cities, are reprehensible. Additionally, the banning of UNRWA and the implementation of the so-called Nation-State Law further exacerbates the suffering and injustice.

More than 46,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, 2023, 70% of them are women and children. Over 109,274 people have been wounded, each statistic bearing the weight of shattered families and irreparable loss.

923 families have been completely wiped out from the civil registry. The images of the dead and dying, of parents cradling their lifeless children, of entire families, exterminated, have shocked the world. The scale of the destruction is almost unimaginable: 85,000 tons of explosives dropped on a population of 2.3 million, obliterating infrastructure, water and sanitation systems and creating a humanitarian and environmental crisis that will scar generations.

The proposed solutions and ongoing negotiations to end the war against our people in Gaza are being used by Israel to impose the Bantustan system and divide Gaza into three parts after creating chaos there, starving people, destroying all aspects of life, and achieving a new catastrophe to uproot our people from their land.

The Israeli attack against our 1.8 million Palestinian people living inside Israel has also begun, in preparation for uprooting them, as Israeli politicians consider them the eighth front against which Israel is fighting.

Over the past two years, the PLO has worked to issue a fatwa to the ICJ on ending the occupation within a year, followed by a resolution from the UN General Assembly on the matter. This represents the Palestinian national liberation project—not the Bantustan-like system that some regional countries are attempting to impose. We firmly reject any interference by regional or international actors in our independent Palestinian decision-making.

Through all this, South Africa has not remained silent. President Cyril Ramaphosa's words still echo: Israel's actions threaten global governance and shred the very fabric of international law.

Comrades,

We call on the international community to pressure Israel to end this barbaric war by enforcing Security Council Resolution 2735 and designating Israel as an apartheid state, including imposing comprehensive sanctions. Last September, President Mahmoud Abbas urged the General Assembly to freeze Israel's UN membership and ban arms sales to the country.

We also appeal to countries whose citizens hold Israeli passports to prevent them from joining Israel's barbaric army or residing in settlements in the West Bank.

Military and security measures alone will not bring peace or security to anyone. Stability in the Middle East can only be achieved by meeting the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people for freedom and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

In conclusion, as we celebrate the ANC's legacy, we reaffirm our shared belief that justice and freedom are universal rights, not privileges. Together, let us continue to fight for a world where no people are subjected to occupation, apartheid, or genocide. We stand with the ANC, inspired by your legacy, and we look forward to the day when Palestine too can celebrate its liberation.

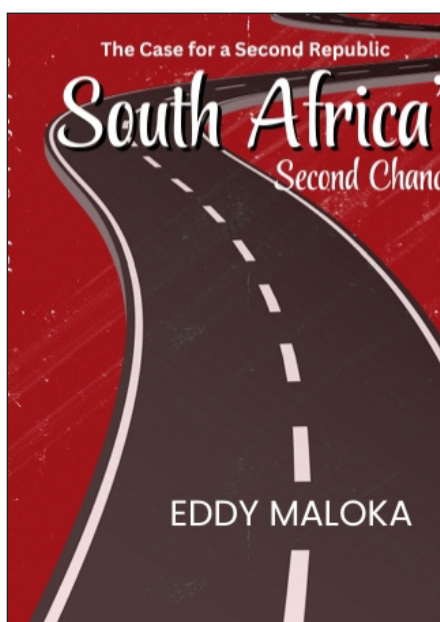
Thank you.

The Case for a Second Republic: South Africa's Second Chance

By Prof Eddy Maloka

■ A Review by **MANDLA NKOMFE**

SEVERAL factors have converged, creating an urgent need for a comprehensive review of our journey towards a robust democratic life in South Africa. As we celebrate 30 years of democracy, with visible stagnation in various areas of public life, the crippling effects of state capture on institutions leading to the collapse of service delivery, less than modest economic growth, palpable poverty and unemployment, and a lack of decisive leadership have defined the reality of our country. These developments have sparked calls for the renewal of our 1994 social contract, a change in the Constitution, and a reimagining of the political system to ensure transparency and accountability to the citizenry. In response, former President Thabo Mbeki, President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Foundations of leading South Africans have urgently called for a National Dialogue, emphasising the crucial role of every citizen in preventing our democracy from sliding into an abyss. To this effect, President Ramaphosa has committed the government to hold such a convention early in 2025. Comrade Eddy Maloka is joining the emerging public discourse on resetting our political, social, and economic institutions. In his latest book,



Maloka believes that the Second Republic will inaugurate a process of much-needed political renewal.

Comrade Maloka's book, *The Case for the Second Republic: South Africa's Second Chance*, is a timely intervention in our national discourse. In this book, Maloka attempts to make a case for South Africa to move away from the 1994 political and economic settlement in the direction of the Second Republic. For him, all the options should be considered, even if it means doing away with the 1996 Constitution. In other words, there must be a strategic break with the 1994 dispensation.

A complete overhaul of constitutional foundations is thus required. Cde Maloka draws on recent examples of the need for a new republic in attempting to give content to the notion of the **Second Republic** (Mali, 2021; Kenya, 2007). In Mali, the movement for renewal was undergirded by the notion of "re-foundation of the state." In Kenya (2010), most Kenyans voted in a national referendum to adopt a new constitution.

Maloka's proposition is clear and urgent: the 1994 project has stalled, and we must envision a different paradigm for the second Republic. The core of the Second Republic is what he calls a "self-reliant mindset, a professional technocratic state, and substantive people's power." Maloka argues that these principles are not important, but crucial for the 're-foundation' process. It should be elite-driven, action-oriented, and happen in real time. It is not a big bang but an accumulation of specific actions. This process is long-term, state-driven, highly contested, divisive, and unifying simultaneously. As elsewhere in the continent, the time for renewal has come in South Africa.

Maloka argues the need for the Second Republic by examining

and analysing South Africa's journey from colonial times to the present. This approach avoids philosophical speculation. Maloka traced the making of the modern South African state from the Anglo-Boer war to the democratic strategic breakthrough in 1994. In this journey, Maloka notes the unfinished business of the National Question, the role and place of provinces (mainly organised along the Bantustan boundaries), the contending impulses of federalism, and unitary perspectives as characterised by the liberal dispensation headed by the DA and the broad left movement headed by the ANC. Together with these, the political system has become outdated if seen against the need for greater accountability in which the people are not the bystanders in the democratic project. For him, the proportional representation made sense in 1994 as it sought to overcome our divisions. Thus, the second Republic will be an antithesis of a political system that privileges party bosses. The second Republic should stand on a reformed electoral system of public representatives who are directly elected.

He argues that the political and economic elites in society have retreated to themselves and have thus created a wide gap with the people. The State Capture Commission has revealed the extent of malaise in our state system. The notion of the Second Republic urges us to return to our liberation ethos. For Maloka, the nature of the 1994 political settlement with its inherent elite-pact underpinnings has much to account for the perilous state in which South Africa is finding itself. From this point, Maloka points to the descent into hopelessness and despair that is palpable in our communities.

Maloka argues that the lack of progress in many areas can be

traced to the wrong policy choices adopted by the post-1994 state in South Africa. In his view, the major strategic shift was to discard the RDP base document, a comprehensive policy framework for reconstruction and development, and replace it with the RDP white paper, a more limited and conservative version of the RDP. He argues that this shift eschewed the people's leading role in reconstruction and development.

While Cde Maloka appreciates the efforts undertaken by the ANC in renewing the country and the party, his book implicitly critiques the effectiveness of such interventions. For him, the notion of the 'second transition' of the ANC, which was about accelerated transformation within the existing 1994 dispensation, should not be confused with the idea of the second Republic. As Maloka sees it, the second Republic calls for a strategic break with the 1994 dispensation. What is needed, in his view, is a new constitution that a national referendum must validate. Implicit in Maloka's exposition is how, in South Africa, we have managed the decolonisation transition (and how we account for its failures and successes), navigating a divided and conflict-ridden society (to create a common national identity) and managing the movement from an erstwhile authoritarian state to democracy. The proposed national dialogue should engage with these three dynamics as we reimagine a clean start for our country.

Like some countries in the developing world, South Africa has slid backwards in its economic development. In this regard, he looks at Latin America (the notion of left behind) to account for why the USA has left countries in Latin America behind. In doing this, he marshals the arguments of writers such as Sebastian Edwards and

Francis Fukuyama in explaining and tracing the origins of the falling behind of Latin America. By relying on Fukuyama's theoretical constructs, Maloka's analysis underplays the role of imperialism and its devastating effects on the economies of Latin America and how the USA underdeveloped the developing countries, albeit criticising the limited conceptual depth as a function of their "*Eurocentrism and failure to embrace the positive contributions of dependency and world-system theories.*" It is clear from the arguments advanced by the book that Maloka dismisses the notions of '*failed state*' or '*state failure*' as not applicable to the South African conditions, arguing instead for a more nuanced understanding of the country's challenges. The question is whether the proposed second Republic can move South Africa beyond its perennial middle-income trap to high-income status.

Where Maloka is on point is an exposition of the ideas in Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson's book: *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. In attempting to understand why nations fail while others fail, the two writers point to the nature of political and economic institutions in each society. They distinguish between extractive and inclusive institutions. Extractive institutions rely on extracting rents from public purposes and divert them to private gains. The recent development of state capture is a clear manifestation of extractive institutions. Inclusive institutions facilitate economic growth, development, and investment in recent technologies and skills. The Second Republic should aim to build inclusive and not extractive institutions. In this context, Maloka bases his second republic thesis on the existence of strong institutions. To avoid being

captured by various fractions of capital, the state in the Second Republic should strive for relative autonomy in its relationship with capital.

While comrade Maloka has argued extensively for the Second Republic, the concept remains unclear regarding its analytic value and power. Thus, it can only be descriptive in capturing the essence of the challenges confronting the post-1994 South African state. As this is a relatively new concept in our lexicon, it thus demands that it demonstrate a theoretical rigour to withstand South Africa's robust left politics.

The key question is whether the notion of the Second Republic is predicated on the idea of 'Crisis.' If so, what is the nature of the crisis beyond its descriptive features? A crisis often denotes a historical moment when the ruling elites have accepted that accumulation can no longer happen within the status quo. New political and economic arrangements must be inaugurated to maintain the system, albeit under new conditions. In parallel to this development, the capacity of the dominated groups must be to understand the moment and seize the strategic initiative. In other words, the Second Republic thesis should illuminate the nature of the crisis. Is it the organic crisis as theorized by Gramsci, or is it conjunctural? The longevity of the Second Republic concept depends on whether it investigates these questions.

The Second Republic thesis must be undergirded by an animating perspective that can rally societal forces to a sense of new politics that speaks to widespread societal renewal and rebirth. In ad-

The Case for a Second Republic: South Africa's Second Chance

Eddy Maloka

In this thought provoking page-turner, renowned political analyst, historian, and diplomat, Eddy Maloka, takes the readers on South Africa's journey to establish a new republic, a second republic.

He argues that it is a solution to the 1994 dispensation, a source of the country's problems that overwhelm the society. Journey with him as he makes a case for South Africa to off-ramp from the 1994 freeway to the direction of a second republic, South Africa's second chance to reconstitute itself.

vancing the idea of the Second Republic, Maloka does not clarify whether the wholesale overhaul of the Constitution includes the values and the Bill of Rights that anchor our political dispensation. The point of the Second Republic must not only be about structures and institutions but should include the values that should be the driving force.

Many people in the movement and beyond, including this writer, wonder whether the Constitution is a problem. In what way is the Constitution an impediment to realising the promise of a better life? Arguing for Constitutionalism does not suggest that the Constitution cannot be amended or changed. Is the problem with objective realities or subjective weaknesses on the part of the leading party and cadres in Society? How will the Second Republic address the inability of the political class to lead? What about the crisis of governance, which ranges from the absence of a capable state to weak political and institutional leadership at various levels of the state and governance? Is it the Constitution that has brought about state capture and corruption? Some of these factors are not exogenous but point to a lack of political will to address issues such as the land question and other justice mat-

ters. The book is silent on what is to replace our constitutional state. Is it a parliamentary democracy? Does the Second Republic advocate the supremacy of parliament, as was the case with the previous regime? Moreover, what values should our Constitution be based on? In this context, the question remains whether the notion of the second Republic is based on a correct identification and analysis of the problem that is facing South Africa.

Conclusion

As the national dialogue approaches and various issues are raised, Maloka's contribution to the national conversation is timely. The book invites us to take a deeper look at the state of our Republic. Undoubtedly, the various themes he is canvassing are already being discussed inside our ANC-led liberation alliance, other political parties, civil society movements, public intellectuals, and ordinary South Africans. In this book, Maloka makes a case for South Africa to transition to a second republic (Though conceptually vague in many respects).

For him, the Second Republic will not be a product of elite pacting but must be built from below. In this regard, the book anticipates a mass-driven process where the people take charge of their destiny. In this context, the road to the Second Republic will require a wholesale repudiation of the 1994 political settlement. Are we at that point? The debates within and outside the ANC-led alliance and the South African public will surely answer whether South Africa is at the point of repudiating its social contract.

ADVERT



OR TAMBO

School of Leadership

JOB VACANCY:

PRINCIPAL

The OR Tambo School of Leadership is an educational and training institution established to foster leadership development within progressive organisations dedicated to advancing social justice and building a fair democratic order in South Africa and beyond.

OVERVIEW OF DUTIES

The Principal serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the School. The ideal candidate should thoroughly understand the history of the liberation movement in South Africa and the entire African continent and the role played by progressive organisations. They must bring an innovative vision for how the School can actively contribute to developing and transforming leadership structures within progressive organisations across South Africa, Africa, and globally. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to effectively lead the implementation of the School's Strategic Plan as approved by the Board of Directors. They should also have a proven capacity to establish collaborations and partnerships that will enable the School to expand and diversify its resources, including financial support, infrastructure, and expertise. A track record in networking and fundraising is essential. Furthermore, the candidate should exhibit emotional maturity, professionalism, a people-centred approach, strong negotiation and communication skills, and effective team leadership.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

- A postgraduate qualification at a master's degree level. A doctoral degree qualification will be an additional advantage.
- A minimum of ten years of proven strategic management and executive leadership success of complex organisations.
- Proven leadership, management, and communication skills at executive management level.
- Experience and knowledge of overseeing human, operations, and financial resources.
- Sound knowledge of curriculum development and delivery practices as well as modern learning theories.
- Knowledge of the education and training sector, its compliance requirements including challenges confronting the sector.
- Ability to build and manage networks and strategic partnerships to support the growth for the school.
- Ability of working with a complex multi stakeholder environment that includes all progressive socio-political organisations.
- A deep understanding of the historical and contemporary political, social, and economic landscape in South Africa, on the continent and globally which is in line with the agenda of all progressive forces within the global south.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

An application consisting of: (1) a written acceptance of the applicable policies, protocols and other regulatory guidelines governing the appointment process and the timeframe; (2) a comprehensive curriculum vitae; (3) an abridged curriculum vitae; and the names and contact details of at least three contactable referees must reach the Administrator by no later than the 31st of January 2025. Applications should be emailed to recruit@ortamboschool.org.za. All candidates agree to the verification of personal credentials and, where necessary to subject themselves to competency assessments required, and agree to the dissemination of their CV and other credentials to members of the Board and to other relevant stakeholder bodies of the School. By applying for this vacancy, the candidates consent to undergo verification of personal credentials and related information including, but not limited to, qualifications, criminal record, credit record, and current and historic disciplinary proceedings, as part of the selection process. The OR Tambo School of Leadership reserves the right to not fill the advertised position.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1–24 January 2025

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

1 January 1804

Haiti gains independence

After more than 200 years of colonization and slavery, General Jean Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the independent black republic of Haiti after rebel slaves defeated French troops dispatched by Napoleon Bonaparte. Haiti was the first nation to successfully gain independence through a slave revolt.

1 January 1906

Dr Benedict Vilakazi born



Poet and writer, Benedict Vilakazi was born in Groutville, KwaZulu Natal. He was the first Black South African to receive a Doctorate in Literature and wrote the first book of Zulu poems to be published.

1 January 1948

Zakes Mda born

Zakes Mda, Poet, playwright and author of amongst other books *We Shall Sing for the*



Fatherland and Other Plays (1980), *And the Girls in Their Sunday Dresses* (1993), *Melville 67* (1998), *Ways of Dying* (2002), *The Heart of Redness* (2002), *The Madonna of Excelsior* (2004), *The Whale Caller* (2005), *The Sculptors of Mapungwe* (2013), and *The Zulus of New York* (2019), amongst other work was born in Herschel, Eastern Cape.

1 January 1972

First women enlisted in the South Africa Police

On 1 January 1972, first in the history of the South African Police (SAP), policewomen were enlisted as 'full members of the force'. Two white women were appointed as commanders of the newly established 'women police force'. Women began their basic training at the police College in Pretoria on 1 March 1972.

2 January 1950

Richard Mzamane Mabaso born

South African artist, Richard Mzamane Mabaso, is born in Alexandra, Johannesburg. He started drawing and carving without any instruction and worked for a variety of firms until 1985, when he became a guest artist at the AIA (African Institute of Art) at Funda Centre until 1987.

2 January 1967

Francois Pienaar born

Springbok rugby captain Francois Pienaar was born in Vereeniging, Gauteng. He captained the South African national rugby team from 26 June 1993 until 10 August 1996, and led the Springboks to victory in the 1995 Rugby Union World Cup.

2 January 1985

Educationist Moses Josiah Madiba passed on



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Moses Josiah Madiba (1909-1985), author, educationist and first Black chancellor of the University of the North, died in Seshego, Pietersburg district. A protagonist of mother tongue instruction in primary schools, he held the view that training of primary school teachers through medium of their mother tongue would improve the quality of teaching. Madiba wrote several school textbooks and stories in Northern Sotho (Sepedi).

3 January 1892 JRR Tolkien born in Bloemfontein

Author, academic and philosopher JRR Tolkien – author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* – was born in Bloemfontein to Mabel and Arthur Tolkien.

3 January 1994 Millions regain Citizenship

Restoration of South African citizenship, announced on 15 December 1993 by then President F.W. de Klerk, became effective 4 months before the first South Africa non-racial polls of 27 April, 1994. More than seven million people in the former bantustans, forced to accept citizenship of their various homelands, regained their South African citizenship. The Restoration and Extension of South African Citizenship Act No 196 of 1993 was part of a package agreed upon at CODESA.

3 January 2008 Lungi Sisulu passed on

On 3 January 2008 Mlungisi Sisulu, the grandson of Albertina and Walter Sisulu died in London from cerebral malaria. Lungi was born on 20 August 1966 in Moscow to Max Sisulu and Mercy Vuthela,



two young South African exiles studying in the Soviet Union. Lungi came to South Africa at the age of 5 and settled in Soweto with his grandmothers, Greta Ncapayi and Albertina Sisulu. As a result of political activism in his family, Lungi gained political knowledge at an early age. He was a member of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and chaired the Dube branch of the Soweto Youth Congress (SOYCO). In 1986 he was detained for 9 months; the third generation of Sisulus, alongside his grandfather and uncle Zwelakhe to be jailed at the same time. In 2006 he was appointed First Secretary of the South African Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, where he married Kundi Jangano in 2007.

4 January 1893 Anthropologist, Professor Raymond Arthur Dart born

Anthropologist, Professor Ray-

mond Arthur Dart born was born in Brisbane, Australia. Raymond Dart discovered the Taung Child skull fossil near Taung in North West, South Africa. In 1922, Dart became the head of the newly established department of anatomy at Wits University, South Africa.

6 January 1906 Artist Walter Battiss born

The abstract artist was born in Somerset East. His formal art studies started in 1929 at the Wits Tech Art School (drawing and painting), followed by the Johannesburg Training College and etching lessons. Battiss continued his studies while working as a magistrate's clerk, and finally obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at UNISA at the age of 35. On 24 October 1981, the Walter Battiss Art Gallery at Somerset East was officially opened. Battiss died in 1982.

6 January 1995 Joe Slovo passed on

Joe Slovo, former SACP General Secretary and the communist intellectual, died after a long battle with cancer. He was SACP General Secretary, Umkhonto we Sizwe and National Chairperson of the South African Communist Party, and also the first Minister of Housing.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

6 January 2005

Makgatho Mandela passed on

Former president Nelson Mandela's only surviving son, Makgatho Mandela, died of HIV/AIDS in the Linksfield hospital in Johannesburg.

7 January 1919

ICU formed under Kadalie

The Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) was founded by Clements Kadalie, a young Nyassalander (Malawi). Formed in the stormy years after World War I with a membership of only twenty-four, the Industrial and Commercial Union made its first powerful impact when the Cape Town dock workers went on strike in December 1919. From small beginnings as a union of dock workers it quickly spread across the country, enrolling about 100,000 members.

7 January 1957

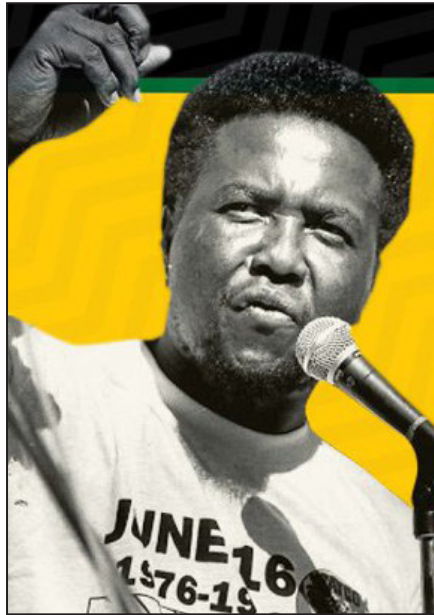
Alexandra Bus Boycott starts

Following hefty bus fare increases by PUTCO, the Alexandra People's Transport Committee (APTAC) was formed on this day to spearhead a bus boycott. The boycott quickly spread to Sophiatown, Germiston, Edenvale, Atteridgeville and Lady Selbourne. After months of walking to work and constant harassment by police, the commuters and the company finally reached a compromise on 1 April of that year.

7 January 1959

President of the Young Lions, Peter Mokaba born

Militant student and youth activist, first president of the South African Youth Congress (1987-1990) and of the ANC Youth League af-



ter its relaunch in 1991, was born in Shesego, Polokwane on this day. Mokaba spent time on Robben Island during the 1980s, and went on to become a Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism. Mokaba died on 9 June 2002.

8 January 1912

African National Congress formed

The South African Native National Congress (SANNC), later known as the African National Congress (ANC) was founded on the 8 January 1912. At the SANNC's inaugural conference, Rev. John Dube was elected as its first president in absentia. The organisation developed out of a situation of racial exclusion and oppression under the new Union of South Africa, 1910. For the first time on 8 January 1972, President Reginald Oliver Tambo delivered a statement outlining the ANC programme for the year. This was repeated on the same date in 1979, and became an ANC tradition, known as the January 8th Statement.



ANC CELEBRATING 113 Years

Today, we celebrate 113 years of a movement born out of the aspirations of the oppressed to achieve freedom, equality, and justice.

Over the decades, the ANC has stood as a beacon of hope, courage and resilience, fighting against apartheid and striving for a democratic South Africa.

We honor all the past leaders, fallen heroes & heroines of the movement that has been a pillar of unity and justice for over the years.

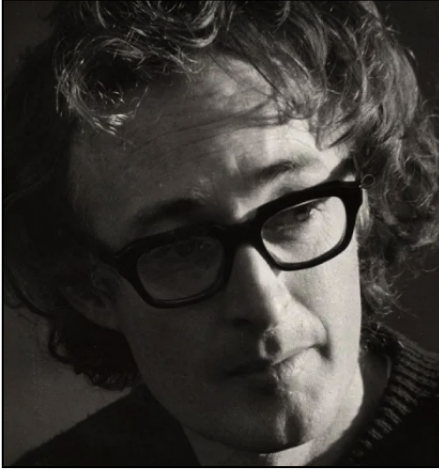
Let us continue to uphold the values of those who came before us, working together to build a better, more inclusive South Africa.

Amandla!"



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

8 January 1978 Activist Rick Turner assassinated



A passionate lecturer pioneering the teaching of radical political philosophy, Dr. Richard (Rick) Turner was assassinated. He was shot through a window of his home in Durban and died in the arms of his 13-year old daughter, Jann. Turner's murder came in the wake of renewed attacks on the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). Turner is author of *The Eye of the Needle – Towards Participatory Democracy In South Africa*, was active in the trade union movement in Durban, and was banned by the regime.

8 January 1993 Rapper Anatii born

Rapper Anathi Bhongo Mnyango, stagename Anatii was born in Bisho, Eastern Cape on 8 January 1993. Anatii produced and wrote the hit "When It Rains" for hip hop artist L-Tido in 2009, who was commissioned by Lebohang Morake to produce four songs for the Coca-Cola "Summer Yama Summahh" compilation album and released several singles.

9 January 1871 Eugene N Marais born

Poet, naturalist and author Eugene Marais of the work *The*

Soul of the White Ant (1925-36), a ground-breaking study on termites, and also of the Waterberg cycad tree was born on this day. An accomplished author, Marais published his first work at the age of 12, and at age 20 became owner of a newspaper, dedicated to local politics.

9 January 1973 Durban strikes started

On 9 January 1973, 2 000 workers in the Coronation Brick and Tile factory in Durban downed tools after employers rejected their demand for a wage increase. Subsequently, workers in various sectors around Durban also went on strike demanding higher wages and better working conditions. The strike spread to other parts of the country, and forced employers and the apartheid government to concede to the demand for the recognition of black trade unions.

9 January 2011 South Sudan Referendum on Independence start

After a 22-year civil war in which 2.5million southerners died, South Sudanese started to vote in a referendum on independence from Sudan. The referendum had a 60% turnout and was declared fair and free. 83% of South Sudanese voted for secession from the Sudan, and on 9 July 2011, South Sudan became an independent state.

9 January 1960 Building of Aswan Dam on the River Nile starts

The building of the world famous Aswan High Dam was started on the River Nile in Egypt. The Nile is the longest river in the world, and its drainage basin covers eleven countries: Tanzania, Uganda,

Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt. The Aswan High Dam, completed in 1970, provides irrigation and power supply for the whole of Egypt, and was regarded as key to Egypt's post independent development and industrialization led by Abdel Nasser.

9 January 1991 White public schools allow black students

As the new school year began in South Africa, black children were admitted to 205 schools previously reserved for whites only (out of 2000 such public schools) where parents had voted in favour of racial integration.

9 January 1994 Photographer killed in Katlehong



On 9 January 1994, Abdul Shariff a freelance photographer was shot in the back and killed while covering an African National Congress (ANC) delegation visit to Katlehong. Shariff was hit by fire from a hostel occupied by Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) supporters. It is believed that the gunshots were intended for Cyril Ramaphosa and Joe Slovo who were leading the ANC delegation. Shariff was born in Verulam, Natal and began

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

fighting against apartheid from an early age. He was involved in the student political movement at high school and was active in early documentary projects for student publications, going on to make a career as a news photographer. Shariff's photographic work continues to appear in major news publications.

10 January 1946 First meeting of UN General Assembly held

The United Nations Organisation (UNO) succeeded The League of Nations which was founded just after the end of World War I, to ensure that war is avoided at all costs globally, through peaceful means. The League was dissolved in 1945 and replaced by the United Nations Organization (UN). The UN held its first general assembly in London in 1946, attended by delegates from 51 countries.

11 January 1904 Herero uprising in Namibia starts

The Herero people, led by Samuel Maharero, revolted against German colonization in an uprising that lasted until 1907, when it was defeated with the help of governments from the Zuid Afrikaner Boer Republics. Following the crushing of the rebellion, the Herero people were near exterminated with mass killings of men, women and children and poisoning of wells. The German government in 2016 considered an apology to the Herero people, but balked because of the possibility of having to pay reparations.

11 January 1859 John Tengu Jabavu born

Newspaper editor, preacher and the second Black matriculant in

South Africa was born in Healdtown district, in the Eastern Cape.

11 January 1962 Mandela makes appearance in Addis Ababa

Nelson Mandela left South Africa early 1962, to drum up support for the armed struggle. He arrived in Ethiopia, and was granted an Ethiopian passport by Emperor Haile Selassie. Mandela was classified as a journalist, under the name David Motsamai, which allowed him to travel the region. On 11 January he made a surprise appearance at the Pan-African Freedom Movement Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mandela addressed the conference on behalf of the ANC, speaking about the decision to engage in armed struggle, a few weeks after the first sabotage attacks on 16 December 1961 by Umkhonto we Sizwe.

11 January 1974 The Rosenkowitz sextuplets

The Rosenkowitz sextuplets, three girls and three boys, were born to couple Susan and Colen Rosenkowitz, the first sextuplets known to survive their infancy.

11 January 1982 International Year for Sanctions against Apartheid initiated

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid launched the International Year of Mobilisation for Sanctions against South Africa. The Special Committee against Apartheid was established by the General Assembly under resolution 1761 (XVII) of November 6 1962, with a view to keep the racial policies of the South African Government

under review throughout the year.

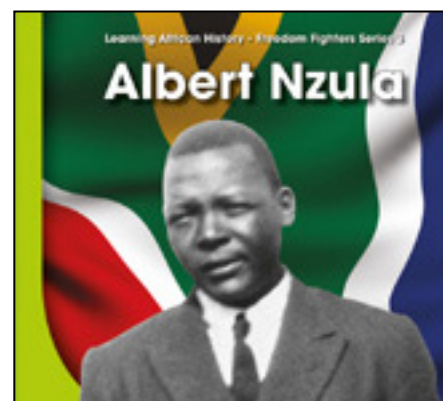
12 January 1978 Monty Naicker passed on

Gagathura Mohambry (Monty) Naicker, medical doctor and prominent freedom fighter, was born in Durban. As early as 1948, he called for a united front amongst oppressed political organisations. He fought during the Defiance Campaign and was arrested and several banning orders imposed on him. Naicker died, age 67, on 12 January 1978.

12 January 1991 Sebokeng massacre

As third force violence continued to sweep through parts of KZN and Gauteng (then PWV), on the night of 12 January, 1991, more than 30 people were killed while attending an all-night vigil in Sebokeng. Mourners at the vigil were paying final respects to their comrade and community leader, Chris Nangalembe who was a member of the African National Congress (ANC) and killed in the violence.

14 January 1934 Albert Nzula dies in Moscow



Albert Nzula, teacher, journalist and leader of the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), died of pneumonia in Moscow,

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

USSR. He left SA in 1931 to study in Moscow. Nzula was the first black general secretary of the Communist Party, a teacher trained at Lovedale college, member of the Industrial Commercial and the ANC, born in Rouxville in the Free state in 1905. Nzula co-authored the book *The Working Class Movement and Forced Labour in Negro Africa* (1933). (Other sources gives his date of death as 17 January 1934)

14 January 1991 Five women stoned to death

Five women who were accused and convicted of adultery in Hargeisa, Somalia, were publicly stoned to death by villagers. The stoning was carried out in accordance with Sharia law. Nothing happened to the men involved in the adultery. United Nations (UN) officials who witnessed the incident were helpless, as they feared for their lives. The practice continues to this day, including punishing women who were raped. In 2008, Amnesty International reported on the 13-year old Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow who was stoned to death for adultery in Kismayo, after she was raped. A law on Rape and Sexual Offences was introduced and finally ratified in early 2020 in Somaliland.

15 January 1929 Martin Luther King, Junior born

African-American clergyman, a leader of the Civil Rights Movement who orchestrated social change through non-violent methods, was born on 15 January 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. Martin Luther shaped and articulated the message of the American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. King led

the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955-1956, an action stimulated by the arrest of Rosa Parks.

16 January 1971 First Cape to Rio race takes place

The first Transatlantic yacht race between Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) took place on this day. SAS (South African Ships) Tafelberg served as guardship for the voyage which started from Table Bay in Cape Town. The race of about 5 800 kilometres takes between 12 and 30 days to complete.

16 January 1989 UN Security Council supports Namibian independence

The Security Council, in response to the 22 December signing by Angola, Cuba and South Africa of peace treaty, adopted two resolutions on the question. In the first, the Council expressed support for the peace treaty, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed on the implementation of the resolution. In the second, the Council decided that implementation of the plan contained in its resolution 435 (1978) for the independence of Namibia would begin on 1 April 1989.

16 January 2006 Dr Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Inaugurated as Liberian President

Dr Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first elected woman as Head of State in Africa and her historic inauguration as President of Liberia was on 16 January, 2006. She was the 24th President of Liberia since the founding of the state, a culmination of decades of



fighting for freedom, justice and equality in Liberia. In 2011 President Johnson-Sirleaf shared the Nobel Prize for Peace with two other women, fellow Liberian Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman of Yemen.

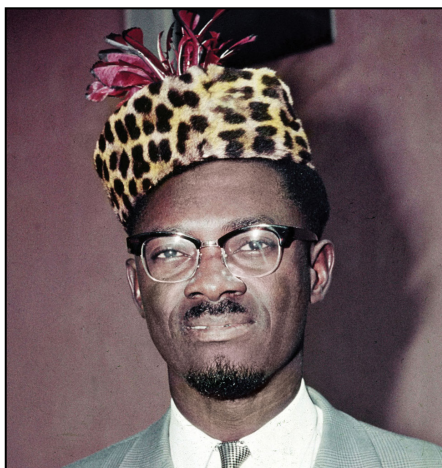
17 January 1905 Johannesburg Meteorological Observatory opens

The Observatory was founded as the Transvaal Meteorological Department, initially meant to be used to watch weather patterns. Astronomer Dr Robert Innes was its first director. It was officially opened in 1905 and the first telescope was installed in 1906. The Observatory sits on a hill in a Johannesburg suburb of the same name. Today it belongs to the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) and the Observatory is open to teachers, learners and members of the public in general. The centre also organizes night tours.

17 January 1961 Patrice Lumumba Assassinated

The first Prime Minister of the Congo Republic, Patrice Lumumba was assassinated a few

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



months after Congo gained formal independence from Belgium. The killing of Lumumba remained a secret for years. Lumumba was forcibly restrained on the flight to Elisabethville on 17 January 1961. On arrival, he and his associates were brutally beaten and tortured by Katangan forces and Belgian officers. Later that night, Lumumba was driven to an isolated spot where three firing squads had been assembled. Lumumba was executed on 17 January 1961. The Belgians and counterparts later wished to get rid of the bodies, and did so by digging up and dismembering the corpses, then dissolving them in sulfuric acid while the bones were ground and scattered. In later years it came to light that the assassination was sanctioned by the Belgian government and US president Eisenhower, and was funded and advised by Brussels and Washington.

17 January 1964 **Opposition demands** **Verwoerd resigns from** **Broederbond**

Leader of the Opposition, Sir de Villiers Graaff, demands a judicial inquiry into the activities of the Broederbond, and demands the resignation of the Prime Minister from this society. Dr. Verwoerd refused to resign.

17 January 1988 **Editor Percy Qoboza** **passed on**

Well-known South African anti-apartheid journalist and former editor of The World newspaper and the Sowetan, City Press, Percy Qoboza, died on his fiftieth birthday. Qoboza rose to fame during the 1976 uprisings, when he fearlessly covered the events in the township and country. Percy Tseliso Peter Qoboza was born on 17 January 1938 in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, and went on to study theology in Lesotho, and started working at The World newspaper. He received the national Order of Ikhamanga in Silver.

17 January 1997 **General Meiring** **implicated at TRC**

In a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) revelation, General Georg Meiring was implicated with more than sixty officers and soldiers in 'dirty tricks' including state-sponsored murder. Nobel Peace Laurette President F.W. de Klerk refused to investigate charges against General Meiring and two other generals, despite the Steyn commission of enquiry.

18 January 2020 **Peter "Terror" Mathebula** **passed on**

On 18 January 2020, Peter "Terror" Mathebula South Africa's first black world champion boxer died. Mathebula was born on 3 July 1952 in Gauteng. A fly-weight division boxer, Mathebula made his professional boxing debut on 10 July 1971 against Sydwell Mhlongo in Rabasotho Hall, Tembisa. On 13 December 1980, Mathebula became South Africa's first black world champion when he dethroned South

Korea's Tae-Shik Kim in Los Angeles, California. Throughout his career, Mathebula won 36 matches, inflicting 17 KOs on his opponents, and lost 9 matches, suffering 5 KOs. Mathebula retired from boxing in 1983.

19 January 1940 **Mary Burton, Black Sash** **President is born**



Mary Maria Burton was born on 19 January 1940 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She moved to South Africa in 1961, and upon witnessing the injustices of Apartheid, became a member of the Black Sash (predominantly white women's organisation) in 1965. The Black Sash, initially formed to oppose the removal of the few remaining categories of Black voters from the common voters roll, went on to over the decades protest forced removals, and other apartheid injustices. Mary Burton was Black Sash President from 1985 to 1990. After 1994, she also served as Commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

19 January 1999 **Devastating storm in** **Mt Ayliff, Eastern Cape**

A severe storm hit the small town of Mount Ayliff, with 22 people killed (including 10 children) and over 4000 left homeless.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

20 January 1914

The first group of Transvaal Indian women satyagrahis, passive resistant volunteers, are released from Pietermaritzburg Prison in South Africa after three months imprisonment.

20 January 1939 Highest temperature in shade recorded in Goodhouse, Northern Cape

On this day the highest temperature ever recorded in the shade was noted at Goodhouse, in the Cape Province. The temperature reached 47, 8 degrees Celsius. In December 2019, the Weather Service recorded an even higher temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius, recorded in the village of Vioolsdrif, also in the N Cape, but experts have been disputing this claim.

21 January 1960 60 years since the Coalbrook Mining disaster

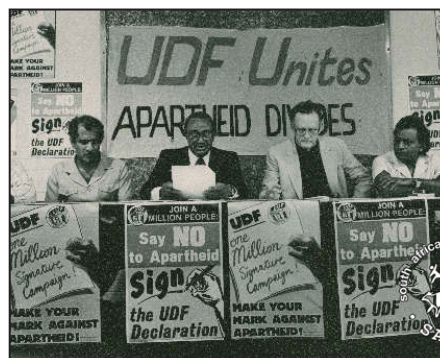
On this day, 60 years ago, a large section of the Clydesdale Colliery, at the Coalbrook mine near Sasolburg, Orange Free State, caved in and trapped 435 mineworkers 180m underground. There were no survivors. No machine capable of drilling holes large enough through which to rescue people was available anywhere in the country. Following this incident, the Chamber of Mines decided to purchase a suitable drill that would make it possible to reach men trapped underground in coal mines. The accident was believed to have been caused by the disintegration of some 900 underground pillars which cause a massive collapse. Around 1000 miners were underground, only about half of them survived. After weeks of trying, no bodies were ever recovered and the shaft

was abandoned and sealed with concrete. Amongst those who died, also included a few rescue workers, who got trapped due to collapsed ground and methane gas. Based on apartheid policies, families of white miners received compensation in the forms of pensions, whilst black miners families received a measly once-off payment. This disaster is listed amongst the worst mining accidents in the world. (www.mining-technology.com)

22 January 1874 Founder of the SA Library for the Blind born

Josephine Ethel (Josie) Wood was born on 22 January 1874 in Grahamstown. Wood was trained as a teacher and in 1919 Wood began her work with the blind. She started a small library for the blind in her own home. During the first year, Woods sold her art works to raise funds for her small library. The library grew with the help of international donors. The Library was officially opened in 1946 as the South African Library for the blind in Grahamstown. Woods was also co-founder of the National Council for the blind in 1929.

22 January 1984 UDF Launches Million signature campaign



The United Democratic Front (UDF) in response to the apart-

heid government's constitutional reforms, which introduced the Tricameral parliament and the Black Local Authorities, creating segregated, racial and unequal franchise, announce a campaign to collect signatures against these policies. Although only 400,000 signatures were collected by October of that year, the campaign helped to mobilise against apartheid structures, and resulted in a widespread boycott of these institutions.

22 January 2001 SA History Online Goes Live

The South African History Online non-profit organisation's website began operations on 22 January 2001. CEO Omar Badsha founded the organisation as a Section 21 non-profit and launched its website two years later. Since then SAHO has popularised history in South Africa and become the largest independent history education and research institute in the country.

23 January 2018 Jazz veteran Hugh Masekela passed on



Hugh Ramopolo Masekela, a global icon of South African and African music passed on after a battle with cancer. Born on 4 April 1939 in Witbank, near Johannesburg. Masekela showed



I believe that here in South Africa, with all our diversities of colour and race; we will show the world a new pattern for democracy. There is a challenge for us to set a new example for all. Let us not side step this task.

- Chief Albert Luthuli -

musical ability from a young age, and began to play piano as a child and later the trumpet. From a young age, he played with artists such as Dollar Brand (Abdullah Ibrahim), Johas Gwangwa and Kippie Moeketsi, and collaborated with famous icons like Miriam Makeba, Zimbabwean Dorothy Masuka, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Hedzoleh Soundz, Francis Fuster and Dudu Pukwana. In a music career that spanned many decades, at home and in exile, he continued to tour and release successful albums until the last years before he died. Masekela is still honoured today as one of South Africa's most prominent and talented musicians.

24 January 1964 Apartheid government stops Nkosi Albert Luthuli's tenure as Rector

Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli (1898-1967) was Glasgow University Rector from 1962 until 1965. The University's Luthuli scholarship is named in his honour. It was announced on this day in 1964 that the apartheid government aims to stop former ANC President's tenure in this position, refusing to issue him with a passport and permission to travel. ■

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

1-24 January 2025

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

1 January

African Continental Free Trade Agreement becomes operational

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) on 1 January 2023 celebrated two years since its operationalization on this day. The AfCFTA was signed by all African Union Member states, except Eritrea. It lays the foundations for an African common market, with ratifying countries pledging to eliminate import tariffs on 97% of goods traded between African states. The Agreement was adopted by the 10th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda on 21 March 2018, and entered into force on 30 May 2019.



African Union

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA.

Creating One African Market



A photograph of a port or shipping yard with several large gantry cranes and stacks of colorful shipping containers (blue, red, yellow) under a bright sky.

A Flagship Project of
Agenda 2063 The Africa we Want

www.au.int

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 January

World Braille Day



Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille (named after its inventor in 19th century France, Louis Braille) is used by blind and partially sighted people, using touch, to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.

14 January

World Logic Day

Logic, the investigation on the principles of reasoning, studied by civilisations throughout history, played and continued to play an important role in the development of philosophy and the sciences. The day was initiated by UNESCO, in association with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences.

15 January

Wikipedia Day

The massively popular, free, multilingual, online encyclopedia, Wikipedia has changed the way people do research and get information. Wikipedia Day celebrates the anniversary of the creation of this user-generated online source. Three films to date explore the phenomena of Wikipedia, namely *The Truth According to Wikipedia* (2008), *Wikipedia and the Democratization of Knowledge* (2021) and *Truth in Numbers* (2010).

15 January

Pothole Day

Potholes are a constant annoyance to motorists everywhere, but they've existed since the very earliest roads around, and it's from those times they



take their names. Modern potholes are caused by wear and tear on the road caused by rain and sun and repeated travel by heavy vehicles across the road. Hot-patch is often used to fix it, but the next major rainstorm will see this temporary patch pushed right back out again as the road swells and contracts from the changing heat of the road. Potholes got the name from roads built during the Roman Empire. Roads were built on a bed of clay, topped with gravel, and topped by hard-baked bricks. Potters would break open the road's surface to get at the good potting clay underneath. This was a great source of clay for the potters and a miserable source of trouble for the chariots and wagons that traveled those roads. Pothole day reminds us of their long history, and our responsibility to help get them taken care of. (<https://www.day-softheyear.com/days/pothole-day/>)

20 January

Penguin Awareness Day

Penguins are a group of aquatic flightless birds from the order of Sphenisciformes of the family Spheniscidae. They are fun and interesting animals that are unique in many different ways. There are currently over 18 different known species and some have been around the planet for well over 65 million years. They're a beloved animal thanks to many popular depictions in movies and children's stories, but they're also fascinating birds. However, penguin numbers around the world are dwindling at an alarming rate. They are a barometer of the effects of human activity on the North and South Poles, according to scientists from institutions around the world.

24 January

International day for African and Afro-Descendant Culture

This UNESCO global day celebrates the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and African

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture

24 Jan

Diasporas around the world, as a rich source of global heritage and culture. On 24 January 2006, the African Union adopted the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance in Khartoum, replacing the earlier Cultural Charter for Africa, which was adopted in Port Louis by the OAU in 1976.

24 January International Day of Education

Education offers children a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future. But about 265 million children and adolescents around the world do not have the opportunity to enter or complete school; 617 million children and adolescents can-

not read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable. Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind. Under the theme *“AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation”*, the 2025 International Day of Education inspires reflections on the power of education to equip individuals and communities navigate, understand and influence technological advancement. As computer and AI-driven systems become more sophisticated, the boundaries between human intention and machine-driven action often blur, raising critical questions about how to preserve, redefine, and, ideally, elevate human agency in an age of technological acceleration.



International Day of Education - 24 January

#EducationDay

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

