



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**

## Historic summit brings hope for peace in the DRC

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

I have just returned from a Heads of State summit in Tanzania on the conflict in the eastern DRC. The outcomes of the summit provide a beacon of hope for the troubled eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The historic joint summit brought together the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to consider the deteriorating security situation in the eastern DRC and to find a sustainable political solution.

As a member of SADC and the African Union, we have a responsibility to support all efforts to bring peace and stability to our fellow African nation, which has been racked by war for more than three decades.

Our country contributes troops to the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC).

A few weeks ago, 14 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops paid the ultimate price for their efforts to restore peace to the region. The deaths of our soldiers alongside troops from other African nations signalled an alarming escalation in the conflict.

The strategic city of Goma in the eastern DRC is now under the control of the M23 rebel group fighting the Congolese army, with the M23 having made advances in other towns.

As South Africa we have stead-

fastly maintained that diplomacy is the most sustainable solution to this conflict. While we are involved in peacekeeping missions, South Africa actively participates in the various diplomatic efforts to end the conflict in the eastern DRC.

These include the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, the Luanda Peace Process led by the President of Angola, and the EAC-led Nairobi Process facilitated by former president of Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta.

As South Africa, we have always believed that the best way to resolve a conflict is to ensure that all parties to the conflict are involved in the negotiations that lead to the resolution of the conflict, whether

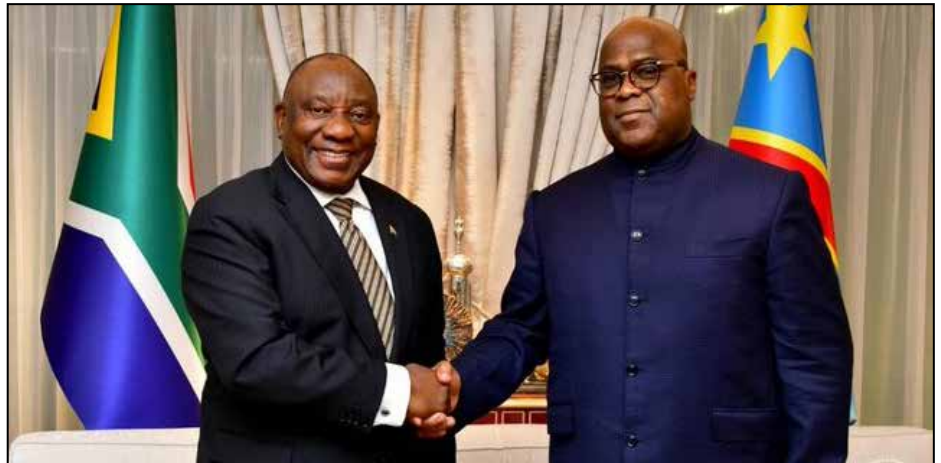
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they are state actors or non-state actors. We are pleased that this approach was adopted and reconfirmed at the SADC extraordinary summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe two weeks ago.

Several of the countries in the EAC bloc, such as Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania and Rwanda, share borders with the DRC and are directly impacted by the ongoing conflict. It was therefore significant that the Heads of State of these countries and the President of the DRC were at the joint summit.

Having considered a report on the security situation in the eastern DRC, the summit reiterated the call for an immediate ceasefire and a cessation of hostilities between the warring parties. A ceasefire will allow humanitarian aid corridors to operate and bring much needed supplies to the civilians caught in the crossfire.

The summit directed that the EAC/SADC Chiefs of Defence Forces meet within five days to develop a securitisation plan for Goma and the surrounding area, the reopening of Goma airport, the evacuation of civilians and the repatriation of the deceased. One of the most significant outcomes was that the joint summit agreed that direct negotiations and dialogue resume between



all state and non-state parties, including the M23. This will take place under the framework of the Luanda and Nairobi processes.

We are pleased that this inclusive approach was endorsed and adopted at the historic joint EAC/SADC summit under the leadership of President William Ruto of Kenya and President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

This is a major step forward. Unless all parties to the conflict are brought around the negotiating table, all diplomatic solutions will lack credibility and be unsustainable in the long term.

The joint summit affirmed the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC. This means that a process must be developed for uninvited foreign armed forces to withdraw from the DRC.

The outcomes from the joint summit are in essence confidence-building measures towards a sustainable peace.

These confidence building measures will finally lead to the draw-down of the SAMIDRC troops.

This historic summit of the EAC and SADC paves the way for a lasting peace in the eastern DRC. During the country's colonial occupation, the great Congolese revolutionary and statesman Patrice Lumumba once said: *"We are not alone. Africa, the free peoples and the peoples fighting for their freedom in all corners of the world will always be side by side with the millions of Congolese who will not give up the struggle."*

South Africa stands in solidarity with the Congolese people and their aspiration to live in peace and security. We support their right to live free from forces that violate their human rights, plunder their natural resources and terrorise their communities.

We reaffirm our commitment to a diplomatic and political solution that prioritises the stability of the DRC and neighbouring countries, and safeguards the peace and well-being of the Congolese people.



# ANC Veterans League mourns the passing away of former President of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma

■ By **SNUKI ZIKALALA, President of the ANC Veterans League**

**T**HE ANC Veterans League sends condolences to the family and people of Namibia for having lost the father of their nation, Comrade President Sam Nujoma. Your loss is our loss, as we fought side by side against colonial oppression and apartheid for many decades.

Comrade President Sam Nujoma was one of the giants of the African liberation movement. He joins the ranks of African leaders such as Tata Nelson Mandela, Jomo Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Samora Machel, Amilcar Cabral and Patrice Lumumba, who led the struggle for Africans to free themselves from colonialism in the twentieth century.

Before the age of 30, Comrade President Sam Nujoma led the Ovamboland People's Organisation, the forerunner to the South Western African People's Organisation (SWAPO). He led SWAPO, first as a liberation movement and later as the ruling party of Namibia for 47 years. After Namibia became independent in 1989, he was President for three terms.

The paths of the ANC and SWAPO were intertwined. We both



moved from strategies of peaceful protest to adopting the armed struggle in the face of the intransigent South African regime who fought a 'border war' in northern Namibia. This war has left indelible scars not only on the people of Namibia but on the lives and families of former white soldiers and ANC MK combatants who were drawn into the conflict.

The ANC and SWAPO fought together with the Angolan libera-

tion movements and the Cubans to defeat the South African apartheid regime at the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. This largest conventional battle on the African continent since World War II, between August 1987 and March 1988, marked a turning point in Southern Africa's liberation, leading to Namibia's independence in 1989 and democracy in South Africa in 1994.

Through Comrade President





Sam Nujoma's leadership, Namibians built a constitutional democracy and respect for the rule of law. However, in Namibia, as in South Africa, the legacy of colonial dispossession lives on, especially in respect of land redistribution.

Ironically, when South Africa seeks to use legal means, such as the recently promulgated Expropriation Act, to address colonial legacies, we are attacked by governments such as the United States, which instead uses Executive Orders that would not pass constitutional scrutiny in our country.

Further, while the colonial powers created nation-states in Africa that made no ethnic or geographical sense, let us remember the call of Ghanaian liberation leader Kwame Nkrumah, who called for African unity rather than further Balkanisation and trying to

change these borders by force of arms. In the face of the current conflict in Eastern and Central Africa and a fragile and fluid international situation, African unity is more important than ever before.

To honour Comrade President

Sam Nujoma's memory and that of the first generation of liberation leaders, we must recommit ourselves to redressing colonialism's inequities and working for African unity.

May he rest in peace.





# A World Adrift: A Look at the Hope Represented by Transformative and Liberation Movements

Address by **Cde Andile Lungisa**, Member of the ANC National Executive Committee, at the Eh Bildu Conference in the Basque Country

Bring you warm greetings and solidarity from the African National Congress (ANC).

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to stand before you here in the Basque Country, a place whose own rich history and identity reflect the resilience and hope that guide all our global struggles for justice, equality, sovereignty, self-determination and liberation.

Allow me to express sincere gratitude to our hosts and to the organizers of this conference.

The theme, “*A World Adrift: A Look at the Hope Represented by Transformative and Liberation Movements*,” is both timely and critically important given the current challenging, fluid and disruptive geopolitical climate. In my address today, I will try focus on the three key areas given to me by organisers:

1. The ANC’s view on the current global scenario and changing geopolitics.
2. The BRICS: its characterisation and meaning in this

changing global environment.

3. International solidarity and alliances of progressive movements in the 21st century: A vision from the South.

I speak in the spirit of progressive internationalism and international solidarity, one of the historic pillars and principles which is embedded in the ANC’s DNA. Our movement was forged under the fires of colonialism, imperialism and apartheid. We have always understood that our fight for freedom in South Africa was



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bound up with the broader struggles of all oppressed peoples. It is in that spirit that we share our reflections, hoping to learn from yours in return.

### **The ANC's View on the Current Global Scenario and Changing Geopolitics**

The world is in a period of profound flux. The global scenario is marked by multiple crises i.e. we are in the throes of a poly crisis – which includes but is not limited to amongst others inequality, poverty, unemployment, growing climate emergencies, food, water, energy and critical minerals insecurity. In addition there is a resurgence of authoritarianism, narrow nationalism, ethnic chauvinism, right wing racism, sexism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination, unipolarity, populism, religious extremism and terrorism etc.

We are witnessing cracks in the international order that was shaped in the aftermath of the Second World War. Multilateralism and its institutions are being tested, as they often fail to address the massive inequities and imbalances in global power relations.

Some analysts argue that we are in the throes of a 2nd Cold War or the Post-Cold War *cold war*. The geo-political disorder that we currently live in can be described as amongst others through the acronym VUCA – Volatile, Uncertain, Unpredictable and Ambiguous. (Herbert A. Barber, 1991). This description first invoked by Herbert A. Barber in 1991 to describe the post-cold war period then now seems passé, as the world faces an even more unpredictable, dangerous, disruptive and fluid Post-Cold War *cold war* disorder. This period is also characterised by a complex and acrimonious

global political and security architecture. Historical Alliances are no more and current global alliances are in a state of flux being renegotiated and recrafted, no longer based on principles. It is changing at a speed that many analysts are unable to keep up pace with.

These changes and the making of a new anarchic 2nd Cold War has now reached its pinnacle with Trump back in power. Thus the VUCA world appears to be changing to an even more dangerous, distressing, disruptive world. We are entering a geopolitical era that is amongst others Uncharted, Turbulent, Anarchic and Combustible.

### **Rise of Multipolarity**

For most of the late 20th century, the international order was unipolar or bipolar, dominated first by two superpowers during the Cold War, and then by the hegemony of the United States in the post-Cold War era. We are now seeing the emergence of a more multipolar, multi-cultural and multi-civilisational world order, with new powers and regional blocs playing significant roles in shaping geopolitics and economics. This new order is fraught with contradictions and

complexities: on one hand, multipolarity can provide opportunities for smaller nations to leverage new alliances; on the other hand, this mosaic of competing interests also increases the risk of conflict and fragmentation.

### **Global Inequality and Climate Crisis**

At the heart of our current crisis is the persistence of massive inequality – both within and between nations. While new technologies promise to revolutionise communication, health, and education, they are often deployed in ways that reinforce existing hierarchies. Wealth is accumulating in fewer hands, and precarious labour conditions continue to rise. Simultaneously, the climate crisis looms large, disproportionately affecting the Global South. Droughts, floods, and extreme weather patterns undermine food security and economic stability, especially in Africa and other developing regions.

### **Populist Nationalism and Threats to Democracy**

In many countries, we have over the past decade seen a rise in rightwing authoritarian racist, sexist, xenophobic and ethnic pop-



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ulist leaders who capitalize on economic anxieties and cultural insecurities to push xenophobic, anti-immigrant, and anti-worker agendas. These developments threaten democratic gains won through decades of struggle. They also erode the very concept of international solidarity, painting global engagement as a zero-sum game rather than a shared endeavour for progress.

From the ANCs point of view, these challenges underscore the urgent need for transformative leadership and people-centred governance. Our own history teaches us that the arc of progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. It requires continuous struggle, vibrant grassroots organisation, and principled political leadership.

### **BRICS: Its Characterisation and Meaning in this Changing Global Environment**

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) came together as a loose international organisation and economic bloc in the early 21st century, originally heralded for its potential to reshape global economic structures. While critics have questioned its coherence, BRICS has come to symbolize the emerging influence of major developing economies.

For the ANC, the importance of BRICS is not only economic; it is also political and ideological, pointing toward an alternative vision of global governance. One that is just, fair, inclusive and transformative amongst others. BRICS has progressed to a point where it has become the embodiment of the future global order i.e. a multi polar, multi-cultural cultural and multi civilisational global order. BRICS today has emerged as



the 1st amongst equals of organisations defending the rights and interests of the global south.

### ***Economic Cooperation and the New Development Bank***

One of the most tangible outcomes of BRICS cooperation has been the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB). With a focus on infrastructure and sustainable development, the NDB's mandate is to complement existing multilateral financial institutions rather than supplant them. However, the mere act of creating an alternative source of project financing, less encumbered by conditionalities that are historically associated with the Bretton Woods institutions, is significant. For countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, such new financial avenues can bolster regional development agendas that prioritize social upliftment over austerity.

### ***Challenging Western-Centric Global Governance***

BRICS also represents an attempt to challenge the dominance of Western-led multilateral structures – such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and even the G7. While it would be misleading to suggest that BRICS nations share a uniform

political ideology, their cooperation signals an alternative centre of global power. This rebalancing is important for the Global South, as it opens pathways for more equitable trade, investment, and diplomatic engagement.

### ***Critiques and Contradictions***

Of course, BRICS is not without its contradictions. The member countries have vastly different political systems, economic challenges, and strategic interests. Internal tensions – such as border disputes, trade imbalances, and divergent security concerns – complicate the bloc's potential for cohesion. Furthermore, the commitment of each BRICS country to progressive values varies considerably.

From an ANC perspective, these contradictions remind us that global realignments do not automatically translate into liberation or social justice. Instead, they create new spheres of influence that need to be engaged actively by progressive forces. The challenge for the left, in South Africa and beyond, is to ensure that these emerging alliances serve the interests of working people, the marginalised, and the oppressed – rather than reproducing new forms of exploitation.



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### **Prospects for a New Multilateralism**

BRICS, for all its complexities, does offer a glimpse into what a more diverse, pluralistic, and equitable multilateral system might look like. For instance, if aligned with broader social movements, the bloc's initiatives can address critical issues such as the climate crisis and vaccine access more democratically. The potential for South-South cooperation, grounded in mutual respect and non-interference, is a beacon of hope in a world where so much economic policy is dictated by the interests of wealthy nations.

### **International Solidarity and Alliances of Progressive Movements in the 21st Century: A Vision from the South**

The international solidarity movement against apartheid remains one of the most remarkable displays of global unity in modern history. This solidarity was not merely moral support; it included cultural boycotts, sanctions, material and military assistance to liberation movements, and unyielding diplomatic pressure. It demonstrated that the collective power of global civil society, governments and other international progressive forces could reshape history.

### **Reinvigorating Solidarity in a Fragmented World**

Today's world is more fragmented, and yet the needs are more urgent than ever. The climate emergency, economic injustice, and widespread human rights abuses demand internationalist responses. However, technology and social media – while offering new tools for mobilisation – can also lead to polarisation and misinformation. Building alliances in

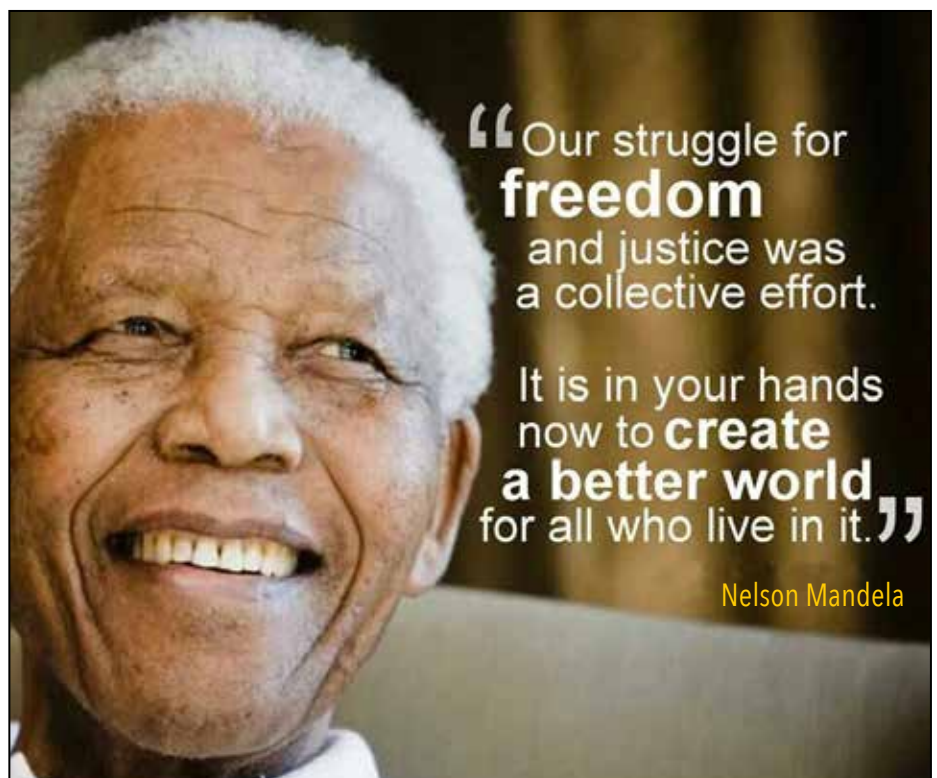
the 21st century, therefore, requires an approach that merges traditional organisational solidarity with innovative digital strategies.

The ANC's foreign policy vision from the South is still grounded in Pan-Africanism, Anti-Imperialism, Human Rights, peace and stability, active non alignment, sovereignty, decoloniality and the right to self-determination amongst others. We see the struggles of oppressed and marginalised communities – be they in the Basque Country, Palestine, Cuba, Western Sahara, Venezuela or anywhere else – as interconnected with our own. We are called upon to reimagine solidarity in ways that transcend borders, languages, and even ideological traditions. This is not about top-down directives but about grassroots empowerment, mutual learning, and collective action against common oppressors.

In this regard the plight of the Palestinians and their right to self-determination from the Apartheid

State of Israel must remain at the centre of our international solidarity campaign. We must use our collective energy and all our resources and platforms available to end Israeli Apartheid against the Palestinians and to hold Israel accountable for the decades of violations of international law and UN resolutions.

It is within this context that the we have taken Israel to the ICJ for and their Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defence Minister to the ICC. We must end the impunity of countries such Israel and the double standards and duality of those countries of the North that today fail to hold Israel accountable. Our campaign must be premised on the principles of human rights and the international rule of law. We cannot allow President Trump to assist Israeli Apartheid and its ethnic cleansing of the peoples of Gaza. We call upon the world to ensure a peaceful resulting to this conflict through a 2 state solution premised on the pre-1967 borders.





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Today we are at a critical crossroads where Israel, emboldened by President Trump, wants to act with impunity in the protracted ethnic cleansing process of Gaza. As progressive forces of the world we must now unite to oppose what is happening in Palestine.

### Building Alliances Across Diverse Movements

In our quest to forge alliances, we must recognize that the global left is multifaceted. It includes trade unions, environmental activists, feminist movements, LGBTQ+ rights groups, indigenous struggles, and a host of others. Each has its specific demands and focal points. Yet they all share a commitment to social justice, equality, and the dignity of all peoples.

We in the ANC must continually seek to strengthen our ties with these diverse movements – not only in Africa but globally. Our history of partnership with the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) underscores the value of broad church alliances. This tripartite alliance, despite its challenges, proves that combining different strands of the progressive movement can yield major victories. On an international scale, we must emulate this spirit of collaboration, co-operation and positive contestation. We must embrace the principle of unity in diversity and the unity of opposites.

### Education, Culture, and Youth Empowerment

A key dimension of sustained solidarity is political and cultural education. Throughout the anti-apartheid struggle, political education programs were essential in building consciousness and uni-



ty of purpose. In the current era, where neoliberal ideology dominates large segments of the global media, we must invest in robust educational initiatives for activists, youth, and civil society leaders. Cultural exchanges – through art, music, theatre, and literature – can also help in weaving together the social fabric of resistance.

Particular emphasis should be placed on empowering the youth. They are the generation facing an uncertain future, marked by climate instability and economic precarity. If we fail to engage them effectively in our movements, we risk losing the momentum that can lead to transformative change.

### Shared Technologies, Local Solutions

In many parts of Africa and the Global South, innovative community-based solutions are emerging to address socio-economic challenges. These range from cooperative agriculture to renewable energy projects and local healthcare innovations. By sharing these models through South-South collaborations, we strengthen our collective capacity to address pressing issues.

Progressive movements in Latin America, Asia, and Africa have already developed alternative models of community development, and these can inform our policy proposals in national and international forums.

In the era of digital communications, we can also harness technology to create new forms of solidarity – from crowd-sourcing donations for movement-building to online training platforms for grassroots organisers. However, technology is a double-edged sword; it can also be used for surveillance, repression, and the spread of disinformation. Therefore, we must remain vigilant in defending digital freedoms, ensuring that new technologies serve the people rather than profit-seeking corporations or authoritarian regimes.

### Toward a Global Agenda of Social Justice and Peace

Ultimately, the objective of international solidarity is not merely to resist oppression but to build a new world of social justice, peace, and ecological balance. We must bring together the anti-imperialist traditions of the past with contemporary movements

for economic democracy, climate justice, and human rights. This synthesis can form the foundation of a global agenda that directly challenges neoliberal capitalism, militarism, and the erosion of social protections.

### **Qou Vadis: Charting Our Collective Path Forward**

Comrades, the conference's title reminds us that the world appears adrift. Yet, let us not forget that when a ship is adrift, what determines its fate is not the winds alone but also the skill and resolve of its crew. We – the global community of leftist activists, progressive movements, and liberation struggles – are that crew. It is our moral and political responsibility to chart a course toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

From the perspective of the ANC, our journey is shaped by amongst others the following guiding principles:

1. **Strengthening Pan Africanism and broader South-South Cooperation:** Working with platforms like BRICS and beyond to rewrite the rules of global engagement in favour of the poor and marginalized.
2. **Building a Culture of International Solidarity:** Linking arms with progressive movements worldwide, recognizing that our struggles are inter-linked.
3. **Strengthening International Rule of Law and multilaterals.**
4. **The peaceful resolution of conflict globally.**
5. **Active Non-Alignment.**
6. **Ecological Stewardship:** Emphasizing sustainability and climate justice, ensuring that development does not come at the cost of our planet's future.

For the Palestinians, the Saharawi, the Basque people, for the people of South Africa, for all peoples resisting oppression, the path of liberation is not linear. It is fraught with setbacks, betrayals, and unforeseen challenges. Yet history shows us that victory is possible when we stand firm on our principles and remain united in purpose.

As we navigate these turbulent times, let us remember that the progressive cause has always been anchored in hope. Hope in the power of the masses to transform society. Hope in the capacity of diverse movements to unite around common goals. And hope in the possibility of a future that transcends the divisions of the past.

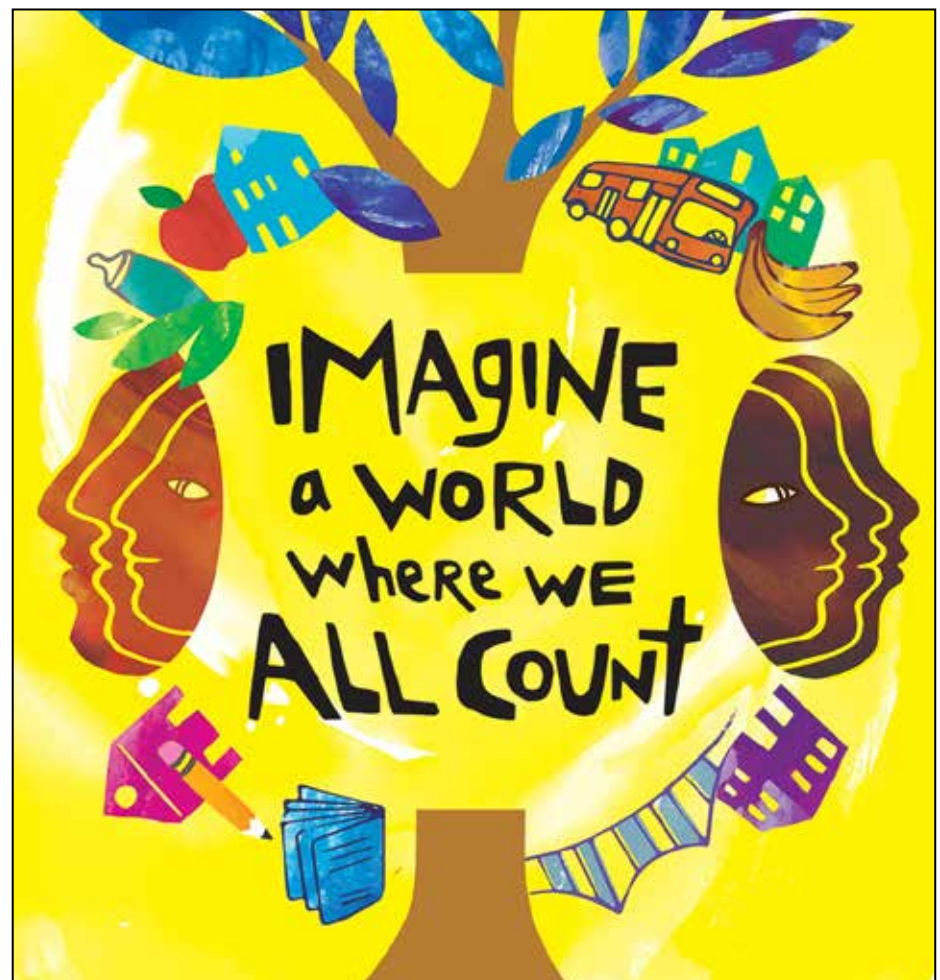
We conclude with the words of the

African Revolutionary Cde President Oliver Tambo (OR), a giant of our movement, who once reminded us that *“the fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest.”* Today, we expand this vision beyond national confines. Our fight for freedom will not end until all peoples can live with dignity, equality, and the full realization of their human potential. Our world may be adrift, but together, we have the means to set it on a new, liberating course.

Let us move forward, hand in hand, ever vigilant, ever bold, and ever hopeful.

Amandla!

Viva international solidarity!





# TVETs and Community Colleges: STRENGTHENING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

■ By **BUTI MANAMELA, ANC NEC Member**

## Building on Our Commitments: *Strengthening TVETs and Community Colleges for Economic Transformation*

Since 1994, the ANC has led the transformation of South Africa's education system, ensuring that millions of young people and adults have access to education and skills training. Through various policy interventions, we have expanded the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector, created opportunities for millions to gain qualifications, and aligned education with economic growth.

But our work is far from over. South Africa faces an urgent challenge: over 4 million young people are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), and many more struggle to access higher education opportunities. While our university system caters to a limited number, we must continue strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and Community Colleges as the foundation of economic development, job creation, and industrial growth.



As we approach the next local government elections, we must intensify our efforts at the local and provincial levels. This is not a promise to voters, but a continuation of the work we have been doing since 1994 – ensuring that every young person and adult in South Africa has access to skills development that leads to real economic opportunities.

### **The Role of TVETs and Community Colleges in Economic Growth**

South Africa has 50 public TVET

colleges across 360 campuses that offer qualifications in engineering, ICT, construction, agriculture, hospitality, and business management.

These institutions play a critical role in equipping young people and adults with practical, in-demand skills that support economic growth and job creation.

Additionally, our Community Colleges provide second-chance learning, vocational training, and adult education programs, ensuring that no one is left behind.

These institutions cater to:

- Students who have no formal schooling background and need to develop foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- Those with some level of schooling who want to complete their education and transition into employment or further learning.
- Students who have completed their Matric/Grade 12 but wish to improve their results in specific subjects to access higher education opportunities.
- Individuals who want to learn a skill in fields such as plumbing, electrical work, agriculture, catering, or entrepreneurship.

By strengthening and expanding the role of these institutions, we can effectively address unemployment, drive industrialization, and close the country's skills gap. Many countries like China, Germany, India, Brazil, and Indonesia have successfully used TVETs and Community Colleges as foundations for economic transformation – South Africa must do the same.

### Expanding SETA Partnerships to Every TVET & Community College

Over the years, the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) have played a crucial role

in supporting skills development through learnerships, apprenticeships, and workplace training. Many SETAs already work closely with TVETs and Community Colleges, but we must massify these partnerships and ensure that every SETA is linked to a TVET or Community College.

How We Are Strengthening SETA Partnerships:

- Every SETA must have structured agreements with TVETs and Community Colleges to provide funding, training, and industry placement for students.
- Expand work-integrated learning opportunities so that students gain real workplace experience before graduating.
- Ensure that SETA funding prioritizes high-demand skills such as renewable energy, ICT, advanced manufacturing, and construction.
- Enhance lecturer development programs with SETAs to ensure that our educators are equipped with the latest industry knowledge and practical skills.

By scaling up these partnerships, we guarantee that every student in a TVET or Community College is connected to job opportunities, skills training, or entrepreneurship support.

### Localizing TVETs and Community Colleges through Municipal & Provincial Development Plans

Local government structures must take an active role in linking skills development to local economic growth.

Every municipality and province must integrate TVETs and Community Colleges into their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Provincial Human Resource Development Plans.

What We Are Doing at Local & Provincial Levels:

- Linking TVETs to municipal economic priorities – If a municipality is investing in infrastructure, energy, or construction, local TVETs must supply skilled graduates for these projects.
- Aligning Community Colleges with provincial skills needs – Every province must ensure that Community Colleges train students for jobs in high-growth sectors like agriculture, tourism, and logistics.
- Strengthening TVET & municipality partnerships – Municipal governments must create local skills task forces to ensure that training programs match industry demands.
- Incentivizing local businesses to hire TVET graduates





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– Through municipal skills grants, local businesses should be encouraged to hire, train, and mentor TVET students.

**Example:** In Germany, local municipalities work closely with vocational institutions to ensure that infrastructure projects hire locally trained artisans. South Africa must build similar linkages between our TVETs and municipalities.

### Transforming Unused Public Spaces into Training and Skills Development Hubs

We must turn every available public space into a center for training and skills development.

South Africa has numerous underutilized public buildings that can be repurposed as training centers to expand skills development and economic participation.

How We Are Expanding Training Infrastructure:

- Convert old teacher training colleges & agricultural colleges into TVET campuses specializing in industry-relevant skills.
- Repurpose SOC training centers (Eskom, Transnet, Denel) for artisan training programs.
- Use community centers and churches for second-chance education & business incubation programs.
- Encourage companies to turn workplaces into training hubs by integrating apprenticeships and learnerships into daily business operations.

**Example:** In Indonesia, community halls are being converted into vocational training hubs for welding, electrical work, and digi-

tal skills. South Africa must follow this model.

### Conclusion: *Strengthening Our Commitments at the Local & Provincial Level*

- Since 1994, the ANC has led the transformation of our education system—now, we must scale up our efforts to drive skills development at a local level.
- TVETs and Community Colleges must be fully integrated into municipal and provincial development strategies.
- Every SETA must be linked to a TVET or Community Col-

lege, ensuring structured industry partnerships.

- Municipalities and provinces must align skills training with economic opportunities.
- Public infrastructure must be repurposed for training, expanding access to skills development.

This is not a new promise – it is a continuation of the progress we have made since 1994. The ANC has already turned the education system around, and now, we must massify and intensify our efforts to ensure that every South African has access to skills training and economic opportunities.



**Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of a mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have not what we are given, that separates one person from another.**

*Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela*

# Various Efforts At Decreasing Youth Unemployment Are Yielding Results

■ By **NONCEBA MHLAULI**

**T**HE Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) remains a cornerstone of our national efforts to address the persistent challenge of youth unemployment, ensuring that young South Africans have access to meaningful economic opportunities.

Launched in 2020 by President Ramaphosa, the PYEI is a direct response to the challenge that too many young people are not transitioning from learning to earning.

The intervention sets out priority actions which together seek to stimulate and aggregate demand and provide a seamless mechanism for young people to be linked to the opportunities generated and receive support appropriate to their context and pathway.

The PYEI coordinates, accelerates, and enhances existing programmes while driving innovation and creating pathways to earning for young people at scale.

The PYEI is focused on **Four Pillars**:

- Implementation of the Path-

- way Management Network,
- Implementation of demand-led training through a 'pay for performance' model
- Rollout of the revitalised National Youth Service,
- And Implementation of interventions to stimulate local economies through the establishment of Local Ecosystem Enablement Fund.

As we enter the fifth year of the PYEI, we are pleased to report that we continue to make significant strides in unlocking earning opportunities and equipping young people with the skills and resources necessary to succeed in the labour market.

## Key Achievements in Quarter 3 (October – December 2024):

- Over 53,379 earning opportunities were secured through the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN), bringing the total to 1.57 million opportunities since the inception of the PYEI.
- More than 38,864 young people accessed earning opportunities via the SA Youth platform, and an additional 14,515 opportunities were secured through the Employment Services of South Africa (ESSA).
- The Youth Employment Service (YES) initiative placed 10,337 youth in various work-







place experiences across sectors.

- The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) supported over 14,600 young entrepreneurs with financial and non-financial enterprise opportunities.
- The Revitalised National Youth Service (NYS) Phase 3 was successfully launched, with 13,568 new recruits, adding to a total of 82,378 youth placed in service opportunities.

Beyond these numbers, I want to highlight the innovative funding mechanisms that have enhanced the effectiveness of the PYEI.

The **Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund**, a R300 million initiative continues to create pathways for employment in digital inclusion, enterprise development, and work-integrated learning.

The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund, launched in November 2023, is an outcome-based instrument launched as a strategic response to unlock jobs for excluded young people by linking contracted payments with desired outcomes.

Unlike traditional approaches to job creation, which focus on inputs and activities like training and mentorship, the Jobs Boost

Outcomes Fund ensures that funds are allocated to implementing organisations upon the successful placement and sustained employment of excluded young people in quality jobs.

To date, 3,347 young people have been enrolled in training programmes, 1,603 young people have been placed in jobs, and 1,247 young people have sustained employment for three-months.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa said in his State of the Nation Address last week, *"We are calling on business to use the SA Youth.mobi platform, which has some 4.5 million young people registered, for their hiring. We are calling on business to support the Youth Employment Service and to scale-up workplace experience opportunities over the coming year."*

These interventions align with our broader goal of transitioning

young people from learning to earning in a way that is sustainable and impactful.

While we celebrate these achievements, we remain acutely aware of the work that still lies ahead. Our focus remains on scaling impactful programs, securing sustainable funding, and deepening strategic partnerships.

The road to eradicating youth unemployment is not a short one, but through continued collaboration and commitment, we will continue to break barriers and create real, lasting change.

We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making the PYEI a success.

To our young people, we reaffirm that this initiative exists for you – your ambitions, your growth, and your future. Let us continue working together to ensure that every young person in South Africa has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

For more information on this programme and other youth focused initiatives, please visit SAYouth.Mobi which is a zero-rated site.

**Nonceba Mhlauli** is Deputy Minister in the Presidency and a Member of the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC).



# THE GNU IS ALIVE AND SETS ITS ROADMAP: THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

■ By **DR. MICHAEL SUTCLIFFE and MS SUE BANNISTER, City Insight (Pty) Ltd**

**P**OSSIBLY the most complex of all the speeches any President gives are the annual State of Nation addresses (SONA). Not only does the speech need to capture key priorities going forward, but it must also instill in the populace at large a sense of pride and confidence that circumstances will improve. This is not easy in a society like ours in which inequality, unemployment and poverty rank amongst the highest in the world. And in this regard, government is only one of the major players responsible for redressing these challenges.

SONA's are made even more difficult given that globally, working with the world is becoming increasingly more complex, requiring the mediation of forces promoting competition, cooperation and conflict, with climate variability disrupting the lives of people every day. This stark reality was brought home to us as the President mourned the loss of our soldiers, correcting the impression that they died in advancing war, rather than the reality where they were trying to bring peace. Our government is also thankfully standing firm against the Israeli genocide, signalling to the world that we do not sell our

principles to those who believe in ethnic cleansing. And we must focus much, much more on our own continent.

President Ramaphosa's SONA speech this year was a positive change from some of the recent years where SONA's often appeared as cut and paste executive summaries of what Ministers were to present in subsequent

weeks. This year's speech crafted quite well the complex competition for ideas, programmes and projects across the many GNU partners showing there were more things uniting us than dividing us. We were shown that the journey of the GNU is going to be about how the major differences in the GNU are not as much about our economic, social, infrastructural and competency goals,





but about how we realise those goals.

Whilst the media concentrate on what may appear to be dividing GNU partners, the President showed that the foundations of critical constitutional issues are not in question. It has become clear that responsible Ministers need to focus more on developing and implementing plans urgently rather than focussing on only concepts and names.

In education, the BELA Act is going ahead, and the Minister is charged with finalising policy, norms, standards and regulations for implementation. In health, the Minister must start laying the factual basis upon which the NHI will be based, including finalising an implementation plan. Importantly, in both of these areas the GNU partners recognise we must ensure access and uniformity in standards of education and health for all. They will have to show how these plans are going to be implemented.

In a positive departure from the norm, the substantive part of the speech focused on local delivery and the role of municipalities. Whilst the President noted the need to address competency levels in municipalities, he did not highlight government's poor responsiveness, lack of transparency and poor consequence management found across our country.

This is unfortunate, because every day, for example, the media raise critical issues and allegations of maladministration and corruption involving senior administrators, which are largely ignored by governmental leaders, without any explanation or transparent investigations being

conducted. Also, we have yet to see a public record of whether or not municipalities are obeying the law and reporting financial misconduct to National Treasury, and once reported, how these reports are addressed by National Treasury.

It is hoped that COGTA's updating of the White Paper focuses primarily on reducing significantly the hundreds of rules and regulations which have turned our governments into compliance centres rather than development drivers.


Every day in many of our cities we are losing more clean water

than we are consuming. Whilst the mention of additions to our water resources in the form of additional dams is welcome, attention on water and energy needs to be on national initiatives to fix water leaks, sanitation blockages and electricity outages. Communities are crying out for real leadership on these matters, working with them to stamp out corrupt procurement processes and mismanagement by administrators.

Many glimpses were provided on how the GNU will address inclusive growth and job creation, reduce poverty and high costs of living and how to build a capable, ethical and developmental state.



## STATE of the NATION ADDRESS

#SONA2025



### INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

- **Land Reform and Redistribution:** Empowering black farmers through land reform to promote productive land use and economic participation.
- **Breaking Barriers:** The ANC will strengthen policies that dismantle historical barriers to economic participation, ensuring economic justice for all.
- **Supporting Local Businesses:** By promoting local businesses through Buy Local and preferential procurement, the ANC ensures that South Africa's economy benefits all.
- **Worker Rights and Living Wage:** Safeguarding the rights of workers and ensuring fair wages in the formal and informal sectors.
- **Formalizing the Informal Sector:** Supporting street vendors and township entrepreneurs, integrating them into the formal economy.

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu House, HQ

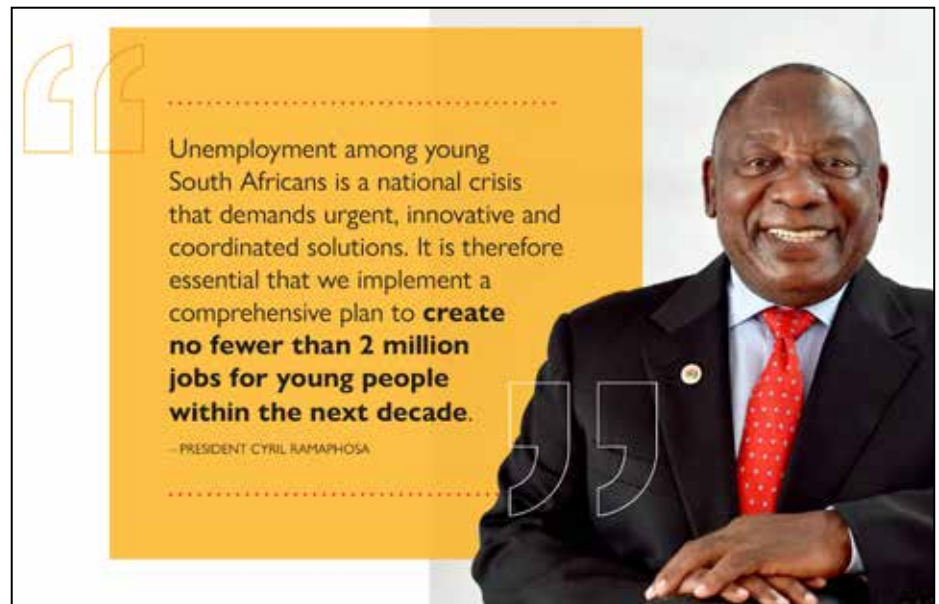
For example, a few of these critical areas include the use of artificial intelligence in improving our identity system, saving and clawing back hundreds of billions of rands and creating an electronic visa system for tourists which number over nine million annually. Addressing corruption will be assisted through initiatives such as the establishment of the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption as a permanent entity within the NPA and addressing the remaining six issues that have kept us on the Financial Action Task Force grey list.

Some of the high-level infrastructure intentions are to be welcomed, from much needed dams to focusing on inner city housing and delivering title deeds.

Driving urgently and implementing the planned infrastructure is going to be critical given that almost R1 trillion is to be spent by national and provincial governments and their entities over the next three years.

The opening up of the involvement of the private sector and introduction of new financing models to our state infrastructure is important and clearly defines that the state will continue to deliver public goods, as the private sector does perform well in this regard. The private sector can also provide the resources required for upgrades and maintenance to keep the infrastructure modern.

We must commend the already published approach to freight logistics and concessions, which have great potential to upgrade our logistics and bring competitive forces to help reconfigure Transnet. Commuter rail services have seen a marked improvement and now we must integrate



the public transport systems from taxis to trains with single-ticketing systems, integrated communications and with the interests of our commuting public at heart.

The green shoots keeping the energy transition alive whilst many believe only in short-term fixes is also critical.

We still have much to do to reverse the effects of apartheid and SONA signaled the intention to change regulations of the Public Procurement Act to ensure businesses owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities receive equitable opportunities in government contracts.

The creation of the black empowerment fund is important and hopefully will focus on those who need it across the length and breadth of our country.

The success of the Presidential Employment Stimulus providing over 2.2 million work and livelihood opportunities is great to see but we all know it is not enough and requires the private sector, labour and communities to also play their part in addressing the scourge of unemployment and

particularly youth unemployment.

Some 60% of our national budget goes on the social wage, and the President outlined the scale of what is now being done, such as 28 million unemployed and vulnerable people receiving social grants, and 10.5 million children going to non-fee paying schools.

There is still so much more to be done in these areas and others, such as ramping up the early childhood sector. The release of land and buildings for reducing the social wage even further, whilst also reclaiming hijacked buildings received important attention.

Overall, SONA showed that the ten parties in SONA have coalesced around the MTDP goals. What remains now is to focus attention urgently on implementation and it is to be hoped that next year's SONA will show precisely what has been done in these and new areas, how government has become more accountable, transparent and responsive and what consequent action has been implemented to rid all spheres of government of persons who are corrupt, not competent or unresponsive to community needs.





■ By **THAMI NGUBANE**

**F**OR South Africa in general and KZN in particular, time has come, for the ANC NEC to read the "Riot Act" to all Municipal Political Office Bearers and Municipal Senior Management. We as ANC must stop fiddling while Rome burns!! The time is now. **Theorise-Plan-Execute.**

Municipal Exco and Senior Management intersection, represents the brains and spinal cord (central nervous system) in the Municipality as the body. Collectively as political and administrative arm, they have three-fold duty to respect and fulfill, which is not contradictory in terms: (1) duty to community (2) duty to public service (3) duty to the party.

The ANC NEC must draw the line and demand results now. Anything below the threshold, the ANC must purge deadwood, hobbyist and *oNongqawuse* in positions of responsibilities. **Asi-**

***dlali la! Sisemzabalazweni.***

### **10 Non-Negotiable Rules**

1. No ANC-led municipality must get negative audit opinion. Unqualified with findings is the minimum standard. Anything below should be treated as crime against community, public service system and ANC as a party. They must go and account to ANC publicly. The ANC NEC must not bark but bite on Exco and Senior Management. by replacing them with people who will deliver results. Exco and Senior Management must deliver these results or jump.
2. No Mayor, in the ANC-led municipality, must present unfunded budget to the Council. No Council, in the ANC-led municipality must approve unfunded budget. It is against the law (MFMA) enacted by

the very same ANC in parliament. ANC should not fail to adhere to the laws enacted by it. ANC should walk the talk and be exemplary. Mayor, Municipal Manager and CFO must deliver these results or jump. Bite ANC bite!!

3. No ANC-led municipality must have vacant position at Senior Management level for more than four months. It's a crime against community and this violates the three-fold duty of any ruling party. Mayor and Municipal Manager must collectively deliver on this or jump. Bite ANC bite!!
4. No ANC-led municipality must have Municipal Community Services Department sleeping on duty. This is one of the two service delivery arm of municipality. Grass must not grow beyond a particular level. ANC must set



clear standards and communicate them as commitments to the respective communities. There should be clear standards on parks and gardens (grass cutting, cleaning gutter,) waste collection system, disaster management outreach, Municipal Traffic law enforcement including local taxi ranks, firefighting system and cemetery maintenance standards. All vandalized tombstone under while under municipal watch, ANC led municipality must take ownership and bear consequences. Exco and Senior Management must deliver results or jump.

5. No ANC-led municipality must have Municipal Technical Services Department sleeping on duty. This is the second and last service delivery arm of any municipality. Municipalities that are Water Service Authorities must be given all necessary support to fix water issues in the next four months. The water service has deteriorated to unacceptable levels. Teams of engineers should be assembled and dispatched to fix water system. KZN does not have drought. Taps are dry because of poor judgment by Authorities and specialists. Streetlights must be monitored and fixed on a weekly basis. Electricity complaints should be responded and be fixed within six hours. Public Works unit must attack all potholes in municipal road in town and township. A clear service delivery model on rural road maintenance. Project Management Unit must complete project in (1) within stipulated time frame (2) within approved budget

(3) comply with quantitative and qualitative specification. Maintenance of existing infrastructure should be prioritized in budget. Balance the needs of the old and the new infrastructure. Exco and Senior Management must deliver results or jump. Theorise-plan-execute.

6. All those household who cannot afford must be registered in the Indigent Register and be subsidized with basic services. This is municipality duty to reach out. Exco and Senior Management must deliver results or jump.

7. All Unions, SAMWU and IMATU, must submit schedule meetings every three months for mandate taking and report back. Linked to that is compulsory schedule sitting of Local Labor Forum to process issues of workers diligently and honestly. This will ensure that issues are attended before they compound. Everything that is due to workers must be complied with by ANC-led municipality. All ANC-led municipalities experiencing instability because of employer-employees strained relations must remove all stops in assisting them to resolve their conflicts. Unhealthy relationships have adverse effects on core business of municipality.

8. A clear schedule of the ANC Caucus meetings. A clear schedule Council and all section 79 committees that support oversight role of Council: MPAC, Internal Audit Committee, Audit Committee. Housing Committee. Exco interacting with community stakeholders. A clear

schedule of Ward Councillors meetings with their communities. A schedule of war rooms and ward committee feeding to LTT and DDM should be written and communicated in advance with relevant stakeholders. This will ensure an *"all hands on deck"* approach.

9. Exco working with SAPS and stakeholders in the ecosystem, should have a clear program of building safer communities. Levels of crime are extremely high. ANC-led municipalities must install CCTV cameras starting from economic hubs and expanding to residential areas with high crime rate. Functional street lighting is a necessary condition to limit the opportunity of crime.

10. Budget must set aside votes on the following areas: Local Economic Development, Youth, Women, Disabled people.

These non-negotiable rules are not a pie in the sky. The ANC must choose people over its representatives. The ANC must love people and demonstrate unconditional love by being obsessed with nothing else but serve people and deliver results. ANC must move away from engaging in political mudslinging with its opponents in the province. Focusing on many things at a time is focusing on nothing. Leave your opponents. Focus on why ANC was born in 1912. Sithi ISiZulu *"ipheka ngisho yaliwa."*

Let us find joy in working for people. Let us not do it for votes. Let us do it for the love of the people unconditionally.

Leaders must be the slaves of the people.

# AFRIFORUM A MENACE TO SOCIETY: Nostalgic apartheid apologists

■ By **LOYISO GANGATHA NGCESHU**

**R**ACISM is still rife in South Africa, despite 30 years of liberal constitutional democracy; organisations such as Afriforum, who reminisce of the old apartheid days of white Supremacy. As they benefited politically, economically and culturally to the system premised on Racism and white domination.

Organisations such as Afriforum really need to be wiped out and cease to exist, because they undermine the project of Nation building and political stability in the country.

Afriforum lobbied American President to take punitive measures against the ANC and not the people of South Africa; by perpetrating a misleading narrative that white land is being confiscated arbitrarily and Trump responded by stopping AID to South Africa, which is not a problem but an elephant in the Room is Afriforum that still represents apartheid and racial discrimination being allowed to walk freely whilst they are destroying the fabric of our democracy and want to be left untouched.

Drastic action needs to be taken against Afriforum's barbaric act of trying to sabotage our country's sovereignty because of their old nostalgic apartheid days where-



by they thrived under racial categorization and exploitation of black people of which, they used as their cheap labor to accumulate wealth through their sweat and pay them peanuts.

Hence why they went and cried to their fellow racist father Donald Trump; who is a beacon of right-wing racist ideology who offered them "refugee status" of which they refused.

If we really want to build South Africa and really serious about the project of Nation-building and Social cohesion, we should ditch non-racialism and embrace anti-racism; for me the term "Non-Racialism" is neutral and massages racist thinking on its

underlying meaning. It manufactures a myth that race should not be a factor; when it is and really determines your social status depending on the whims that straddles labor, state and capital including its actors.

As much as we have been, told about building a non-racial society of which it is very romantic in books but in reality it is a facade that is used to tame us of fighting for a new society embedded on values of equality, Anti-raicism and radical social transformation accompanied by a radically restructured economy that will benefit us equally and change the structural imbalances that we have inherited from the past colonial-apartheid architecture.



Afriforum for quite too long has been allowed to drive racial narratives of white victimhood both ontologically and epistemologically and no action has been taken against these racist rascals who are trying to stir racial conflict in this country.

In Academic institutions Afriforum has tried to undermine young black scholars such as Dr Pedro Mzileni who they tried to academically lynch him to problematising the discourse on how young people should critical engage in discourse and problematized whiteness in each and every working space in South Africa and exposed on whites will always be privileged at the expense of deserving black youth.

The youth wing of Afriforum, the modern day Vorsters and Verwoeds of this day went to sulk on their parents and reported Mzileni to the South African Human Rights Commission who later found nothing racist about Mzileni's lecture.

This kind of behavior cannot be tolerated and must be condemned with disgust; if Afriforum

still wants apartheid they should go to their Father Donald he has opened space for them in America where they can live peacefully with their racist sentimentality not here.

The so-called "White Genocide" that they perpetuating throughout the world can be solved now if white farmers are being killed America is their shelter. This treasonous act committed by Afriforum undermining the sovereignty of South Africa is unacceptable and drastic action needs to be taken against these white racists.

The "White Genocide myth" is a baseless and misinformed act that seeks to portray victim hood of erstwhile settler colonialist, the rebuking of AID to South Africa by America because of the baseless claim of white peoples land being taken without compensation shows you how racist and paternalistic Afriforum is.

President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law the Expropriation Bill which repeals the pre-democratic Expropriation Act of 1975 and sets out how organs of State may expropriate land in the pub-

lic interest for varied reasons and there is nowhere here whereby land is confiscated arbitrarily without application of constitutional Guidelines. Of which Afriforum claims to be champions of. The Expropriation bill clearly outlines on how this Expropriation act will be executed and measures taken without undermining property rights by arbitrarily confiscating the land with no consideration.

Furthermore, if we want the project of nation-building and social cohesion to be achieved racist elements such as Afriforum should be booted out and not tolerated because they still possess the demonic racist mentality of settler-colonial apartheid ideology which is a beacon of white supremacy and this must not be tolerated.

Afriforum's far-right wing ideology poses a significant threat to South Africa's democratic landscape. By promoting a narrative that Afrikaners are a threatened minority, Afriforum fuels white supremacy and undermines the country's democratic gains. This ideology is not only divisive but also dangerous, as it has the po-



tential to incite violence and hatred against marginalized communities.

Afriforum's actions should be criticized for perpetuating racism and intolerance. The organization has attempted to censure scholars who speak out against anti-Black racism in South Africa. Such actions undermine academic freedom and the pursuit of knowledge, which are essential to a healthy democracy.

Moreover, Afriforum's ties to international far-right groups and individuals raise concerns about the spread of extremist ideologies in South Africa. This is particularly worrying given the country's history of apartheid and the ongoing struggles to address the legacy of racism and inequality.

The promotion of inclusive and equitable policies is essential to countering the dangers posed by Afriforum's ideology. South Africa must continue to work towards a more just and harmonious society for all, where the rights and dignity of every individual are respected and protected. This requires a commitment to democracy, equality, and social justice, and a rejection of ideologies that seek to undermine these values.

Ultimately, it is up to South Africans to remain vigilant and critical of Afriforum's ideology, recognizing its potential to undermine the country's democracy and social cohesion. By promoting a culture of inclusivity, equality, and respect for human rights, South Africa can build a brighter future for all its citizens.

*Loyiso Gangatha Ngceshu is a member of the ANC Youth League and writes in his personal Capacity.*



# Trump and the fall of America's soft power

■ By **YONELA DIKO**

American Presidents have always understood that America's support for good causes around the world is part of its soft power. Showing that you care about others is attractive and makes it easier to influence events around the world. Charitable work is not a waste of resources but has always been understood by the military as a force multiplier.

This has been the major part of United States global influence and dominance since World War II. The rebuilding of Europe after the war through Marshall Plan and the Truman doctrine were not merely acts of charity to help

American allies but investment in America's goodwill and influence which has since ensured Europe holds America in the greatest of regards for the last half a century.

Trump's arrogant and indifferent attitude to the rest of the world erodes all that goodwill and takes away the most important and least expensive way for America to expand its influence, leaving it with only its Military and economic might, the latter which is in decline.

The carelessness and arrogant nature of Trump's withdrawal of America from the rest of the world

also gives out an air of superiority and a sense that the rest of the world is less than America. This does not augur well for America's future especially among America's old allies.

There is no country that has been taking advantage of America as Trump has been asserting. America has been intentional and deliberate in its concessions and generous contribution to the world knowing that as long as the world views America as an important contributor to world solutions, the United States will always be the most important nation in every global forum.

Today, Trump stands as a symbol of America's decline, both as a democracy and a world superpower. This was the case in his first term as President and it is the case now. In his first rodeo on this America First and damn the rest of the world rhetoric, he started his visa discrimination and cancellation of Peace Corps programmes, a beginning of America disconnecting with the world and creating unnecessary blind spots.

Trump's inability to see that delinking America from the world does not make America greater or safer but lessens America's influence on world affairs has helped fast track America's decline that was still far in the horizon.

The replacing of America's generosity with immediate quid pro quo and the use of threats of withdrawing aid and putting punitive tariffs means today America more enemies than true friends that has implications on American interests.

Today, countries like Canada, Mexico, Panama, and Venezu-



ela among others have secured deals with Trump's America through threats and intimidation and in the short term Trump may feel vindicated as a Bull-in-china-shop but the longterm effects of that strategy is unpredictable and these countries will start working on internal methods that will ensure they don't need America in future.

This however does not mean a review of aid and trade cannot happen occasionally and it also does not mean all programmes work as they were intended or whether such programmes have not been used before for nefarious ends. Some revelations around USAID are troubling. It's clear that America has occasionally forced its degenerative liberal morals on conservative societies in exchange for support, thereby creating tensions in these societies and exploiting such tensions.

The principle however must always remain. America's support for good causes around the world, food programmes for the hungry, medication for the sick, support for refugees and people in conflict zones, is good for America and good for the world.

Joseph Nye, a professor at Har-

vard's Kennedy School of Government, who has written extensively on the effectiveness of soft power says "The costs of a unilateral, we're the big guy, we'll do it our way [policy] ... is very expensive. People are less willing to do what we want".

Trump's hardline approach means today America is losing so much prestige and leverage around the world.

The critical question then becomes, if Trump must use coercion and force to get what America wants, is it because America is stronger or weaker?

### **Trump cannot stop the world's progress**

The truth however is that Trump cannot stop the forward march of the world. He cannot even stop the United States' progress towards a more perfect union. That march never promised there won't be disruptions and delays and leaders who are nostalgic about a time when their race held all the chips will be found on the way.

America long realised that what happens in Europe or Asia or Africa can easily find its way to its Hawaiian islands or in its down-



town business district of New York. The world is more connected than it ever was and how America behaves in lands close and far can easily sow seeds of disaster that will devastate Future Americans.

The world and America have been on a forward march at least since after World War II, having realised that we may be in different parts of the world, different races and different cultures, but we all want the same things, freedom, equal citizenship, better environments for our kids and prosperity for our communities.

This realisation of our shared humanity led to the establishment of multilateral institutions to secure our shared aspirations, starting with the United Nations as a foundational institution for the realisation of this shared prosperity and guarantor of international peace and cooperation. We adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was in 1948, the World Health Organization was founded the same year, we also formed the International Monetary Fund to help countries build back better from ruins of war and colonialism.

Trump cannot reverse this progress by withdrawing Americas funding. The purpose that these institution serve is not an American purpose. They exist for our shared humanity.

The world will continue moving forward, with or without Trumps America and when America finally self corrects, as it will inevitably do, they will have fallen behind.

*Yonela Diko is a Former Spokesperson to the Minister of Human Settlements.*

# Dear America, DON'T WEAPONISE OUR NATIONAL CONTRADICTIONS

■ By **PROF BUSANI NGCAWENI**

Dear America,

We write to you with hands still shaping  
the calabash of our democracy,  
kneading stubborn lumps of history into  
something resembling economic justice.

We know our fractures – the colour line,  
the weight of poverty,  
roads unpaved, jobs unborn, corruption,  
misgovernance, ghosts of socioeconomic  
exclusion haunting our polity.  
These are our contradictions,  
and we own them.

We rise each day to mold them into bridges,  
though the work is slow, though the clay  
cracks under the sun.

From the perilous streets of Inanda in  
Durban,  
where shadows of violence stalk hope,  
to the jacuzzis of Inanda of Sandton,  
we are a people stitching ourselves whole,  
refusing to let past define our destiny,  
even as we acknowledge that there is history  
in every future.



When our athletes blast across tracks and fields,  
their sweat a shared anthem, we roar as one nation.

Rainbow colours drape us in pride.

But when inequality sharpens its teeth, we clash,  
not because we hate each other, but because we are alive,  
wrestling with the raw nerves of transformation and national  
reconciliation.

A ritual every family endures to avoid complacency.

Our laws, etched to redress centuries of theft and bigotry,  
are not flawless. But they are ours, the future we chose.

They pulse with the urgency of a people  
who refuse to let the past strangle the future.

Yet you, America, wield our struggles like a poisoned blade.  
You withdraw aid, pretending to be righteous,  
while amplifying whispers from those who cling to old  
hierarchies –

far-right voices spinning fiction into fact,  
painting redress as revenge.

Do you not see, America? Their lies are sparks on tinder,  
scorching fragile shoots of national reconciliation.

Deniers of genocide across the Mediterranean.

When you punish us for legislating equity,  
you side with shadows that fear the light  
of shared land, shared wealth, shared power.

Or have you not read the Freedom Chapter?

Did you skip the preamble of our “world-renowned”  
Constitution,

the one that speaks of redressing historical injustices?

We ask you: When did your revolution bloom without turmoil?  
Did your march toward liberty not stumble through blood and  
debate?



**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Do we condemn you for the grime in your cities,  
the poverty gnawing at your alleys,  
the data barons turning democracy into a meme?  
Do we judge you for the despair of your national minorities,  
trapped in Gaza-like conditions?  
Do we mock you for lacking a bullet train,  
even as you claim the title of greatest economy?  
What do you call all this corruption you now expose?  
Good governance?

No, we don't dismiss your dysfunctions.  
We know the ache of becoming—thirty years, not three hundred.  
We, too, stumble, but our sovereignty is no pipe dream.  
It is survival.

To your leaders we say:  
Do not mistake our contradictions for failure.  
A nation in dialogue with itself is a nation alive.  
Unite your diplomacy with facts, not fear.  
Offer tools of reconstruction, not threats.  
Listen to the mothers in queues for water,  
hear the ululating grandmothers of our new graduates,  
the farmers securing our food,  
the unemployed condemning corruption.  
These voices are worthy of your attention —  
not the architects of apartheid's nostalgia.

America, the road to economic justice is long,  
and we are paving it.  
Walk beside us, as you did when HIV threatened our existence.  
But do not break our stride with the boots of hegemony.  
Do not mistake labour pains for collapse.  
Our contradictions are birth pangs,  
and we will name our future on our own terms.

Yours  
in unwavering resolve,  
Inanda, South Africa



# Tribute to a loyal revolutionary cadre Comrade Thami Ncokwane

■ By **DAVID MAKHURA**

**L**AST week, I got a call from Cde Naledzani “Shakes” Mashapha checking about the untimely and tragic passing of Cde Thami Ncokwane. This was later confirmed by another call. President Shakes Mashapha instructed me to pen a brief tribute, in the midst of shocking and heartbreaking news. I quickly wrote something, it goes as follows:

Yes, Thami arrived at Turfloop in 1990. Cde Kolanisi and I took him to the faculties of Health Sciences and Natural Sciences, of which we were faculty representatives. Having had been a COSAS activist from Soweto, he joined SANSCO at a time we were preparing for the merger with NUSAS, to form a single non-racial student organisation, SASCO. He was a militant and fearless student leader, what we called “*Isidla mlilo*”.

Cde Thami and I have known each other and worked together for 35 years. Later, I recruited him to the ANC Gauteng Provincial Office where he worked with Commissar Ephraim Nkoe, Commissar Zweli Sizani and Commissar Brian Hlongwa. Thami was a great theoretician, prolific writer,







outstanding educator, passionate debater and good singer. Most former SASCO comrades know that he wrote most of the SASCO Conference Reports and discussion documents even after he had left student politics. He trained and graduated tens of thousands of comrades who came out of the Walter Sisulu Academy Political School of Gauteng.

He was an uncompromising Marxist-Leninist scholar and activist who was deeply loyal to the student movement, ANC and SACP. We co-drafted many SASCO and ANC documents together. Thami's morale was always high, a real Commissar who motivated comrades and interpreted complex developments for his co-workers. He was the first Provincial Education Coordinator that I called after my appointment as NEC Head of Political Education in February 2023. He was very excited about the news of my return to organisational work after 8 years in government. But I also know that for a while he was on and off due to ill-health.

Thami leaves us at a time when our movement needs far-sighted thinkers and clear-headed strategists to help us navigate complex

domestic and global politics that are radically uncertain and rapidly changing. Both the GNU tactical intervention and the Trump Presidency have introduced new dynamics that requires rigorous examination and adoption of tactics that will safeguard our national interest and advance our national democratic revolution even under hostile or unfavourable conditions.

Cde Thami was supremely loyal to the revolution and the movement. He was a full-time revolutionary in the true sense of the word, and a freedom fighter to the end. A lot more will be said about him over the next few days.

May his soul rest in eternal peace and his revolutionary spirit rise in glory!

We will always remember you!



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

15–21 February 2025

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

### 16 February 1991 Bheki Mlangeni, Human rights lawyer, activist assassinated



Bheki Mlangeni was a member of the national executive committee of the student organisation AZASO (now SASCO) during the 1980s; active in the UDF and ANC, and practiced as a human rights lawyer in the 1990s. He worked with former Captain Dirk Coetzee to expose the existence of a secret police unit based at Vlakplaas, which carried out assassinations of anti-apartheid activists. On 16 February, Mlangeni received a postal package with a tape player, and when he tried to listen to the tape it exploded. He died instantly, leaving his wife and young child. He was only 35 years old when he was assassinated.

### 17 February 1951 Patricia de Lille born in Beaufort West

Patricia de Lille, leader of the GOOD party, and Minister of Public Works was born on this day in the Western Cape town of Beaufort West. She went to Bastiaanse High School, and worked as a



laboratory technician until 1990. During this period, she joined the SA Chemical Workers Union, became a shop steward and eventually regional secretary of SACWU and elected onto its national executive in 1983. She was elected as Vice President of the black consciousness trade union federation, National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU) in 1988, the highest position for a woman in the trade union movement at that time. She was part of the PAC delegation during the negotiations of the early 1990s, and elected as a PAC Member of Parliament in 1994, where she went on to serve on the Parliamentary committees of Transport, Health, Minerals and Energy, Trade and Industry, Communications, the Rules Committee and the Code of Ethics. In 2003 she left the PAC to form the Independent Democrats, and later went into coalition with the Democratic Alliance, and became MEC for Social Development (2010-2011) and Mayor of Cape Town (2011-2018) in the DA gov-

ernment. She formed the GOOD party ahead of the 2019 national and provincial elections, winning two national seats and one in the Western Cape legislature. De Lille was appointed as Minister of Public Works in the Cabinet of President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2019.

### 17 February 1962 Football match called off

On 17 February 1962, the soccer match between Lourenco Marques (Mozambique) club Desportive and Durban City Football Club (South Africa) was called off. A Lourenco Marques newspaper reported that this was because no black and Coloured players would be allowed to play during the game. According to a report by Cape Times, the teams' members themselves decided not to take part in the game.

### 18 February 1857 Nongqawuse prophecy





A period of hardship set in for the AmaXhosa after their defeat in the Eighth Frontier War. In April 1856 Nongqawuse, an adolescent girl living in a part of the country ruled by Paramount Chief Sarhili (Kreli), was reputedly addressed by her ancestors. Their message was to tell the AmaXhosa that their ancestors would rise from the dead on a certain day and also to instruct them that all cattle were to be slaughtered. There was to be no cultivation, but people should dig new granaries and erect strong cattle-folds to house what would be received from the ancestors. On that specific day the sun would rise and set again in the east and a whirlwind would sweep all White people into the sea. Sarhili ordered his subordinate chiefs to obey the injunctions. The first date of resurrection was set for 11 August 1856, but as the day dawned and nothing happened, other dates were set, including 18 February 1857. Disappointment followed disappointment, until Sarhili finally renounced all belief in the prophecy after about fifteen months. By then, the AmaXhosa had been nearly heavily affected. Tens of thousands died, while about 30,000 streamed across the border in search of food and work. Many AmaXhosa held the belief that the true plotters were land-hungry colonial authorities.

### 18 February 1931 Toni Morrison born



Toni Morrison is one of the most celebrated authors in the world, with a host of novels, plays and children's books to her name. As the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Morrison's work has inspired a generation of writers to follow in her footsteps.

### 18 February 1953 Jeff Radebe born



Jeffrey Thamsanqa Radebe was born in Cato Manor, where his family lived until they were forcefully removed in 1958 to KwaMashu. An activist since student days in 1976, a member of Umkhonto we-Sizwe, a lawyer, political detainee, a leader in the SACP, he served on the ANC NEC since 1991. He was also amongst the cadres from the 1994 parliament and served as Minister of Transport, Constitutional Development and Justice, Minerals and Energy and Minister in the Presidency from 1994 to 2019, when he retired. He continues to serve as a member of the ANC NEC, a longtime chair of its Policy committee and as Special Envoy of President Ramaphosa.

### 18 February 1975 TPLF formed

The Tigray People's Liberation Front was formed on this day, fighting for greater autonomy

within a federal state, eventually playing a leading role in the overthrow of the Derg regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991. Under Meles Zenawi the TPLF became the dominant faction in the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which governed Ethiopia until 2019 when current Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed abolished the EPDRF and formed the Prosperity Party that excluded TPLF. The situation deteriorated and in 2021 resulted in a violent conflict between the Federal government and the TPLF until the Pretoria Peace Agreement of 2022 to facilitate cessation of hostilities.

### 18 February 2005 isiXhosa film wins Golden Bear Award

The South African Xhosa film *u-Carmen eKhayelitsha* became the second South African movie to compete and first to win the Golden Bear award as the best film at the 55th Berlin Film Festival in Germany. The film was shot in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. The musical, sung entirely in isiXhosa, is about an HIV-positive rural woman and won two other awards, the Human Rights Award at the Venice Film Festival in 2004 and the Best Film award at Pune, India. The lead actress, singer Pauline Malefane, accepted the award in isiXhosa before bursting into song at the request of the film's director, Dornford-May.

### 18 February 2020 AfDB funds Nigerian SAPZ

The African Development Bank offers 500 million USD to Nigeria to finance special 'agro-industrialised processing zones (SAPZ) in all four geographical quadrants of the country with loans to farmers to boost agricultural

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

production. As the most populous country in Africa (200 million), the country imports most of its food and is seeking to turn this around, spending over USD 6 billion a year on agricultural imports. Across the continent, the African Development Bank by 2023 committed \$853 million to develop more than two dozen Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones in 11 countries.

### 19 February 1897 British demolition of Benin City

As British forces carried out the demolition of Benin City, photographers captured the magnificent stone pyramids and fabled stone walls before they were torn down. The photos stand as testimony to the wanton destruction of African art and architecture.

### 19 February 1962 Report calls for more say for Afrikaans press in SAPA affairs

The first part of the South African Press Commission's first report was tabled in parliament by the Minister of the Interior, de Klerk. The report, which had taken eleven years to draw up consisted of two volumes totaling 700 pages, with nineteen annexures running to 1,566 pages. It strongly recommended that the South African Press association (SAPA) gives more say in its affairs to the Afrikaans-language press.

### 19 February 1971 Arrests of Unity Movement activists

It was reported that the Security Police had detained about twenty Africans, Coloureds and Asians. The detainees were said to be members of the Unity Movement

of South Africa, founded in 1943 by Coloured schoolteachers.

### 19 February 1990 Mandela issued with his first South African passport



Nelson Mandela was issued with his first South African passport on 19 February 1990, eight days after he was released from prison. It was this passport that he used to embark on a tour of some of the African states that supported the South African liberation struggle, including Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

### 19 February 1991

De Klerk government announces end to prosecutions under the Group Areas Act.

### 19 February 1996 Largest flood affects Vaal Dam

To date, the largest flood affecting the Vaal Dam, took place from December 1995 to February 1996, when inflow of over 4,700 cubic metres per second (170,000 cu ft/s) was measured into the Dam which was already at full capacity due to good rains. On 19 February 1996, the Vaal Dam's capacity was 118%. The dam has 60 flood gates, and on 21 February 2023, the Depart-

ment of Water Affairs reported that the dam was 120% full, and that 14 sluices had been opened, causing downstream flooding.

### 19 February 1997 Deng Xiaoping of China died



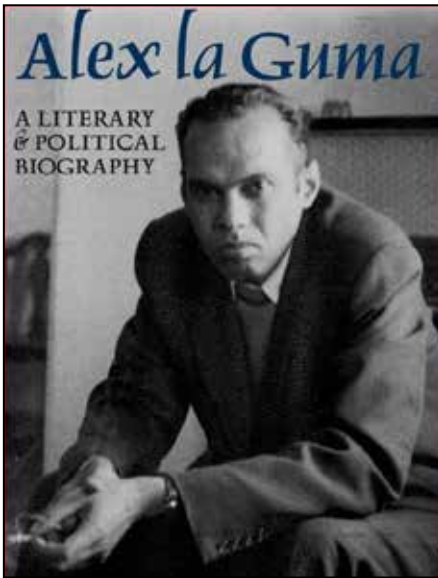
Leader of the Chinese Communist Party Deng Xiaoping passed on at the age of 92 in Beijing. He is widely credited for the social and economic reforms since the 1970's that saw the rise of China into the world power it is today. These policies include long-term planning and decentralized economic management to lift millions out of poverty. Deng stressed individual responsibility in the making of economic decisions, material incentives as the reward for industry and initiative, and the formation of cadres of skilled, well-educated technicians and managers to spearhead China's development.'

### 20 February 1925 Novelist, poet and activist Alex La Guma is born

Justin Alexander la Guma was born in District Six, Cape Town on 20 February 1925. His father, Jimmy La Guma was of Cuban descent, which made him mixed race in South Africa and was classified as Coloured. La Guma's father was involved in anti-apartheid activism, a path that



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



he would also follow. La Guma was a talented writer and wrote several books, most of them depicting the plight of black people under apartheid. He was arrested several times as an activist, and would use his time in jail to write. He later went to exile in England before returning to his father's native country Cuba, where he became an African National Congress (ANC) representative. La Guma died in 1985.

### 20 February 1940 Dr Abdurahman dies in Cape Town



Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, medical doctor and Cape community leader, died on this day at the age of 69. Founder and leader of the anti-apartheid African People's Organisation (APO), he was

the first Black person to become a member of the Cape Town City Council (from 1905-1940). His death raised concern within the Black, Coloured and Indian communities, as he was a well-known human rights campaigner. The Standard and Imvo Zabantsundu (Black Opinion) hailed him as a great leader who was at all times available to address the needs of oppressed communities.. In June 1999, President Nelson Mandela posthumously honoured Abdurahman by awarding him the National Order for Meritorious Service in Gold.

### 21 February 1858 Walter B Rubusana, ANC founder member born



Walter Benson Rubusana was born in Mnandi in the Somerset East district of the then Cape Colony. He was a founder-member of the African National Congress (ANC). His father was a senior councillor (umphakathi) to the Paramount Chief, Sandile Ngqika. Rubusana trained as teacher at Lovedale College, taught for a number of years, and went on to study and was ordained as minister of the Congregational Church in 1884. He transferred to East London, which became his home for the rest of his life. As a recognised Xhosa language authority, he served on

the Xhosa Bible Revision Committee, to review the translation by Tiyo Soga in the 1850s. Rubusana supervised its publication in Britain when he accompanied the Thembu king, Dalindyebo, to the coronation of King Edward VII in 1904. In London, he also published his first book, Zemk' Inkomo Magwalandini (Defend Your Heritage), an anthology of traditional epic poetry, essays and history. Rubusana by then was active in politics, and in 1909 was part of the African and Coloured delegation to the British King, to plead for inclusions of Africans and Coloureds in the soon-to-be formed Union of South Africa. The delegation included Dr A. Abdurahman, African People's Organisation leader, D Dwanya, Matthew Fredericks, John T Jabavu, D J Lenders, Thomas Mapikela and parliamentarian WP Schreiner. Alfred Mangena who was in London also joined the delegation. The deputation fell on deaf ears, and on their return Rubusana announced his intention to stand for the Thembuland Constituency of the Cape Provincial Council. W B Rubusana ran a most effective campaign, with his church and community roots providing a network to mobilise the voters; strengthened by support of the newspaper Ilizwi Labantu. When the results were announced on September 21, Rubusana had won the seat; the first African ever to be elected to serve as a member of the Cape Provincial Council. In 1912, Rubusana was a co-founder of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), which later became the African National Congress. In 1914, he went to Britain with the SANNC delegation to protest against the Native Lands Act and was co-ordinator of the ANC 1919 constitution. Dr Walter Rubusana was not only a gifted intellectual with many talents, but a political activist in the service of his people. Dr Rubusana passed

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

away on 19 April 1936 at Frere Hospital in East London after a protracted illness.

### 21 February 1917 SS Mendi Sinks



The sinking of the SS Mendi on 21 February 1917 became one of South Africa's worst tragedies of the First World War (1914-1919). The steamship sank in the English Channel on the way to France, one of the worst tragedies of the First World War (1914-1919). A total of 616 South Africans, including 607 black troops serving in the South African Native Labour Contingent died.

### 21 February 1973 Israel shot down Libyan passenger plane

A Libyan Arab Airline Boeing 727, Flight LN 114, flying from Tripoli to Cairo via Benghazi wandered off course due to equipment failure and bad weather, into airspace of Israel occupied Sinai Peninsula. Two Israeli fighter jets intercepted the aircraft, shot it down, killing 108 civilians of the 113 passengers on board. When the jets intercepted the plane, the pilot was already correcting

the route and turned back. The incident was condemned by all member-nations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

### 21 February 1985 99-year leaseholds introduced for Gugulethu, Langa and Nyanga

Apartheid influx control was aimed at allowing black South Africans into cities only as migrant labour, with impediments against owning land or property in 'white' South Africa. Following the 1973 strikes, the 1976 uprising and pressures from capital for more skilled and stabled black labour, the Black Urban Amendment Act of 1978 introduced a system of 99-year tenure for sites in black townships and villages outside of bantustans. The 99-year leasehold was first introduced for Soweto in 1979. The Cape Town leaseholds deliberately excluded the informal settlements of Crossroads, as the regime continued to try and control movement of black people to the city, with forced removals continuing.

### 21 February 2001 Miriam Makeba nominated for Grammy



South Africa's legendary musical sensation, Miriam Makeba, was nominated in the category World Music Album for her album *Homeland* at the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, USA. The album was released world-wide and featured a collection of songs from buoyant to the plaintive, illustrating the vocal range and power of this celebrated performer. The nomination followed closely upon her being the first Kora Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.



**“To build socialism it is necessary to develop productive forces. Poverty is not socialism. To uphold socialism, a socialism that is to be superior to capitalism, it is imperative first and foremost to eliminate poverty.”**

- DENG XIAOPING



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

15–21 February 2025

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

### 17 February

#### Global Tourism Resilience Day



For many countries, tourism is a major source of income, foreign currency earnings, tax revenue and employment. Because tourism connects people with nature, sustainable tourism has the unique ability to spur environmental responsibility and conservation. Sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full employment and decent work for all.

### 17 February

#### World Pangolin Day

Pangolins are mammals that are covered in tough, overlapping scales made of keratin. They eat ants and termites using an extraordinarily long, sticky tongue, and are able to quickly roll themselves up into a tight ball when they feel threatened. There are eight known species of pangolins – four in Asia and four species in Africa. Pangolins are amongst the world's most trafficked non-human mammals, according to National Geographic, and are therefore under serious threat of extinction. The Asian species are listed as critically endangered and the African species vulnerable. In 2016 – the 186 countries

party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the treaty that regulates the international wildlife trade – voted to ban the commercial trade in pangolins.

### 18 February

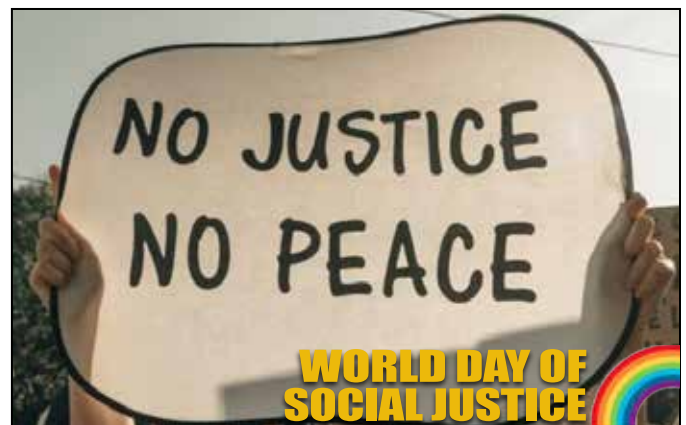
#### World Whale Day

Whales are the largest animals in the world, and they are in every ocean. They are warm-blooded mammals that nurse their young. In size, they range from the dwarf sperm sharks that weighs just over 270 kg and the huge blue whale, that weighs over 180,000 kg (about 33 elephants!) and may be as long as 60 meters, the width of a rugby field. Although they live in water, they breathe air. World Whale Day is celebrated every year on the third Sunday in February.

### 20 February

#### World Day of Social Justice

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. Social justice is upheld when we promote and advance gender equality, the rights of workers, the poor, homeless, LGBTQI, indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove legal and other barriers that people face



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because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, sexual orientation or disability. The pursuit of social justice for all is supposed to be at the core of the United Nations' global mission to promote development and human dignity.

### 21 February

#### International Mother Language Day

Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people and planet. Yet, due to globalization processes, they are increasingly under threat, or disappearing altogether. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. Opportunities, traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking and expression — valuable resources for ensuring a better future — are also lost. At least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered.

### 21 February

#### International Tourist Guide Day

Tourist or tour guides are persons who guide visitors in the language of their choice and interprets the cultural and natural heritage of an area. The tour guide must have area-specific knowledge and/or qualification, recognized by the appropriate authority.

### 21 February

#### National Armed Forces Day



The day aims to celebrate the contribution of South African men and women in the armed forces and to garner public support for our armed forces. The day coincides with the commemoration of the sinking of the SS Mendi steamship on 21 February 1917, one of South Africa's worst tragedies of the First World War (1914-1918). South African armed forces is ranked 33th amongst 140 ranked countries in the 2024 Global Firepower ranking (down from 26th in 2022), third in the African continent with Egypt (#15) and Algeria (#26). SANDF operations are guided by three objectives, in line with the Constitution: (i) defense of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa, (ii) promoting regional and continental peace, security and stability in support of government initiatives and (iii) support to the people.

“

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

— Nelson Mandela —





# SA IN NUMBERS

(Income and Expenditure Survey, StatsSA 2024)

## Income and Expenditure survey 2022/23



In 2023 the **Total Household Income** was **R4,3 Trillion**, the Total Household Consumption Expenditure: R3,0 Trillion

In 2023, on average, **household consumption expenditure** amounted to **R143 691**, while average annual household income was R204 359

Average **Nominal household income** has increased from **R74 589** (2006) to **R204 359** (2022)



**Black African-headed households** accounted for **62,2%** of all household consumption expenditure in 2023 and spent on average R108 461

**Western Cape** and **Gauteng** combined accounted for the majority of the total household consumption expenditure (**54,4%**)

In terms of average annual household consumption expenditure, households in **Western Cape** are the **richest (R229 636)** while the **poorest province** was **North West (R98 147)**

Between 2006 and 2023 **Black African (36,2%)** and **Coloured-headed households (17,9%)** experienced the largest real growth in household consumption expenditure

The following metros have average **annual incomes** higher than than the national average: **City of Cape Town (R387 881)**, **City Of Tshwane (R282 542)**, **City of JHB (R280 416)**, **Ekurhuleni (R206 425)**

# SA IN NUMBERS

(Income and Expenditure Survey,  
StatsSA 2024)

## Income and Expenditure survey 2022/23

The following metros have average **annual household consumption expenditures** higher than the national average: **City of Cape Town (R248 539)**, **City of Tshwane (R198 035)**, **City of JHB (R179 227)**



In households led by **men**, the average **annual household income** is **R176 812**, of which 70% is derived from work

In households led by **women**, the average **annual household income** is **R93 540**, of which 59% is derived from work

**Male-headed households spent** more on average than female-headed households, with annual consumption expenditure at **R159 315** compared to **R123 346** for **female-headed households**

**Households in the lowest** decile spent over two-thirds (**68,6%**) of their total expenditure on housing and food, while the wealthiest decile allocated a significantly lower proportion (**33,3%**) to these basic needs, spending more on discretionary expenses such as insurance and financial services



**White-headed households** had the highest average **annual household income** (**R676 375**), followed by **Indian/Asian-headed households** (**R417 431**), **Coloured-headed households** (**R260 816**), and **Black African-headed households** (**R204 359**)