



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



WHILE GNU PARTIES MAY DIFFER, WE ARE ALL PULLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, the annual Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance was postponed for the first time in our democratic history.

Cabinet decided to postpone the presentation of the budget to allow further discussion on areas of disagreement among parties in the Government of National Unity (GNU). The budget will now be tabled in Parliament on 12 March 2025.

The last-minute postponement was unfortunate. It gave rise to concern and uncertainty among South Africans, investors and the financial markets, who look to the Budget for important signals about the state

and direction of our economy. The budget reflects government's choices and priorities for the country's development. Decisions on how to spend public funds have implications for every South African.

It is therefore essential that the concerns raised by different parties around the budget are properly addressed, in the interests of accountability, transparency and consensus-building.

This is the first time that the budget is being presented by the Government of National Unity (GNU). It is understandable that this new arrangement would require a different ap-

proach in some respects. The process of forging agreement among the political parties in the GNU is still work in progress, but we are certainly getting there.

Disagreements, contradictions and policy divergence are inherent in governments made up of several political parties.

It has been more than six months since the formation of the GNU. Despite disagreement between parties on a range of matters, the centre holds. It is a sign of a healthy and robust democracy that such differences may emerge from time to time and be ventilated in public.

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Such differences don't mean that the GNU is in crisis. It means that democracy is working.

A Government of National Unity by definition infers consensus-building. No one party can impose its will. There needs to be thorough deliberation and meaningful engagement.

The decision to postpone the Budget Speech and to continue discussions should engender public confidence in the GNU. It should reassure citizens that despite differences of opinion, we are pulling in the same direction.

As GNU partners, we will continue working for the South African people. As we have done in the past to overcome differences, we will once again find one another.

The events of last week present us with an opportunity to raise the level of understanding among South Africans around the budget and what it means for them.

The considerable public interest around the Budget Speech, including from young people and on social media platforms, was greatly encouraging. It is our hope that this sparks a necessary national conversation on how we will fund our national priorities and the trade-offs that will need to be made.

The reality is that we strive to implement our national priorities in a context of slow growth, limited revenue, high unemployment and a large social wage. The state is simply not

The social contract between government and the citizenry relies heavily on accountability and transparency. These have been features of our budgetary process since the advent of democracy.

able to fund every priority and ambition.

The critical issue of the public purse must be a subject of discussion and debate not just among political parties, but among all South Africans who aspire to lead lives of dignity.

The social contract between government and the citizenry relies heavily on accountability and transparency. These have been features of our budgetary process since the advent of democracy.

The formation of the GNU was the result of the desire by the South African people that political parties work together to move the country forward.

As we continue to do so, we are adapting and strengthening our existing frameworks for cooperation, partnership and building consensus.

We are learning, we are adjusting to new circumstances and we are moving forward.

The ANC is an organisation of the people

ADDRESS BY **ANC DEPUTY PRESIDENT COMRADE PAUL MASHATILE**
DURING THE ANC NORTHERN CAPE 113TH ANNIVERSARY PROVINCIAL RALLY

IT is with great humility that I stand before you today as we celebrate a significant milestone in the journey of our nation and our organisation.

This celebration serves as a timely moment to emphasise and highlight the priorities outlined in the January 8th Statement presented by Comrade President Cyril Ramaphosa at our 113th anniversary celebration in Khayelitsha.

This rally provides a vital opportunity for us to engage directly with society on critical issues that affect their lives and hamper their hopes. We do this as a way of embracing the ANC's commitment to collaborating with communities for a brighter future.

The ANC is an organisation of the people and must always remain connected to the community. This is why we have organised these provincial rallies to take the leadership of the ANC because ANC ke ya batho!

The ANC has always been deeply rooted in the struggles of the working class and the poor, who are the primary motive forces of our revolution. We remain at the helm of social transformation,



championing the fight against poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

The ANC Manifesto towards the 2024 General Elections, made the commitment that the ANC will address the cost of living by lowering the food prices and exempting essential items from VAT among other things. It is, therefore, for these reasons that the Cabinet postponed the tabling of the 2025 Budget Speech over the past week.

This postponement is to allow for further deliberations to take place on the budget. The budget has to find a way to strike a balance between the objectives of the public, the expansion of the economy, and the maintenance of fiscal stability. The ANC will therefore continue to prioritise the needs and ambitions of our people. We will not make decisions that will cause us to lose the progress accomplished since the beginning of our democracy. We are committed to growing our democracy



and making South Africa better for all who live in it.

As we gather here in the beautiful Northern Cape Province, we are reminded of the resilience and strength of our people.

We are reminded of the important role that this province has played in our struggle for freedom and democracy.

The struggle for liberation was fought in the towns and cities of the Northern Cape, and the sacrifices made by our Comrades in this province will never be forgotten.

One of the most significant events was the 1913 Native Land Act, which was a discriminatory law that restricted land ownership for black South Africans, leading to widespread dispossession and forced removals in the Northern Cape and across the country.

The resistance against such oppressive laws by the people of the Northern Cape laid the foundation for the anti-apartheid movement. The political historic significance of the Northern Cape

Province lies in its contribution to the fight against apartheid and the eventual establishment of a democratic South Africa.

However, the province is still confronted by several difficulties that need our urgent attention. We are aware that a significant portion of the population in Namakwa lives in poverty, with limited job opportunities in the region. This contributes to high unemployment rates, especially among young people.

Like many rural areas, alcohol and substance abuse is growing in Namakwa, contributing to social instability, family breakdowns, and crime.

Many farmers face difficulties acquiring land, either due to high costs or slow land redistribution processes. Through the recently signed Expropriation Bill, we seek to address this challenge and promote equitable land distribution.

We know that illegal mining, often referred to as “zama zama” activities, has been a persistent issue in Namakwa. These unautho-

rized mining operations not only pose significant environmental threats but also undermine the region’s economic stability and public safety.

As per the intervention of the government through ‘Operation Val’umgodi’, a number of people were arrested, mainly foreign nationals, who are involved in illegal mining. This initiative involves collaboration between the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and private security firms. The operation focuses on disrupting illegal mining activities, arresting offenders, and confiscating mining equipment

Aware of our past and committed to our future, the African National Congress is making a call that we must renew our movement, and by that we mean, taking the ANC back to the people.

The renewal of the ANC remains the number one priority.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa stated during his January 8th statement, the renewal of the

ANC needs to be reflected in our day-to-day actions as members of the ANC in our communities.

While the ANC needs to be fixed through the renewal process, we recognise that we also need to improve the quality of governance and service delivery and accelerate fundamental socio-economic change.

Such renewal will make the ANC a more effective tool for the people in achieving the goals of the Freedom Charter.

Seventy years ago, in 1955, our forebears convened the Congress of the People in Kliptown, Soweto, and adopted the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter was a forward-looking document outlining the principles upon which a free and democratic South Africa shall be based. The Charter articulated the aspirations and vision of a South Africa where there would be a swift movement to end inequality and poverty. To achieve these aspirations and to build the ANC, we must be reminded that the ANC is a movement of the people rooted in communities. Ours is a movement that responds to the hopes and aspirations of the people.

A movement that is close to the most vulnerable, underprivileged and the marginalised among us.

As members of the ANC, we have a responsibility to acknowledge that for us to accomplish the renewal that we have been discussing, we need to be activists who are dedicated and disciplined, who do their best to establish unity within our branches up to our National Executive Committee.



We must stand firm in recognising that division and factionalism pose significant obstacles that can hinder our collective efforts towards transformation and prosperity.

The ANC must remain committed to the ideals of building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous society. We equally remain opposed to “any form of racial, tribalistic or ethnic exclusivism or chauvinism”.

The ANC is committed to taking decisive action on three key fronts to regain public confidence in representing hope for a better life. These include:

- **Firstly**, to improve the ability of our economy to create wealth and employment for all.
- **Secondly**, to improve the quality of services and the integrity, responsiveness and accountability of government in all spheres.
- **Thirdly**, to renew and rebuild the ANC so that it can provide decisive and ethical leader-

ship in the resolution of our country’s problems and the realisation of the vision of the Freedom Charter.

The ANC is committed to restoring public confidence and solidifying its status as the strongest party in the forthcoming General Elections. I am urging comrades to maintain the momentum of the by-elections as we move towards the Local Government Election.

There were 18 by-elections in total on the 4th of December 2024, and six provinces were affected including Northern Cape. The ANC managed to win 13 wards out of the 18.

I commend the ANC in the Northern Cape for winning a Ward from the Democratic Alliance in the fiercely contested by-elections at Karoo Hoogland Municipality in Namakwa. It is not enough to simply win the Ward; we must put in a lot of effort to fulfil the expectations of our communities. Comrades, we must act deliberately and with speed to address the water issues, fix local government, and improve the economy.

The reality is that there is a lot of work that lies ahead. The people of this province have placed their trust in the leadership of the ANC, and we must not let them down. As a collective, you have what it takes to provide clear, decisive, and ethical leadership that will transform the lives of the people. We must continue to fight for a better future for all South Africans, regardless of their race, gender, or background.

We must work together to address the pressing issues of poverty, inequality, and unemployment that continue in our society. We must strive to build a more inclusive and prosperous nation where every citizen has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As I conclude, the year 2025 marks an important and historic year for South Africa, and for the

world. We have, since the beginning of the year observed changes in the geopolitical landscape which have a bearing on the future of South Africa and politics globally.

Most significantly, since the end of last year, South Africa took the responsibility for the G20 Presidency. The G20 is a platform of a Group of 20 countries that are committed to finding solutions to the problems many of our countries face.

The South African leadership of the G20 Presidency offers a real opportunity to further the interests of poorer countries. Our goals under the theme of Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability include promoting more equality in international governance and elevating Africa's development agenda in ways that are more meaningful and empowering.

I am bringing this forward because the Northern Cape has a role to play in telling some of the beautiful stories that our country has to tell the world and is therefore a key factor in this event of international relevance. As people of the Northern Cape, I urge you to take pride in this province where the richness of our history, beauty and science converge.

Let us continue to be good ambassadors of our country, and may we never forget the miles we have walked to reach where we are. May we look forward with optimism to the future that Anton Lembede, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Francand Mittah Seperepere lived and died for!

Amandla! Matla!

Asinamona, asinandzondo, siyayidumisa iANC!





ANC APPLAUDS DISCIPLINE AND UNITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL STRUCTURES AMID RECONFIGURATION OF LEADERSHIP

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) commends our structures and members in KwaZulu-Natal for their discipline and unwavering commitment to the movement while awaiting the resolutions of the National Executive Committee (NEC). This patience and political maturity are a testament to the enduring legacy of ANC leadership in the province, which has produced stalwarts such as John Langalibalele Dube, Chief Albert Luthuli, Isaka Pixley Ka Seme, Harry Gwala, RD Naidu, and Moses Mabhida. These icons exemplified resilience, unity, and a deep-rooted dedication to the cause of liberation and transformation. Today, our cadres in KwaZulu-Natal continue in their footsteps, demonstrating that the centre has indeed held.

The ANC remains resolute in its mission to build and strengthen the organisation in this key province, ensuring that we are prepared for the battles ahead. Our movement has faced formidable chal-

lenges, yet through collective resolve and adherence to organisational discipline, we have consistently emerged stronger. The reconfiguration of the provincial leadership is a decisive intervention to reinforce our structures, renew the movement, and consolidate our presence in a province that plays a crucial role in the political and economic trajectory of South Africa.

The NEC, during its meeting on 18–19 January 2025, reaffirmed the strategic importance of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in the national transformation agenda. These two provinces not only have the largest populations but also hold significant economic weight, making them critical to the country's development. Recognising the electoral setbacks of 2024, the NEC undertook an extensive and reflective discussion on the state of organisation, renewal, and rebuilding efforts, with the unity of the ANC as the primary objective.

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The NEC received a comprehensive report from the National Working Committee (NWC), presented by the Secretary General, detailing the challenges faced by the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal. The intervention approved by the NEC seeks to strengthen the movement by integrating experienced leadership with a renewed commitment to political education, organisational discipline, and grassroots mobilisation. This approach ensures that the ANC remains the vanguard of progressive change in the province and across the country.

Following rigorous debate, the NEC resolved that decisive action was imperative, and a passive approach was not an option. The reconfiguration of leadership in KwaZulu-Natal aligns with Rule 12.2.2, 12.2.3, and 12.2.4 of the ANC Constitution, which empowers the NEC to take necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of provincial structures. Furthermore, Rule 12.1.4 empowers the NEC to take any appropriate measures to advance the interests of the ANC, including the appointment of interim structures where necessary.

The establishment of the Provincial Task Team (PTT) is in accordance with Rule 12.1.1, which mandates the NEC to ensure the democratic and effective functioning of all ANC structures. This intervention, framed within the constitutional mandate of the NEC, reinforces the principles of unity, renewal, and organisational rebuilding.

The ANC draws strength from the legacy of KwaZulu-Natal luminaries such as John Langalibalele Dube, Chief Albert Luthuli, Pixley Isaka Ka Seme, Moses Mabhida, Florence Mkhize, Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, Harry Gwala, RD Naidu, Stalwart Simelane, Fatima Meer, Griffith & Victoria Mxenge, and Bertha Mkhize, who dedicated their lives to the struggle for freedom and justice. Their sacrifices remind us of the importance of unity, discipline, and selfless service as we work to strengthen our movement and reclaim our role as the trusted leader of transformation.

The Provincial Task Team (PTT) is established as the interim structure to oversee the stabilisation of the organisation, drive political education, and work towards the revitalisation of ANC branches across the province. Additionally, the PTT is mandated to revive relations with Amakhosi and faith-based communities, Amabandla, recognising that these institutions played a foundational role in the birth and evolution of the ANC. The ANC acknowledg-

es the historical and moral authority of these structures in guiding our society and affirms the need to strengthen our collaboration to advance unity, social cohesion, and transformation.

The KZN Provincial Task Team which is being inaugurated here today is constituted as follows:

1. Jeff Radebe
2. Weziwe Thusi
3. Sboniso Duma
4. Mike Mabuyakhulu
5. Nomusa Dube-Ncube
6. Nomagugu Simelane
7. Nhlakanipho Ntombela (M)
8. Amanda Bani (F)
9. Zinhle Cele (F)
10. Minah Lesoma (F)
11. Kwazi Mshengu (M)
12. Jomo Sibiyi (M)
13. Nolubabalo Zondi (F)
14. Sibongiseni Dhlomo (M)
15. Bheki Mtolo (M)
16. Fanle Sibisi (M)
17. UMntwana Babhekile Mthembu (F)
18. Ntombikayise Sibhidla (F)
19. Bheki Ntuli (M)
20. Nomalungelo Gina (F)
21. Tholi Gwala (M)
22. Sbusiso Ndebele (M)
23. Maggie Govender (F)
24. Thanduxolo Sabelo (M)
25. Inkosi M. Tembe (M)
26. Inkosi M. Xolo (M)
27. James Nxumalo (M)
28. Phindile Sishi (F)
29. Ian Ngubane (M)
30. Mxolisi Kaunda (M)
31. Londolo Zungu (F)
32. Celiwe Nxumalo (F)
33. Ntuthuko Mahlaba (M)
34. Khonza Ngidi (M)
35. Mthandeni Dlungwana (M)
36. Nandkishor Singh (M)
37. Mzi Zuma (M)
38. Bongzi Moloi-Sithole (F)
39. Nonhlanhla Khoza (F)
40. Nomakiki Majola (F)
41. Thandeka Madangana (F)
42. Mqondisi Duma (M)
43. Phumzile Mgcina (F)
44. Ravi Pillay (M)
45. Masenti Myeni (M)
46. Gretta Apelgrin (F)

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47. Siphon Hlomuka (M)
48. Mbali Frazer (F)
49. Ntuthuko Makhomboti (M)
50. Zama Khanyase (F)
51. Hlengiwe Mavimbela (F)
52. Spongile Khathi (F)
53. Thembeke Mchunu (F)
54. Makhosazana Zungu (F)
55. Fikile Masiko (F)
56. Mduduzi Mhlongo (M)
57. Super Zuma (M)
58. Celiwe Madlopha (F)
59. Sizophila Mkhize (F)
60. Nontembeko Boyce (F)
61. Siyabonga Nene (M)
62. Dolly Shandu (F)
63. Manini Manzi (F)
64. Nelisiwe Maeti Mkhize (F)
65. Mafika Mdebele (M)
66. Solomon Mkhombo (M)
67. Fikile Francisca Manzi (F)

Out of the above names of the PTT, the following comrades are signed responsibilities:

1. **Provincial Convenor:** Jeff Radebe
2. **1st Deputy Provincial Convenor:** Weziwe Thusi
3. **2nd Deputy Provincial Convenor:** Sboniso Duma
4. **Provincial Coordinator:** Mike Mabuyakhulu
5. **Provincial Deputy Coordinator:** Nomusa Dube-Ncube
6. **Provincial Fundraiser:** Nomagugu Simelane

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

7. Nhlakanipho Ntombela (M) – Convenor: Organising & Campaigns
8. Amanda Bani (F) – Convenor: DCIP
9. Zinhle Cele (F) – Convenor: Arts & Culture
10. Minah Lesoma (F) – Convenor: Gender & Equity
11. Kwazi Mshengu (M) – Convenor: Political Education
12. Jomo Sibiya (M) – Convenor: Local Government Interventions
13. Nolubabalo Zondi (F) – Convenor: STC
14. Sibongiseni Dhlomo (M) – Convenor: Education & Health
15. Bheki Mtolo (M) – Convenor: Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation
16. Thanduxolo Sabelo (M) – Convenor: Legislature & Governance
17. UMntwana Babhekile Mthembu (F) – Convenor: Sectoral Mobilisation

18. Ntombikayise Sibhidla (F) – Convenor: Peace & Stability
19. Bheki Ntuli (M) – Convenor: Elections
20. Nomalungelo Gina (F) – Convenor: ETC
21. Tholi Gwala (M) – Convenor: Drafting
22. Sbusiso Ndebele (M) – Convenor: International Relations
23. Maggie Govender (F) – Convenor: Provincial Disciplinary Committee
24. Fanle Sibisi (M) – Provincial Spokesperson (ex-officio in the PWC)

NOTE:

- The PWC shall be made up of the PTT officials and all Sub-committee Convenors.
- The Convenor of the Provincial Dispute Resolution Committee shall be the Deputy Provincial Coordinator.
- The Convenor of the Fundraising/Finance Committee shall be the Provincial Fundraiser.

Deployment to Regions:

1. ETHEKWINI:

Bongi Sithole-Moloi (CONVENOR)
Tholi Gwala
Phindile Sishi
Celiwe Nxumalo
Sbu Ndebele
Gretta Apelgrin

2. MOSES MABHIDA:

James Nxumalo (CONVENOR)
Makhosazana Zungu
Ravi Pillay
Siphon Hlomuka
Nomakiki Majola
Maggie Govender

3. HARRY GWALA:

Thembeke Mchunu (CONVENOR)
Fanle Sibisi
Kwazi Mshengu
Phumzile Mgcina
Londolo Zungu

4. MBUSO KUBHEKA:

Nontembeko Boyce (CONVENOR)
Jomo Sibiya
Sibongiseni Dhlomo
Ntuthuko Makhomboti
Nelisiwe Maeti Mkhize

**5. JOSIAH GUMEDE:**

Ian Ngubane (CONVENOR)
Mxolisi Kaunda
Mthandeni Dlungwana
Hlengiwe Mavimbela
Sizophila Mkhize

6. INKOSI BHAMBATHA:

Mbali Frazer (CONVENOR)
Bheki Mtolo
Dolly Shandu
Ntombikayise Sibhidla
Mqondisi Duma
Solomon Mkhombo

7. GENERAL GIZENGA MPANZA:

Ntuthuko Mahlaba (CONVENOR)
Nhlakanipho Ntombela
Nolubabalo Zondi
Nonhlanhla Khoza
Fikile Masiko
Fikile Francisca Manzi

8. MZALA NXUMALO:

Vincent Masenti Myeni (CONVENOR)
Zinhle Cele
Nomalungelo Gina
Celiwe Madlopha
Mduduzi Mhlongo

9. MUSA DLADLA:

Mzi Zuma (CONVENOR)
Thanduxolo Sabelo
Nandkishor Singh
Zama Khanyase
Manini Manzi

10. TOLOMANE MYAYIZA:

Super Zuma (CONVENOR)
Minah Lesoma
Khonza Ngidi

Thandeka Madangana
Fikile Masiko

11. NOKUHAMBA NYAWO:

Sibongile Khathi (CONVENOR)
UMntwana Babhekile Mthembu
Bheki Ntuli
Mafika Mndebele
Siyabonga Nene

Deployment to Sub-Committees:**1. ORGANISING & CAMPAIGNS**

Nhlakanipho Ntombela (CONVENOR)
Bheki Ntuli
Thanduxolo Sabelo
Phindile Sishi
Sizophila Mkhize
Jomo Sibiya

2. DCIP

Amanda Bani (CONVENOR)
Fanle Sibisi
Zama Khanyase
Siyabonga Nene
Mduduzi Mhlongo
Minah Lesoma

3. Arts & Culture

Zinhle Cele (CONVENOR)
Super Zuma
Nelisiwe Maeti Mkhize
Sizophila Mkhize
Masenti Myeni
Bongi Sithole-Moloi

4. Gender & Equity

Minah Lesoma (CONVENOR)
Mafika Mndebele
Celiwe Madlopha

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Dolly Shandu
Nonhlanhla Khoza
Nolubabalo Zondi
Fikile Francisca Manzi

5. Political Education

Kwazi Mshengu (CONVENOR)
Mduduzi Mhlongo
Ian Ngubane
Gretta Apelgrin
Ravi Pillay
Mzi Zuma
Solomon Mkhombo

6. Local Government Interventions

Jomo Sibiya (CONVENOR)
James Nxumalo
Bongi Sithole-Moloi
Mzi Zuma
Thembeke Mchunu
Minah Lesoma

7. Social Transformation Committee (STC)

Nolubabalo Zondi (CONVENOR)
Londolo Zungu
Tholi Gwala
Celiwe Nxumalo
Nonhlanhla Khoza
Fikile Masiko

8. Education & Health

Sibongiseni Dlomo (CONVENOR)
Sipho Hlomuka
Mthandeni Dlungwana
Nomakiki Majola
Manini Manzi
Nomagugu Simelane

9. Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation

Bheki Mtolo (CONVENOR)
Sbu Ndebele
Ntuthuko Makhomboti
Mbali Frazer
Nandkishor Singh
Phindile Sishi

10. Legislature & Governance

Thanduxolo Sabelo (CONVENOR)
Amanda Bani
Sibongiseni Dlomo
Nontembeko Boyce
Ntuthuko Mahlaba
Zinhle Cele

11. Sectoral Mobilisation

UMntwana Babhekile Mthembu (CONVENOR)
Ravi Pillay
Fikile Masiko
Zama Khanyase
Khonza Ngidi
Thandeka Madangana

12. Peace & Stability

Ntombikayise Sibhidla (CONVENOR)
Nelisiwe Maeti Mkhize
Mbali Frazer
Super Zuma
Sipho Hlomuka
Hlengiwe Mavimbela

13. Elections

Bheki Ntuli (CONVENOR)
Mzi Zuma
Hlengiwe Mavimbela
Makhosazana Zungu
Sbu Ndebele
Mqondisi Duma

14. Economic Transformation Committee (ETC)

Nomalungelo Gina (CONVENOR)
Ntuthuko Mahlaba
Phumzile Mgcina
Mthandeni Dlungwana
Nelisiwe Maeti Mkhize
Mafika Mndebele

15. Drafting

Tholi Gwala (CONVENOR)
Ntuthuko Makhomboti
Hlengiwe Mavimbela
Fikile Masiko
Siyabonga Nene Maggie Govender

16. International Relations

Sbu Ndebele (CONVENOR)
Mqondisi Duma
Mxolisi Kaunda
Sbongile Khathi
Bheki Mtolo
Phumzile Mgcina

17. Provincial Dispute Resolution Committee (PDRC)

Nomusa Dube-Ncube (CONVENOR)
Phindile Sishi
Fanle Sibisi
Ntuthuko Mahlaba
Bongi Sithole-Moloi

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18. Provincial Disciplinary Committee (PDC)

Maggie Govender (CONVENOR)
Sbu Ndebele
Gretta Apelgrin
Celiwe Madlopha
Dolly Shandu

18. Commission for Religious and Traditional Affairs (CRATA)

Bheki Cele (CONVENOR)
Inkosi Ngcobo (Emalangeni)
Bishop Vusi Dube
Bishop Mondli Luvuno (Provincial Chaplain)
Super Zuma (PTT member)
Celiwe Madlopha (PTT member)

As we embark on this critical phase, we call on all ANC members in KwaZulu-Natal to remain steadfast, disciplined, and focused on the urgent task of rebuilding the organisation. Let us take inspiration from our past leaders who faced adversity with unwavering determination and commitment to the struggle. The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal has always been a beacon of resilience, and together, we will rise to the occasion, ensuring a formidable movement ready to advance the transformation agenda in the province and beyond.

The ANC remains the only force capable of delivering a better life for all. Through unity, renewal, and action, we will reclaim our ground and emerge victorious in the battles ahead.

ANC NEC RECONFIGURES GAUTENG STRUCTURES TO STRENGTHEN RENEWAL AND ELECTORAL PREPAREDNESS

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

THE African National Congress (ANC) remains firmly committed to the renewal and strengthening of the movement in Gauteng, ensuring that the organisation continues to be an effective vehicle for transformation and development. The National Executive Committee (NEC) has taken a strategic decision to reconfigure the provincial structures, reinforcing leadership in a way that builds on experience while embracing new energy.

Gauteng holds immense historical and political significance as the centre of the struggle against apartheid and the host province of the ANC's National Headquarters, Luthuli House. It was in this province that key moments of resistance, including the 1976 Soweto Uprising and the mass defiance campaigns of the 1980s, shaped the course of South Africa's liberation.

Today, Gauteng remains a vital political battleground where the ANC must consolidate its leader-

ship to advance transformation. The NEC acknowledges the discipline and unwavering commitment demonstrated by ANC structures and members during this period of transition, reaffirming the strength and resilience of the movement in the province.

The decision to reconfigure Gauteng's leadership was not taken as a punitive measure against the PEC for losing elections. Rather, it is a response to the need to ensure the ANC's organisational effectiveness in the country's most populous and economically significant province.

The 41% national vote outcome in the 2024 elections was heavily influenced by results in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, making these two provinces central to the ANC's overall renewal and recovery strategy. The NEC engaged in extensive deliberations to determine the best course of action, ensuring that the intervention was politically necessary and constitutionally sound.



The reconfiguration process is not a departure from the ANC Constitution but is in fact aligned with its provisions. The NEC has acted within the framework of Rule 12.2.2, 12.2.3, and 12.2.4 of the ANC Constitution, which mandates the NEC to ensure the effective functioning of ANC structures.

The decision reflects the ANC's commitment to constitutionalism and the rule of law. The immediate task in Gauteng is to rebuild ANC branches, Leagues, and structures so that they are actively engaged in local development and responsive to the needs of communities.

The ANC brand and communications must be strengthened to reaffirm the organisation's leadership role in the province. Ethical leadership and discipline will be prioritised to address corruption, construction and human settlement extortions, crime, deepening economic transformation that benefits our people and gender-based violence.

Preparations for the 2026 Local Government Elections will be a key focus, with the objective of reclaiming lost ground and ensuring the ANC remains at the centre of governance in the province. The NEC has resolved that the Provincial Task Team (PTT) will oversee these objectives and work towards stabilising the organisation and preparing it for future electoral contests.

The leadership collective being put in place will integrate the current PEC into an interim structure, reinforced with former leaders and veterans, to pro-

vide guidance and ensure continuity. This intervention seeks to strengthen the ANC's capacity in the province and deepen its connection with communities and key sectors of society.

The Gauteng Provincial Task Team which is being inaugurated here today is constituted as follows:

1. Amos Masondo (M)
2. Panyaza Lesufi (M)
3. Ntombi Mekgwe (F)
4. Hope Papo (M)
5. Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko (F)
6. Tasneem Motara (F)
7. Uhuru Moiloa (M)
8. Joy Phiri (F)
9. Mbali Hlophe (F)
10. Jane Mananiso (F)
11. Bheki Nkosi (M)
12. Trevor Fowler (M)
13. Adv. Nandipha Tselenyane (F)
14. Dr Bandile Masuku (M)
15. TK Nciza (M)
16. Nandi Mayathula-Khoza (F)
17. Sizakele Nkosi Malobane (F)
18. Lebogang Maile (M)
19. Tebogo Letsie (M)
20. Morakane Mosupye (F)
21. Ezra Letsoalo (M)
22. Peace Mabe (F)
23. Lolo Ditsekgo (F)
24. Matome Chiloane (M)
25. Dipuo Mvelase (F)
26. Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko (F)
27. Mzi Khumalo (M)

EDITORIAL

28. Firoz Cachalia (M)
29. Fasiha Hassan (F)
30. Bernice Swarts (F)
31. Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi (F)
32. Boyce Maneli (M)
33. Mandla Nkomfe
34. Judith Tshabalala (F)
35. Dr Honours Mukhari(M)
36. Vuyo Mhaga (M)
37. Gogo Ndlovana (F)
38. Dr Brenda Mahuma (F)
39. Nomsa Motaung (F)
40. Thabo Moloja (M)
41. Refilwe Mogale (F)
42. Dr Petrus Mabunda (M)
43. Lisa Seftel
44. Kutloano Rakosa (M)
45. Tlou Chokoe (M)
46. Ntombi Magwaza (F)
47. Dolly Ledwaba (F)
48. Tshilidzi Munyai (M)
49. Nombulelo Nyathela (F)
50. Bones Modise (M)
51. Dr Rebecca Digamela (F)
52. Vuyo Mhlakaza (F)
53. Kedibone Diale (F)
54. Phelisa Nkunjane (F)
55. Lesego Makhubele (M)
56. Nontu Masuku (F)
57. Paul Mojapelo (M)
58. Nathi Congwane (M)
59. Greg Scheemaan (M)
60. Joyce Boshomane (F)
61. Thulani Ndlovu (M)
62. Oscar Mathafa (M)
63. Craig Cornish (M)
64. Andiswa Mosai (F)
65. Pretty Xaba-Ntshaba (F)
66. Sello Maetso (M)
67. Madiba Thabethe (M)
68. Dikeledi Tsotetsi (F)
69. Sbusiso Ngobeni (M)

Out of the above names of the PTT, the following comrades are assigned responsibilities as follows:

1. **Provincial Convenor:** Amos Masondo
2. **Co-Provincial Convenor:** Panyaza Lesufi
3. **Deputy Provincial Convenor:** Ntombi Mekgwe
4. **Provincial Coordinator:** Hope Papo
5. **Provincial Deputy Coordinator:** Nomantu Ralehoko-Nkomo
6. **Provincial Fundraiser:** Tasneem Motara

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

6. Uhuru Moiloa (M) – Convenor: Organising & Campaigns
7. Joy Phiri (F) – Convenor: DCIP
8. Mbali Hlophe (F) – Convenor: Arts & Culture
9. Jane Mananiso (F) – Convenor: Gender & Equity
10. Bheki Nkosi (M) – Convenor: Political Education
11. Trevor Fowler (M) – Convenor: Local Government Interventions
12. Advocate Nandipha Tselenyane (F) – Convenor: Legal & Monitoring
13. Dr Bandile Masuku (M) – Convenor: Education & Health
14. TK Nciza (M) – Convenor: Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation
15. Nandi Mayathula-Khoza (F) – Convenor: Legislature & Governance
16. Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane (F) – Convenor: Elections
17. Lebogang Maile (M) – Convenor: Sectoral Mobilisation
18. Tebogo Letsie (M) – Convenor: Peace & Stability
19. Ezra Letsoalo (M) – Convenor: ETC
20. Peace Mabe (F) – Convenor: International Relations
21. Morakane Mosupye (F) – Convenor: STC
22. Matome Chiloane (M) – Convenor: Drafting
23. Dipuo Mvelase (F) – Convenor: Provincial Disciplinary Committee
24. Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko (F) – Convenor: Commission for Religious & Traditional Affairs (CRATA)
25. Mzi Khumalo (M) – Provincial Spokesperson (ex-officio in the PWC).

NOTE:

- The PWC shall be made up of the PTT officials and all Sub-committee Convenors.
- The Convenor of the Provincial Dispute Resolution Committee shall be the Deputy Provincial Coordinator.
- The Convenor of the Fundraising/Finance Committee shall be the Provincial Fundraiser.

Deployment to Regions:

1. GREATER JOHANNESBURG:

- Oscar Mathafa (CONVENOR)
 Thabo Moloja
 Tebogo Letsie
 Tshilidzi Munyai
 Ezra Letsoalo
 Lolo Ditsekgo

Trevor Fowler
 Matome Chiloane
 Dr Rebecca Digamela
 Joyce Boshomane
 Nathi Congwane
 Sello Maetso

2. GREATER TSHWANE:

Mzi Khumalo (CONVENOR)
 Fasiha Hassan
 Dr Brenda Mahuma
 Mbali Hlophe
 Jane Mananiso
 Joy Phiri
 Nandi Mayath
 TK Nciza
 Thandi Mayathula-Khoza
 Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko
 Judith Tshabalala
 Dr Petrus Mabunda
 Bones Modise
 Thulani Ndlovu

3. SEDIBENG:

Boyce Maneli (CONVENOR)
 Lesego Makhubela
 Vuyo Mhlakaza
 Lebogang Maile
 Adv. Nandipha Tselenyane
 Peace Mabe
 Dipuo Mvelase
 Kutloano Rakosa
 Greg Scheemaan
 Sbusiso Ngobeni
 Paul Mojabelo
 Lisa Seftel

4. WEST RAND:

Phelisa Nkunjane (CONVENOR)
 Nombulelo Nyathela
 Madiba Thabethe
 Bheki Nkosi
 Bandile Masuku
 Kedibone Diale
 Vuyo Mhaga
 Ntombi Magwaza
 Tlou Chokoe
 Nontu Masuku
 Pretty Xaba-Ntshaba
 Craig Cornish

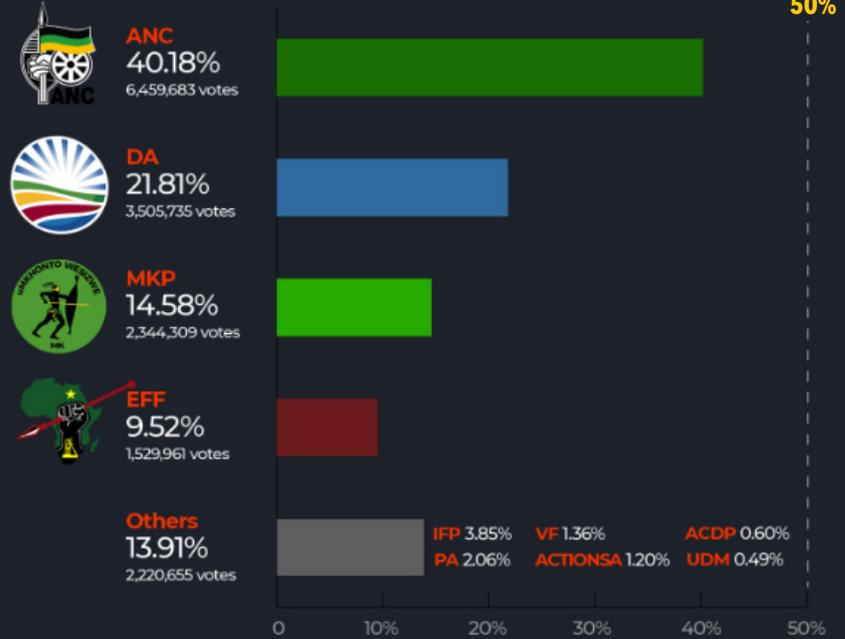
5. EKURHULENI:

Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi (CONVENOR)
 Uhuru Moilola

RESULTS OF THE 29 MAY 2024 ELECTIONS

Turnout: 58.64% | Total votes cast: 16,273,102 | Registered voters: 27,782,477

Results after 100% of the votes were counted



Source: elections.org.za | June 3, 2024

Mandla Nkomfe
 Sizakele Nkosi Malobane
 Morakane Mosupye
 Bernice Swarts
 Dr Honours Mukhari
 Gogo Ndlovana
 Nomsa Motaung
 Refilwe Mogale
 Dolly Ledwaba
 Andiswa Mosai
 Dikeledi Tsotetsi
 Firoz Cachalia

Deployment to Sub-Committees:

1. ORGANISING & CAMPAIGNS:

Uhuru Moilola (CONVENOR)
 Bheki Nkosi
 Tebogo Letsie
 Nandi Mayathula Khoza
 Vuyo Mhaga
 Nomsa Motaung
 Oscar Mathafa

2. DCIP

Joy Phiri (CONVENOR)
 Mzi Khumalo
 Bandile Masuku
 Vuyo Mhaga
 Bones Modise

EDITORIAL

Thulani Ndlovu
Dikeledi Tsotetsi

3. Arts & Culture

Mbali Hlophe (CONVENOR)
Peace Mabe
Lolo Ditsekgo
Dr Brenda Mahuma
Dr Petrus Mabunda
Thulani Ndlovu
Dikeledi Tsotetsi

4. Gender & Equity

Jane Mananiso (CONVENOR)
Lolo Ditsekgo
Gogo Ndlovana
Lesego Makhubele
Nomsa Motaung
Pretty Xaba-Ntshaba

5. Political Education

Bheki Nkosi (CONVENOR)
Mandla Nkomfe
Boyce Maneli
Madiba Thabethe
Tshilidzi Munyai
Joy Phiri
Dr Rebecca Digamela

6. Local Government Interventions

Trevor Fowler (CONVENOR)
Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko
Mzi Khumalo
Dr Petrus Mabunda
Sello Maetso
Pretty Xaba Ntshaba

7. Social Transformation Committee (STC)

Morakane Mosupye (CONVENOR)
Jane Mananiso
Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi
Vuyo Mhlakaza
Dolly Ledwaba
Tshilidzi Munyai

8. Education & Health

Bandile Masuku (CONVENOR)
Matome Chiloane
Adv. Nandipha Tselenyane
Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi
Dr Brenda Mahuma
Thabo Moloja
Nathi Congwane

9. Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation

TK Nciza (CONVENOR)
Mbali Hlophe
Bernice Swarts
Judith Tshabalala
Bones Modise
Nathi Congwane
Lisa Seftel
Joyce Boshomane

10. Legislature & Governance

Nandi Mayathula-Khoza (CONVENOR)
Judith Tshabalala
Morakane Mosupye
Lesego Makhubele
Vuyo Mhlakaza
Joyce Boshomane

11. Legal & Monitoring

Adv. Nandi Letsenyane (CONVENOR)
Ezra Letsoalo
Madiba Thabethe
Nombulelo Nyathela
Kedibone Diale
Greg Scheemaan

12. Sectoral Mobilisation

Lebogang Maile (CONVENOR)
Joy Phiri
Fasiha Hassan
Dr Honours Mukhari
Lesego Makhubele
Greg Scheemaan

12. Peace & Stability

Tebogo Letsie (CONVENOR)
TK Nciza
Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane
Bernice Swarts
Gogo Ndlovana
Kedibone Diale

13. Elections

Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane (CONVENOR)
Paul Mojapelo
Uhuru Moiloa
Refilwe Mogale
Tlou Chokoe
Ntombi Magwaza
Oscar Mathafa
Craig Cornish
Lisa Seftel
Andiswa Mosai

EDITORIAL

14. Economic Transformation Committee (ETC)

Ezra Letsoalo (CONVENOR)

Firoz Cachalia

Mandla Nkomfe

Lebogang Maile

Dipuo Mvelase

Nombulelo Nyathela

Nontu Masuku

Kutloano Rakosa

Andiswa Mosai

15. Drafting

Matome Chiloane (CONVENOR)

Fasiha Hassan

Tlou Chokoe

Ntombi Magwaza

Phelisa Nkunjane

Sbusiso Ngobeni

Craig Cornish

16. International Relations

Peace Mabe (CONVENOR)

Refilwe Mogale

Thabo Moloja

Sbusiso Ngobeni

Nontu Masuku

Kutloano Rakosa

17. Provincial Dispute Resolution Committee (PDRC)

Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko (CONVENOR)

Dr Rebecca Digamela

Ezra Letsoalo

Gogo Ndlovana

Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi

18. Provincial Disciplinary Committee (PDC)

Dipuo Mvelase (CONVENOR)

Firoz Cachalia

Trevor Fowler

Phelisa Nkunjane

18. Commission for Religious and Traditional Affairs (CRATA)

Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko (CONVENOR)

Other names to be confirmed by PTT officials

The ANC calls on all structures, members, and supporters in Gauteng to rally behind this decision, recognising that it is a necessary step in ensuring the ANC remains strong, united, and capable of leading transformation and development. The ANC remains confident that this intervention will strengthen its organisational structures and prepare the movement to meet the challenges ahead.



COMMEMORATING THE **MATOLA RAID** AND REFLECTING ON THE **RELATIONSHIP** BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICA

■ By **SNUKI ZIKALALA, ANC Veteran's League President**

On 24 February 2025, Freedom Park commemorated the Matola Raid and the Day of Friendship between Mozambique and South Africa. This is the input given by Cde Snuki Zikalala, ANC Veterans League President at this event

I thank you for inviting me to this day of reflection. While it is unfortunate that this commemoration event is not happening in Maputo, it is befitting that we continue to remember the victims of the Matola Raid and reflect on the legacy between Frelimo and the ANC and the ongoing relationship between Mozambique and South Africa and its people.

We remember the brutal assault on January 30, 1981, when the South African Defence Force breached the territorial integrity of Mozambique to attack ANC safe houses in Matola, a neighbourhood near Maputo, which was used as stopover points for Umkhonto We Sizwe soldiers.

During the attack, three houses were targeted and destroyed, resulting in the deaths of 14 MK members and a Mozambican



man, who I believe was mistaken for Joe Slovo due to their resemblance. In one of the houses, the ANC retaliated, killing two commandos and injuring others. Among the casualties was a British mercenary named Robert Lewis Hutchinson.

At the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, one of the survivors testified about this brutal assault including that the retreating SADF soldiers cutting off the ears of de-

ceased comrades. Yet, we know that these brutal attacks in our neighbouring countries as part of the apartheid regime's strategy to weaken the ANC did not ultimately succeed in stopping the march of freedom in our country.

The Matola Raid drew the global condemnation of the apartheid regime and rallied further international solidarity. And after the funeral of these fallen heroes attended by former Mozambican

President Samora Machel and former ANC President OR Tambo, **February 14th** each year was chosen as the *Day of Friendship between South Africa and Mozambique*. In addition, the Matola Raid Monument and Interpretive Centre was opened in 2015 to commemorate the event and solidify relations between the ANC, Frelimo, and our two countries.

As we reflect on the Matola Raid and its impact, we should reflect on the state of Southern and African unity and solidarity. In these bewildering times, when, in the words of the American right-wing strategist Steve Bannon, flooding the zone is the order of the day, however, are we able to maintain our respect for peace, national sovereignty, and solidarity?

Over the past week, we have seen US President Trump and his cohorts attempt to trade the end of the war in Ukraine for rare minerals. That is blatant and crude imperialism, reminiscent of what the colonial powers did in Africa – you give us your raw materials, and we will give you formal independence.

Gas in Northern Mozambique and valuable minerals such as coltan, which is used in most smartphones and computers in the DRC, are fueling violent conflict in these regions. South Africa has deployed troops in both of these places in an attempt to create peace and buffer the sovereignty of these countries.

But, it is almost certain that behind these militia groups, such as M23 and the Islamists in Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique are multi-national companies backed by their governments interested in securing African resources at low prices and at the expense of the



lives and livelihoods of Africans.

So, under current circumstances, when we face severe fiscal constraints in our own country and harsh choices about priorities, is sending South African troops the best way to support solidarity in Africa? Should we send soldiers or rather experts and governance support to the DRC so that the DRC can become an effective government, able to develop its potential and provide for its people across the width and breadth of its large country?

As we host the G20 in South Africa, should we not steer our diplomatic efforts to building solidarity with countries that recognise and value democracy, the integrity of African states, and the need for reparations for what colonial powers did to Africa? Africa can achieve unity if Africans are seen to be delivering to Africans.

Lastly, commemorating this Day of Friendship between South Africa and Mozambique should also remind us of the contributions of Mozambican workers to building our economy. It was the people of southern Mozambique who were forced to leave their rural homes to become migrant labourers and paid the highest price for South African gold. Nelson Mandela named his Presidential residence

here in Tshwane Mahlamba Ndlopfu, which in Tsonga means new dawn, in honour of the people of southern Mozambique who made some in South Africa prosper.

The Mozambican rural economy has never recovered from this colonial exploitation. Mozambique is one of the poorest and undeveloped countries in the world, having to rely on extractive industries and beset by conflicts over scarce resources, something which has begun to threaten the future of Frelimo and led to significant instability after their 2024 elections.

This is why so many Mozambicans come to South Africa and are forced to make their living as rhino poachers in the Kruger National Park, recyclers on our streets, drug traders and hired assassins, as well as illegal miners, as we recently witnessed in Stilfontein.

In a couple of days, on 5 March 2025, we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of SACTU, the South African Congress of Trade Unions. An injury to one is an injury to all, was their rallying cry. As we commemorate the Day of Friendship between Mozambique and South Africa, let us extend that arm of friendship and solidarity with the Mozambican workers and the working class.

As South Africa we are inextricably tied to our South African neighbours. We have a shared past, and our future lie in regional cooperation.

The Matola Raid stands as a lasting reminder of the cost of freedom and the necessity of continued cooperation in building peace, justice, and prosperity across Southern Africa.

THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE'S DOUBLE STANDARDS: FREE MARKET RHETORIC NATIONALLY, STATE INTERVENTION IN THE WESTERN CAPE!!!

■ By **ANDA BICI**

THE Democratic Alliance's statement, "*DA's Bold Budget Plans: Growth and Jobs, NOT Tax Hikes,*" is a classical textbook example of economic posturing without substantive solutions. While the DA purports to offer an alternative to our shortcomings (mismanagement of the purse in the main), their statement instead reveals the DA's own ideological rigidity, economic short-sightedness, and lack of real political courage in addressing the country's fiscal crisis.

Empty Promises on Growth Without a Credible Plan

The DA repeatedly invokes "growth" as a panacea for South Africa's economic distresses, yet its statement is devoid of any serious proposals to drive actual GDP expansion. The party clings to the vague notion that "*reducing wasteful expenditure*" and "*creating an environment conducive to investment*" will magically spur job creation. The Democratic Alliance offers no evidence-based policy measures, no macroeconomic modelling and no clear pathway to achieving sustainable economic expansion in a country facing persistent structural constraints. The reality is that South Africa's economy is stuck in a low-growth trap due to weak



demand, high levels of inequality, and crumbling infrastructure. Simply cutting spending does not generate growth – investment in productive capacity does. The DA fails to explain how it will achieve economic expansion without addressing key constraints like energy shortages, logistics bottlenecks, and failing municipal service delivery.

The Fantasy of "No New Taxes" While Pretending to Balance the Budget

The statement aggressively opposes tax increases, yet the DA remains silent on the obvious contradiction: if the government is running a massive deficit, where does the shortfall get covered? Yes, there are alternatives that

could and should be explored and modelled without increasing VAT or with a combination of a slight increase with other trade-offs. The party speaks about curbing corruption and wasteful expenditure but refuses to acknowledge that this alone is insufficient to bridge the fiscal gap. Furthermore, its opposition to new taxes directly contradicts any claim to fiscal responsibility. South Africa has a dangerously high debt-to-GDP ratio, and without increased revenue, drastic cuts would have to be made to essential services – education, healthcare, and infrastructure – exacerbating inequality. The DA offers no clear plan to reconcile its opposition to tax hikes with the fiscal reality of a government struggling to fund even basic services.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ideological Rigidity on Fiscal Policy

The DA's rejection of tax increases is not based on sound economic reasoning but rather on ideological dogma. In a country where the tax-to-GDP ratio is not significantly higher than global benchmarks, refusing to consider new revenue streams is reckless. Many successful economies have higher tax burdens but deliver far better services and infrastructure due to efficiency and smart allocation. The DA's insistence on austerity-lite policies while pretending to prioritize growth demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of counter-cyclical economic management.

Lack of Political Courage on Structural Reform

For all its criticisms of our economic failures, the DA itself shies away from the hard structural reforms needed for real economic change. The statement makes no mention of key interventions like industrial policy, targeted state investment, or serious reforms in network industries (energy, transport, and water). Instead, it offers the same vague "private sector-led growth" rhetoric, which has failed to materialize meaningful change under ANC rule. If the DA were serious about growth and job creation, it would acknowledge that public-private partnerships, industrial incentives, and strategic state intervention – rather than blind faith in the free market – are required to reboot South Africa's stagnant economy. But instead, the party is more concerned with scoring political points than with crafting bold, pragmatic economic solutions.

A hollow, ideologically laden driven statement: The DA's



statement is little more than a recycled attempt to posture as fiscally responsible while refusing to engage with the economic realities of a country in crisis. Its unwillingness to consider tax adjustments, lack of a credible growth strategy, and reliance on vague anti-corruption rhetoric make it a weak and unserious contribution to the economic debate. South Africans deserve better than empty slogans—they need real, detailed policy proposals that acknowledge the complexity of the challenges at hand.

The Democratic Alliance positions itself as a pro-business, fiscally responsible alternative to the ANC, but its economic approach often lacks depth, pragmatism, and the necessary balance between market efficiency and state intervention. If the DA were serious about offering a compelling alternative economic vision, it would focus on the following sound, practical, and economically modelled solutions – none of which it has successfully articulated or pushed for with sufficient force:

A Balanced Fiscal Strategy: Combining Growth-Enhancing Investment with Responsible Spending

The DA fixates on reducing

waste and avoiding tax hikes but fails to present a credible fiscal consolidation plan that balances expenditure reduction with strategic investment. South Africa's economic recovery depends on counter-cyclical fiscal policy – cutting unnecessary expenditures while increasing investment in high-multiplier sectors.

Some solutions could be that instead of rejecting tax hikes outright, the DA should propose a targeted tax restructuring – expanding VAT on luxury goods, reducing corporate tax inefficiencies and introducing a fiscal framework that rewards productive investment rather than financial speculation. A modelling insight could be that IMF and World Bank research consistently show that infrastructure investment has one of the highest fiscal multipliers in developing economies. A shift from current expenditure (bloated wages, waste) to capital investment (energy, logistics, water) would generate long-term fiscal sustainability.

The DA's ideological fixation on "no new taxes" prevents it from considering a revenue-neutral approach that redistributes tax burdens in a way that promotes investment while protecting the poor.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Energy Security: Aggressively Supporting a Mixed Energy Model

The DA rightly criticizes Eskom's failures but offers no comprehensive, bankable plan for restructuring South Africa's energy sector beyond "letting the private sector take over." A solution may as well be to support a structured, blended model which invariably would accelerate private power procurement while restructuring Eskom into distinct transmission, generation, and distribution entities that are separately regulated but integrated into a national energy trading platform. A modelling insight is Brazil and India have successfully implemented competitive energy markets that blend public-private generation while maintaining state oversight of transmission infrastructure to ensure affordability. The DA is struggling with this appreciation and apprehension because it lacks a clear energy financing proposal that incorporates government guarantees for inde-

pendent power producers, demand-side management, and an accelerated grid expansion plan – all of which are essential for enabling rapid private-sector participation.

Industrial Policy and Value-Added Manufacturing

The DA frequently speaks about private-sector growth but offers no detailed strategy on how to create a competitive manufacturing base that goes beyond raw commodity exports.

While it could be that implement targeted industrial incentives for sectors with high employment potential. Reform competition policy to break up monopolistic practices in key industries that stifle new entrants could possibly have better spin offs. Prioritizing export-driven industrial zones, modelled after Vietnam's Special Economic Zones, that offer tax incentives linked to job creation and investment in local skills is a

better proposal that DA's classical inconsistencies.

Economic models show that countries with diversified manufacturing bases grow faster, have lower unemployment, and are less vulnerable to commodity cycles yet South Africa has de-industrialized under our period of governing this beautiful country of ours. The DA does not have to appreciate this fact because it is ideologically allergic to state-led industrial policy, even though successful economies have all used strategic government intervention to support high-value industries.

Logistics Reform: Port and Rail Deregulation with a PPP Model

Our country's collapsing rail and port system is one of the biggest barriers to economic growth, yet the DA offers no detailed logistics blueprint beyond privatization rhetoric. They can't even appreciate that as things stand, our rail infrastructure remains State-Owned but open to competitive private operators, similar to European freight rail markets. It disappears in their vocabulary that our port management is concessioned to global operators, ensuring efficiency while keeping critical infrastructure under public ownership. An investment in digitalized logistics systems increases throughput efficiency. But what would you expect from a party that has a serious inability and lacks a serious public-private investment model that ensures the state retains a regulatory role while unlocking private capital for modernization. The DA advocates for federalism in principle but lacks a concrete proposal to shift economic power to provinces.

Workers marching against privatisation



This is typical of a party that lacks a clear implementation roadmap for fiscal devolution, despite this being one of its core ideological talking points.

THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND THE WESTERN CAPE – THE CAMEL’S BACK GETS BROKEN HERE WITH GLARING CONTRADICTIONS AND INCONSTITENCIES!!!

THE CONTRADICTIONS

The DA often claims to be the party of good governance and economic growth, particularly pointing to the Western Cape and some of municipalities it governs as evidence of its competence. However, its economic plans and governance strategies often reveal major inconsistencies, contradictions, and even hypocrisy when compared to its national economic messaging. Below are some of the most glaring inconsistencies in the DA’s approach.

On fiscal inconsistency, the DA is opposed asserts “No New Taxes” nationally, but increased rates & tariffs in the Western Cape. Nationally, the DA aggressively opposes tax increases and claims it would balance the budget through cutting waste. However, in the Western Cape and DA-run municipalities, the party has consistently increased municipal rates, tariffs, and fees for electricity, water, and property taxes - effectively raising the cost of living for residents.

Will they dispute this fact?? As they always do. I will simplify it for them by pointing them to Cape Town’s property rates & water tariffs wherein the city has repeatedly increased water and electricity tariffs, even above inflation, while opposing tax hikes at the national



level. During the 2018 water crisis, the DA-run Cape Town government introduced a water levy - which was essentially a tax, but the party would never propose a similar approach for the national budget.

The DA criticizes Eskom tariff hikes nationally but DA-run metros (Cape Town, Tshwane, etc.) has imposed their own above-inflation electricity price increases. They claim these are necessary to “*maintain financial stability*,” yet at the national level, they reject the same logic when it comes to balancing the budget.

Cape Town’s “Security Levy” proposal: While the DA rejects new taxes at the national level, it has proposed extra charges for rate-payers to fund policing services, essentially a localized tax. This raises the question: Why is extra revenue justifiable at the municipal level but not nationally?

THE INCONSTITENCIES

The DA accepts the necessity of revenue increases when governing locally and provincially but pretends tax increases are unnecessary at the national level. This is a typical example of a clear contradiction. Governance & Infrastructure development:

Blocking National Reforms while using similar approaches in Cape Town in that the DA attacks “state intervention” and “government-led projects” at the national level yet in Cape Town and the Western Cape, it frequently uses state-led interventions to drive development.

An example on this is that Cape Town’s public infrastructure investments – The DA-led Cape Town government directly invests in public transport upgrades (MyCiTi Bus System), housing projects, and energy resilience. But nationally, the DA criticizes similar government-led investment in infrastructure. Cape Town’s “State-Led” Housing and Informal Settlement programmes – the DA opposes state-driven housing programs at the national level, arguing that the private sector should lead. Yet, in the Western Cape, the DA actively promotes its own state-driven housing initiatives – a clear contradiction in philosophy.

Public Transport & MyCiTi Bus: the DA supports government-funded transport projects in Cape Town yet criticizes national efforts to expand public transport. This raises the question: Why is government investment in transport good in the Western Cape but “wasteful” nationally?

These inconsistencies are a revelation that the DA embraces government-led infrastructure when in power but condemns it when in opposition. This shows a lack of ideological consistency.

These are people who emphasize free markets nationally but pushing for state oversight in Western Cape and Cape Town. Nationally, the DA pushes a “free-market, private-sector-led” approach and in the Western Cape, it advocates for municipal control, intervention, and oversight over key services. The DA argues that public transport should be privatized at the national level but wants local government to control Cape Town’s rail services.

Why does the DA believe municipal government control is better than private operators for rail but not for national-level services like energy and logistics?

The DA’s flawed approach to energy security & load shedding in that the DA advocates for independent power producers (IPPs) to reduce reliance on Eskom which is a positive move. However, it also supports municipal control over energy distribution, contradicting its national stance that the private sector should lead energy reform.

In national debates, the DA presents itself as pro-business and anti-regulation. Yet, in Cape Town, DA-led city authorities have imposed restrictive by-laws that harm informal traders, undermining small entrepreneurs. How can the DA opulently claim to support “market-friendly” policies nationally while enacting heavy handed regulation in Cape Town and Western Cape?

The inconsistency in this is that

the DA promotes state intervention in Cape Town but opposes it nationally which reveals ideological inconsistency in its economic approach.

On Policing & Crime, the DA advocates for more funding for local law enforcement but opposing national crime interventions. The DA criticizes national crime policy failures but refuses to support national-level policing reforms while demanding more funding for local law enforcement in DA-run areas.

The DA has called for more local policing powers, arguing that municipal governments should take over law enforcement from national SAPS. At the national level, the DA opposes increasing funding for national crime-fighting programmes such as crime intelligence and rural safety.

In Cape Town, government has significantly increased spending on private security measures to tackle crime. Yet, the DA opposes increased state security spending

at the national level. The contradictions are a demonstration of populists who have tasted power and thing their populism can sink us through populism.

The DA wants more policing resources in areas it controls but refuses to support broader national policing reforms, making its crime-fighting stance opportunistic rather than principled. While the DA presents itself as a free-market, low-tax, and anti-government-intervention party, its actual governance in the Western Cape and DA-run municipalities contradicts these principles in multiple ways.

These contradictions reveal that the DA’s policies are often shaped by political convenience rather than ideological consistency.

Until then, the DA’s approach remains a patchwork of opportunism, local pragmatism and national ideological posturing. We must sustain unmasking these adventurers and expose them for who they are.



Western Cape Government failure leads to United Opposition against the DA

■ By **KHALID SAYED,**

Leader of the Opposition in the Western Cape Provincial Legislature

The Western Cape Premier's recent State of the Province Address painted an image of a thriving and well-governed province. However, for many residents, this version of reality does not match their daily experiences. Beneath the polished rhetoric lies a province struggling with deep inequalities, failing local governance, and reckless foreign policy decisions that threaten jobs and investment.

Failing the People on Housing and Governance

Housing remains one of the Western Cape's greatest crises, yet under the DA-led government, it has been marked by mismanagement and evictions that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. Take Communicare, for example. Despite national intervention and a forensic investigation into the acquisition of its properties, evictions have continued, forcing pensioners from their homes. This is just one example of the province's disregard for the poorest citizens.

Municipal failures are equally glaring. In Swellendam, Saldanha Bay, Matzikama, and Garden Route District, governance is in disarray, with financial mismanagement and corruption alle-



gations mounting. Swellendam's council failed to release the Vermaak Report on municipal misconduct, while Saldanha Bay lost R2.5 million in public funds amid a housing backlog. These examples expose the DA's failing model of governance – one that claims efficiency but delivers scandal after scandal.

Education Cuts and Apartheid-Era Spatial Planning

The DA's decision to cut 2,407 teacher posts has disproportionately affected working-class communities, particularly in schools

that serve historically disadvantaged areas. The DA's Education MEC, David Maynier, has misled the Legislature about these cuts, which have deepened apartheid-era inequalities.

Housing and infrastructure decisions continue to entrench these inequalities. The DA's refusal to release vacant public land for social housing, particularly in well-located areas like Tafelberg, is a stark reminder that their governance serves an elite minority.

The province remains divided between wealthy, well-served areas and communities still waiting

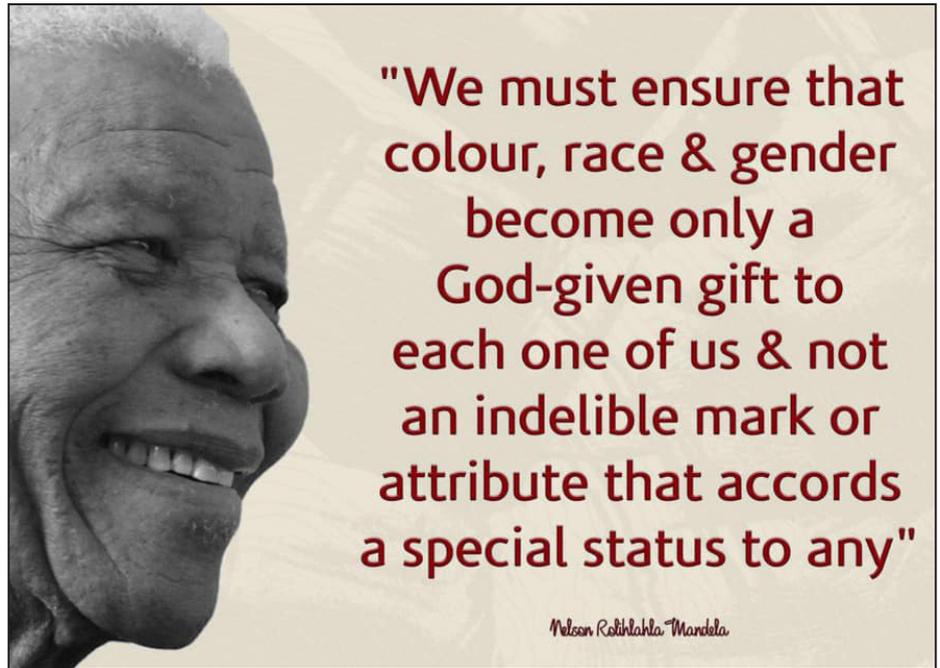
for the promise of transformation.

Economic Recklessness: Undermining Trade with China

While the Premier speaks of economic stability, his own MEC for Agriculture, Economic Development, and Tourism, Dr. Ivan Meyer, has jeopardized one of the province's most critical trading relationships – China. Meyer's decision to visit Taiwan in his official capacity was not just an ill-advised diplomatic move; it was a reckless act that directly contradicts South Africa's official One China Policy.

This blunder risks billions in agricultural trade. Just last year, exports to China exceeded R16 billion, making China a key trading partner for the Western Cape and a major driver of rural employment. The Western Cape has benefited immensely from Chinese trade and investment, yet Meyer's actions now place this at risk.

It is deeply concerning that Premier Alan Winde has failed to act against Meyer's blatant disregard for South Africa's foreign policy. This province does not operate in isolation from national



policies, yet DA leaders continue to behave as if the Western Cape is independent from South Africa. While the Premier speaks of protecting relations with the United States, he remains silent as his MEC undermines critical economic ties with China. Who, then, is the DA truly serving? The people of the Western Cape or foreign political interests?

An Opposition United in Action

Despite these governance failures, there is hope. The opposi-

tion parties in the Western Cape – ANC, EFF, PA, NCC, GOOD, Freedom Front Plus, and Al-Jama'ah (excluding the ACDP) – are working together to hold the provincial government accountable.

Unlike the DA's politics of exclusion, we believe in a Western Cape that serves all its residents, not just the privileged few.

The Premier ended his speech with the words, "*The Western Cape Government is for You.*" But who is the "you" he refers to? Wealthy business interests or the working-class residents of this province?

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, we must ask ourselves: which side is the DA on? The side of ordinary South Africans striving for a better life, or the side of economic recklessness and entrenched inequality?

The opposition stands ready to hold this government accountable and build a province that works for everyone – not just a select few.



South Africa's G20 Presidency: SEIZING THE AI REVOLUTION TO BUILD, NOT BEG

■ By **LINDIWE MATLALI**

AS South Africa assumes the presidency of the G20, it has a historic opportunity to close the technological gap in artificial intelligence (AI) by shifting from a position of dependency to one of leadership. Instead of pleading with global AI companies to build inclusive platforms that cater to Africa's needs, South Africa must take a bold stance – building from within, investing in homegrown innovation, and fostering global partnerships on equal footing. This is a moment to act decisively, using the G20 platform to catalyze a thriving AI ecosystem that drives economic growth, industrial competitiveness, and shared prosperity for its citizens and the broader African continent.

The Missed Opportunity of the 4IR Commission

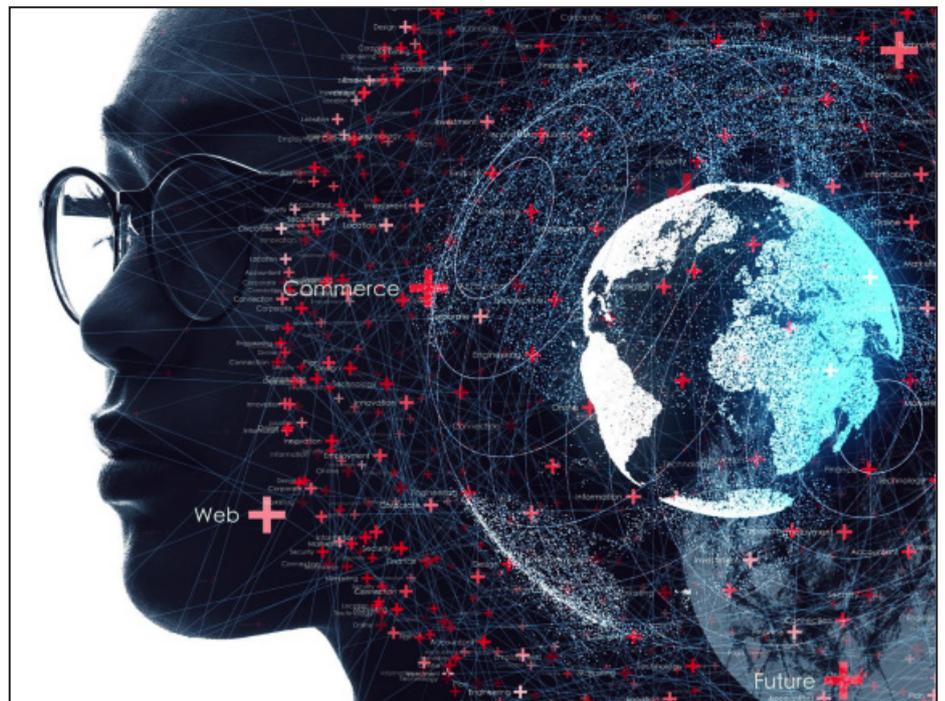
As someone who had the honor of serving on the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), I witnessed firsthand how South Africa failed to capitalize on early AI momentum. The commission accurately predicted that AI would become the next technological frontier, but its recommendations were not meaningfully implement-

ed. While other global players made significant investments in AI research, infrastructure, and startup ecosystems, South Africa remained passive – failing to allocate resources to develop its own AI capabilities.

The consequence? We are now at risk of becoming mere consumers of AI solutions built elsewhere, with no control over the technology shaping our economies, societies, and industries. But it is not too late to reverse course – if we act now.

Investing in AI: The Time for Bold Action Is Now

The issue is not that South Africa lacks money; the issue is that the resources we have are not being deployed in bold, strategic, and unapologetic ways to advance Africa's technological interests. South Africa has government-backed entities such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), and the Industrial Develop-



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ment Corporation (IDC). These institutions should come together to create a national AI investment fund, managed by the IDC, with the explicit purpose of fueling AI startups and scaling high-potential ventures into global technology leaders.

Instead of waiting for international tech giants to dictate the AI agenda, South Africa must take ownership of its future by funding and supporting AI-driven companies that develop solutions for Africa, by Africans. We must create AI unicorns – companies valued at over \$1 billion – that are not only competitive globally but also committed to addressing Africa's challenges.

The Global AI Investment Gap: Africa Cannot Be Left Behind

A comparative look at global AI investments exposes Africa's alarming lack of strategic action.

- The European Union (EU) recently launched the InvestAI initiative, committing €200 billion to AI development, with €20 billion allocated specifically for AI gigafactories to train large-scale AI models (ec.europa.eu).
- The United States has announced a \$500 billion AI infrastructure partnership involving OpenAI, Oracle, and SoftBank (apnews.com).
- China has already established itself as a global AI powerhouse, integrating AI into its industrial policies with billions in state-backed investments.

Meanwhile, African governments, including South Africa, have failed to match this level of commitment. The African Union (AU) has yet to announce a continental AI investment strategy, leaving Africa vulnerable to exploitation



by global AI firms.

Consider the case of OpenAI's use of underpaid African data workers to train its models – many of whom were subjected to severe psychological distress. Despite international outcry, no policies were enacted to protect African workers or ensure fair AI labor practices. This negligence underscores a fundamental failure: Africa remains a passive player in the AI revolution, rather than a proactive architect of its own technological destiny.

How South Africa Must Lead: A G20 Action Plan for AI

South Africa's G20 presidency is the perfect platform to change this trajectory. The government must act decisively and execute an AI-driven industrial strategy that positions the country as a leader in Africa's digital economy. Here's how:

1. Launch a National AI Investment Fund

- Consolidate resources from TIA, NEF, PIC, and IDC into a dedicated AI startup fund, managed by the IDC.
- Provide direct funding, grants, and equity investments to AI startups and scale-ups.
- Focus on AI applications in key industries: healthcare, agriculture, finance, security,

and manufacturing.

2. Create a Global AI Innovation Hub

- Establish AI R&D hubs that attract global talent while training African engineers and researchers.
- Incentivize local AI data centers to reduce dependence on foreign cloud services.
- Build AI computing infrastructure, including high-performance data centers and GPU farms.

3. Implement Strategic AI Policies and Regulations

- Develop AI workforce policies to protect and fairly compensate African AI workers.
- Enforce AI data sovereignty, ensuring Africa controls its own data and prevents exploitation.
- Introduce fast-track approvals for AI startups to test and deploy innovations with minimal red tape.

4. Forge Global AI Partnerships on Equal Terms

- Use the G20 presidency to negotiate AI collaboration agreements with G20 nations, ensuring South Africa is a co-developer, not just a consumer.
- Strengthen AI cooperation with India, Brazil, and Indone-

sia – nations also seeking to challenge Western AI dominance.

- Position Africa as a global leader in ethical AI, advocating for fair labor practices, data sovereignty, and responsible AI governance.

5. Prioritize AI Education and Workforce Development

- Integrate AI training into national education curriculums at high school and university levels.
- Partner with tech companies and universities to offer AI certification programs.
- Provide funding for AI research fellowships and scholarships for young African innovators.

Conclusion: South Africa Must Build, Not Beg

South Africa has a choice: continue waiting for global AI firms to include Africa in their plans – or take bold steps to build our own AI future. The world is moving fast, and nations that fail to act now will be left behind, economically and technologically.

By leveraging its G20 presidency to drive AI investment, policy innovation, and strategic global partnerships, South Africa can emerge as a leader in AI, not a follower. The time for research papers analyzing the AI gap is over. We know the challenges.

The time to act boldly, invest strategically, and lead unapologetically is now.

Africa's future in AI will not be given to us – it must be built by us.

Lindiwe Matlali is CEO of Africa-TeenGeeks.

Harmonizing Cultural Practices with Legal Frameworks: A Call for Balance and Inclusion

■ By **NONCEBA MHLAULI**

CULTURAL practices form the bedrock of any society, providing identity, continuity, and social cohesion. However, as our society evolves and becomes more diverse, integrating these practices within a unified legal framework presents an increasing challenge. The South African Constitution, adopted in 1996, is the guiding foundation that enjoins us to promote democratic values, equality, and human rights while ensuring the protection of cultural, linguistic, and religious practices – provided they do not infringe upon the Bill of Rights.

Governments must perform a

delicate balancing act: upholding the rule of law and ensuring equality while respecting and preserving the cultural heritage of diverse communities. A primary challenge in this effort is the potential for conflict between traditional customs and human rights standards. One prominent example is the practice of ukuthwala, a custom that, in some cases, results in forced and underage marriages.

Child marriage is a grave violation of human rights and contravenes numerous international treaties and South Africa's constitutional provisions. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the



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Child affirms its supremacy over customs or traditions that conflict with its principles. In response, the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs is currently holding public hearings on the Marriage Bill, which seeks to prohibit child marriages and introduce strict penalties for those who facilitate or solemnize such unions.

Despite global efforts, child marriage remains a pressing issue. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, reported last year that while child marriage is declining worldwide, progress is too slow. The 2016 Statistics South Africa Community Survey revealed that over 91,000 South African girls aged 12-17 were married, divorced, separated, widowed, or cohabiting as spouses. The root cause is often patriarchy, exacerbated by economic hardship, with some families consenting to these marriages for financial gain.

Child marriage is not only a human rights violation but also has devastating consequences for young girls, including health complications, limited educational opportunities, and entrenchment in cycles of poverty. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) has been actively involved in combating child marriages, intervening in abduction cases, and supporting legal action against perpetrators. The case of Mvumeleni Jezile, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison for abducting and marrying a 14-year-old girl, exemplifies the legal system's commitment to addressing this injustice.

Another critical area where cultural practices and legal frameworks intersect is traditional medicine. While traditional healing plays a significant role in many communi-



ties, regulations must ensure that such practices align with national health and safety standards, as governed by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

Education is another domain where policy must accommodate cultural diversity. Multicultural societies require inclusive curricula that honor diverse traditions while fostering a shared national identity. Implementing bilingual or multilingual education policies can enhance mutual understanding and respect among different cultural communities.

The government's role extends to protecting and promoting cultural heritage, including preserving historical sites, supporting traditional arts, and recognizing cultural rituals. Investing in cultural preservation enriches society and fosters an inclusive and dynamic national identity.

However, harmonizing cultural practices with legal frameworks is an ongoing process that necessitates continuous dialogue and cooperation among government entities, traditional leaders,

and civil society. This was evident in President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent address at the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, where he emphasized the importance of aligning cultural traditions with legal standards. Following a Constitutional Court ruling that deemed the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act unconstitutional, the government is actively engaging with traditional leaders to reintroduce a revised bill in Parliament.

In conclusion, balancing cultural heritage with legal principles is both complex and essential. By fostering open discussions and inclusive policymaking, we can ensure that our legal frameworks uphold justice and equality while celebrating our rich cultural diversity.

As we look to the future, let us embrace our differences as strengths, striving to create a society where cultural traditions and legal structures coexist harmoniously, benefiting all citizens.

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



THE ANC MUST RISE AGAIN

A Call to Action for Our

Movement and Our People

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

COMRADES, the Warning Bells Are Ringing – Will We Answer the Call?

I was shocked but not surprised when I heard the recent poll by the Social Research Foundation (SRF) claims the ANC is sitting at 32% support, down from 45% in September last year. We know the SRF is not a neutral player. It is aligned with right-wing forces like AfriForum, whose agenda has always been about weakening and destroying the ANC and the democratic forces in South Africa. This is part of a broader effort to sow doubt, fear, anger, confusion, despair, division, push regime change, and create an anti-ANC narrative.

But, comrades, let us not be in denial. Even if we do not fully trust the numbers, there is a deeper truth we cannot ignore: many of our people feel abandoned, unheard, and disillusioned. Many

ANC supporters are sitting on the sidelines, undecided, frustrated, and questioning whether we are still the movement that once stood for them and fought for them.

The warning bells are ringing.

The people's contract – the historic trust and solemn pledge between the ANC and the people of South Africa – is under threat. And the reality is, it is not the DA or the EFF or the MK Party that is winning them over. Instead, many people are choosing to stay silent, to withdraw, to disengage. That, comrades, is the real crisis. We are not alarmists, but we must be realists. If we ignore this moment, if we dismiss these warning signs, then history will not be kind to us. Now is the time for us as the ANC to undertake a comprehensive introspection and recalibrate its strategies to regain our people trust and confidence.

A Time for Renewal – Rekindling the Flame of the ANC

The ANC is not just another political party it is the liberation movement of Mandela, OR Tambo, Chris Hani. It is our movement born from struggle, from sacrifice, from the dreams of millions who fought for dignity, justice, and freedom. That spirit cannot die – it must be protected, defended, advanced and renewed.

The following steps are recommended:

1. **Engage with the Undecided Voters:** The 15% of undecided voters represent a pivotal group. The ANC should initiate targeted outreach programs to understand their concerns and address them genuinely and effectively.
2. **Do what is right:** Aligning policies with the core values and needs of the electorate are crucial. We need

to understand this and have political will to drive and implement. Be focussed and committed wholeheartedly to serving and solving our people's problems with them

3. **Strengthen Leadership and Accountability:** Demonstrating a commitment to ethical leadership and transparency can rebuild trust. This includes holding officials accountable and showcasing tangible efforts to combat corruption.
4. **Enhance Service Delivery:** Prioritizing efficient and effective public services will directly impact citizens' daily lives, reinforcing the ANC's role as a responsive governing body.
5. **Foster Open Communication:** Maintaining an open dialogue with members, supporters, and the general public can bridge gaps and foster a sense of inclusivity and shared purpose.

Our people are crying out for leadership that listens, that acts, that cares. They are not looking for excuses, spin, or bureaucratic plans. They want to feel the ANC in their lives, in their communities, in their homes.

This is our moment to return to the people. To listen, to serve, to fight for them again.

Ten Urgent Actions to Restore Trust and Win Back Our People

1. **Stop Talking and Start Listening**
Too many ANC leaders spend time speaking at the people instead of listening to them and more importantly do and act compassionately and responsively. We must return to real community engagement—not just staged events, but door-to-door

,street committee conversations, town halls, and public and online meetings where people can tell us their frustrations, dreams, hopes, suggestions and co-create their betterment.

2. Fix Service Delivery Now

We cannot ignore the frustration of people living without water, electricity, and proper housing. Local ANC-led municipalities must step up and deliver—starting immediately. Fix the potholes, get the lights back on, ensure clinics are stocked, and make sure people feel that government works for them. Let's get all on board to work and fix SA.

3. Be Present in People's Struggles

Where are ANC leaders when people are protesting for water? When communities are crying out for jobs? When crime destroys families? Our leaders must be present and active – not just at conferences and luxury retreats but on the ground, fighting and finding solutions alongside the people.

4. Clean Up Corruption – No More Excuses

People are tired of ANC members who use their positions for personal gain. We must publicly take action against corruption – not just in words, but with real consequences. Those who steal from the people must face justice, no matter their rank.

5. Bring Back the Spirit of *Ubuntu*, '*Menswaardigheid*' and '*Human Dignity*' in the ANC

Too many of our branches have become battlegrounds for positions and factional fights instead of being homes for community activism. We need to rebuild our branches as places of service –

where comrades work together to uplift their communities.

6. Reignite the Youth, Veterans and Women's Leagues

The ANC was once the HOME FOR ALL! Let's make the circle bigger! There is a space and place for all South African patriots, White, Coloured, Indians and African in the ANC family. There are many young people who believed in changing the world. We must give young people real opportunities to lead, to be heard, and to shape their own future. The same applies to our women – who remain the backbone of our movement and our communities.

7. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs – Give People Hope Again

South Africa's biggest crisis is unemployment, especially among young people. The ANC must become the champion of job creation – pushing real, practical policies that give people opportunities. We must prioritize township economies, small businesses, and cooperatives, ensuring money circulates in local communities instead of being captured by big monopolies.

8. Rebuild Our Public Institutions

From schools to hospitals to police stations – every government institution must work for the people. This means holding underperforming officials accountable, cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, and ensuring that frontline workers (nurses, teachers, police officers) have the support they need to serve our people.

9. Prioritize Safety and Security

Crime and gangsterism are destroying our communities, and



people feel unsafe in their own homes. The ANC must lead the fight for community policing, proper law enforcement, and youth programs that steer young people away from crime and drugs.

10. Reignite the Spirit of Activism and Volunteerism

The ANC was built by activists, not career politicians. We must rebuild a culture where being ANC means being of service to the people – whether it is cleaning up schools, fixing parks, mentoring young people, or helping the elderly. The ANC must be visible in communities every day, not just at election time.

To the ANC Leadership: The Time for Comfort is Over

Comrades, this is not the time for arrogance. It is not the time for self-preservation or factional battles. The people are watching us.

They are waiting to see if we will rise to the challenge or fall into complacency.

Every ANC leader, from the President down to the branch chairperson and ordinary ANC mem-

bers, we must ask: ***Are we truly serving the people? Are we still connected to the struggles of ordinary South Africans?***

If the answer is “not enough,” then we must change – now.

To the Undecided and Disillusioned Supporters: The ANC Hears You

We know many of you are frustrated. You feel like the ANC has not always lived up to its promises. You are not wrong. Mistakes have been made. People have been let down.

But the ANC is still your home. This movement belongs to you, not to individuals or factions.

We are calling on you – do not give up on the ANC. Hold us accountable, push us to do better, but do not walk away. Be part of the ANC family. Your voice, your energy, your commitment are what will make the ANC stronger again.

Conclusion: The ANC Must Rise Again

The SRF poll is not a death sentence – it is a wake-up call.

The ANC has faced bigger challenges before. We have survived persecution, bans, betrayals, and divisions. While detractors may attempt to sow seeds of doubt, we remain steadfast in our mission to build a united, prosperous, and just nation. Let this moment serve as a catalyst for renewal, propelling us towards greater heights in service of our beloved country.

And we have always come back stronger because we return to our core values: **servicing the people, fighting for justice, and building a better life for all.**

Now is the time to do it again.

Comrades, the future of South Africa is in our hands. Let us rise, let us renew, let us serve.

Let us bring the ANC back to the people – where it belongs.

Viva the ANC! Viva!

Faiez Jacobs is a former ANC WC Provincial Secretary, Member of Parliament and social entrepreneur and commentator.

Celebrating 24 years of

ANC TODAY

THE ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Interview with the National Spokesperson of the ANC, Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

■ By **GEORGE MAGOMA**



On 26 January 2001 the African National Congress (ANC) modernized and transitioned from an old order towards the battle of ideas, encompassing different voices across the local and international body politic, what it represents and its reconnection with society.

The communication landscape has drastically changed, influenced by complex dynamics which shape the present order that hinges primarily on public opinion by various commentators across a diverse spectrum with powerful dominance in the media space. In the midst of diverse voices and an organisation existing within brands that pose an existential threat to the ANC, and how the movement had for many years in the competitive arena of the battle of ideas survived turbulent storms in the communication space.

In reflecting the remarkable journey since its birth, ANC Today

speaks to Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri, the National Spokesperson of the ANC.

In addition to this significant milestone, the ANC commemorates 70 years of the birth of the Freedom Charter under the people shall govern and the people sharing in the country's wealth as an overarching theme underpinning the January 8 Statement.

George Magoma sat with the ANC National Spokesperson to reflect on the long journey since the inaugural edition of the ANC communication medium.

ANC TODAY

ANC TODAY reached 24 years old on the 26th of January this year. Is it worth celebrating this epic journey?

Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

Thank you comrade George and the staff of the Department of Communication Information and Publicity (DCIP) for this opportunity.

Let me greet and acknowledge the country in the year of the 113th birth of the ANC, and thank ANC TODAY for this milestone. Honestly, this is too heavy and emotional for the ANC especially its membership who anchor our readership.

In a sense of nostalgia the stalwarts of the liberation movement will agree that this is no mean feat. At best, it could have been communicated by a knowledgeable generation before the birth of ANC TODAY and leaders before us. I am humbled by this invitation to speak to ANC TODAY.

We commend the archival work and the oasis of knowledge in the annals of the movement by those who remember the origin of the ANC. ANC TODAY is the repository of knowledge through its past and present leaders.

It was not a journey that started yesterday but an investment in building a machinery that fought state-funded propaganda against

INTERVIEW

a narrative of an organised terrorist organisation in contrast to the ANC's principled stance of a free democratic South Africa. It was a very difficult moment. It is a moment worth celebrating. This we do by reconnecting with the society, flying high the ANC flag to showcase the massive strides of the 30 years of our democracy, our rootedness in communities, communicating our goals, building the future and laying the path ahead for a better life.

With its 1st publication in 2001 ANC TODAY continues on the footpath of *Sechaba*, *Mayibuye*, *Radio Freedom* and other platforms.

ANC TODAY

Of what significance is ANC TODAY to South Africa and the world?

Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

Our voice is rich. Apartheid fell. The world heard our voice through mobilisation. In our solidarity and humanitarian voices Palestine too, shall be free, so shall the blockade of Cuba end and our quest for a free world. We communicated our stance through this powerful medium, and the progressive international community joined us in our cause for a peaceful order. In our context we are voices of the poor, amplifying their cause and living conditions.

ANC TODAY

Please educate us further.

Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

ANC TODAY resides within our communication and the battle of ideas, exerting greater influence and our contribution to the public discourse. Diverse thinking and

ANC TODAY

ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Volume 1 No 1 • 26 January - 1 February 2001

THIS WEEK:

Focus on the defence procurement package

- Letter from the President: [Welcome to the ANC Today](#)
- Arms procurement: [Heath decision a victory for democracy](#)
- Media myths: [The real arms 'scandal'](#)
- Arms and development: [An investment to safeguard democracy](#)

Screenshot of the first page of the very first edition of ANC TODAY

Welcome to ANC Today

FIRST OF ALL, I would like to congratulate the Communications Unit on its decision to publish *ANC Today*. It is of critical importance that the ANC develops its own vehicles to communicate news, information and views to as many people as possible, at home and abroad.

Clearly, the Internet provides an added possibility to achieve this objective. It is very encouraging indeed to see an organisation as old as the ANC respond to modern challenges and possibilities with the speed and flexibility it has demonstrated by the use of the Internet.

I therefore wish this new venture, *ANC Today*, the success it deserves.

Historically, the national and political constituency represented by the ANC has had very few and limited mass media throughout the 90 years of its existence.

During this period, the commercial newspaper and magazine press representing the views, values and interests of the white minority has dominated the field of the mass media.

This situation has changed only marginally in the period since we obtained our liberation in 1994.

The same views, values and interests also drove the state broadcaster, the SABC.

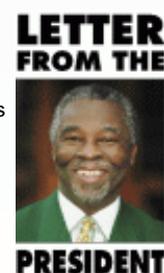
It is only now that changes are being brought about to ensure that the SABC fulfils its mandate as a public broadcaster. Much still remains to be done before this objective is achieved.

During the colonial and apartheid years, especially the latter, both the white minority regimes and the dominant economic powers pursued a deliberate policy of suppressing the media that communicated the views of our constituency, the overwhelming majority of our population.

For example, both *The Guardian* and its successor, *New Age* were both banned, as was *The World* in a later period. Progressive journalists were banned and imprisoned.

We also have the well-known case of the suppression of the liberal *Rand Daily Mail*.

To this day, any media that genuinely represents the interests and the views of the majority has to live with reality that it has to overcome such obstacles as an "advertisers' boycott" and difficulties in distribution.



criticism of who we are, what we represent are the centrepiece, lifeblood and intellectual chord that joins us with the society and the world. We exist within the digital age that permeates to all levels of society, offering a wider perspectives of the societal and global outlook, the role we can play in meaningful change and the impact of the balance of power.

ANC TODAY

In a competitive and environment are there any existential threats to the publication?

Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

We have a capable human capital with vast experience in media and communication. Our publication is ahead of times, existing in the information and technological

INTERVIEW

era. The increasingly rapid up-take of social media by many of our citizens, especially the youth, and its increased primacy as a platform of choice for accessing and disseminating information.

Social media use is fast surpassing traditional media consumption in some countries around the world. We are in the technological space.

We have survived many turbulences and here we are today, as envy of our media peers but also as a useful resource and intellectual oasis and archive for educational and research purposes and an interactive tool between society and the ANC.

The changing dynamic and factors in society, especially the media consolidation and hegemony in South Africa has meant that the larger media houses – many of whose editorial positions on government and the governing party are adversarial – predominate. Greater convergence has meant that these anti-ANC voices, some of which overtly favour the political opposition, dominate not just one but multiple platforms at any given time noted by the 54th Conference of the ANC.

Our special gratitude to the staff of ANC, the editorial board, the erudite columnists and the fountain of knowledge within the ANC across the organisational strata. This includes business, the academia, civil society and other role players who continue to expose to new insights and thinking in an evolving and complex milieu.

ANC TODAY

Does ANC Today reach to the broader society? Who constitutes its readership?

Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri

The environment within which we exist is ever changing, dynamic and a space rich with new ideas.

The ANC occupies every inch of society ranging from the economy, social cohesion, nation building, health, education, service delivery including a new global order in germane to our quest for

a better Africa and a better world devoid of diseases, malnutrition, wars and other maladies.

ANC TODAY is not rhetorical or some sort of propaganda to prop its existence and relevance. It exists within society and the world. Our readership is diverse. Through this medium, we feed and serve a wide range of interests.

Screenshot of the second page of the first edition of ANC TODAY

We are faced with the virtually unique situation that, among the democracies, the overwhelmingly dominant tendency in South African politics, represented by the ANC, has no representation whatsoever in the mass media.

We therefore have to contend with the situation that what masquerades as "public opinion", as reflected in the bulk of our media, is in fact minority opinion informed by the historic social and political position occupied by this minority.

By projecting itself as "public opinion" communicated by an "objective press", this minority opinion seeks to get itself accepted by the majority as the latter's own opinion.

With no access to its own media, this majority has had to depend on other means to equip itself with information and views to enable it to reach its own conclusions about important national and international matters.

These have included direct contact with the leadership and membership of the ANC at public meetings.

Though very important, this means of mass communication can never be adequate as a means of communicating our views and information to the millions of our people and others in the rest of the world.

ANC Today will make an important contribution towards filling the void of the voicelessness of millions of people, that is a direct legacy of more than three hundred years of colonialism and apartheid.

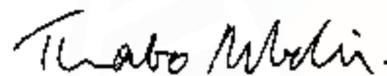
I hope that the journal will make a special effort to ensure that the news and views the masses of our people are denied reach them.

Of special importance, the people must be informed of the progress we are making with regard to the social transformation of our country and continent, the obstacles and opposition we have to overcome and our programmes to achieve further progress.

The world of ideas is also a world of struggle.

ANC Today must be a combatant for the truth, for the liberation of the minds of our people, for the eradication of the colonial and apartheid legacy, for democracy, non-racism, non-sexism, prosperity and progress.

The struggle continues! Victory is certain!



ARMS PROCUREMENT

Heath decision a victory for democracy

The decision by President Thabo Mbeki not to issue a proclamation authorising the Heath Special Investigating Unit to probe allegations relating to the arms procurement package is a victory for democracy and the constitution.

This decision, in the face of unprecedented pressure from opposition parties and sections of the media, is a bold assertion of the supremacy of the Constitution and the principle of the separation of powers. It is a

MORE INFORMATION:

- [Public Broadcast of President Thabo Mbeki on the Strategic Defence Acquisition Programme](#), 19 January 2001
- [Letter to President Mbeki from Minister of Justice and](#)

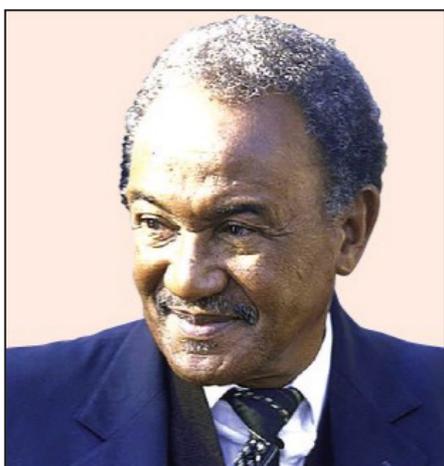
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1–7 March 2025

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

1 March 1914 Archie Gumede born



Archibald Archie Gumede was born on 1 March 1914 in Pietermaritzburg. He studied at the South African Native College (now University of Fort Hare), but dropped out after two years. He returned to Natal and joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1949 and became secretary of the Natal branch. Gumede was very active in the Natal ANC, leading the delegation to the Congress of the People in Kliptown in 1955 and in the campaigns against the extension of pass laws to women. Gumede established his own law practice in Natal in 1970 after being admitted to the bar. He became chairman of the Release Mandela Committee (RMC) in 1979. He was founding member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), was elected as UDF president in 1983, and tirelessly campaigned for liberation, despite harassment. In 1994 Gumede became a member of the

National Assembly of South Africa. He died in June 1998 at the age of 84.

1 March 1922 Wits gain full university status



The University College in Johannesburg attained full University status under the name the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg. The origin of Wits lies in the South African School of Mines, which was established in Kimberley in 1896 and transferred to Johannesburg as the Transvaal Technical Institute in 1904. The Institute became the Transvaal University College in 1906 and was renamed the South African School of Mines and Technology four years later. Full university status was granted to the University College in 1922, with effect from March 1. Seven months later, the inauguration of the University was duly celebrated. Prof Jan Hofmeyr became the first principal. Construction on the new University buildings began at Milner Park on a site donated to the University by the Johannesburg Municipality. The

University had, at that stage, six faculties, namely Arts, Science, Medicine, Engineering, Law and Commerce, 37 departments, 73 academic staff members and just more than 1 000 students.

1 March 1994 Walvis Bay handed over to Namibia

The South African government ended eighty-four years of control over the Walvis Bay enclave by handing over the port and twelve offshore islands to the Namibian government. This followed in the wake of bilateral discussions lasting three years between the South African and Namibian governments and the establishment of a transitional Joint Administrative Authority (JAA) in November 1992 to administer the 300 square mile territory. The amicable resolution to this territorial dispute, which stretched back to 1878, was commended by the United Nations and the international community as it fulfilled the provisions of UN Security Council 435 (1978), which declared Walvis Bay to be an integral part of Namibia.

2 March 1918 UNISA officially opened, replacing University of the Cape of Good Hope

South Africa's biggest University, the University of South Africa (Unisa) was officially opened

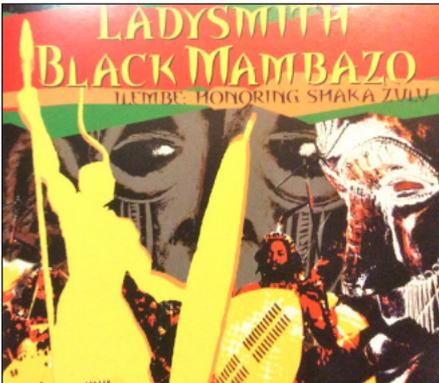
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



on 2 March 1918. It had been known as the University of the Cape of Good Hope since it was established in 1873. Today, Unisa is one of the mega universities of the world, with over 300 000 students in 130 countries. In 2000, the University merged with Technikon SA and also incorporated the distance education component of Vista University.

2 March 1987

Ladysmith Black Mambazo wins first Grammy



Ladysmith Black Mambazo, with founder and lead vocalist Joseph Tshabalala, became the first South African group to win a Grammy award. The group won the award for the best traditional folk album. The album '*Shaka Zulu*' was produced by music icon Paul Simon.

3 March 1919

Author Peter Abrahams born

South African writer and journalist, Peter Abrahams was born in Vrederdorp, Gauteng. He is best



known for his third novel *Mine Boy* (1946). He went into exile and worked as a journalist in London, where he met Nkruma and Kenyatta, fictionally combining them into the lead character of his novel *A Wreath of Udomo* (1956), forecasting the difficulties facing newly independent states. Abrahams in 1956 moved to settle in Jamaica, where he passed on at the age of 97. His memoir *The Coyaba Chronicles* was published in 2000

3 March 1968

King Kong composer Todd Matshikiza passed on



South African artist, composer and writer, Todd Tozama Matshikiza, died at the age of 47 in Lusaka, Zambia after a sudden illness. He composed the music and wrote some of the lyrics for the popular all-Black musical King Kong, portraying the life and death of heavyweight boxer Ezekiel Dlamini. He also wrote for Drum magazine.

3 March 1971

Beatles unbanned

The SABC lifted its ban on the Beatles music on this day.

3 March 2004

Caribbean countries boycott UN mission in Haiti

Angered by the manner in which Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to flee his country, the fifteen-nation Caribbean Community said it would not provide troops for the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Force in Haiti. Aristide was overthrown twice, first in a military coup in September, 1991, and finally in February, 2004. He claimed he was abducted at gunpoint by United States Marines. After two-and-a-half-months' exile in Jamaica, he was offered amnesty in South Africa.

3 March 2014

Lupita Nyong'o wins Oscar

Kenyan Lupita Nyong'o wins an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in the 2013 movie, *12 Years a Slave*.

4 March 1890

Architect Gerard Moerdijk born

Gerard Leendert Pieter Moerdijk, of Dutch descent, was born in the Waterberg district, Transvaal (now Limpopo Province). He was one of the first Afrikaans architects and pioneered new designs for churches, adapting them to South African requirements and using local materials. He designed approximately ninety churches, numerous houses, halls and public buildings, and the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 March 1901

Poet Jean-Joseph Rabearivolo born

Malagasy poet, widely regarded as Africa's first modern poet and Madagascar's greatest figure was born in Antananarivo. As a poor child, he taught himself to read and write, driven by a passion for literature. He committed suicide at the age of 36, and at Independence of Madagascar in 1960, he was declared National Poet.

4 March 1932

Miriam Makeba born

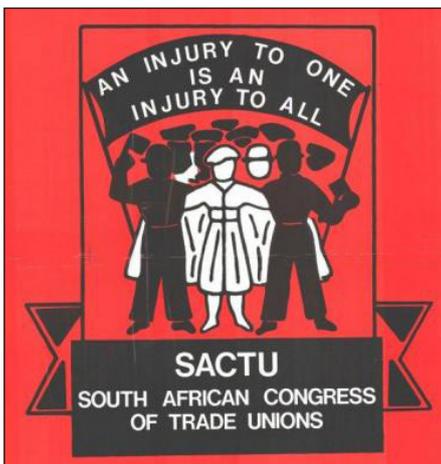


Miriam Zenzile Makeba, world famous singer, actress and campaigner against apartheid was born in Prospect near Johannesburg.

5 March 1955

Birth of SACTU

The South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) was



formed at an inaugural congress held in Johannesburg on 4 and 5 March 1955. It became the leading non-racial trade union co-ordinating body, and ally of the African National Congress (ANC)-led Congress Alliance. It recognized the link between political and economic struggles, organising against racist and exploitative labour practices and the first national living wage campaign in 1957. SACTU also organised night schools and factory cells for workers. When the banning of organisations of 1960 happened after Sharpsville, its activities went into decline, with many of its leaders forced into exile or victims of bannings and imprisonment. SACTU reorganised in exile, mobilizing support against apartheid amongst working class and trade union organisations and giving support to the emerging trade union organisation inside the country, to the process of trade union unity which eventually led to the formation of COSATU in 1985.

5 March 1943

Artist Mmakgabo Sebidi is born



South African artist Mmakgabo Helen Sebidi was born in Marapyane (Skilpadfontein) in the Hammanskraal area. She developed a life-long love for the designs of traditional arts and craft. As a young girl she accompanied her grandmother who was a tradi-

tional wall and floor painter. She studied with John Mohl while also studying and teaching pottery and clay sculpture at the Katlehong Art Centre in Germiston and in Alexandra. She sold many of her paintings at the art fair, Artists under the Sun, in Joubert Park. Sebidi was a figurative painter working in oils until she began to experiment with abstraction and collage. She described this change in her work: *"First I kept on drawing figures in the studio, feet, hands, portraits; and I kept all this rubbish from the whole year piling up on the carpet. At the end of the year I said to myself, 'I want to see if I can grow these up'. I took myself away from other people – I said 'Now break all this in pieces and see what comes out.'* In 1985 she took up a teaching position at the Katlehong Art Centre near Germiston. Between 1986 and 1988 she worked for the Johannesburg Art Foundation while teaching at the Alexandra Art Centre. She also participated in numerous art projects with community organisations such as the Funda Art Centre, and the Thupelo Art Workshop. In 1998 she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to travel to the USA and exhibited her work at the Worldwide Economic Contemporary Artists Funds exhibition. Helen Sebidi, as she is known professionally, has become a recognized artist in South Africa and internationally. Her work is exhibited regularly in major galleries across the country and abroad and her work routinely included in standard reference books on South African art.

5 March 1975

WHO publishes indictment of Apartheid

The system of Apartheid was not only detrimental to the cultural, economic and emotional wellbeing of those on whom it was imposed ,

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

but also on the physical wellbeing of those who bore the brunt of it. This was shown by a study done by the World Health Organization in 1975. The report published on the 5th of March 1975 showed that Apartheid as a system through impoverishing its subjects exposed many to physical ailments and deficiencies that could be avoided at minimal cost. This degradation was so extreme that there was a marked difference between the life expectancy of White South Africans and Black South Africans. Further, the infant mortality rate of Black South Africans outstripped the mortality rate of White South Africans. This was one of the many contradictions of the Apartheid system that eventually led to its fall.

5 March 1997

Munitoria building burns down

The Munitoria building, a municipal building in Pretoria burned down in 1997. The fire spread though the building very quickly and was already out of control by the time fire fighters arrived. It took four days and 252 fire fighters to put out the fire completely and was the biggest fire the country had ever seen at the time. In the end, nothing could be salvaged, with damage estimated at R 353, 4 million and thousands of public records destroyed. The building was 44 years old, non-compliant with the South African national building regulations, SANS 10400 and a known fire hazard. There were no casualties as the fire started after hours. The building was demolished in 2013.

5 March 2020

First SA COVID case

On Thursday March 5, 2020, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases confirmed that

a suspected case of COVID-19 has tested positive. The patient was a 38-year-old male who travelled to Italy with his wife, along with a group of other ten persons.

6 March 1957

Ghana gains independence



On 6 March 1957, the Gold Coast (now known as Ghana) gained independence from Britain. Ghana became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and was led to independence by Kwame Nkrumah who transformed the country into a republic. The country was the first to gain independence from European colonialism. Before it was colonised, Ghana was made up of a number of independent kingdoms, including Gonja and Dahomey in the north, Ashanti in the interior, and the Fanti states along the coast. The flag of the newly independent state was designed by Theodosia Salome Okoh. The red signified those who had died for independence, the gold is the mineral wealth with the green representing the rich grasslands of the area. The black star is the symbol of the people and of African emancipation.

6 March 1979

Bethal Trial Resumes

The trial of 18 Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) members, which began in December 1977 and had

already taken over 100 court sessions, resumed in Bethal (also known as State v Mothopeng and 17 others). The defendants faced charges under the Terrorism Act, and a number of alternative counts under other legislation. Zephaniah Mothopeng, who was also an internal leadership member of the banned PAC, was accused number one. They were convicted and jailed for their alleged role in fermenting revolution and for being behind the Soweto uprising. During the course of the Bethal trial, four of those awaiting prosecution died in police custody. They were Naboath Ntshuntsha, Samuel Malinga, Aaron Khoza and Sipho Bonaventura Malaza. Vusumzi Johnson Nyathi, another trialist, miraculously survived after he was thrown out of the window during an interrogation session. Nyathi, who suffered spinal injuries, was later charged and found guilty of trying to escape from custody. He later sued the Minister of Police without success.

6 March 2006

Tsotsi wins Oscar

On 6 March 2006, the South African film *Tsotsi*, starring young actors Presley Chweneyagae and Terry Pheto and directed by Gavin Woods, received the Oscar for the best International Film at

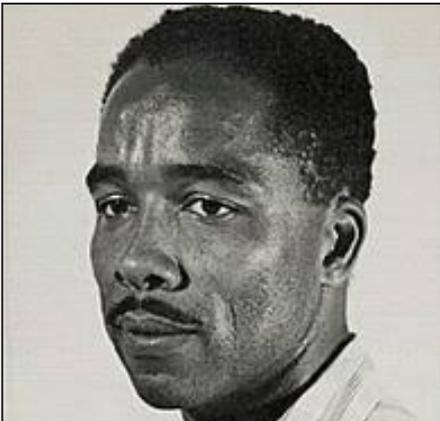


THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

the 77th Academy Awards in Hollywood. Set in Soweto the movie *Tsotsi* traces six days in the life of a ruthless young gang leader who ends up caring for a baby accidentally kidnapped during a car-jacking. *Tsotsi* was the third African film to win an Oscar in this category, the other being *Z* (Algeria, 1969) and *Black and White in Colour* (Cote d'Ivoire, 1976).

7 March 1909

Author Godfrey Mzamane born



South African writer Godfrey Mzamane is born in Fobane in the Mt. Fletcher district, near Matatiele in the Transkei, known for his 1959 novel written in isiXhosa, *Izinto Zodidi (Things of Value)*. In the late 1940s he served as secretary of the Cape African National Congress and was a member of the ANC national executive committee at the time of the Programme of Action. He passed away on 1 January 1977.

7 March 1921

Todd Matshikiza born in Queenstown

South African artist, composer and writer, Todd Tozama Matshikiza was born to a musical family in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape on 7 March 1921. He obtained music and teaching diplomas and took up a teaching post in Alice.



In 1947, Matshikiza moved to Johannesburg where he established a music school, the Todd Matshikiza School of Music. He was also one of the first black journalists to work for Drum Magazine. Matshikiza wrote the music for the musical *King Kong*, which became a huge success both locally and abroad. In 1960, he and his family left South Africa and relocated to London. After a few years of performing in night clubs and freelancing for a few London Publications, Matshikiza moved to Zambia. He took up a post as a newscaster and producer for the Zambian Broadcasting Cooperation. Matshikiza missed South Africa and was pained by the fact that he was banned in his own country. He died on 3 March 1968, at the age of 47 in Lusaka, Zambia after a sudden illness and was survived by his wife and two children.

7 March 1967

Author Michael Daniel Ambatchew born

One of Ethiopia's most prolific children's book writers, was born in Moscow. He published his first poem at the age of 10, his first book was *Animal Tales of Sidima* (1997), and he was named one of the best African children's writers by the Pan African Writer's Association, with his books published in Ethiopia, USA, South

Africa and now Ghana. He is a founding member of the "*Writers of Ethiopian Children*", and has produced eight bilingual anthologies with the group.

7 March 1982

Frontline states meet to oppose Apartheid regime

Six Front Line States meet in Maputo and decide to coordinate further their military and economic policies to counter South Africa's economic and military aggression.

7 March 1994

Bophuthatswana (Bop) erupts

The Bantustan created under apartheid erupts, after its Bantustan leader, Lucas Mangope crushed widespread labour and popular unrest, after he announced that Bop will boycott the pending non-racial elections. The Bop military joined the revolt, especially after right-wing Afrikaner militias, including the AWB, stepped forward to protect the Mangope government.

7 March 2007

M-Pesa launched

M-Pesa is launched in Kenya by Safaricom as a mobile money platform, allowing money transfers and payments using a phone app, including for those without bank accounts. M-Pesa has grown to serve more than 51 million customers and 465,000 businesses. The service is provided by 600,000 agents across Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Ghana and Egypt. M-Pesa processes more than 61 million transactions a day, making it Africa's largest fintech provider, and it has attracted 42,000 external developers to create additional services for the platform.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

1 – 7 March 2025

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

1 March

African School-feeding Day



The African Union has declared **1 March** as **African School-feeding Day**, to advocate for members states to extend school feeding programmes as critical to educational and health outcomes of African children, their families and communities. According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), *“school feeding is one of the most extensive social safety nets in the world, and in 2020 one in every two schoolchildren, or 388 million children, receive school meals every day in at least 161 countries from all income levels.”*

1 March

World Zero Discrimination Day

Discrimination comes in all shapes and sizes, and the day is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of celebrating difference and diversity, and for laws, leadership and institutions to be proactive to combat discrimination. It was first introduced by UNAIDS to raise awareness on the need not to discriminate and stigmatise people living with AIDS, but targets broader discrimination, calling on people to *“make some noise around zero discrimination, to speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams.”*

3 March

Wangari Maathai Day for Africa Environment and World Wildlife Day

Wangari Maathai, a biological scientist with a doctorate in veterinary anatomy, was the founder of the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya, encouraging communities to reverse environmental degradation by planting millions of indigenous trees and advocating and working throughout her life for the protection of the environment and communities. She became the first African woman to win a Nobel Prize for her work. The African Union recognised her contribution, when it named Africa Environment Day after her. The day is also globally celebrated

3 March 2025

Africa Environment & Wangari Maathai Day

“I am working to make sure we don't only protect the environment, we also improve governance.”

Professor Wangari Maathai

Environmentalist & 1st African Woman to receive Nobel Peace Prize



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

as World Wildlife Day, because on 3 March 1973 the UN members signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

3 March

World Hearing Day

The day raises awareness of hearing loss and ear diseases. Key message by the WHO on this day are that good hearing and communication are important at all stages of life and that hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be avoided through preventative actions such as: protection against loud sounds; good ear care practices and immunization.

4 March

World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

UNESCO proclaimed 4 March as World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development, to raise awareness of the role of engineering in modern life. Engineering is defined as *“the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, machines, and structures.”* The day is also used to promote awareness of engineering as a career, and the importance of young people, especially girls and women, studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

4 March

International Day of Mathematics

Greater global awareness of mathematical sciences are vital to addressing challenges in areas such as artificial intelligence, climate change, energy and sustainable development, and to improving the quality of life in both the developed and the developing worlds. In many countries, 14 March (3/14) is already celebrated as Pi Day because π , one of the world's most widely-known mathematical constants can be rounded to 3.14.

4 March

World Obesity Day

World Obesity Day was established in 2015 as an annual campaign with the goal of stimulating and supporting practical actions that will help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight and reverse the global obesity crisis. “Half of all adults in South

Africa are overweight (23%) or obese (27%). And the World Obesity Federation anticipates an additional 10% increase (37%) in obesity among adults by 2030. Overweight and obesity hugely increase the risk of non-communicable diseases.”

5 March

International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness

Since the founding of the United Nations, multilateral disarmament and arms limitation have been central to the Organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security. Weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be of primary concern, owing to their destructive power and the threat that they pose to humanity. The excessive accumulation in conventional weapons and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons jeopardize international peace and security and sustainable development, while the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is seriously endangering civilians. New and emerging weapon technologies, such as autonomous weapons, have also received attention in recent years. The International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts.

