



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

11-17 April 2025

Conversations with the
President



A BUDGET FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

LAST week, Parliament adopted the 2025 Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals as tabled in the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance.

The 2025 Budget is directed at growing the economy and supporting the livelihoods of our people.

It is a critical instrument to drive development, eradicate poverty and narrow inequality. At a time of constrained economic growth and narrow fiscal space, the budget must direct sufficient resources to activities that encourage inclusive growth and lay the groundwork for sustained economic recovery.

It reflects the strategic priorities

of the Government of National Unity: inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living and building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

The Budget advances Government's commitment to uplift the material conditions of South Africans.

Once our debt repayments have been taken out, 61% of spending over the next three years has been allocated to the social wage. This includes the provision of free primary healthcare, basic and tertiary education and housing. Over the past 24 years we have implemented an indigent policy under which free water, electricity and sanitation services are provided to qualifying

households.

Social grants, like the child care, old age and disability grants, are another tool for alleviating poverty. This year, the value of these grants will increase at above inflation. The Social Relief of Distress grant, which has played an important role in poverty alleviation, will also be extended for another year.

As part of improving access to healthcare, there will be a higher allocation of funding to clinics and community health centres.

We are investing in the recruitment and retention of health personnel, particularly doctors and nurses, and to employ newly qualified doctors after their community service ends.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



The Budget allocates substantial funds to other frontline services such as teachers, police, emergency personnel and the Border Management Authority.

Improving educational outcomes is key to community upliftment, development and producing the skills needed by our economy. Budgetary allocations have been made to support teacher training, for expanded mother-tongue bilingual education and for early reading programmes. This year sees a substantial investment in early childhood development, reflecting our commitment to establishing a solid foundation for the development of every child.

Additional funds have been allocated to public employment programmes, which play an important role in providing work opportunities at a time when economic growth is constrained.

To encourage entrepreneurship, funds have been made available to support small businesses. Adjustments are being made to the Employee Tax Incentive to further incentivise businesses to hire more young people.

South Africa's expenditure on the social wage can only be sus-

tained if there are higher levels of economic growth. The Budget allocates considerable resources to encourage infrastructure development, which drives growth and job creation.

Taken together, up to R1 trillion will be spent on infrastructure over the medium term. This includes the allocation in this Budget of an additional R62 billion over the next three years for road maintenance, electricity transmission lines, water and sanitation projects, school infrastructure and to support the ongoing recovery of our rail networks.

Support is also provided to other growth-enhancing measures

in the medium term, including incentive programmes in automotive, business process outsourcing, special economic zones, electric vehicle production, clothing and textiles and other sectors.

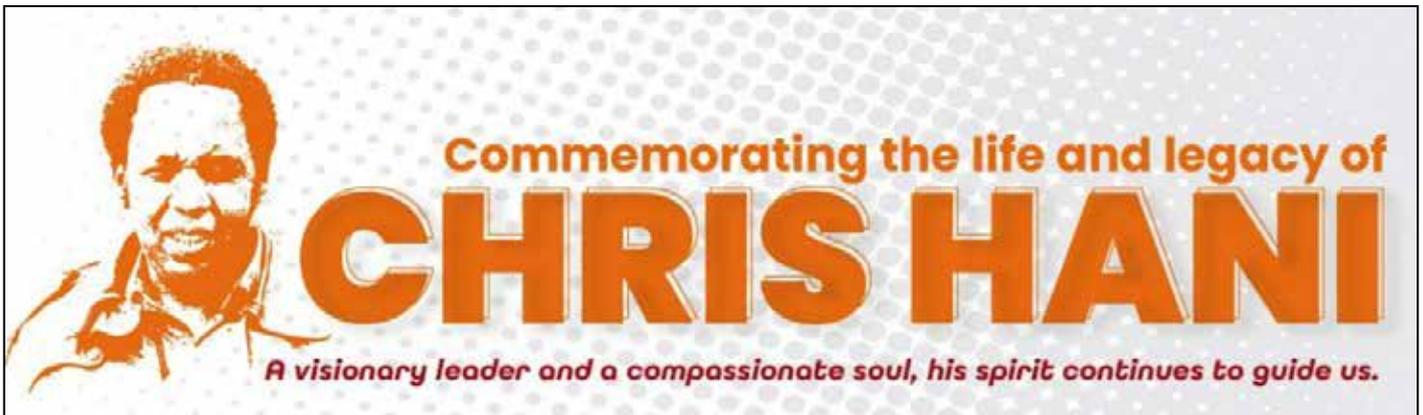
The 2025 Budget makes adjustments to allocations to municipalities to enable them to address their infrastructure needs, improve service delivery and improve their revenue collection systems.

In a challenging economic environment – both locally and globally – this year's Budget supports measures to drive growth and relieve the effects of poverty. At the same time, it aims to stabilise public finances and continue to reduce our national debt.

The Budget reflects the priorities of Government's Medium Term Development Plan, a five-year programme of action that prioritises rapid, inclusive growth, creating a more just society and building state capacity.

At a time when our singular focus must be the South African people, we need to use the limited resources we have to work together for the common good.

In a challenging economic environment - both locally and globally - this year's Budget supports measures to drive growth and relieve the effects of poverty.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY **DEPUTY PRESIDENT SHIPOKOSA PAULUS MASHATILE**
ON THE OCCASION OF THE **32ND COMMEMORATION OF CHRIS HANI'S ASSASSINATION**,
SABALELE VILLAGE, COFIMVABA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

TODAY, we stand at the foot of history as we mark the 32nd anniversary of the assassination of a distinguished freedom fighter and revolutionary, Thembisile Chris Hani.

What makes this commemoration more unique is that we stand on the sacred ground of Sabalele Village, the birthplace of Martin Thembisile Hani, who at his young age walked barefoot with dreams that dared to defy the cruelty of apartheid.

Today, the world has come to know Martin Thembisile as Chris Hani, a revolutionary, a commissar, a leader, a parent, a husband, and a martyr, whose blood and sacrifices cleared the way to the 1994 historic political breakthrough.

Chris Hani's assassination in April 1993 marked a pivotal moment in the transition to democracy, as the killers aimed to plunge the country into a civil war.

However, despite the pain and anger in our people, his untimely



death united the majority of people in their pursuit of democracy.

Remarkably, on 27 April 1994, South Africa held its first non-racial election, marking the end of apartheid. The ANC seized the moment from reluctant apartheid government leaders who were resisting change and inflicting violence on innocent people in trains, workplaces, and communities.

Today, we can enjoy the fruits of hard-earned freedom, thanks to his contributions as the last sac-

rificed mortal among many selfless martyrs such as Solomon Mahlangu, who was hanged by the apartheid regime on April 6, 1979, for no crime other than his love for his people.

On the 24th of April 1993, 14 days after the assassination of Chris Hani, a few days after his funeral, we lost another giant of our struggle, Cde Oliver Tambo, who led and commanded the army both Chris Hani and Solomon Mahlangu belonged to, Umkhonto weSizwe.

Chris was a comrade whom OR Tambo revered and respected. He had saved him from the wrath of a military tribunal by doing the unthinkable: he chose to speak for the timid and voiceless in the MK ranks, risking his life to save the Movement, even if it meant sacrificing his own life in the process.

Comrade Chris was renowned for his bravery and willingness to undertake the most challenging tasks. So this too was of no surprise, because he joined and led the march of disgruntled soldiers after returning from another difficult mission, which got him arrested in Botswana, where he served a sentence.

Comrade Chris was second-in-command of the Luthuli Detachment. Alongside comrades like Lennox Lagu, Basil February, and many others, he crossed the crocodile-infested Zambezi River and struck fear into the heart of the apartheid army. He once wrote, *“The Luthuli Detachment never lost in battle.”*

As we commemorate the assassination of Comrade Chris Hani, we also honour Comrade Oliver Tambo, who led the ANC and the mass democratic movement until his death in 1993. Tambo’s death concluded Martin Luther’s prophecy that a promised land would be reached, regardless of the leaders who led the struggles. At all times, we must remember that our freedom was not free.

Indeed, on 27 April 1994, South Africa reached its promised land, but without notable figures like OR Tambo, Chris Hani, Solomon Mahlangu, and others.

We must never allow the rheto-



ric which suggests that democracy is the worst form of Government and that apartheid was better than a democratic state. Nor must we allow some of us as beneficiaries of this huge sacrifice of many fallen martyrs, like Chris Hani, to discredit democracy through shameful deeds like corruption, stealing from the state and the poor, killing for positions, and fighting to access positions for selfish interests.

Such deeds and postures undermine the sacrifices of those who were at the forefront of the armed struggle.

Chris Hani’s greatness did not end on the battlefield. It grew in negotiation halls, at political rallies, and in the homes of workers and students.

At CODESA, he stood not for positions, but for principles. He wore military fatigues not for personal glory but to remind us that the war for justice was not yet over.

The battles he conducted and the victories he achieved, in conjunction with his detachment, were not merely military triumphs. They exemplified the spirit of non-surrender and resilience that

we must always embody, asserting to the world that we were not silenced then, and we will not be silenced now. We will fight for justice and prosperity for humanity and lift up the voices of the voiceless and downtrodden, wherever they are – be it in Africa, Western Sahara, Palestine, or anywhere in the world.

Young people should learn from his character and love for knowledge, which he displayed right from an early age that led him to complete two classes in one year and graduate from Lovedale School in 1957.

Comrade Chris Hani became a member of the Unity Movement’s Society of Young Africa while still at school. At 15, he joined the ANC Youth League, defying fear and choosing the dangerous path of resistance, trained in the Soviet Union, and fought in Zimbabwe’s liberation – and yet always, he remained tethered to the South African struggle.

He believed that for our country to succeed, we need to stand in solidarity, sharing what we have with one another.

He believed that any system that society seeks to adopt to address

its challenges and bring about the changes necessary to create a new, better, and more prosperous society, including his belief in a “*socialist system*”, should not be about “*big concepts and heavy theory*”.

Rather, it should be about “*good shelter for those who are homeless, about water for those who have no safe drinking water.*” The focus should be on accessible and equitable healthcare, a life of dignity for the elderly, overcoming the significant disparity between urban and rural areas, and providing a quality education for all of our citizens.

We have indeed attained political justice, and we must never be deterred from our journey of attaining social and economic justice. As a nation, we must work together to establish equal economic possibilities and make sure that resources and opportunities are distributed fairly within society to advance a more just and equitable economic system.

Our reality is that we are not exactly where Chris Hani would have liked us to be as a nation. This district where we are gathered today has former homeland areas where little or no development has taken place over several years.

This lack of investment has translated into high levels of poverty across the district.

We cannot sit in our offices while people are challenged with a higher demand for basic services, as well as housing and infrastructure development, crime, sporadic water interruptions, and sewer spillages.

At this point in history in particular, we must question ourselves how Chris Hani would have tackled the issues of the SA-USA trading relationship.

Moreover, how would he have responded to the prevailing pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide? Would he have folded his hands in the face of high unemployment and stagnant economic growth, impacting the most vulnerable and destitute among us? Was he going to keep silent while corruption undermines democratic institutions?

We all have the answers to these questions. As far as I am concerned, Chris Hani would have never remained silent on these issues.

Many people still live in poverty and lack access to land, with many lacking the tools and implements to till the land and participate in the economy.

Chris Hani fought for a society where no one should be oppressed, and the Freedom Charter aims to ensure that land is shared among those who work it.

Government is committed to accelerating programmes of land reform by all lawful means, including evoking expropriation without compensation, where it is necessary. We are intensifying rural development strategies, as per the National Development Plan, to create sustainable, equitable, and vibrant communities through land reform, infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation, focusing on agriculture and related industries.

This equally extends to the development of our district and local municipalities in terms of their respective integrated development plans, in line with our District Development Model.

The best honour we can do today is to ensure safety for all people, regardless of race, gender, and creed, and a society free from crime and gender-based violence, as well as protection for women from criminals and murderous activities. Let us root out those who engage in extortion activities and not protect those who exploit our society.



CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT



SA-USA Relations

Regarding the recent hike of tariff increases by the US Government, I must confess that if we do not respond quickly, it will have a negative impact on our country and the developing world. If we do not respond to it quickly, the Auto industry will be highly affected and will undermine the government and South Africa's effort to grow the economy and create jobs.

Therefore, the new U.S. tariffs underscore the need to negotiate a new bilateral trade deal with Washington to ensure long-term trade certainty.

South Africa remains committed to a mutually beneficial trade relationship with the United States. However, imposing tariffs without mutual agreement raises significant concerns, which act as obstacles to trade and the collective well-being of all involved.

The reality is that trade and tariff wars have no winners.

Protectionism leads nowhere.

We therefore urge the U.S. to continue engaging with its main trading partners, including South

Africa, and to resolve its trade differences with China and other countries through consultation in a mutually beneficial and progressive manner.

The important lesson we must take from SA-USA relations is that South Africa needs to diversify its trading partners to reduce dependence on specific markets. We need to create and strengthen our trade balance with emerging markets, including other African nations. This will make our economy more resilient to global economic instabilities, now and into the future.

Gender-Based Violence

In the spirit of Chris Hani, we also need to find a solution to the persistent gender-based violence that is tearing away the fabric of our society. We urgently need a solution to protect our children and women, who suffer disproportionately from gender-based violence, as it is a non-healing wound.

To eradicate gender-based violence and help survivors, South Africa is aggressively tackling the issue through various strategies, including specialised police

desks, legislative frameworks, awareness campaigns, and community initiatives.

We must, however, take more action to fortify existing measures. We also need to address the root cause often linked to societal norms, inequality, and poverty. We urge the leaders of our society to educate and engage communities by raising awareness about gender-based violence, its impact, and how to prevent it.

Furthermore, we must strengthen our criminal justice system to ensure prompt and fair prosecutions of those who perpetrate such horrible crimes.

Collaboration to Fight Unemployment

We also need to work together to combat unemployment in our nation. If we can get more people into jobs, we will have contributed significantly to improving the conditions and livelihoods of people, their families, and the country at large.

The creation of jobs is a complex issue involving both the private sector and the government, with the private sector being the primary source and the government

creating an enabling environment.

As Chris Hani has guided us, we need to work together. We must consistently strive to unite people, identify shared interests, and create opportunities for all.

Future of Government of National Unity

Before I take my seat, please allow me to briefly discuss the issue of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in our country. I must say that the GNU has its set of challenges, but these do not imply that the GNU will collapse. One of the reasons why this GNU will continue is that it is not an agreement between merely two parties, as is the case in many other countries, but rather an agreement among ten political parties working towards the same objectives and priorities.

What we need to understand about GNU is that we may have different views on issues, but once an agreement has been reached, we must all speak with one voice. This was also the case with Chris Hani; he had a strong view about the armed struggle, and when the ANC was prepared to engage in negotiations, the leadership decided to drop it, which he opposed.

However, when a majority decision was reached, he was the one who returned with the same zeal, encouraging people to lay down their arms. He understood that you cannot present your viewpoint to a majority of people who hold opposing views. When one viewpoint is not supported, we must support the majority to provide a sense of direction for our country, because we cannot develop a country in a fractured manner.



Let me conclude by asserting without hesitation that Chris Hani did not die in vain.

The legacy of Chris Hani will not be reduced to speeches or wreaths.

Together with Minister McKenzie, the Chris Hani Foundation, and the Hani family, we have formed a historic partnership. The annual commemoration of Chris Hani will now be elevated to a national event, rooted not only in memory but in development, heritage, and the values for which he lived and died.

This year, we begin by building a sports facility at a local school in Sabalele. This is not a handout. It is an investment in the youth – those who will walk in the footsteps of Chris Hani, who must be given the tools to dream, to grow, and to lead.

We also pledge to repatriate and rebury the remains of liberation combatants. Last year, 42 liberation fighters returned home. This is the work of healing.

Let this moment remind us that the struggle is not over.

We must fight corruption and underdevelopment with the same fire with which Chris Hani fought apartheid.

We must build an economy that serves the people – not one that excludes them.

We must honour his name not only with words but with work. With compassion. With bold, urgent action.

We need to construct a nation that many heroes of the struggle have envisioned.

ANC NWC STATEMENT ON DEFENDING OUR FREEDOM AND SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

■ By **ANC SECRETARY GENERAL FIKILE MBALULA**

AS our nation commemorates Freedom Month, marking thirty-one years since the dawn of democracy, the African National Congress (ANC) calls on all patriotic and freedom-loving South Africans to take to heart the critical tasks before us, to defend the hard-won gains of our freedom, to deepen our democracy, and to unite in the face of adversity.

It was in this spirit of vigilance and renewal that the National Working Committee (NWC) of the African National Congress convened at Chief Albert Luthuli House on Monday, 07 April 2025, to process pressing national developments, evolving geopolitical conditions, and the intensifying contradictions emerging within the Government of National Unity (GNU). The NWC's deliberations represent the ANC's collective reflection on the current state of governance, the recent budget impasse, and the complex global forces shaping our democratic transition.

Safeguarding the NDR in conditions of strategic setback

The NWC reaffirmed the NEC's characterisation of the 2024 elec-



toral outcomes as a strategic setback. While we acknowledge the decline in electoral support, the ANC remains the largest political force in the country. The moment demands principled clarity and tactical sensitivity to preserve access to state power, continue advancing the NDR, and rebuild trust with our people – especially the primary motive forces of our revolution.

The NWC considered four tactical options in the post-election context: (i) assuming opposition, (ii) entering a grand coalition, (iii) establishing a minority government with confidence-and-supply arrangements, or (iv) constructing a GNU. We excluded the op-

position benches as they would have compromised the transformation trajectory of the state. We instead opted for an inclusive GNU – a unity of opposites – designed to hold the centre, safeguard state power, and regain public confidence.

On the contradictions within the GNU

The GNU, by design, is complex. It requires high levels of political maturity and revolutionary discipline. We understood that it was never going to be an easy journey, considering it is made up of role-players diametrically opposed to us ideologically – but we

EDITORIAL

expect discipline despite all this. We are now deeply concerned by the conduct of the Democratic Alliance (DA), whose participation in the GNU has been marred by double-dealing, negotiating and acting in bad faith, and open disdain for transformation.

While the GNU Cabinet adopted three strategic priorities aligned with the ANC's Manifesto and endorsed the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), the DA has simultaneously acted as an opposition force – opposing the BELA Act, the NHI, and the Land Expropriation Amendment. It seeks to divide government, confuse the public, and claim credit without assuming responsibility. This dishonesty undermines the very essence of collective governance.

The NWC resolved that there is a need to continue to engage with all GNU partners and all political parties. We remain committed to the GNU as a tactical element, but its integrity cannot be compromised.

In light of current developments, the NWC resolved that we will reset a button to engage with all political parties in the GNU. Furthermore, the ANC will continue to drive consensus on key pillars of a developmental fiscal policy: equitable and redistributive tax policy, progressive management of debt and deficit levels, rationalisation of expenditure away from elite consumption toward social investment, and the institutional redesign necessary to realise a capable, ethical, and activist state.

We will engage with Allies, Business, and the Religious sector through the South African Council of Churches, to share and also listen to their opinion about the

issues we are confronting. We hope to reach consensus on the budget impasse within the period of 5 days after having engaged all stakeholders.

As the largest party in government, we want to thank all political parties that have worked with us to pass the Fiscal Framework, both within and outside GNU. We remain principled and loyal on the talks about talks that we had with them, the engagements and ventilated issues in those discussions. The negotiating team has been given a broad mandate, and they will report within two weeks to the national officials and the NEC. Our mission is clear: to build a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, united and prosperous South Africa. The struggle continues and the people's movement will not retreat.

The budget crisis was a test of leadership and character

The NWC acknowledged those political parties that rose above partisanship and placed national interest, social justice, and economic stability at the centre of the deliberations on the Fiscal Framework. Parties such as ActionSA demonstrated maturity and patriotism in supporting the Framework, on the basis that alternative revenue proposals will be sought, including the replacement of the proposed VAT increase within 30 days. This collaboration repositions Parliament as a site of negotiation, consensus-building, and progressive change.

Economic recovery: Yes to a Budget for growth and social equity

We reiterate that budgetary alternatives must prioritise the protec-

tion of the social wage, stimulate growth, and promote job creation. At the same time, we must manage public debt and build a capable developmental state. The ANC's Economic Transformation Committee, in close collaboration with the Chief Whip, will engage in the process of developing a revised revenue framework rooted in equity and developmental imperatives.

We are committed to ensuring that fiscal consolidation does not come at the expense of the poor. The revised budgetary stance remains pro-poor, pro-growth, and anchored in the goals of the NDR.

Key highlights of this progressive Fiscal Framework include:

- Over R50 billion allocated to fund approximately 1.3 million students from poor and working-class families to access higher education and training.
- Nearly R39 billion committed to the School Nutrition Programme, which feeds over 9 million learners daily in no-fee schools.
- More than R250 billion remains allocated to Social Security, supporting over 18 million South Africans through old-age pensions, disability grants, and child support grants.
- R33 billion is allocated to sustain the Social Relief of Distress Grant, providing monthly income support to over 8.5 million unemployed adults as part of a phased approach toward Basic Income Support.
- An additional R11.2 billion has been allocated to employ more doctors and nurses to strengthen frontline health services.
- The Department of Basic Education will recruit over

EDITORIAL

14,000 new teachers, particularly in under-resourced rural and township schools.

- The Department of Police has been allocated resources to recruit over 10,000 new police officers to strengthen community safety.

The NWC further resolved that we must protect and defend our institutions, and not leave them open to attack when they lawfully pursue their mandates.

The ANC will continue to defend the constitutional integrity and independence of our democratic institutions.

Global crises and the strategic posture of the state

The National Working Committee reflected deeply on the evolving global context and its implications for South Africa's sovereignty, economic resilience, and long-term strategic posture. The world is undergoing a profound transformation, marked by an erosion of the multilateral order and the intensification of great power rivalries. Bilateralism is increasingly supplanting collective global decision-making, and rising geo-economic tensions are producing a world fractured into competing spheres of influence.

This global terrain is not only volatile – it is marked by systemic instability: sluggish global growth, escalating climate shocks, intensified geopolitical conflict, and an unrelenting squeeze on developing economies. These pressures are being felt acutely in the Global South, particularly in countries like ours, where poverty, youth unemployment, and food insecurity remain structural burdens. At such a moment,

South Africa cannot afford elite disunity, factional opportunism, or governance paralysis. We require a cohesive domestic front, disciplined leadership, and revolutionary foresight to navigate these turbulent times.

The NWC cautioned that certain emerging global currents are inherently hostile to the aspirations of the Global South, and increasingly misaligned with South Africa's principled foreign policy. These developments threaten the founding values of multilateralism, peaceful conflict resolution, respect for national sovereignty, and the right of all nations to pursue development and self-determination.

The current international climate has ushered in unilateral actions – including punitive tariffs, exclusionary trade policies, and coercive diplomacy – that carry the potential to undermine South Africa's economic prospects and strategic autonomy. These actions, while not always stated explicitly, are clearly political in character and they have impacts on national currencies. They aim to protect entrenched economic privileges, weaponise economic levers, and delegitimise South Africa's stance on matters of global justice, including Palestine, climate equity, and the rights of emerging powers to shape global governance.

These actions also represent an attempt to isolate progressive states and discredit the ANC-led government by targeting its leadership, threatening exclusion from key global trade frameworks, and painting South Africa as misaligned with the so-called "rules-based" order.

We are under no illusion: this is

an ideological offensive against post-colonial sovereignty and developmental statehood.

The NWC therefore endorses and supports the coordinated approach between the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), aimed at defending our national interests while avoiding isolation. This includes:

- Accelerating negotiations to secure fair and just tariff arrangements;
- Diversifying trade partners and enhancing South-South cooperation;
- Deepening regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
- Prioritising value-added production and beneficiation to protect jobs;
- Supporting localisation to build resilient industrial capacity;
- And reinforcing solidarity among middle powers to resist unilateralism and economic coercion.

This period demands more than diplomatic caution – it demands ideological clarity. We must not only navigate these geopolitical storms, but use them to reconfigure our revolutionary posture in pursuit of a more just, equitable and peaceful global order.

Our foreign policy must remain anchored in the ideals of the Freedom Charter, the Bandung spirit, and the unity of the oppressed nations of the world.

We owe it to our people to defend their future on the global stage with strategic discipline and unwavering conviction.



■ By **PHUMZILE MGCINA**

THE ANC recently improve its online system and membership portal revolutionise the enterprise and business system and process of the ANC, with hope of improving our membership system and recruitment process. At the heart of improving our recruit system we aim to recruit and build cadres for the future of our ANC.

Cadre is an essential figure in the struggle of transforming the living conditions of our people. Not everyone called a cadre is a progressive and conscious in our movement. The conscious cadre is moulded and constructed by the consistent struggles in our movement.

A conscious cadre in the 21st Century is a person who understands and willing to defend the ANC against the reactionary social forces. At the same time, the cadre must be social agent of

change, the one who understand and be identified by their community.

Conscious cadre does not ascend from benevolent tree, but political education is central to cadre's development and understanding of social transformation.

Social transformation encompassed under radical economic transformation. This means that the conscious cadres deployed in the state, their critically role is to bend the state towards social transformation and enforce radical transformation of property relations.

A cadre of our ANC carries political programs wherever he speak or walk, the political programs which is the national democratic revolution, strategy and tactics and the freedom charter.

The Freedom Charter which is

our guiding political program asserts that the wealth must be distributed amongst the population and the share of land amongst the people. While the national democratic revolution asserts there is a need for radical social transformation within our society – this entails that our society must share the wealth and the land.

Our ANC at the 53rd National Congress in Mangaung resolved to develop a cadre as a basis of strengthening the ANC's ground for social transformation.

South Africa in the current circumstances is characterised as the colonial settler society in which people of South Africa experienced colonial and apartheid struggle until 1994, democratic breakthrough.

The colonial conquest in our country had two resulted into dual consequences, first brought

Two of the most exceptional cadres of our movement, Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela and Oliver Reginald Tambo



together diverse communities and at the other hand was used by the colonisers to attempt and prohibit the unity of these various communities into one nation.

Through developing a cadre, then the task of a conscious cadre is to contribute to building one united nation for social transformation under current circumstances.

South Africa needs cadres organised in the National Liberation Movement such as the ANC to change the living conditions, because the ANC continue to be true representation of the historical marginalised. The ANC has progressively transformed South Africa insofar as national oppression is concerned. However, there is a need for our ANC to radically transform our economic

relations to reflect South Africa's racial groupings and gender.

The ANC has taken the task of cadre developing a cadre. Started 2018, we have institutionalised political school through establishing the OR Tambo School of Leadership. The school was named after revolutionary cadre who carried the ANC machinery during difficult times, but managed to retain discipline until the end.

I witnessed OR Tambo's love for his people and the ANC, during his longest-serving years as the President of the ANC in exile and coming back to the country in 1980s. One of the significant feature we must learn from OR Tambo as a cadre of the movement moulded by culmination of

our struggle is that he was progressive internationalist in nature who built ANC's international relations.

Moreover, the cadre must be progressive internationalist in nature like OR Tambo, who understood the world balance of forces. In this regard, currently the right-wing is taking over the global politics, for instance, the arrest of former President Luiz Inácio Lula who was recently released because right-wing orchestrated the corruption charges against him.

The ongoing attempt of coups in Bolivian revolution which started in Venezuela, to oust Nicolás Maduro and create parallel government. Now is Mexican President Evo Morales is being forced to resign.

“Be true to the Party and loyal to the people, fulfil any tasks, overcome any difficulty and defeat an enemy.”

Vietnamese leader,
Ho Chi Minh

Hence this month the president of the ANC Youth League Thlolongo Malatji had an engagement with the President of Zimbabwean on the cooperation in nurturing support against the counter-revolutionary forces. It was my duty as a cadre to agitate comrades to understand that our political program must be reflective of international countries and that the struggle is the same to fight for our people to have better life.

In this case, looking at the international balance of forces the progressive cadres are under attack by Western and European dominant countries. The motive behind the attacks is to strengthen the neo-liberalism with its basis of privatisation of the state entities and extraction of our environment.

This is not immune to South Africa, as the ANC's relationship with the capital is based on the corporation and contestation. In essence, the contestation of the capital by the ANC and people of South Africa is through the ANC making demands for economic transformation and concessions. While the ANC's corporation with capital is through subsidising their businesses in an attempt to

create employment.

The cadre must be able to understand the world overview and take progressive position support all the regimes which are threatening nature of law, the state sovereignty.

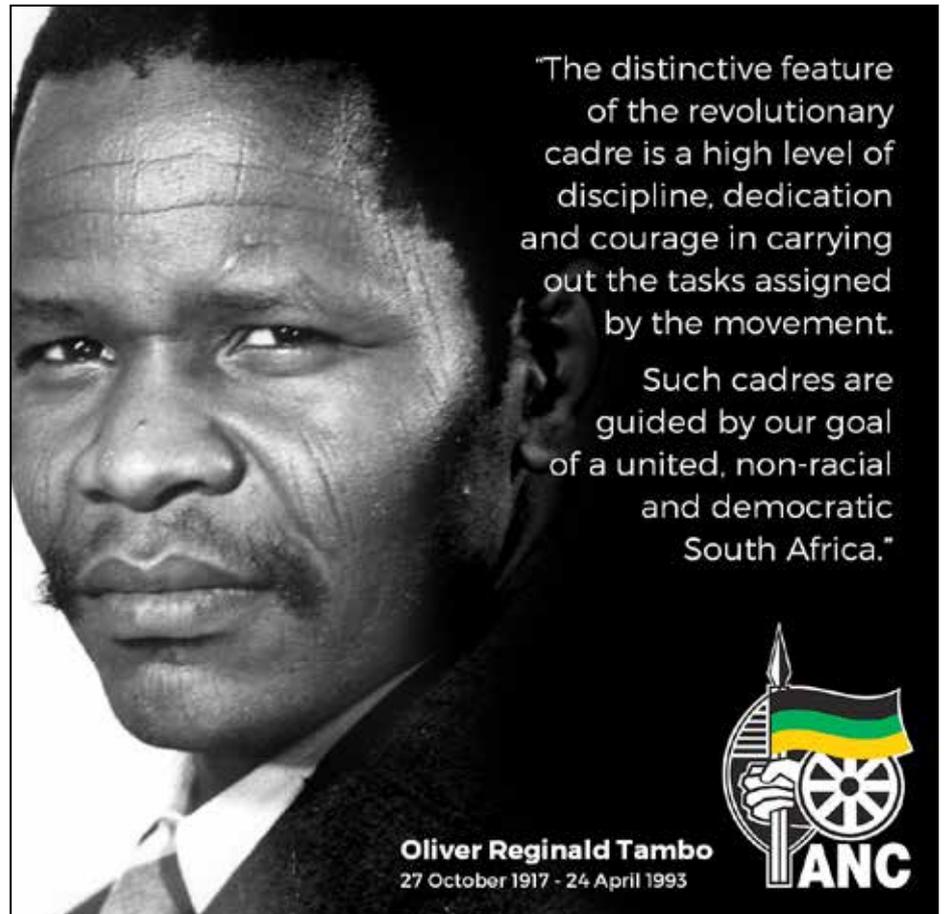
Cadre development is essential for the organisation to continue sustaining its existence. As the cadre always functions within the barometers of our organisation to be able to defeat the enemy. As the former Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh contends, *“be true to the Party and loyal to the people, fulfil any tasks, overcome any difficulty and defeat an enemy.”*

The enemy our movement continue to be those who saturated the economy with monopolistic and oligarchic control of our economy.

The cadre must not only use theory to understand people's circumstances but must be in the ground with people to understand their daily living condition. A cadre must agitate for political consciousness. Conscious cadre must be able to identify falsehood of our media and comprehend that the truth in the revolution is generated in the ground with the masses.

The ANC continues to be committed to building and developing the cadres and agitating the consciousness in our society. This is fundamental for collective action and political mobilisation for our organisation to continue serving people of South Africa.

Phumzile Mgcina is ANCYL Deputy President and Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources.



“The distinctive feature of the revolutionary cadre is a high level of discipline, dedication and courage in carrying out the tasks assigned by the movement.

Such cadres are guided by our goal of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.”

Oliver Reginald Tambo
27 October 1917 - 24 April 1993



Renewal gains momentum with Foundation Course roll out

■ By **PHAKAMILE XIMIYA**

IN the ANC's 113th statement on January 8th, President Cde Cyril Ramaphosa unequivocally declared the renewal of the ANC as number one on its priority list for 2025.

This statement affirmed that the renewal programme that had changed gear and taken on urgency, gathering speed for at least four months by the time of the President's public announcement. It has entered its seventh month, in April, moving at a purposeful momentum.

The implementation of the renewal programme was launched on September 1, 2024, at a virtual session involving cadres identified from across the country.

It was organised by the ANC Veterans' League Sub-Committee on Renewal, led by ANC veteran Comrade Wally Serote, and the Political Training Unit of the ANC, led by ANC NEC member Comrade David Makura.

The Veterans' League has laid down the five pillars of the Renewal Programme, which will help the ANC get back on track to its transformation path and win back the people's trust. It stressed the importance of implementing the five pillars from the most basic level, the ANC branch, which is the organisation's power base.



President Cyril Ramaphosa launching the ANC's Foundation Course

These pillars are:

- Compulsory political programme for all members;
- A new approach to recruitment of new members through an induction programme;
- Rethink the role and structure of the ANC branch and help it reconnect with the people;
- Place ethics and integrity at the centre of the ANC's organisational work and governance work to reclaim moral authority; and
- Re-assert and demonstrate its unwavering commitment to the principles of equality, unity, non-racialism, non-sexism, and democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The compulsory political programme's basis is the Founda-

tion Course, which is to be attended by all ANC members as an induction programme for new members and a refresher course for all other ANC members.

The Foundation Course provides a background on the ANC, how it came about, and its agenda. It also aims to revive the ANC culture of political education – an almost forgotten culture through which ANC principles and values are imbibed. This ensures a common understanding of the organisation's line of march.

The modules of the Foundation Course are:

- The history of South Africa and the ANC;
- The vision and values of the ANC;

- South Africa and the world we live in;
- Constitution, Bill of Rights and governance; and
- The work of the ANC branch and an ANC member.

Last October, the Foundation Course was presented in a virtual hybrid session for the first time. The participants included the ANC President, NEC members, the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Provinces, and the ANC leagues' leadership. After this session, the organisation's top leadership gave a nod to this Foundation Course programme.

A two-day national physical workshop was organised on November 17 and 18, 2025, at Birchwood Hotel in the Gauteng Province, once again involving cadres who had been identified to become political instructors.

In closing the two-day event, the Secretary General, Comrade Fikile Mbalula, instructed the attendees to go back to their Provinces and reach out to all the branches reviving the culture of **"Each one Teach one"**.



In January this year, the office of the Secretary-General issued guidelines on implementing the Renewal Programme. The guidelines called on all members to ensure they attended the Foundation Course, adding that failure to attend would have consequences.

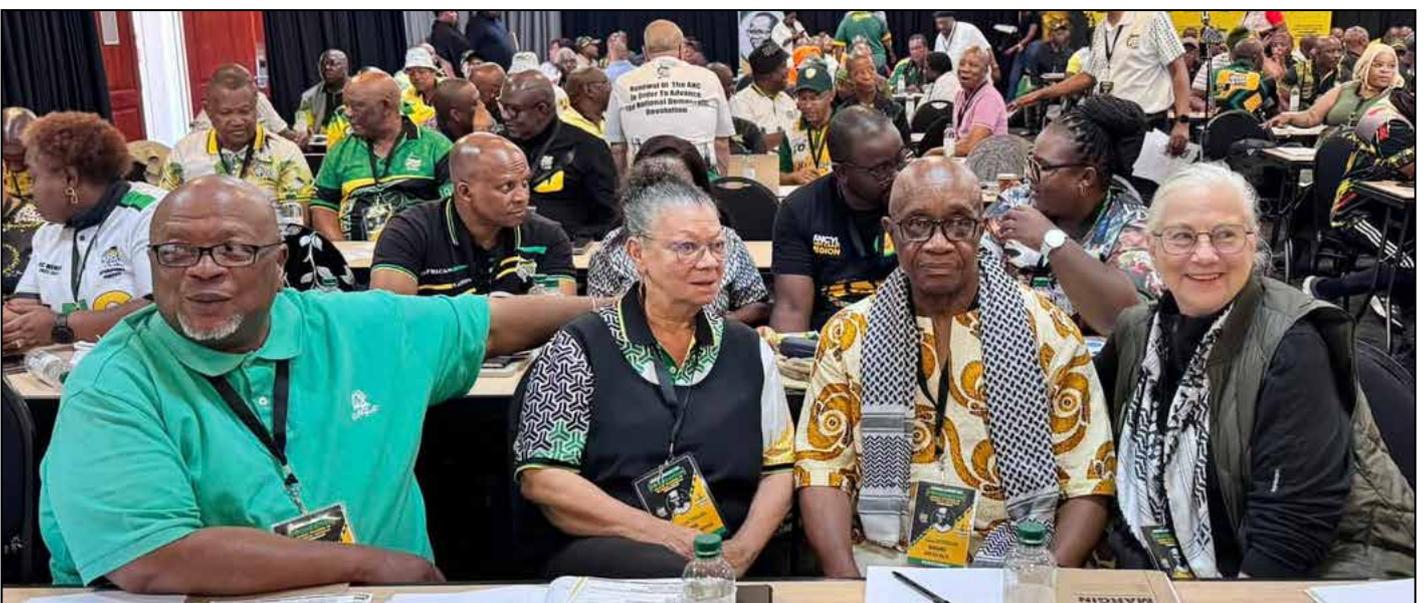
No member will be allowed to attend or be a delegate to an ANC Conference without having attended the Foundation Course, and no member will be elected to an ANC official position without going through the Foundation Course.

To buttress this point, a letter

was issued on March 19, 2025, instructing that no branch should be allowed to run a BBGM, an ANC Branch Conference, where branch leaders get elected, without first getting its members to complete the Foundation Course.

The President and Secretary General of the ANC are in tandem, pulling in one direction, pushing the organisation's renewal programme forward with focus and urgency. Let us make it happen.

Phakamile Ximiya is ANC Veterans League Provincial Secretary in the Eastern Cape.



Leaders of the ANC Veterans League in attendance at the launch of the ANC Foundation Course



When Silence Becomes Violence: The Omotoso Acquittal and The Urgent Call for Accountability against GBVF from Traditional and Other Community Leaders

■ By **PRECIOUS BANDA**

SINCE the acquittal of Timothy Omotoso and his co-accused on charges of rape, sexual assault and human trafficking, we have been reflecting on the judgement and I am still haunted by the video that was taken right there in court by one of the witnesses and victims of the erstwhile Pastor. “Appeal the judgement, Appeal” started buzzing in my mind as I watched the verdict being delivered.

The young women who testified did so with extraordinary courage. In telling their stories, they challenged not only a man, but an entire system built to protect him and others like him. And yet, they were met with hostility, relentless cross-examination, and institutional coldness.

It is a painful irony that survivors often face more scrutiny than those they accuse.

In this Omotoso case, the violence did not end with the abuse, it continued and was legitimised in court. Legal processes and technicalities that humiliate survivors while protecting powerful men are very firm and functioning exactly as designed being the backbone of the glaring sheer acquittal which is a miscarriage and travesty of justice. Our war cry therefore is to insist that the voices of these young women

matter despite this disappointing court outcome.

This is not merely a legal outcome, it is a profound indictment of a justice system that continues to fail women in the most violent ways. I am heartbroken, enraged, and unsurprised. Once again, we are reminded that the courtroom is not a neutral space, but one shaped by patriarchal power and class.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) is not only a violation of human rights, it is a brutal war waged daily on the bodies, minds, and spirits of women and children. From homes and schools to public spaces and traditional institutions, the scars of GBVF run deep. Sometimes seen in bruises, broken bones and death, but more often hidden in silent trauma, stolen childhoods, and shattered dignity.

It robs women of their freedom, safety, and sense of worth. It breaks families, stifles potential,

and traps generations in cycles of pain. In every community, women endure physical beatings, death, rape, forced marriages, emotional abuse, and economic dependency simply because they are women. Some are blamed for the violence they face. Many are forced to suffer in silence for fear of shame, retaliation, or being ostracized by their families.

Children too bear the brunt, both as victims and witnesses. Girls are raped by older men in the name of tradition, culture, religion or just entitlement. Boys grow up learning that power is proven through domination. The trauma that children experience in violent households doesn't just disappear with time, it festers, often becoming a twisted legacy passed on through generations. Young girls miss school because of unwanted pregnancies or shame from sexual violence and most of them never speak out.

We need leaders of society to respond to the scourge of violence

against women and children differently if we are to see results. It's shocking how the most influential people and institutions do nothing or little to confront GBVF. An example are traditional leaders who are respected as the custodians of culture and morality in many rural and peri-urban communities. Yet, when it comes to gender-based violence, far too many remain disturbingly silent. Their refusal to speak out or take a stand against harmful practices is not neutrality, it is complicity.

Traditional councils often prioritize family reputations, marriage arrangements, or cultural "preservation" over the rights and safety of women and children. Rape cases are resolved with fines, apologies, or forced marriages. Survivors are told to forgive their abusers for the sake of community peace. This is not justice. It is betrayal. When traditional leaders choose silence over justice, they reinforce the idea that violence is acceptable, even expected. Their silence becomes a shield for perpetrators



CURRENT AFFAIRS

and a prison for survivors. This truth must be spoken.

We must also speak about the role of Initiation schools, in their current form, which have become breeding grounds for GBVF and abuse. What should be sacred spaces for learning responsibility, manhood, or womanhood have turned into unregulated institutions where secrecy allows violence to thrive unchecked.

Girls are subjected to physical abuse and indoctrination that glorifies submission and silence. Boys are taught that manhood means dominance, aggression, and emotional detachment. Some are even encouraged to view women as inferior or as objects. These harmful teachings do not build strong men and women, they build future abusers and victims.

The defence of initiation schools

under the banner of “culture” is dangerous. Culture must evolve. Culture must protect. Any tradition that endangers lives and promotes violence must be interrogated and reformed.

We cannot hide behind heritage when such heritage harms other members of the community. There is an urgent need for us to have these uncomfortable conversations.

Fighting GBV is not “*women’s work*.” Men must stand up and be counted, not as saviours, but as allies and active participants in dismantling patriarchy. Men must also hold their brothers accountable. They must challenge toxic masculinity, unlearn harmful ideas of power, and model what respect truly looks like in a society where all are equal and fearless.

When your friend brags about violating a woman’s consent, do

you laugh or confront him? When a woman shares her story, do you believe her or question her motives? When boys are taught to suppress empathy, do you intervene or stay silent? Men must use their voices to call out abuse, their influence to shift the culture, and their power to create safe spaces and communities.

If we are serious about ending GBV, then silence is no longer an option for anyone. Traditional leaders must take a bold stance, not just in words, but in action. They must reform harmful customs, support survivors, and drive community-wide education that centres respect and equality. Government institutions must regulate initiation schools with strict guidelines and zero tolerance for abuse.

There must be legal consequences for those who use tradition as a weapon to violate women and girls.

Schools, churches, and families must teach consent, emotional intelligence, and gender equality from a young age.

Survivors must be believed and supported not shamed. And men must choose courage over comfort and accountability over apathy.

The blood and sweat of women and children who suffer in the hands of men speaks volumes for all of us to hear. The bruises on their bodies whether alive or dead are reflected in the cracks of our society. Let us be those that breaks the cycle, not with more hashtags only, but with real, fearless action.

Precious Banda is a Former ANCYL National Political Commissar and President of the Young Women of Africa (YWOA).



Business Must Apply Its Concern Evenly in the GNU

■ By **GODFREY NKOSI**

WE have taken note of recent reports that, following the rejection of the 2025/26 Budget by some parties within the Government of National Unity (GNU), elements of organized business have written to both the African National Congress (ANC) and the Democratic Alliance (DA), urging them to do all they can to preserve the GNU.

Ordinarily, such an intervention would be welcomed. Business is a critical partner in South Africa's development. Its views carry weight – not only because of its direct role in job creation, economic growth and innovation – but because business also acts as a key sounding board for investor confidence, both locally and internationally. The success of any government – particularly a unity government born of compromise – is closely linked to the confidence and cooperation of the business community.

However, there is growing concern when business appears to raise its voice only in response to particular actions or parties, while remaining conspicuously silent when others behave in ways that are disruptive to the spirit of the GNU. This uneven approach threatens to undermine the very credibility of business as an objective actor in our demo-

cratic discourse.

It cannot be that some partners in the GNU are held to a higher standard, while others enjoy leniency despite displaying patterns of behaviour that are clearly in conflict with the ethos of unity, collective accountability, and responsible governance.

Let us reflect on the DA's conduct in recent months, which raises serious questions about their commitment to the GNU.

To begin with, the Minister of Basic Education – a DA deployment – pointedly refused to attend the official signing ceremony of the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill. Whatever disagreements might have existed around the Bill, the signing of legislation by the President is a constitutional function and a symbolic moment for the country. The Minister's absence amounted to a political statement that undermined collective Cabinet responsibility and unity.



The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure – also from the DA – went even further by publicly declaring that he would not implement the Appropriation Act that had just been signed into law. In doing so, he openly signaled his intention to disregard a law passed by Parliament and enacted by the President. That is not just political theatre – it is a dangerous precedent that challenges the rule of law and the constitutional obligations of a Cabinet Minister.

This Minister has also publicly attacked the Board of the Independent Development Trust (IDT), which reports to his department, despite the Board having been duly appointed by his predecessor – who now serves as his deputy. The aggressive nature of these engagements, played out in the media, erodes the integrity of government institutions and sends the wrong signal about continuity and stability in public service.

On the matter of the VAT increase announced in the Budget Speech, we must be fair. The DA's concerns about the regressive nature of the VAT hike in the current economic climate are not without merit. In fact, similar concerns exist within the ANC and among other stakeholders. South Africans are facing tough times, and there is legitimate debate about how best to raise revenue without deepening inequality.

However, the issue at hand is not the content of the DA's critique – it is the manner in which they went about expressing it. Rather than engaging through the structures of Cabinet or the GNU, the DA launched a media offensive and filed court papers challenging a government decision in which they themselves had a seat at the table. This was done almost



immediately after the budget was tabled, giving the impression of a party more interested in scoring points than finding consensus.

This pattern of behaviour – publicly distancing themselves from government decisions, undermining collective Cabinet positions, and portraying themselves as unwilling participants in the GNU – is not new. It has been accompanied by a steady stream of negative commentary from DA leaders, past and present, operating outside the confines of government. Through interviews, press statements and opinion pieces, they have continually attacked GNU partners and questioned the legitimacy of the government they are part of.

Yet, in the face of all this, business remained silent. Not a single public statement condemning or even noting this conduct has been issued. No calls were made for the DA to honour the commitments of the GNU, no expressions of concern about the growing trend of governance by confrontation. It is only now – after a contentious budget vote – that business has chosen to speak up, urging all parties to preserve the GNU.

That silence in the face of the DA's consistent provocation is both puzzling and worrying.

The GNU cannot survive on paper alone. It must be defended in action, in tone, and in practice. It must be respected not only when it suits particular interests, but as a living commitment to shared governance in the national interest. Business, as a stakeholder in our democracy, has every right to speak out. But for that voice to be credible and respected, it must be consistent and principled.

Selective outrage chips away at credibility. It risks creating the perception that business is willing to tolerate behaviour that undermines governance – provided it comes from those with whom it shares economic or ideological affinity.

The ANC entered the GNU in good faith. We did so to stabilize the country, accelerate service delivery, and ensure that no South African is left behind. We are committed to making the GNU work. But unity does not mean silence in the face of bad behaviour. And respect must be mutual.

Business must ask itself: is it willing to speak out when any party in the GNU threatens its stability, or only when it is convenient? Is its concern for the GNU grounded in principle, or preference?

South Africa deserves a unity government that works – not one in which some partners are free to undermine it from within, while others are expected to carry the burden of discipline and restraint alone.

Let us preserve the GNU, yes. But let us also preserve fairness, accountability and the integrity of our public institutions.

Godfrey Nkosi is a member of the Andrew Mlangeni Branch in Tshwane.

Ditsobotla: A failed effort at local governance and sustainable service delivery

■ By **RADINALEDI PATRICK MOSIANE**

THE following thoughts take as their incitement recent reports on the Ditsobotla local municipality in the North West province of South Africa. Some comments in the public domain gives the impression that municipalities exist independently and separately from the entirety of government, which is contrary to the 'semi-unitary' state system espoused in chapter three (3) of the Constitution.

Though seeming obtuse, others have correctly questioned why few municipalities perform well and others, such as Ditsobotla local municipality, serially fail. I argue that a proper assessment of the dismal performance of many municipalities will be impolitic without placing the discussion in the 'government-as-a-whole' context. I further argue that since municipalities are 'the face of government', their failure evinces signs of decrepitude in government as a whole. Thus, I show that there are both endogenous and exogenous factors that affect municipalities' service delivery possibilities. For the present purposes, the North West province, with specific emphasis on Ditsobotla, is the focus point.

The North West province has to date the largest number of provincial interventions in municipi-



palities. From 1998 to date, we estimate that around 60 interventions occurred, which includes very few that were set aside by the courts. Many reasons could be advanced to explain this phenomenon, it is instructive however that on 10 October 2009, then President Zuma signed Proclamation R. 72 of 2009, in terms of which all twenty-four (24) municipalities in the province were to be investigated by the Special Investigation Unit for all manner of maleficence and mulcting of the public purse. Many of these municipalities are, like Ditsobotla, political recidivists by now. Ditsobotla is among the 15 municipalities informed by National Treasury in February of its intention to withdraw an amount of

R133 695 million of underspend Grant funding. But outlandishly, in its 2025/2026 budget, the province has only allocated R60 million to support municipalities that governs 3.8 million citizens, yet an astonishing R124 million is provided to support institutions of traditional leadership. Needless to say, whereas Ditsobotla has reached a putrescent phase, with signs of a failed local government, the majority of municipalities in the NW are in advanced state of dereliction, with little or no hope for much of the population. Consistent reports by the Auditor-General perennially has borne this out.

An appraisal of municipal performance must go beyond revenue

raising potential to also look at the political persons and/or political parties that govern municipalities: what kind of political leaders run the worst and consistently underperforming municipalities, and what do they do wrong which leads to this eventuality? We can then compare these with municipalities that are both functioning and are financially solvent, and see how differently these do things. This is a crucial factor because as a practise, councillors are significantly involved in the appointment of incompetent people, bloating up municipal staff establishments (against the regulations), appointment of contractors, insistence on payments of underperforming contractors, concealing investigative reports on malfeasance, etc. In the NW province, Ditsobotla municipality is a poster child as a cesspool of all this suppurating smell (as highlighted in the Hand-Over Report of the present writer as an Administrator submitted to the provincial EXCO in February 2023). Without the guardrails provided by municipal councillors anywhere, the mulcting of the public purse and service delivery failures in municipalities would not persist. Consequence

management, a concept much in vogue lately, is only a chimera because individual councillors are leeching on illicit monies laundered through corrupt municipal officials.

More interesting, and yet baffling is the abnegation of responsibility or the anodyne response exhibited by national and provincial governments towards assuring municipal performance. Note that for every function performed by a municipality, there is a national Minister assigned by the President in terms of section 91(2) of the Constitution. Section 92(3) imposes on Cabinet Ministers the obligation to fully report regularly to parliament on matters concerning their powers and functions. Naturally, this they can't do without the benefit of information obtained during their monitoring of municipalities. It is thus not fortuitous that sections 100, 125(3), 139 and 154 of the Constitution makes it mandatory for the national and provincial governments to provide the monitoring, support and supervision of municipalities to assure the meeting of national norms and standards in the provision of services to communities. But despite the smorgasbord of

compulsory reports submitted by municipalities to provincial and national departments, there are hardly any tangible evidence that much is made of them. If these reports were taken seriously, individual departments would know early on if a municipality is falling behind or failing in performing a specific executive function, and such a department would timeously intervene to prevent such failure.

At provincial levels there also exist a misplaced view that supporting and supervising municipalities is the responsibility of Provincial Treasuries and Departments responsible for local government.

On the contrary, section 154 of the Constitution obliges the national and provincial governments to support municipalities. This is not to impugn the provisions in certain pieces of legislation that the Provincial Treasury and COGTA must support municipalities. But it is common knowledge, for example, that only the provincial departments of environmental affairs and/or public works will have the requisite capacities to support municipalities respectively within their niche



purview. Ergo, when a municipality encounter challenges to do with landfill site management, the department responsible for environmental affairs must be the first to provide the necessary support. This support cannot be expected from COGTA or Provincial Treasury who are obviously without any competency in the said field.

Additional to the financing challenges municipalities encounter is the imposition on Ditsobotla of what can be described as premature load bearing, whereby a municipality is burdened with functions it lacks the capacity to and is not required to Constitutionally, perform. For example, whereas the 1996 Constitution took away library services from municipalities, to date, many municipalities employ personnel and are expected to resource such libraries with little help from the provinces. Similarly, Ditsobotla performs traffic functions in respect of (i) enforcement of traffic laws, (ii) driver licensing and (iii) vehicle testing, but the agreements in terms of which they perform this function on behalf of the provincial Department of Transport is unfavourable. The below nameplate performance of this potential revenue generating function is a result of lack of resources, yet staff appointed in these units are permanent employees of the municipalities. Compounding this is the delegation of water reticulation to the municipality by the district municipality. Granted the long-standing institutional and systemic failures in Ditsobotla, on what basis are these functions delegated and left with such a comatose institution.

Two important submissions at an inchoate state of the construction of the present local government system remain instructive,



and one hope that the on-going review of the Local Government White Paper will take up. One was flagged in the report of the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), appointed in 2001 by then Minister for Provincial and Local Government, Sidney Mufamadi, and headed by Peter Leon.

The second admonitory remark was made in 2002 by Doreen Atkinson, then with the University of the Free State. Whilst the MAC report warned against appointing as municipal official persons who will perennially require 'capacity building', the Atkinson article, "A Passion to Govern", insisted on what it referred to as 'representative capacity', that is, the quality of councillors. She argued that too much emphasis is often placed on administrative competency and not on the quality of councillors who must oversee performance. In the circumstance, the 2024 Division of Revenue Act's allocation of R531.7 billion to municipalities over the MTEF period belies any logic when the people charged with oversight on spending such moneys are not required by law to possess any level of literacy, let alone financial literacy. Atkinson argued then that only competent councillors can be expected to hold municipal officials

to account for service delivery. Regrettably, for almost 25 years of the present municipal system, we have failed to heed these and similar calls. Unsurprisingly, communities are the sacrificial lambs as sewerage spills and collapsed municipal infrastructure become markers of a stillborn local developmental state system.

As pointed out earlier, municipalities are confronted with challenges which are partly of their own making, but others are beyond their control. Incompetent people appointed are often imposed on municipal administrators by political leaders, who are often-times themselves under pressure from their private handlers. Compounding these are the burden placed on municipalities by over-regulation and the attendant reporting obligations, as pointed out in the 2019 report of the South African Law Reform Commission. Perhaps, an epistemic shift from focusing on individual capacity to institutional capability, in terms of which we think more critically about all factors impacting on the ability to get things done, is required. A properly managed and coagulated inter-governmental planning and management system that empowers municipalities to integrate service



delivery within their constabulary is a must towards a sustainable developmental state system.

All this, however, is possible only if pay attention to the cautious lament of the ANC Chief Whip, Mdimiseni Ntuli, when interviewed by Clement Manyathela (5 August 2024) that poor quality members and leadership cost the organisation the 2024 election. We vigorously must attend to representative quality, appropriate equitable resource allocation and ethical governance across government to salvage the path to a progressive future. The notion of institutional capability development, which involves knowledge transfer and sound development management is our Hail Marry pass into the next election and beyond.

To its credit, the Report by the Administrator Team referred to above had recommended, amongst others, (i) that the new council elected in December 2022 should be given a chance to attend to issues raised in the report, whilst the provincial EXCO was challenged to execute cer-

tain tasks to scaffold the municipality. The second option (ii) was to accept that the Ditsobotla case is not about avoidable headwinds, but that it is an irredeemable state organ that should thus be disestablished as a municipality. Consideration would have included:

- It is inconceivable as to how Ditsobotla can secure the services of competent and capable senior and technical managers with such checkered organisational culture and reputation as an employer;
- A great number of employees have disengaged from work and are at home for fear of being violated (pleas for employee counselling are common-place);
- The collapse of systems and involvement of outsiders in the running of the municipality defines the institution (a point raised consistently by the business community);
- Rampant disregard for local government employment practices and unjustified salary increases for some employees has taken root;
- An anaemic local econom-

ic growth prospect is entrenched, thereby accentuating declining revenue generation and non-performance in the delivery of essential economic and social infrastructure. The relocation of Clover from the municipality is a sure sign of private sector displeasure with this state of affairs.

- There are just too much spend on litigation, with some resulting fruitless loss of revenue as a court orders are awarded against the municipality.

The conclusion to disestablish Ditsobotla as an organ of state for the purpose of service delivery to the populace and business establishment seem to outweigh all other considerations. What is required is political maturity beyond parochial blinkers.

Radinaledi Patrick Mosiane is a policy and development consultant; a former Municipal Manager and Director for (IGR) in the former national Department of Provincial and Local Government (now COGTA). He is an ANC member in good standing.

Unmasking SAMA: The Real Motivations Behind Their NHI Court Challenge

■ By **KGAILE MOGOYE**

The South African Medical Association (SAMA) has initiated a legal challenge against the National Health Insurance (NHI) Act, claiming it poses a significant threat to the healthcare system. However, SAMA has yet to clearly articulate its real motives for rejecting the NHI, and their approach appears more rooted in fear of the unknown than in substantive concerns.

Throughout the extensive public consultation processes surrounding the NHI Bill, nearly every province and the overwhelming majority of South Africans supported its enactment. Yet, SAMA has consistently failed to specify what they fundamentally oppose about the NHI. Their assertions, particularly concerning the administration of user registration, seem alarmist and exaggerated – suggesting that such a process could collapse the entire NHI system is sheer absurdity!

The country already has a comprehensive database of all citizens through Home Affairs, with advancements in biometric systems that will further enhance the reliability of this system. The National Department of Health already operates a health patient

registration systems (HPRS) and HMS2, which have digitised patient records. Regulation can ensure a seamless transition of data from medical schemes to the NHI.

Currently, most medical scheme users are subsidised by their employers and enjoy tax credits, meaning their information is readily available. A simple tran-

sition of this information into the national patient database managed by the NHI Fund should not warrant threats of impending collapse or claims that it will take years to achieve. The logic just simply does not hold.

Assertions that the handling of complaints about poor service delivery by the NHI Fund as “*wholly inadequate*” seems to



conveniently to overlook the existence of a well-functioning digitised patient complaint system. Every complaint is directed to the relevant provincial authorities, who follow up with districts and facilities. This system promotes accountability, ensuring that healthcare facilities address and resolve complaints while keeping the complainants informed.

Certainly, no system is perfect, and a quick look at complaints handled by the Council for Medical Schemes against private medical schemes reveals significant inadequacies in the private sector. As the Health Market Inquiry noted, there are serious issues regarding information asymmetries, where patients sometimes struggle to understand what their risk pools cover. The NHI simplifies this by creating a single risk pool that promotes transparency.

Regarding their claims about the “*lack of clarity*” on covered services in the Act, it’s clear that SAMA misunderstands legislative processes. Acts inherently provide a broad framework, with finer details defined through subsequent regulations. Expecting the NHI Act to outline every detail is misguided, revealing an alarming lack of understanding – or worse, a blatant dishonesty in their intentions. The Act clearly states that a Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC), comprised of experts, will be tasked with defining the service package.

The NHI governance regulations have already been published, detailing the BAC’s appointment and functions. Instead of constructively engaging with these regulations to improve any perceived flaws, SAMA has opted to rush to the courts in an attempt to undermine legislation that enjoys



support of the majority.

Ironically, their concerns about “*impossible accreditation standards*” are quite rich. Their leadership seems to suggest that striving for high-quality care is something to be frowned upon. Yet, they simultaneously lament poor service delivery, which the NHI aims to address and improve through the Office of Health Standards Compliance. This discrepancy raises questions about SAMA’s true intentions.

I suspect that SAMA’s leadership does not genuinely represent the views of its membership, who will benefit from predictable patient volumes and alternative reimbursement models such as capitation. There’s an undercurrent of an elitist’s perspective within SAMA, concerned that the NHI will disrupt certain commercial interests.

The growth of universal health

coverage – widely supported globally, including by the World Health Organization – poses a threat to those invested in the lucrative private healthcare market. For these individuals, healthcare must remain a commodity to be exploited for profit. Any noble efforts towards universal access to quality services, based on patient needs rather than financial ability, will be resisted.

Looking beyond the smoke-screen, it is evident that SAMA’s legal challenge against the NHI is nothing but a tactic to protect commercial interests. It is not a legitimate concern for the quality of healthcare in South Africa.

The NHI represents an important step towards equitable healthcare for every citizen, without risks of financial hardship in accessing services. Efforts to subvert it, particularly through unfounded claims, are neither constructive nor in the public interest.



The Time for National Health Insurance (NHI) Has Arrived: The Role of Youth in its Implementation

■ By **ASHLEY NYIKO MABASA**

THE implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI) is a critical moment in South Africa's health-care transformation. As young people, we must take ownership of this process and ensure its success.

This article traces the key events that led to the African National Congress (ANC)'s intervention in formulating and advancing the NHI. Before engaging in health-care reform, it is essential to reflect on the historical struggles and achievements that have shaped the present. One of the significant figures in this journey was Dr. A.B. Xuma, who advocated for equal access to health-care. Recognizing the racial discrimination embedded in the health-care system, he called for the training of African doctors and nurses and the establishment of a medical school in South Africa

to open opportunities for aspiring African medical professionals.

Historical Context and Global Influences

In tracing this process, it is important to acknowledge the global shifts that influenced health-care reforms. A landmark moment occurred in 1993 when the World Bank published the **World Development Report**.

The report highlighted the inefficiencies in developing countries' health-care systems, including poor health outcomes, financial constraints, and administrative challenges. It recommended reforms aligned with the Primary Health Care (PHC) program, a system endorsed in the 1978 Declaration of Alma Ata and later formalized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN).

Following South Africa's transition to democracy in 1994, the government recognized the urgent need to dismantle the two-tier health-care system, which historically catered to two constituencies: the private and public sectors. Although both provided health-care services, they differed in quality. Segregated health policies, such as the Public Health Amendment Act of 1897, had institutionalized inequality, creating a fragmented system governed by fourteen departments based on racial and class divisions. The primary objective of the NHI was to unify health-care, addressing past imbalances and ensuring all citizens had access to quality, affordable, and equitable health-care services.

Challenges in Healthcare Reform

Despite progress, South Africa's health-care system continues to

face significant challenges, many of which are rooted in the country's socio-economic dynamics. Different social classes are affected in distinct ways. The wealthy, who primarily use private healthcare, struggle with soaring medical costs, while public healthcare users experience poor service delivery and inefficiencies. The poorest communities, already burdened by poverty and unemployment, remain the most vulnerable. The NHI emerged as a response to these ongoing disparities.

At the ANC's 52nd National Conference in Polokwane in December 2007, a resolution was passed to implement the NHI system. The ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) was tasked with overseeing its rollout. The newly elected leadership emphasized that South Africa was at the beginning of a long journey toward unity, democracy, and prosperity, in line with the Freedom Charter.

The ANC's policy transition raised expectations for radical changes that would drive the country toward a new developmental trajectory.

Policy Resolutions and Government Commitments

At the conference, the ANC resolved to prioritize education and healthcare in the new administration. Several resolutions addressed the healthcare system's challenges. Resolution 53 reaffirmed the implementation of the NHI, emphasizing the need to strengthen the public healthcare system and ensure adequate funding. Resolution 54 called for a reliable single health information system. Additionally, the ANC leadership stressed the



need to regulate rising medical scheme costs, as private healthcare services remained accessible to only 8.8 million people in a population of approximately 58 million. The conference concluded that the government must intervene to control healthcare costs and improve accessibility.

In preparation for the 2009 elections, the ANC reinforced its commitment to implementing the NHI. The party framed the NHI as part of its broader goal of advancing the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), which sought to promote progressive governance. The ANC won the elections with 65.89% of the vote, reinforcing its mandate to pursue healthcare reform.

The Role of Leadership and Policy Implementation

Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi's appointment as Minister of Health marked a pivotal moment in NHI policy implementation. In his inaugural parliamentary address, he emphasized the NHI as a universal healthcare system designed to ensure all citizens had access to quality health services. The Department of Health's 2010 policy document outlined key pri-

orities, including the implementation of the NHI, improving service quality, and strengthening research and development. To achieve free healthcare for all, the plan also emphasized human resource development, effective planning, and management.

The Ministry of Health embarked on significant reforms covering healthcare systems, personnel, and financing. However, for these reforms to be successful, they must align with policies across various government departments. Coordinating these efforts is crucial to transforming the healthcare system into a sustainable and efficient model that benefits the broader economy.

The Role of Youth in NHI Implementation

Amid these reforms, an important question arises: where is the voice of young people in NHI-related matters? Youth engagement in public policy is widely encouraged through participatory democracy. However, despite numerous legislative and policy frameworks supporting youth involvement, meaningful participation remains limited. The NHI

represents a transformative policy with far-reaching implications for young people, yet youth engagement in its development and implementation is minimal.

To address this gap, the Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) and other youth organizations must take an active role in raising awareness about the NHI. Conducting workshops, seminars, and public discussions will help young people understand the policy and voice their concerns. It is imperative for the Youth to educate themselves on these matters, read relevant documents, and actively participate in shaping the future of healthcare.

Conclusion

For the NHI to succeed, political commitment and strategic intervention in policy and legislative processes are necessary. Without these efforts, the risk remains that the NHI could reinforce the two-tiered healthcare system rather than dismantle it. If private healthcare continues to dominate, it will undermine the goals of the NHI, perpetuating inequality and injustice.

The Youth must take ownership of this process, ensuring that their voices are heard and that the NHI is implemented in a way that truly transforms South Africa's healthcare system.

The time for passive observation is over – now is the time for action.

The article was first written by Thobani Mthethwa who tragically passed away in October last year (May his revolutionary soul rest in peace) and has since been updated by Ashley Nyiko Mabasa.



A Klein Karoo Call to Action for Food Justice

■ By **FAIEZ JACOBS**

At the recent Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK) in Oudtshoorn, amid vibrant art and culture, conversations about food justice became unavoidable. Youth dreaming of farming ancestral land but blocked by lack of access; artists sharing stories of hungry township children – these discussions reveal a painful South African contradiction: we produce enough food to feed everyone yet millions suffer from hunger.

Hunger Amid Plenty

South Africa's food crisis isn't due to scarcity – it's inequality of access. Shocking statistics underline the urgency: 23% of children under five live in severe food poverty, facing chronic malnutrition (UNICEF, 2023). Despite being a net exporter of food, with agricultural exports reaching a record

US\$13.2 billion in 2023, nearly 30 million South Africans remain food insecure.

The cost of a basic food basket for low-income households soared from R3,200 per month (2020) to over R5,000 (2024) – an increase of over 50% (PM-BEJD Index). Clearly, food availability alone doesn't translate into food security.

Structural Barriers and Supply Chain Failures

Our food system is marked by structural injustices:

- 30% of food is lost post-harvest due to poor infrastructure.
- High transport and distribution costs keep rural communities food-insecure.
- Dominance of large-scale, predominantly white-owned



commercial farms (35,000 units control over 80% of high-value agricultural land).

- Marginalized black smallholders, producing only 5–10% of food despite supporting 80% of rural livelihoods, struggle with financing and market access.

Equity ≠ Equality

True food security demands equitable access – affordable, geographically accessible, culturally relevant, and inclusive. We must shift beyond equality towards equity: prioritizing vulnerable populations, migrants, and the rural poor, ensuring no one is left behind.

Land Reform and Agricultural Transformation

Land reform remains slow and inadequate, with only minimal redistribution since 1994. The government controls 14% of land, mostly idle or poorly managed. Effective reform must urgently release under-utilized state land to aspiring black farmers, women, and youth cooperatives. This requires transparent processes, comprehensive training, financing, and market integration.

Commercial agriculture, represented primarily by AgriSA, must transform its role. Rather than perpetuating victimhood narratives around farm attacks or redistribution fears, white commercial farmers should embrace transformation proactively – becoming mentors, equity partners, and nation-builders. Joint ventures, co-owned land equity exchanges, and mentorship programs pairing established farmers with black youth agripreneurs are crucial.

Nourishing our Future: Children and Youth

Malnutrition in early childhood has lifelong consequences. The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), feeding 9.6 million learners, is critical yet insufficient. Problems like corruption, infrastructure gaps, and inadequate funding (less than R4 per child per meal) limit its impact.

Solutions are clear:

- Protect and expand NSNP funding.
- Introduce universal breakfasts in impoverished communities.
- Digitize supply chains to prevent corruption.

- Link local farmers directly to schools, strengthening rural economies through community-led procurement.

Youth empowerment through agricultural initiatives is equally vital. Nearly 50% youth unemployment demands creative responses: agriculture clubs, college scholarships, apprenticeships, land allocations, and start-up funding for youth-led farming ventures. Tech-savvy youth can drive innovation in hydroponics, precision farming, and sustainable agriculture, revitalizing rural economies.

Building Climate Resilience

Climate change compounds food insecurity, already evident in increased droughts, floods, and erratic weather. Projections suggest African crop yields could decline by 18% by 2050 due to climate change, placing millions at greater hunger risk. Climate resilience must become integral to agriculture. Government, private sector, and civil society should jointly fund climate-smart initiatives: rainwater harvesting, improved irrigation infrastructure, drought-resistant seeds, and regenerative farming practices. Safety nets, disaster insurance, and emergency support are essential to protect vulnerable farmers.

Transforming State and Supply Chains

For effective food justice, state capacity and supply chains require transformation. Inefficient governance and corruption slow down agricultural support services. Transparent land audits, simplified grants and loan processes, decentralized decision-making, and robust anti-corruption measures are urgently needed.

Current food supply chains are dominated by a few powerful companies, disadvantaging small farmers and inflating consumer prices. We need localized, democratized supply chains through community cooperatives, farmer-owned processing hubs, and local procurement policies for public institutions (schools, hospitals, prisons).

Additionally, reducing waste – currently one-third of all produced food – by improving storage and logistics infrastructure could significantly enhance food availability without increasing production costs.

Reimagining AgriSA: From Gatekeeper to Bridgebuilder

AgriSA, historically perceived as conservative and defensive, must evolve into a progressive nation-builder. Its new role should be to unite commercial and smallholder, black and white farmers around common food sovereignty goals. Practical actions include:

1. **Bridgebuilding:** Form strategic partnerships with black farmer unions (NAFUSA, AF-

ASA), establish a transformation council that includes women and youth representatives, and publish verified annual transformation reports.

2. **Land and Capital:** Launch a Land Equity Exchange enabling land shares, equity partnerships, and mentorship for black agripreneurs. Facilitate 25,000 mentorship placements within commercial farms.

3. **National Nutrition Pact:** Commit to providing 30% of school nutrition supplies from local small-scale farmers, launching a nationwide “One Farmer, One School” initiative, and expanding food-bank partnerships.

4. **Climate Leadership:** Co-develop a Climate-Smart Farmer Fund supporting regenerative agriculture, water justice, and research in climate-resilient farming methods.

5. **Repositioning Farmer Identity:** Shift from a narrative of victimhood towards becoming proactive nation-builders – employers, mentors, ecological stewards, and food justice advocates.

A Visionary Appeal

South Africa stands at a crossroads: we either maintain an unjust status quo, perpetuating inequality and hunger, or embrace transformative action fostering inclusive prosperity. Food justice demands bold leadership from government, genuine transformation by commercial agriculture, and active citizen participation.

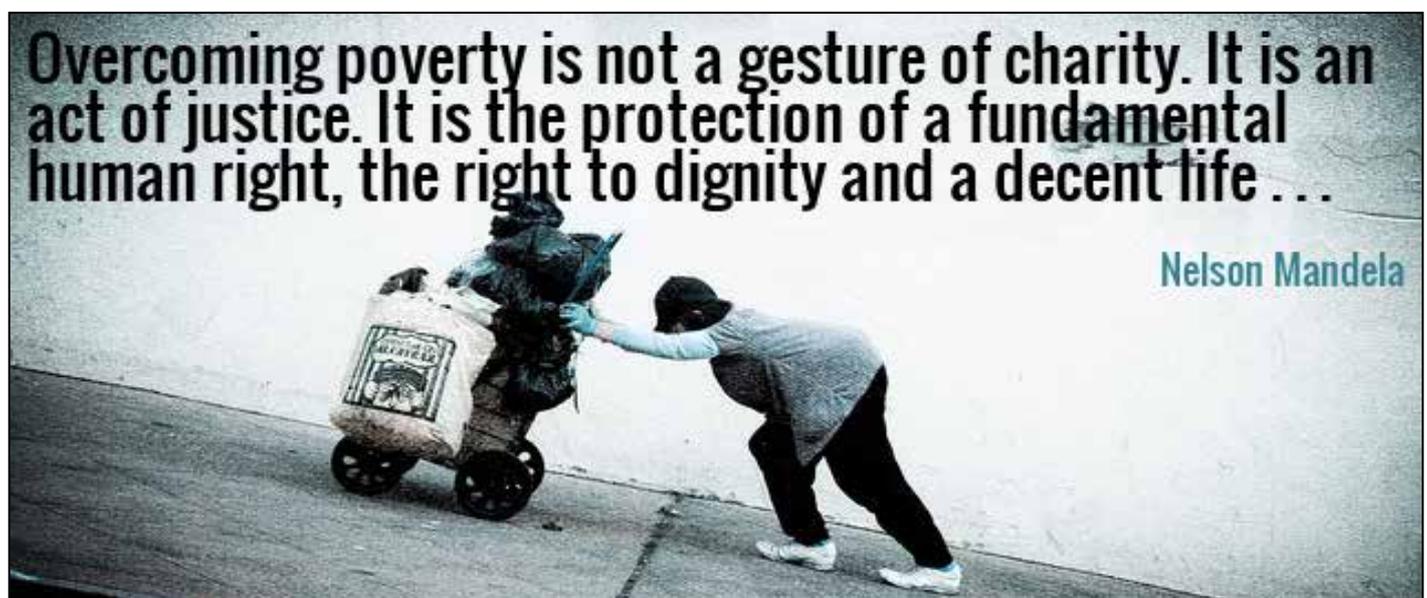
Our nation’s freedom is meaningless if hunger persists amid plenty. Now is the time for courageous, unified action: ending hunger, empowering youth, accelerating land reform, and building climate resilience.

From Klein Karoo’s festival discussions emerges a powerful clarity: every South African deserves not only food security but dignity and opportunity.

Let us nourish our nation’s body and soul, turning talk into transformation, and hunger into hope.

Together, we must feed this nation – fairly, equitably, and sustainably.

Faiez Jacobs is a Food for All Activist





Honouring the Insurgent Diplomat: Cde Aziz Pahad

Extracts from the address of **Former President and Patron of the TMF, THABO MBEKI**
on the occasion of the **Aziz Pahad Annual Memorial Lecture**

Held in Pretoria at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, O.R. Tambo Building on the 31st of March 2025

...I am glad that we decided to honor him in this particular way. If we take our three administrations of 1994, 1999, and 2004, I am sure you will agree with me that, the one person in those administrations who was most experienced in international relations was Aziz. He was indeed, in a sense, the expert on whom we depended for guidance with regards to these issues.

I am very glad that we have decided to say something at this meeting about his book, *The Insurgent Diplomat*, because that tells a particular story, which is important.

All of us will recall the time when the US, supported in particular by

The United Kingdom, went to war against Iraq in 2003. We were very interested in stopping that war before it broke out.

So, what happened was that, Aziz had to engage, Saddam Hussein on the issue of the cooperation of Iraq with the UN arms inspectors who were led by the Former Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hans Blix, because it was clear to us watching at a distance that not enough cooperation was happening, and indeed, Hans Blix was talking publicly about that.

To avoid a war, which would be caused by that, Aziz engaged, the then President Saddam Hussein to convince him of the importance

of cooperating with the UN and indeed dealing with that challenge related to weapons of mass destruction, and Saddam agreed.

As a consequence of which, Aziz led a delegation to Iraq, of the people in this country who had been responsible for dismantling our own nuclear weapons, and we were also familiar with what had happened with regard to the chemical and biological weapons. He led a delegation to go to Iraq, to engage the Iraqis on whether they owned weapons of mass destruction.

The delegation led by Aziz wrote a report and said there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The report was submitted to the United Nations Security Council. When President George Bush called me to say that he was very concerned about the possibility of this war, and wanted to avoid it if he could. I said to him, there is a report at the UN Security Council which says there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and he should please access that report.

I don't know if he did, but I'm telling you the story because this was an indication of the kind of serious engagements in which Aziz would be involved in, and of course we all know when the war broke out and the search started for these weapons of mass destruction, and the result confirmed what Aziz and his team had said, that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

I am also mentioning the Insurgent Diplomat book, because one of the things that it deals with is a period of four years which focused on preparing for the transition from apartheid to democracy, in which Aziz was involved. A group of leading Afrikaners - academics, businesspeople, leaders in the church, and professionals - who I could say undertook a voyage of discovery, which was to talk to the ANC to find out what the ANC is, and what does it think? What is its view about the future of South Africa?

They had to discover this because they had brought themselves up on a fake notion of what the ANC was. Aziz engaged in this discussion for four years, and they would ask questions like, "when we say the people shall govern, what do we mean?", because in their understanding, we meant the ANC shall govern, that there



President Thabo Mbeki

would be an election, one election, and the ANC would win and stay in power forever.

We had to explain all of this, we had to explain when we say South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, after all of these centuries of oppression by the white minority, what do we mean? Aziz was a part of the process of explaining what that meant, and what it would mean once South Africa was liberated...

...As Aziz insisted, we are seeing the emergence of a multipolar



world; the issues we've been discussing are part of that multipolarity. Many were surprised when the new US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, said during an interview on the 30th of January 2025:

"So, it's not normal for the world to simply have a unipolar power. That was not – that was an anomaly. It was a product of the end of the Cold War, but eventually you were going to reach back to a point where you had a multipolar world, multi- great powers in different parts of the planet." He said, "We face that now with China and to some extent Russia, and then you have rogue states like Iran and North Korea you have to deal with."

In the same interview he said: *"The way the world has always worked is that the Chinese will do what's in the best interests of China, the Russians will do what's in the best interest of Russia, the Chileans are going to do what's in the best interest of Chile, and the United States needs to do what's in the best interest of the United States."*

It seems right, Minister, inspired by what Marco Rubio said, we must also insist that Africa must



eral has waned significantly, such that, to borrow a favourite Aziz expression, “*very few among these eat, sleep and dream while at the same time focusing on addressing the historic task of achieving Africa’s renaissance*”.

It would therefore be very apposite that as DIRCO is engaged in this inaugural process of honouring a giant thinker and practitioner in the field of international relations, Aziz Pahad, it should resolve to lead the process whereby our country, a Member State of the African Union, would present to the AU, a concrete programme Africa should follow practically to define and find its rightful place in the emerging multipolar world.

Thus, at last, would Aziz’s dream be realised of ensuring that Africa interacts with the rest of the world as an equal among equals. I am suggesting, Minister, that DIRCO faces all these challenges as it understands precisely this world in which we live, to elaborate these policies so that the African continent engages its matters in a way that produces results, positioned correctly in that multipolar world...

do what is in the best interest of Africa.

It is obvious that an important part of what is in the best interest of Africa is its correct and timely positioning in the evolving multipolar world, so that the emerging global order places our Continent in a better position to address its many challenges of the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, silencing the guns, ensuring that the people govern and ending Africa’s international marginalisation.

The serious challenge in this regard is that there is no evidence

or sign anywhere that Africa’s political and intellectual leadership is not only conscious of the need to define our Continent’s place in the emerging multipolar world, but is ready to act on this urgent matter.

Given its recent performance with regard to many of Africa’s contemporary challenges, it is very doubtful that the Continental body, the African Union, would be up to this task.

This problem is compounded by the reality that over the years the spirit of Pan Africanism among our African political leadership in gen-



Some of the liberation veterans in attendance at the Aziz Pahad Annual Memorial Lecture

HOW TO REMEMBER SOLOMON KALUSHI MAHLANGU

■ By **JOHNNY MOHLALA**

AS we remember this unflinching, fearless, uncompromising gallant and absolute loyal soldier to the cause for the liberation of the African child, let us remember him as a cadre who did not do things for any personal, factional or material gain, but only the cause for the liberation of his people!

Let us remember him when he said: *“Mama tell my people that I love them, and my blood will nourish the tree that bears the fruits of liberation, they must continue to fight”*.

A death defying Solomon Mahlangu broke into tears when addressing his mother when she was visiting him during his incarceration. The Young Lion of the June 16 Detachment of Umkhonto weSizwe – further said: *“Why are you crying in front of these dogs? I don’t care what they do to me. And if they spill my blood, maybe it will give birth to other Solomons.”*

The youth of today are not short of role models; they must know they can stand on the shoulders of Solomon Mahlangu and in that way they shall be standing on the shoulders of a giant.

Long live the undying revolutionary spirit of Cde Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Long live!

This young commander of Umkhonto We Sizwe was sentenced and sent to the gallows to die by hanging. He was accused of advancing and furthering the objectives of a banned organisation, the ANC, through violent means.

He was hanged so that you and I can be free and was called a terrorist in order for me and you to live in dignity. He took up arms to overthrow the apartheid government. At the young age of 22 years, he demonstrated extraordinary feats of bravery, enthusiasm and determination.

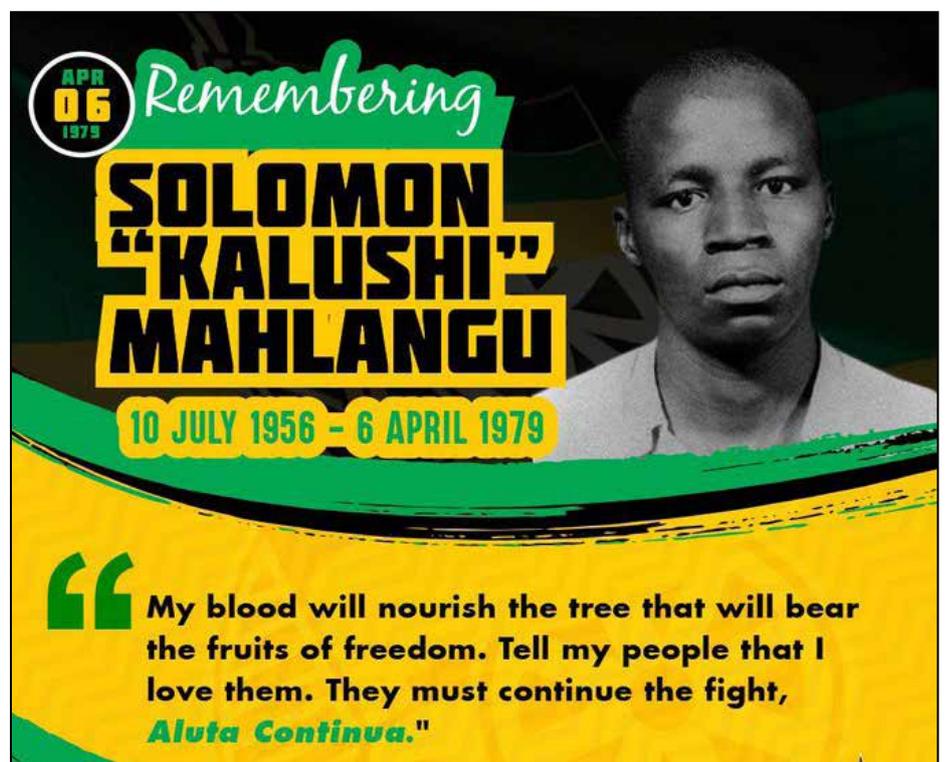
Never once did he show signs of

regretting his actions.

He knew exactly why he was involved in the struggle for the liberation of people in South Africa.

His last words in court before getting sentenced were a message to his mother who sat sobbing quietly in the same court, which was about to send her son to the gallows.

He uttered these words knowing very well not only the reality that he was going to die, but also was willing, prepared and ready to die a noble death, the death while fighting for your country, your



APR 06 1979 Remembering

SOLOMON "KALUSHI" MAHLANGU

10 JULY 1956 - 6 APRIL 1979

“ My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them. They must continue the fight, *Aluta Continua.*”

people and your nation.

His words sent a clear message to many young people at the time, including a 17 year old boy like myself who took a decision to advance and further the same cause of liberation through involvement in the student struggle activities. Hence my involvement in the poorly organised students and youth activities in Atteridgeville at the time. There was little coordination of activities as this was before the formation of COSAS. Even after its formation COSAS, was not as vibrant as it became in the early 80s.

We owe it to the soldiers of the calibre of Solomon Mahlangu, Mthetheleli Ncube, Jerry Mosololi, Marcus Motaung, Thele Mogoerane, Abdrew Zondo, Barney Molokwane, Mathemba Vuso, Mzondeleli Nondula & many more who paid the highest price, to show that their death should never be in vain.

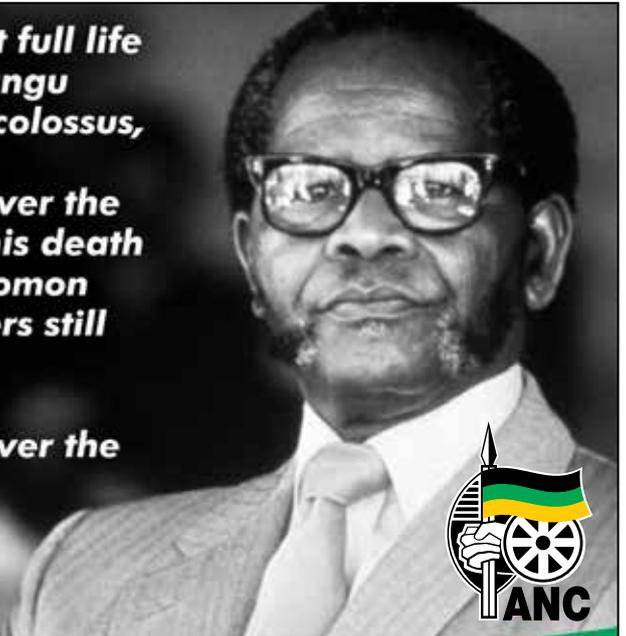
We owe it to our Chief of Staff, Comrade Chris Hani to continue with the struggle.

We have a revolutionary obligation not to let the ANC disintegrate in our hands. The time is now for all soldiers of MK and members of the ANC alike to once again, swell the ranks of the ANC in order to redeem it from the crisis it is in today. It doesn't help to cry and complain on the sidelines and let the politics of money destroy the pride of our nation, the pride of Oliver Tambo and other martyrs of our revolution.

Remember the oath "I solemnly declare that I will participate in the organizational and political programs of the ANC voluntarily and without expecting a gain of any material nature, so help me God."

"In his brief but full life Solomon Mahlangu towered like a colossus, unbroken and unbreakable, over the fascist lair...in his death the spirit of Solomon Mahlangu towers still like a colossus, unbroken and unbreakable, over the fascist lair"

**- President
Oliver Tambo**



THE ANC IS OUR FAMILY

The ANC is our family, our home, built on the foundations of mutual respect, decency, trust and open discussion.

When we argue amongst ourselves, we do so inside the home. When we celebrate our achievements and goals, we dance before the world!

Our patience is rooted in the realisation that we grow together but we will be firm with the unruly who attempt to disrupt our progress.

We welcome strangers at our door, and will teach them the ways of the ANC, so that they too can benefit as we benefit from the collective wisdom of our traditions, our forebears, and our developing membership.

With humble strength and deep pride we repeat the words of former generations of freedom fighters because they are also our own:

Asinamona, asinanzondo, siyayidumisa i-ANC!

**The ANC lives!
Its policies live!**

**ANC NGC Declaration,
Port Elizabeth. July 2000**



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

12–18 April 2025

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

12 April 1940 Health activist Professor Miriam K Were born



The Kenyan public health activist was born in Nairobi. Her grassroots level work towards achieving sustainable local health care has become an international example. A medical graduate from the University of Nairobi, she also has Masters and Doctor of Public Health from John Hopkins University. Her dream: “an Africa where every household has access to nearby Community Health Services that provide health-promoting, disease preventing and first-line curative services.” Dr Kwere is also the Founder Chairperson of the Public Health Association of Kenya, later renamed Community Health Association of Kenya, with a long and illustrious career in medicine and public health, in Kenya, the African continent and international organisations. She is the recipient of the first Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Services.

12 April 1962 St Boniface school in Kimberley opened

St. Boniface school opened its doors in Galeshewe township, Kimberley and Edward Skosana became the first African teacher at the school.

12 April 1969 SA Tennis Open concludes without #1 ranked

The SA Opens concluded without the participation from World number 1 ranked, Arthur Ashe, because the apartheid government refused to issue black US tennis player a visa.

12 April 1969 Bafana captain Lucas Radebe born



Lucas Radebe, South Africa's celebrated soccer legend was born in Diepkloof, Soweto. At age of 15 his parents sent him to live and go to school in Bophuthatswana.

Soccer became a favourite pastime and his talent was soon spotted by Kaizer Chief Scouts, who signed him up. He went on to become a successful soccer player both locally and abroad. Radebe captained Bafana Bafana, Kaizer Chiefs and the UK's Leeds United. Radebe is the first South African to have captained two World Cup finals, these were in France in 1998 and South Korea and Japan in 2002. He received a Master of Social Science honoris causa from UCT for his humanitarian work with various educational, social and charitable initiatives in South Africa.

12 April 1991 ANC unveils constitutional guidelines

The ANC introduced its Constitutional Principles for a Democratic South Africa in Johannesburg, ahead of the start of the negotiation forum CODESA. Many of these principles were eventually enshrined in the Interim Constitution and later the 1996 Constitution, laying the basis for a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

12 April 2019 OR Tambo School of Leadership is launched

The ANC in many national conferences since 1990 resolved to form a national political school, but it only came to fruition when



the OR Tambo School of Leadership was formally launched on 12 April 2019 by President Ramaphosa in Midrand, Gauteng. The programmes and courses of the OR Tambo School of Leadership build on a rich tradition of political education in the ANC and mass democratic movement, adapting to new possibilities provided by technology. Increasingly, completion of the School courses are a prerequisite for all candidates standing for leadership and as public representatives in the ANC. Former ANC Secretary General and Deputy President, Cde Kgalema Motlanthe is the first chair of the board of trustees of the OR Tambo School of Leadership, and NEC member David Maseko is its first principal.

13 April 1935 Artist Sydney Khumalo born

South African artist Sydney Alex Khumalo (also documented as Kumalo), was born in Johannesburg. He began studying at Polly Street Art Centre in 1952 and worked there under Cecil Skotnes and later Edoardo Villa. He was an art instructor at the centre until 1964, when he became full-time artist. In 1967 he visited the United States of America and Europe as a guest of USSALEP (United States/South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme), West

Germany in 1979 and the USA again in 1985. He exhibited numerous times from 1958-1988, won several awards and completed seven commissions.

13 April 2002 Court settles Ethiopian-Eritrean border

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, the Netherlands, defined the 1 000-km shared border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, ending a dispute that sparked one of Africa's bloodiest wars (1998-2000) between the two nations. Although the war ended, hostilities between the two countries continued, dubbed as a no-war-no-peace situation. In 2018, new Ethiopian Prime minister Abiy Ahmed made overtures that led to a peace agreement between the neighbours.

13 April 2011 Andries Tatane killed by police during protest

Andries Tatane, a community activist was shot and killed by police with rubber bullets during a service delivery protest in Ficksburg in the Free State. None of the police officers charged with his death were found guilty.

14 April 1886 Artist Maggie Laubser born

Maggie Laubser, award-winning SA painter and print-maker was born on the farm in Malmesbury. Along with Irma Stern, Laubser is regarded as one of the pioneers of Expressionism in South Africa. Laubser was a member of the South African Society of Artists (SASA) and received many art awards during her career. Maggie Laubser died on 17 May 1973, ac-

ording to accounts "with an unfinished canvas on her easel."

14 April 1970 UN Special Committee calls for ban of Racist SA sports



The United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid urged a boycott of all South African racist sporting organizations and supported the African bloc's proposal to exclude the country from both the Munich Olympics and the Olympic Movement itself. Subsequently, on 15 May 1970, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) extended South Africa's ban. This resulted in the country's exclusion from the tragic 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

14 April 1986 Rev. Desmond Tutu elected as Archbishop

The Most Rev. Desmond Mpilo Tutu was elected Bishop of Cape Town, thereby becoming Archbishop of South Africa, heading the Anglican Church of South Africa. He was installed at St Georges Cathedral, Cape Town in September 1986. This charismatic but humble spiritual leader was the first Black person to hold this office. He occupied the posi-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



“Ubuntu tells us that we can create a more peaceful world by striving for goodness in each moment, wherever we are.”

- DESMOND TUTU

tion until 1996, when he retired to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

14 April 2014

Chibok girls seized

Boko Haram gunned down girls aged between 12 and 17 from the Government Girls Secondary School in the remote town of Chibok in northeastern Borno state, Nigeria on April 14. The girls were forced from their dormitories onto trucks and driven into the bush. Some 57 of them managed to flee in a daring escape. Over the years, some of the 219 girls escaped, were rescued and exchanged for Boko Haram rebels. Over one hundred of the girls still remain unaccounted for.

15 April 1906

Pixley Seme received award for Regeneration of Africa speech

The first African student to enroll at US Columbia University, Pixley ka iSaka Seme was awarded the university's highest oratorical award and was profiled in the

New York Times for his speech, The Regeneration of Africa. Seme passed the bar in 1910 to become a lawyer and was one of the founders of the SA Native Congress in 1912.

15 April 1912

SA Weather Bureau formed

After the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910, the Weather Services of the four provinces were merged into the Union Weather Service, which issued its first weather forecast by AG Howard on this day from Cape Town.

15 April 1950

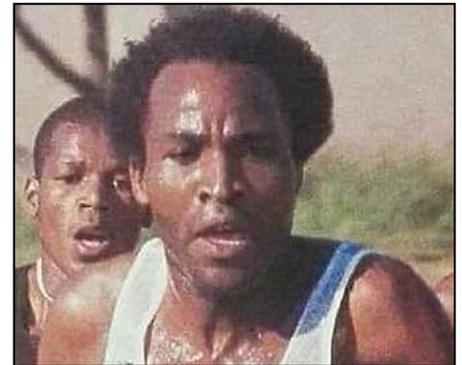
Taliep Petersen born



Taliep Petersen, renowned composer, singer and director was born in District Six, Cape Town. He first sang at age six during the annual New Year's Cape Coon festival, performed in musicals and went on to direct such musicals as *District Six*, *Kats and the Kings*, *Poison and Ghoema*; and also created a sitcom *Alie Barber*. He passed on in 2006.

15 April 1978

Matthews Motshwarateu, breaks national 5,000m record



Black athlete Matthews Motshwarateu, recently allowed into the racially exclusive SA Amateur Athletics Union, breaks the national 5,000m record in Stellenbosch, so entering the annals of South African athletics.

16 April 1867

Eureka Diamond discovered by children in Hopetown

The Eureka diamond, which weighed over 21 carats, was discovered by two children in Hopetown, N Cape. This started the diamond rush of Kimberley and the beginning of the current minerals complex in South Africa. The then governor of the Cape bought it and took it to London, where it remained for 100 years. In 1967, De Beers bought the Eureka diamond back and it is still on display at the Kimberley Museum.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

16 April 1924 Inji Aflatoun born



Egyptian painter, activist and women's rights champion was born in Cairo. A pioneer of Egyptian modern art, she was a Marxist and joined Egypt's Communist Party at the age of 18. She founded a league of university women and represented Egypt in global women's conferences. She was the author of political pamphlets such as *Eighty Million Women with Us* (1948) and *We Egyptian Women* (1949) in Arabic, linking class and gender oppression, and connecting both to imperialist oppression. She held exhibitions of her paintings during the 60s and 70s in Rome, Paris, Dresden, Warsaw, Moscow, Sofia, New Delhi, and Prague, and collections of her works was displayed at the Amir Taz Palace in Cairo. Inji Aflatoun died in Cairo on 17 April 1989 at the age of 65.

16 April 1976 Alek Wek born

Iconic Sudanese supermodel and designer Alek Wek was born in Wau, in a Dinka community. She fled the civil war at age of 14 with her family to the UK, where she enrolled at the London College of Fashion and studied Fashion Business and Technology. In 1995, at the age of 18 she was discovered by a fashion scout and rose to become a glob-



al icon, changing perceptions of what constitute beauty. She was named Model of the year by MTV in 1997 and was the first African model to appear on the cover of Elle magazine.

16 April 1988 Home Affairs Minister warns Community newspapers



Community newspapers formed by anti-apartheid activists and journalists, Grassroots, Saamstaan and Out of Step officially were warned by Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha, that the contents of their publications were "causing a delay in the termination of the state of emergency."

16 April 2004 Early Stone Age Jewelry found

Jewelry dating back 75,000 years ago was found in the Blom-

bos cave, overlooking the Indian Ocean. It is believed to be the oldest known jewelry found. The Stone Age jewelry is a set of beads with holes drilled into it, as part of a necklace. The discovery is believed to be the oldest known jewelry, as the beads are more than 30,000 years older than any other known human jewelry.

16 April 2019 Rare Blue Diamond unveiled

The state run Okavango Diamond Company unveiled the 20.46 carat blue diamond in Botswana on this day. The gem is one of the rarest, and a once in a lifetime found a year earlier at the Orapa mine. The Botswana Okavango Blue diamond is on show at the American Museum of Natural History, on loan from its home country.

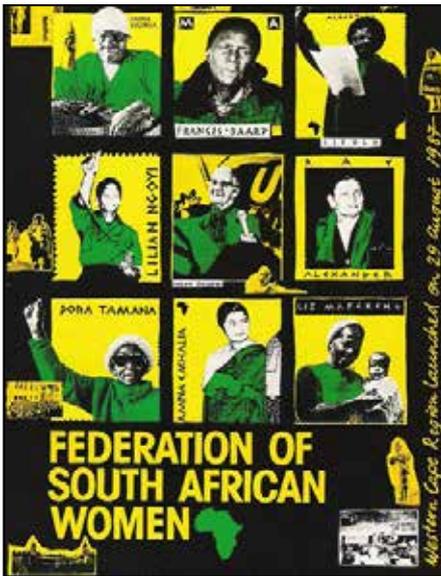
17 April 1658 School for slaves open in Cape

Jan van Riebeeck, commander at the Cape, wrote in his diary that a school for slaves had been started, with Pieter van der Stael as the first teacher. To reward pupils (mainly adults) for their presence, they received a glass of brandy and two inches of tobacco each day. The aim of the school was to increase the usefulness of the slaves to their owners. A second school, attended by 12 White children, four slaves and one Khoi-Khoi, was opened in 1661.

17 April 1954 FEDSAW launched and first Women's Charter adopted

The Federations of South African Women (FEDSAW) was formed as the first non-racial women's

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



movement. FEDSAW was the brainchild of trade unionist Ray Alexander, working together with women such as Lilian Ngoyi, Aminah Cachalia, Hilda Bernstein, Dora Tamana, Ruth Mompoti and Helen Josephs to bring together women's organisations. The FEDSAW launching conference adopted the first Women's Charter as a common platform against apartheid, for women's equality, education, equal work for equal pay and a better life for all children. FEDSAW organized the historic march to the Union building of 9 August 1956.

17 April 1958 Belgium opens a Human Zoo

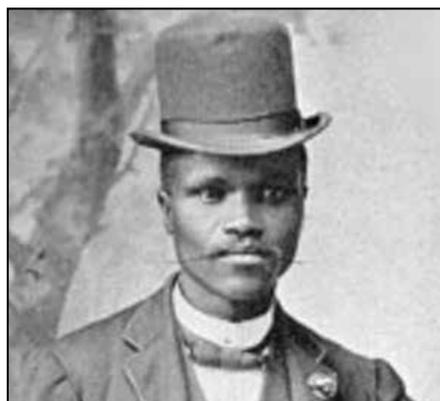
On this day, Belgium staged the opening of a human zoo at the 1958 world fair in Brussels, "a glittering 200-day celebration of postwar social, cultural and technological advances. It also had a live display of black men, women and children from the Congo in "native conditions" laid on for the education and amusement of white Europeans. It was the world's last "human zoo", the first being in 1897, when King Leopold II imported 267 Congolese for display.

17 April 1986 Author Bessie Head passes away



Bessie Emery Head, author of *A Question of Power*, *Maru*, *The Cardinal* and a book of short stories about her adopted country, *Botswana The Collector of Treasures* passed away in Serowe. Head was born in 1937 in a mental institution in Pietermaritzburg, to a white mother and a black father. Bessie landed up in the foster care system, trained as a teacher and married very early. She gave up teaching, and started working as a journalist, writing for the *Golden City Post and Drum*. Head left South Africa for Botswana with her son in 1964. Here she worked as a lecturer, eventually gaining Botswana citizenship in 1979, living in Serowe, and writing until her passing on this day.

18 April 1905 Composer Enoch Sontonga passed on



Enoch Sontonga, the composer of *Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrica* died a young 32. When he composed this African classic, that became part of South Africa and other national anthems, Sontonga was only 24 years old. Enoch Sontonga was born in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape, attended Loveday college and taught at the Methodist Mission school. He performed *Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrica* in his choir, which toured the country. Samuel Mqhayi later added several verses to the hymn.

18 April 1964 Neville Alexander and others guilty of sabotage

Dr. Neville Alexander and four others were found guilty of sabotage and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. The judge found that the accused participated in the activities of the National Liberation Front (NLF), an offshoot of the Yu Chi Chan Club (YCCC), whose aims was to advance the revolution through violence. In 1974, Alexander was released from Robben Island, but banned and placed under house arrest for five years.

18 April 1994 Photographer killed in violence ahead of 1994 elections

On the eve of the first democratic elections, photographer Ken Oosterbroek covered the political violence in townships of the now Gauteng province and KZN. Oosterbroek got into photography whilst doing his SADF military service in Angola, and won a number of Photographer of the Year awards, working at *The Star* newspaper. He was shot on duty in Thokoza. A judicial inquest could not uncover the truth and it was later found he was killed by the then National Peacekeeping Force.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

12–18 April 2025

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

12 April International Day of Human Space Flight



12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen in the Vostok 1 spaceship. This opened the way for space exploration. It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 7 April 2011, a few days before the 50th anniversary of the flight.

12 April International Day of Pink

This day uses the color pink to raise awareness and fight against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia, and transmisogyny across the world.

15 April World Art Day

World Art Day is a celebration to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art, on the



birthday of Leonardo da Vinci. The day helps to re-inforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. It is also an occasion to shine a light on arts education in schools, as culture can pave the way for inclusive and equitable education.

16 April World Voice Day



World Voice Day (WVD) is a worldwide annual event that takes place on April 16 devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice. The aim is to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. Voice is a critical aspect of effective and healthy communication, and World Voice Day brings global awareness to the need for preventing voice problems, rehabilitating the deviant or sick voice, training the artistic voice, and re-searching the function and application of voice.

16 April Save the Elephant Day

There are currently three species of elephant spread across Africa and Asia: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant and the Asian elephant. Huge and with highly adept trunks, these creatures are intelligent, social and largely gentle giants. They

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

display a range of emotions such as joy, anger and grief and live in complex social structures – matriarchal herds for the female cows and calves and a solitary lifestyle or bachelor herds for the male bulls. The ivory trade and human expansionism have resulted in the numbers of elephants fast reducing.

17 April

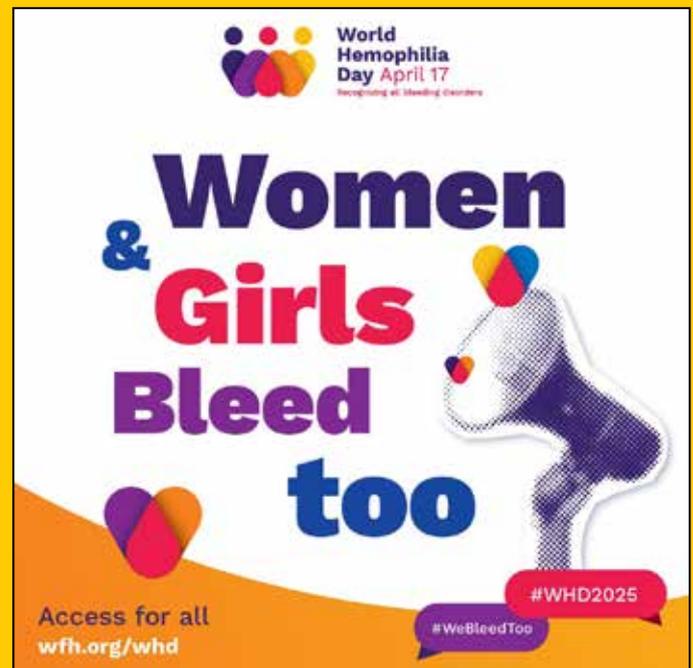
International Haiku Poetry Day

Observed annually on April 17, National Haiku Poetry Day encourages all to try their hand in creativity. Haiku poetry is a form of Japanese poetry that is non-rhyming and usually consists of 3 lines with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5. Usually, an element of nature, a season, a moment of beauty, or an individual experience inspires haiku poems. Sensory language is used to capture a feeling, image, or moment.

17 April

World Hemophilia Day

Hemophilia is a very rare disease where a person's blood does not clot due to the absence of the necessary blood-clotting proteins. They therefore bleed for a long time and this can become uncontrollable if it's a large injury. It is particularly a concern if the bleeding happens internally, because it can damage organs and become life-threatening. The disease is genetic and is treatable. This year's theme is: "**Access for all: Women and girls bleed too**". Women and girls with bleeding disorders (WGBDs) are still underdiagnosed and underserved. The global bleeding disorders community has the power – and the responsibility – to change this. Through recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and care, the quality of



life of women and girls will improve, and the bleeding disorders community will become stronger.

18 April

International Day of Monuments and Sites

Monuments remind us of the past, as they commemorate events or persons, and what they meant. Monuments depend on how history is regarded and who decides what is important history to be celebrated. It is therefore very contested, as we've seen with the #RhodesMustFall movement in our country. After 1994, we continue to work to ensure that the history of the majority, including the history of the liberation struggle, is commemorated.

**"I am an African,
not just because I was born in Africa...
...but because Africa is born in me!"**

- Kwame

