



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the
President



THROUGH DEMOCRATIC CHANGE, SOUTH AFRICANS ARE RECLAIMING THEIR DIGNITY

■ By **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

 In this past Saturday, 27 April 2024, South Africa celebrated the 30th anniversary of the country's first democratic elections. It was the day that changed our country forever.

It was the day on which the country turned its back on apartheid. Beyond the great wrong that was apartheid, it was a system designed to deny people their dignity.

This national humiliation and degradation ranged from bureaucratic pettiness like whites-only benches, restaurants and beaches, to the brute force that saw families torn apart and forcibly moved from

their houses and land. People were tortured, imprisoned, exiled and killed. The so-called solution of 'separate development' resulted in nothing but underdevelopment for the country's majority.

As President Nelson Mandela once said, in the system of apartheid, both the oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

That is why the task of national reconciliation we embarked on in 1994 was as much about liberating white South Africans from the shackles of prejudice and fear as it was about freeing black South Africans from the indignity of apartheid.

As we continuously strive towards nationhood, it is critical that all South Africans, be they white, black, Indian and coloured, remain part of this journey.

This becomes all the more important at times of difficulty, when there is a temptation to retreat into laagers of ethnicity and race. For the sake of national unity, we should resist this temptation. We should acknowledge feelings of marginalisation and address them.

The democratic breakthrough of 1994 began the restoration of the dignity of black South Africans that had been denied and systematically eroded, first

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by colonialism then by apartheid.

Despite the many challenges our country continues to experience, not least of all the crisis of unemployment, South Africans are pioneering, resourceful and resilient, often in the face of great odds.

What always strikes me during my interaction with young South African men and women born into democracy is the confidence they exude, secure in the knowledge that their dignity is both respected and protected.

Democracy's children are self-assured about their human rights, in their citizenship, of their role and place in society, and of their own potential.

During apartheid, Bantu education was served up to the country's black majority as a reminder that there was no place for them 'above the level of certain forms of labour'. In South Africa today, equal access to quality education has enabled black children to become CEOs of companies, professors, engineers and fighter pilots.

Young South Africans, our nation's future, are making their mark in the workplace, in arts, culture and music, in academia, in the high-growth tech and IT sectors, and in serving their communities.

They are also politically astute and civically engaged. Some 77 percent of new voters registered in preparation for the



forthcoming election are young people under the age of 29.

At times of difficulty in the life of our nation, some have found themselves tempted to question whether life has really been better under democracy. For all who experienced apartheid, there can be no doubt that democracy has restored the dignity of every South African.

Each time I meet with the many young people born into a free South Africa, when I look at the vast, profound, transformative change this country has undergone over the past thirty years, I feel a profound sense of gratitude.

I am grateful that they will never have to endure the humility and indignity of previous generations, of being forced to sit on separate park benches, dispossessed of their land, denied opportunities for advancement and of being pariahs in the land of their birth.

In this Freedom Month, when we collectively reflect on how far we have come in building a new nation, we know that we are not as far as we had hoped to be. While we have done much to undo the devastating legacy of apartheid, we have confronted other challenges, both from beyond our borders,



such as the global financial crisis, and here at home.

In recent years, as we sought to recover from more than a decade of low growth and the era of state capture, our progress was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the loss of more than 100,000 lives in our country and caused the greatest contraction of our economy in decades.

The public unrest in July 2021 and the catastrophic floods in parts of the country the following year led to further loss of life and destruction of property and infrastructure.

While these events severely hampered our collective efforts to rebuild the country, they also showed the resilience of the South African people. Despite these great difficulties, we have persevered with the task

of reform and recovery, to grow an inclusive economy and create jobs.

We have continued to work together to overcome the crises of unemployment, poverty, inequality and underdevelopment. These challenges impact on the lives of millions of people and undermine the dignity

that we have worked throughout our democracy to restore.

And yet we maintain our resolve to move forward with optimism. We have come a long, long way. And we are determined to go further to achieve the free, just and equal South Africa for which millions voted on Freedom Day 30 years ago.





OUR COLLECTIVE JOURNEY TOWARDS A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

■ This is a shortened version of the **Freedom Day Speech by the ANC KZN Provincial Chairperson, SIBONISO DUMA**

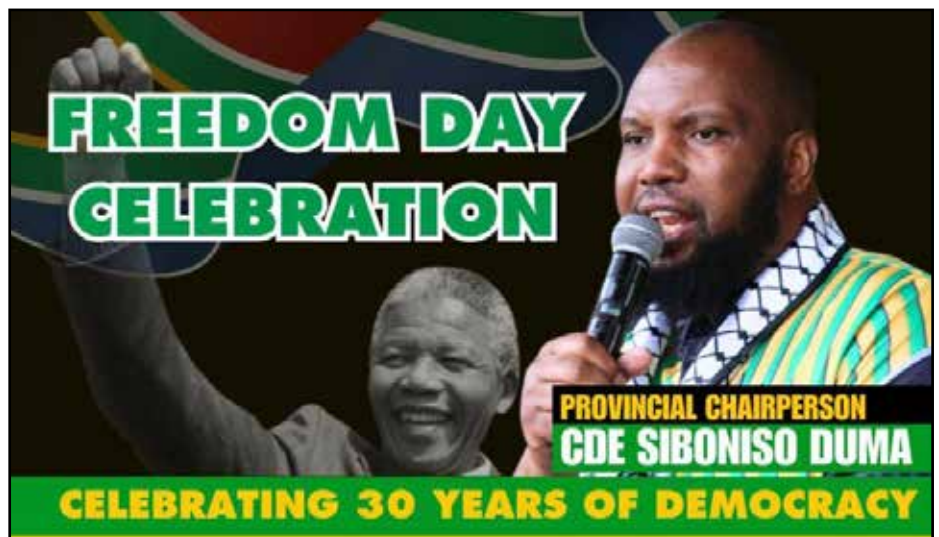
FREEDOM DAY is an important Day in our calendar and in our history. This is a day when the democratic breakthrough was achieved after years of oppression.

This day is not just a celebration of the end of oppression but a solemn remembrance of the struggles faced and the sacrifices made for the sake of freedom. It serves as a powerful reminder of our collective journey towards a National Democratic Society.

There are many heroes and heroines from Umlazi.

We owe our freedom to Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge, Portia Ndwandwe, Dorothy Nyembe, Florence Mkhize and many others too many to mention.

Who can forget our history. A mere mention of Shoji Shosho-



soke, Simphiwe Mvuyane Ngcobo Ngcolile evokes sad memories.

We remember the pain inflicted by the warlords of yesteryears – the likes of Samuel Jamile in Clermont, Ntombela and Sgoloza.

The mighty ANC has liberated even these families.

The essence of Freedom Day lies in its universal appeal to human rights. The Clergymen in our province, Reverend Afrikaner, Reverend Mgotshwa, Bishop Hurley and many others fought for our democracy.

So, Freedom Day embodies the spirit of resistance against tyranny and the triumph of the human



will. Across the globe, various nations observe their own versions of Freedom Day, each with unique historical contexts but united by the common thread of liberation.

It is also a day of reflection, urging us to consider the cost of our liberty and the responsibilities that come with it. Isilo SasoSuthu King Dinuzulu and Inkosi Bhambatha Zondi are the examples of struggle of an African.

However, Freedom Day is not only about looking back. If we limit it into the past the enemies of the National Democratic Revolution will defeat the revolution.

In 1994 ours was but a democratic breakthrough and not a revolutionary take over, while the White regime failed to defeat us, we equally didn't uproot it. Our breakthrough meant the attainment of political power for the advancement towards total power.

We pause to salute Anton Lembede, the son of Mbumbulu. Andrew Zondo from KwaMashu. Lucky Payi MaChina Xulu.

Who can forget Cde Robert McBride and Cde Naughty Ngcobo

who are still alive and leading the revolution?

It is based on this understanding that I call all of us to **"Reflect on Our Past, analyse challenges and Embrace Our Future"**.

We are proud to reiterate that since the dawn of our democracy, the ANC has reversed key elements of more than 342 years of colonial rule, national oppression, and class exploitation.

For more than a century, and before the 1994 democratic breakthrough, the ANC had embarked on an uninterrupted national democratic revolution with its duality on national liberation and against exploitation of one man by another.

In his address to the First Congress of the MPLA in Angola, 1977, President Oliver Tambo referred to Angola's victory as *"the victory of all the peoples, including the people of South Africa, who are pledged to fight for the creation of a new socio-economic systems which will be characterized by the abolition of exploitation of man by man through ownership of productive wealth by the people themselves..."*

Analysing challenges

Let us defeat three-fold tendencies: Right-wing flirtations with the past, disruptive demagoguery and opportunistic cultism. The mighty OR Tambo, Mandela, Luthuli and Ilembe Isilo uShaka were giants that led us to victory, not as cultists but as visionaries.

The most determined struggle should be waged against all disruptive and demagogic attempts to weaken the project of national democratic society.

The SA post-democratic breakthrough has presented three-fold tendencies, namely, right-wing flirtations with the past, disruptive demagoguery, and opportunistic cultism. These tendencies shall be contextualized in the ensuing content as they are located within the body-politics of some political formations in our country.

Right-wing flirtations with the past (embodied in DA)

When the Government of National Unity (GNU) was forged in 1994, the overarching strategy of the ANC was to unite the people of South Africa in the context of unity in diversity and nation building. Among other things, the

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government of national unity was based on laying the foundation for building a truly democratic, united, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

“The notion of GNU, encompassing all political parties that enjoyed a threshold of 10 percent of support in the electorate, came from the ANC as one among many instruments to ensure inclusivity during the transition period from apartheid to democracy...”.

Acting against the preceding agreements on inclusive governance, the National Party demanded that the GNU be extended beyond 1999. Already the former apartheid President De Klerk had been grieving against the appointment of Trevor Manuel as the Minister of Finance without his consultation as the leader of the National Party.

The ANC seriously viewed this attitude as an arrogant act epitomized in the leader of the then National Party. In essence, this was a direct attack on our constituency based democratic principles. Moreover, during the NP’s withdrawal from GNU, FW De Klerk issued a statement where he addressed the international community, especially global business on issues pertaining to the political and economic impact of their withdrawal.

The recent overreach by the Democratic Alliance (National Party’s predecessor) seeking the intervention of the international community to monitor our upcoming general elections is just but one of their DNA, in undermining our democracy and seeking to preserve white supremacy under the cloak of victimhood.

Diametrically, this tendency is part

of consolidating the DA’s agenda on entrenching right-wing opportunism mainly buttressed with the following characteristics:

i) Limited government

Promoting government with lesser regulation and intervention in the economic development of the country. Downsizing and restructuring of government entities to the benefit of the private sector and individuals against the dictates of a developmental state.

ii) Low taxation of the rich: Rand Manipulation

Contrary to the belief that reducing tax burden to big corporations will stimulate economic growth, low taxation has resulted in unprecedented high profit margins for the wealthy in the face of growing and racialized inequality, unemployment and poverty.

iii) Free-market fundamentalism

Right-wing ideologies typically endorse free-market economic systems, where supply and demand determine prices regardless of the down-spiral collapse of the purchasing power due to high levels of unemployment and poverty.

All in all, the DA’s mission remains as that of preserving the past not just from a political point of view but more so in the economy wherein the white minority must continue their hold in the ownership and control of the economy while the majority, mainly Africans, remain in poverty.

Their recent electoral posture on Rescuing South Africa represents their historical notions of preserving white supremacy. They want to ‘rescue’ South Africa from majority rule and take it back to their historical reminiscence of sepa-

rate development.

Also distracted by a small but irritant EFF which is a destructive demagoguery representing a critical and concerning phenomenon, often emerging in the most tumultuous periods of class struggle.

At its core, demagoguery involves appealing to the worst instincts of the populace – fear, prejudice, and ignorance – to gain power and manipulate public opinion. It thrives on creating an ‘us versus them’ scenario, often targeting marginalised groups or external enemies to divert attention from substantive socioeconomic issues.

In a 255-pagebook filled with pictures and rhetoric, complex challenges of our country are oversimplified by EFF in an effort to hoodwink our people.

According to the EFF

- (i) there is no “courageous” leadership in the ANC;
- (ii) the civic movement is non-existent;
- (iii) the ‘vanguard’ of the working class is not ‘sound and coherent’;
- (iv) Cosatu has betrayed the workers; and, therefore, the EFF will become everything to everyone in order to attain an unclear slogan of our land and jobs now.

This conclusion merely leads to simple solutions as proposed in the Manifesto in order to substitute the hard and complicated political and class struggles we face.

Part of the simple solutions includes the agitation that our failure to attain economic freedom lies in what they call ‘failure

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of leadership to deliver on the needs and interests of our people.' It is no mistake that 'leadership is being blamed, and we will show why.

An analysis exposes the confused 'leadership' solution that 'in order to attain change, the EFF should be a vanguard political party, civil society movement, trade-union and again remain a political party.

The EFF can never be a trade-union representing workers, especially when it is a political Party contesting elections. This can only mean that they should form a trade-union in order for it to represent workers.

Historical and Contemporary Examples

Throughout history, numerous leaders have risen to power using demagogic tactics, often during periods of economic uncertainty and social upheaval. For instance, the rise of fascism in Europe in the 20th century can be seen as a direct result of demagogic manipulation, playing on economic fears and nationalistic sentiments to establish totalitarian regimes that brutally suppressed working-class movements and socialist ideas.

The impact of demagoguery is profoundly destructive. It not only undermines the democratic fabric of society but also deepens social divisions and heightens class conflict without addressing the root causes of societal problems. In a capitalist society, this means that while the proletariat suffers from economic and social injustices, the focus remains on manufactured crises and moral panics, perpetuated by the demagogues.

Opportunistic cultism (Twin brothers IFP and MK)

My input will not be doing justice if it doesn't deal with the last threat of our Democracy even if it is only limited to KwaZulu Natal, thus it can be viewed as a regional threat. That is opportunistic cultism.

Opportunistic cultism, refers to the phenomenon where certain groups or leaders exploit ideological and political movements for personal gain, betraying the broader class interests they purport to represent.

This opportunistic cultism undermines genuine revolutionary and liberation movements, serving instead the interests of a select few at the expense of mass liberation.

Characteristics of Opportunistic Cultism

Opportunistic cultism is marked by a few distinct characteristics:

1. Cult of Personality: The leader or core group is exalted to an almost divine status, where their

interpretations of the struggle and history are seen as infallible. This undermines democratic and critical debate within the movement.

The departed leader of IFP Prince MG Buthelezi manipulated history in order to win over our people, he used his "relationship" with Chief Luthuli to distort everything that Chief Luthuli Stood for. He claimed to be a member of the ANC and to love the ANC while working for its demise

Buthelezi has been reincarnated in the form of JZ, claiming to be an ANC member, loving the ANC and equally distorting the history of Umkhonto we Sizwe as the arm wing of the ANC.

In return, his unsuspecting followers truly believe that his interpretation of historical events are infallibly assisted by age on his side; he distorts history with authority.

2. Ideological Rigidity: An insistence on a narrow, often dogmatic interpretation of principles, which is used to justify authoritarian practices and to exclude or silence dissent within the movement.



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At the centre of both Zuma Party and IFP politics is tribalism, mobilisation of our people on the basis of tribal line. Our tradition and traditional institutions are also pushed into this agenda.

3. Exploitation of Movements:

Using genuine social, economic, or political movements as vehicles for personal advancement, often diverting resources and attention away from the needs of the working class and towards the sustenance of the cult.

Prince Buthelezi used the uniform of the ANC and Inkosi Albert Luthuli to mislead our people. People truly believed that he was advancing our liberation struggle.

In his political campaign, he never vigorously campaigned for the release of political prisoners, unbanning all political formations,

boycotting of apartheid institutions and imposition of sanctions but he was wearing ANC uniform and colours.

One of the things Zuma borrowed from Chief Buthelezi is to use names and gravesites of our leaders to claim them and to balloon a lie that what he is doing is in line with the ANC before it was "stolen".

Ironically Buthelezi often attacked the ANC but simultaneously claimed to be the genuine disciple of Luthuli and at times Tambo. Please listen to Zuma every time he speaks.

4. Manipulation and Control:

Employing manipulative tactics to maintain control over followers, including propaganda, misinformation, and emotional or psychological manipulation.

The primary victims of opportunistic cultism are the workers and oppressed classes that these movements purport to represent.

Instead of fostering empowerment and class consciousness, opportunistic cults often lead to disillusionment, political disengagement, and a sense of betrayal among the masses.

Moreover, these cults can cause significant harm by perpetuating authoritarian values and practices that are antithetical to true Marxist principles of democratic control. As part of advancing quantitative reforms in changing the lives of our people for the better, the movement has stood the test of time in transforming the socio-economic conditions of our people through ensuring that:

- Every citizen has an equal vote for one government.
- Model Constitutions protect our rights and democracy.
- One government, and all have equal access to rights, grants, government services, education, health, etc.

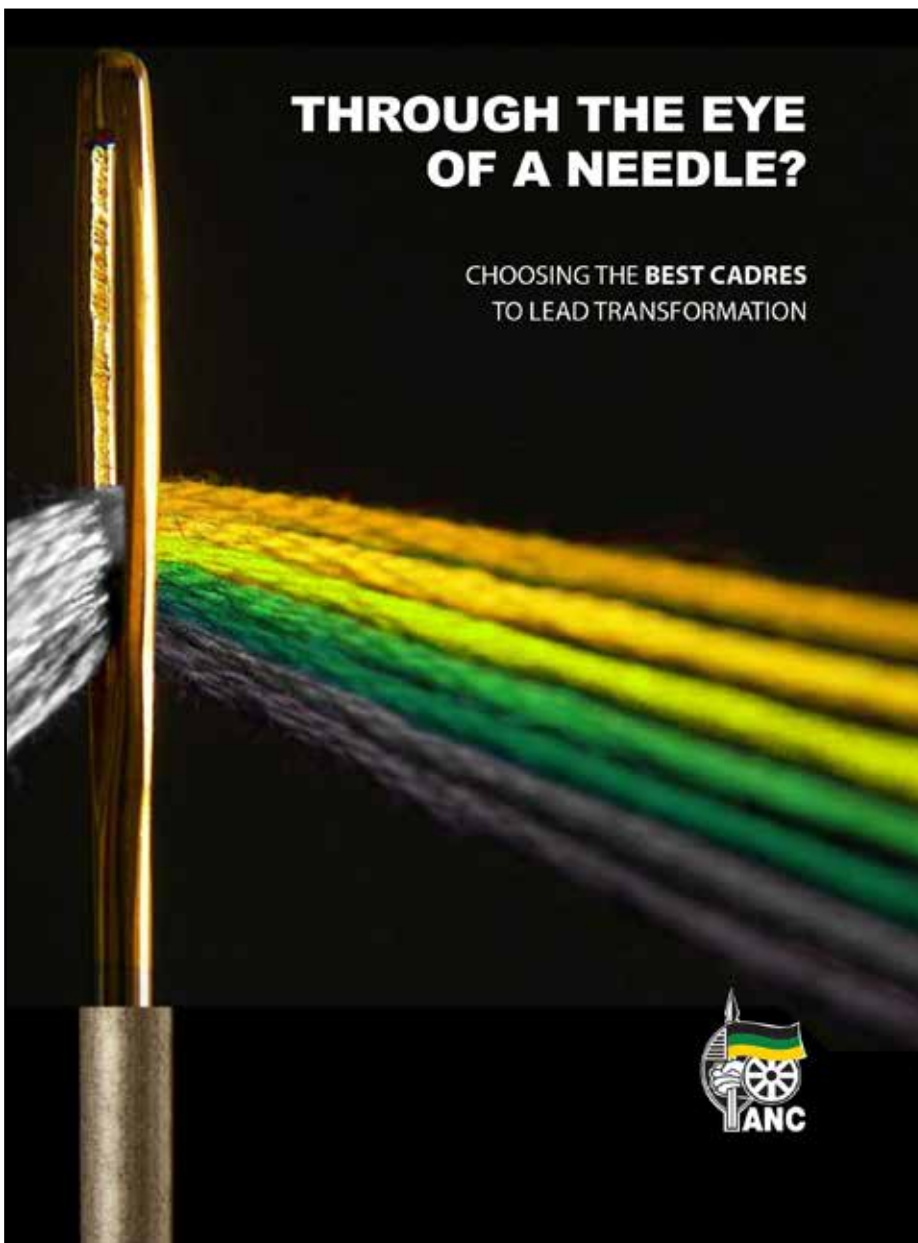
With these and many other reforms, the ANC aims to ultimately transform the structural and systematic reality in as far as the democratic economic ownership and control of our economy is concerned. Knowing that addressing the triple crisis of racialised and centuries-old legacy of unemployment, poverty and inequality shall not be an easy task, the African National Congress remains convinced that together with our people we shall ultimately change the status quo and victory shall remain certain.

Happy Freedom Day.



The ANC Veterans' League campaign for credible candidates

■ Input by **ANC Veteran's League President, SNUKI ZIKALALA**, to the **ANC Veterans' League Elections Webinar** series



ON 24 April we remembered the 31st anniversary of the passing away of one of our greatest veterans, OR Tambo. His son Dali Tambo at a wreath-laying ceremony in his honour, recited a very poignant poem.

He recalled a long list of names of leaders Chief Albert Luthuli, Ruth First, ZK Mathews, Anton Lembede, and Solomon Mahlangu amongst others, whom we revered and respected, who had impeccable values and who against all odds acted to serve the masses of the people. He enjoined us to ask the question – have we made these leaders feel that their sacrifices were worth it or not so much.

I will talk about the ANC Veterans' League's endeavours to renew the ANC, to ensure that if indeed as Cde Dali described, a delegation of 100 immortals came down to earth on a fact-finding mission, they would be able to report back that their sacrifices were worth it.

I want to be upfront that a large part of the unravelling of the ANC over the last decade has been



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related to the calibre of our leadership at all levels. So the recent Afro barometer survey tells us that only 29% of people trust the government, and the ANC is the leading party in government. When we were at our National Conference in 2022, we heard our internal pollsters tell us that ANC members themselves do not trust their ANC government leaders.

We have all witnessed the outrage of South Africans against corrupt and unethical politicians. Just last week, we heard that the Johannesburg mayor required ten bodyguards and eight luxury vehicles and that the City spends R3 million a month on VIP protection. This is while policing for more serious crimes lacks resources. That's why other political parties come with election promises to ban blue light brigades.

Worse still, we also witness how some do not rail against this unethical behaviour but instead decide that it's best to join them because that is the only way they can survive – if they are poor – or prosper – if they are greedy. This can only lead to the moral decay of our society and the further deterioration of our economy.

This is why, the Veterans League has been campaigning hard for us to put up credible candidates for the national and provincial legislatures in the forthcoming elections. Not only because we believe we can only achieve a decisive victory if our candidates are competent, ethical and incorruptible but also because credible candidates can rebuild our economy and society.

Credible leaders live long in the hearts of the people. Witness the love for Tata Madiba. I am also


reminded of President Pepe Mujica, the former Uruguayan President who has been described as one of the world's humblest heads of state due to his simple lifestyle, the donation of 90% of his salary to charity and that he either used a bicycle or VW beetle to get around.

The Veterans League is not (yet) asking our comrade Ministers to cycle to work, but we are calling for honesty and humbleness as we seek to regain the trust of the

people. We thus in the face of the upcoming elections, drove a concerted effort to cleanse the lists of any candidates that were beyond reproach. It has been a disciplined campaign within the ANC as we are required to do by the ANC and ANC Veterans' League constitutions.

The ANC Constitution makes it clear that "engaging in any unethical or immoral conduct which detracts from the character, values and integrity of the ANC" is

THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE



LEADERS EVOLVE OUT OF BATTLES for social transformation.
In these battles, some will fail: but the abiding quality of leadership is to **learn from mistakes**, appreciate one's weaknesses and **correct them.**

An individual with **qualities of leadership** does not seek to gain popularity by **UNDERMINING** those in **positions of responsibility.**

If a member has views on how to **improve things** or **correct mistakes**, they should state them in **CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES** and seek to **win others** to their own thinking.

They should **ASSIST THE MOVEMENT** as a whole to **improve** its work – and not **stand aside** to claim perfection out of **inactivity.**

Be **ACCESSIBLE** and **FLEXIBLE** and not think they are the source of all wisdom.

UNDERSTAND ANC policy and be able to **APPLY** it under all conditions.

Constantly seek to **IMPROVE** their capacity to **SERVE** the people.

WIN the **confidence** of the people in their **day-to-day** work.

Not seek to gain **CHEAP POPULARITY** by avoiding difficult issues, making **false promises** or **pandering** to popular sentiment.

Have the courage to explain and **CONVINCE OTHERS** of the **correctness of decisions** taken by constitutional structures – even if decisions are **unpopular.**


Strive to be in touch with the people all the time, **LISTEN** to their views and **LEARN** from them.


LEAD BY EXAMPLE and be **above reproach** in their political and social conduct.


Act as a **role model** to ANC members and non-members that reflects **COMMITMENT** to the strategic goals of the NDR, which includes not only being free of corrupt practices, but also actively fighting against corruption.


ANC MEMBERS SHOULD


THE ULTIMATE TEST OF LEADERSHIP INCLUDES:

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Striving for **convergence** between personal interests and the **collective interest.**
- 


Handling **conflict** by understanding its origins and seeking to **resolve it** in the **context of struggle** and in the interests of the ANC.
- 

The ability to **inspire people** in good times and bad.
- 

Reinforcing members' and society's **confidence** in the ANC and **transformation.**
- 

Winning acceptance by members not through suppression, threats or patronage, but by being **principled**, firm, humble and considerate.

Download the full PDF booklet



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an act of misconduct as it brings the organisation into disrepute. You can all agree, that a hallmark of any organisation is to respect its constitution.

Anyone who says that what we have been doing is de-campaigning the ANC does not respect the tenets of our constitution and is mischief-making. Similarly, those who say, we should no longer vote for the ANC because of the current internal challenges are being self-defeatist. The ANC's internal challenges are best placed to be addressed within the ANC and at this point, no other political party can take over the mantle of the ANC with its legacy of progressive politics, track record and capacity to serve our people and deliver a better life for all.

The journey to renew the ANC has long been a focus, if not the primary preoccupation, of the ANC VL since our second National Conference in 2017. Unfortunately, when I took over as President of the VL, I presided over a divided Veterans League – between those committed to renewing the ANC and those who wanted to perpetuate the status quo of using access to the ANC to serve their self-interests.

This NEC was however able to set up a Renewal Sub-committee to formulate the pillars as to what would constitute renewal of the ANC and to lobby within the ANC for renewal. It was our work that led, for example, to the establishment of a Renewal Commission in the ANC which developed a 2032 vision for our movement.

Our vision for a renewed ANC is best set out by ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa in his January 8th statement in Mangaung in 2022 when he said and I quote



Supporters share some love for President Ramaphosa on the ANC elections campaign trail

a “a renewed, responsive, modernised, well-governed, well-resourced, ethical, caring and effective political formation.”

To achieve this, the ANC Veterans League would like to see a change in the membership and cadres of the ANC, secondly, a change in our relationship with the people; and third, we want a change in how the ANC organises.

Our campaign for credible candidates is linked to the first change we want to see. We wanted to send a message to the people that our public representatives are worthy of the honour to serve our people and step in the shoes of our ANC legends.

In a September 2023 strategic workshop, the newly elected Veterans' League NEC set out our roadmap for our five years in office. We agreed that firstly, nobody who has brought the ANC into disrepute should be on the lists going to national or provincial legislatures before they have embarked on relevant processes to clear their name; and our list of candidates should consist of credible leaders who will restore the confidence of the public in the ANC.

Since then, we have played important roles in the list process including nominating individuals, monitoring the integrity of the process and calling for those who have been implicated in the VBS scandal and Zondo, Motlanthe and other similar commissions to clear their names before they are included on candidate lists. Our National Office Bearers, supported by some former Presidents were vocal in all relevant ANC forums in this regard.

So important has this been for us, that in December 2023, our Cde deputy president, Mavuso Msimang resigned from the ANC in the face of a lack of progress and disrespect in certain quarters of the ANC as to the role of the Veterans League. After discussions and guarantees from the senior leadership, he returned. We are still expecting that these guarantees will be honoured.

After the ANC candidate lists were released in early March, we gathered as the VL NEC to consider our response. We felt that the majority of candidates have passed through the eye of the needle. We were particularly proud of the Veteran's League NEC and PEC members who made it onto the candidate lists.

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These include Cdes Ebrahim Rasool, Maggie Govender, Fish Mahlasela, and Eunice Kekana. As members who have been tested and tried through the struggle for freedom and democracy in our country, they can be trusted to listen and to serve the people. However, there remain some individuals, including some who are high on the candidate lists whose track records do not demonstrate a commitment to serve the people and have lost their trust through their previous actions, often looting taxpayers' money.

Our understanding is that these individuals have yet to be charged by the National Disciplinary Committee of the ANC arising out of the fact that they did not go to the Integrity Commission to clear their names. We further understand that if they are charged, then in terms of the step-aside rule in the ANC, they will be required to step aside. We are respecting these processes – after all, as I said above, an organisation only works effectively, if the rules made are respected and rules are not made willy-nilly for every situation.

We continue to call upon the Secretary General's Office which is seized with completing these processes to fast-track them so that either the individuals concerned are cleared or removed from candidate lists. While their names appear on the IEC lists, the ANC can still decide whether they take up their seats in legislatures.

The renewal measures adopted by the Veterans' League at its National Conference last year, contain proposed carrots and sticks. On the carrot side, we need to improve the quality, diversity and

dynamism of ANC members. Credible leaders will attract credible young people to our ranks. This also includes intensifying political education across our ranks and as Veterans, we make ourselves available to help instil the values, principles and ethics of the ANC at all levels in the organisation.

On the stick side, we believe that Constitutional amendments should ban any individual who has a criminal record from being an ANC member. ANC membership should not be confirmed without members completing induction courses and the verification processes of branch members need to be strengthened.

Lastly, while we welcome the work of the internal ANC Electoral

Commission led by former president Kgalema Motlanthe, more can be done to have more robust election procedures for voting at branch, regional, provincial and national levels. The ANC should never be accused of vote buying and pecuniary incentives must be done away with.

The VL campaign will not end when the elections are over. We will continue to raise issues of corruption and ethics internally in the organisation.

The Veteran's League continues to campaign for a decisive ANC victory on the continued understanding that the ANC remains the only party that has the track record and capacity to serve our people and deliver a better life for all.

TUESDAY, 07 MAY 2024 TIME: 18H00

JOIN!!

THE ANC VETERANS' LEAGUE ELECTIONS WEBINAR

WHY VOTE FOR THE ANC: FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC RECESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ABROAD

<p>CDE JAMES NGCULU ANC VETERANS' LEAGUE, NEC MEMBER ON THE RISE OF POPULISM AND THE RIGHT-WING IN SOUTH AFRICA</p>	<p>CDE PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA FORMER DEPUTY PRESIDENT ON THE THREATS TO PEACE AND DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD</p>	<p>CDE EBRAHIM RASOOL FORMER WESTERN CAPE PREMIER ON THE STRUGGLE FOR A FREE PALESTINE</p>
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WHY VOTE ANC...



HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT



HOSPITAL TECH ADVANCEMENT

ANC is committed to improve South Africa's healthcare with new hospitals and clinics in poorer areas. Today, Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital and Bheki Mlangeni Hospital are performing open heart surgery.

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.

VOTE ANC



SOCIAL GRANTS



3.8 MILLION BENEFITTED R92.13 BILLION

The ANC is investing in our seniors by expanding basic support services. Through the continued efforts to support older persons with vital social grants, it has benefited 3.8 million people in 2022, totaling R92.13 billion today.

LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER.

VOTE ANC



EMULATING OLIVER TAMBO'S VIRTUES TO SECURE ANC VICTORY IN THE 2024 ELECTIONS

■ By **CHINA DODOVU**

AT the time when our movement led by the ANC is facing the toughest general elections since the advent of our democratic dispensation in 1994, it is befitting to draw strength and inspiration from Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo, the former ANC President who this week marked the 32nd anniversary of his departure from our midst.

OLIVER TAMBO, the longest serving President of the African National Congress from 1967 to 1991 was born on the 27th of October 1917 in the village of Kantilla, Bizana, in the Mpondoland (eQawukeni), province of the Eastern Cape, and departed on 24 April 1993.

Undoubtedly, during the most difficult moments of our struggle for national liberation, Oliver Tambo rose to the occasion and led the liberation movement diligently. We must forever be indebted to him because we are what we are and who we are today because of him and many leaders of his generation.

Since 1944 with the birth of the ANC Youth League until his de-

REMEMBERING

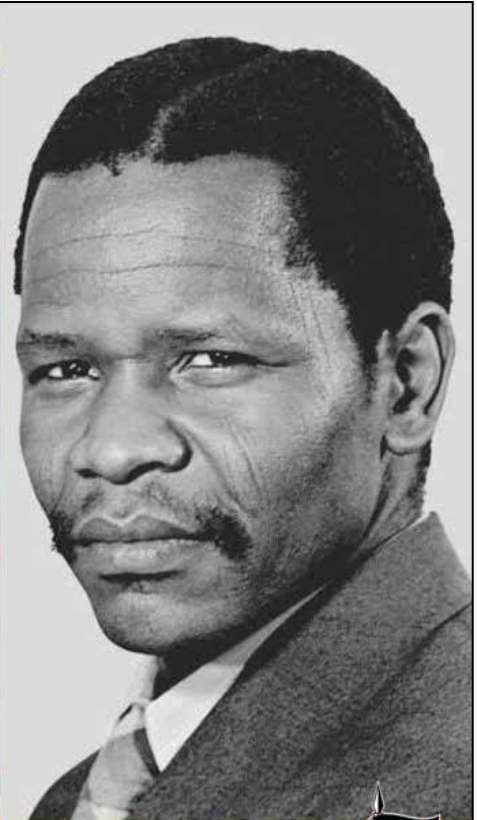
OLIVER TAMBO

“


The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest.

”

27 OCTOBER 1917
24 APRIL 1993



LET'S DO MORE, TOGETHER. VOTE ANC



parture in 1993, Oliver Tambo was a key political factor in the evolution of our bitter and relentless political struggle and in shaping the political landscape of South Africa. Together with other leaders like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, AP Mda and Anton Lembede, he was at the centre of

developing the radical 1949 Program of Action.

From the time Oliver Tambo chose to fight and raised his opposition to the apartheid system, he knew that he was choosing the inconvenience of venturing out without a shield. He fully re-

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alized its consequences that it was tantamount to stepping into a minefield but he did it with distinction.

Tambo distinguished himself by playing a leading role in the 1952 Defiance Campaign and in the codification and adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955. After the banning of the ANC in 1960 and after the incarceration of prominent leaders from 1962, he was assigned an unenviable and indomitable but not insurmountable task of leading the ANC in exile and in mobilizing the international community for support and solidarity against the apartheid system.

After the departure of Chief Albert Luthuli in 1967, Oliver Tambo led the ANC as its President during the most difficult period in its history until 1991. Despite serious problems encountered in the process, he successfully presided over the Morogoro Conference in 1969 in Tanzania which adopted for the first time, the Strategy and Tactics document which redefined the nature of our National Democratic Revolution (NDR) and formulated the four key pillars of our struggle.

In his closing address to the Morogoro Conference, Oliver Tambo received a prolonged standing ovation when he exhorted the delegates present to: *“wage a relentless war against disrupters and defend the ANC against provocateurs and enemy agents. Defend the revolution against enemy propaganda, whatever form it takes. Be vigilant, comrades. The enemy is vigilant. Beware of the wedge-driver, the man who creeps from ear to ear, carrying a bag full of wedges, driving them in between you and the next man, between a group and another,*

a man who goes round creating splits and divisions. Beware of the wedge driver, comrades. Watch his poisonous tongue.”

As the struggle for liberation intensified, it was President OR who galvanized and rejuvenated the spirit of the youth of our land when in delivering the January 8 message in 1985 said: *“we have to make the apartheid unworkable and our country ungovernable. Prepare the conditions for the seizure of power by the people”*.

In 1986 together with Joe Slovo, President OR initiated and commanded Operation Vukindlela popularly known as Operation Vula, the most sophisticated, secret arms-importation underground operation in the history of uMkhonto we Sizwe?

I have no doubt that President OR is today turning on his grave as we witness one of the factory faults of our struggle, former ANC president Jacob Zuma forming a political party styled MK party, becoming copycat which steals the ANC's heritage, policies, colours, songs and other intellectual properties, tailoring and fashioning them to suit his own devious political agenda.

In complete opposite of President OR, as Zuma expels himself from ANC, he not only hurled insults and directed vitriolic attacks, but he also became its an ardent critic and well-skilled artisan of hypocrisy who contradicts himself and applies double standards of morality.

With an undiminished vitality and adroit political acumen, in 1989 President OR articulated the ANC's proposals contained in the OAU's Harare Declaration which

set out the preconditions for a political settlement and for negotiations which aimed at resolving the intractable South African conflict.

Throughout his political life, President OR's attitude was consistently earnest, respectful, serious and humble without exaggeration. This is something extraordinarily touching about such evident good faith and loyalty. A rudimentary rationalist whose heart was close to the people of South Africa, President OR was also a reflective private man with impeccable credentials all-round.

President OR was an intellectual par excellence, internationally renowned as a peace maker, freedom fighter and resource mobilizer. He was not a freedom-square rabble-rouser which was playing to the public gallery. He was rather a pedantic speaker, paying attention to facts, language construction and motivation. He was at his best in drafting his own speeches, the crafting of political statements and arguing refinements of policy.

He excelled in policy formulations and was particularly responsible for bringing different components of the ANC and alliance together, working very hard to resolving conflicts and improving personal relations in exile.

President OR was undevoted to the acquisition of money and accumulation of material possessions for either himself, his family or close associates. I honour this generation because many of them lived a modest life, preferring to avoid the ostentation of smart cars and related luxuries of life. Unlike the current generation, they put little store in the importance of position and power,

preferring to focus on the values and worth of the individual.

The news of the death of in 1993 shook the entire mankind. It bowed us with sorrow, drawn our faces and deeply touched the oppressed majority, so deeply that it made hard to put one's feelings into words for, the liberation movement had

lost one of its most beloved and respected creative minds.

As we recall during his funeral, President Nelson Mandela said this about President OR: "..... Oliver lived because he had surrendered his very being to the people. He lived because his very being embodied love, an idea, a hope, an aspiration, a vision. While he lived, our minds would never quite formulate the thought that this man is other than what the naked eye could see. We could sense it, but never crystallise the thought that with us was one of the few people who inhabited our own human environment, who could be described as the jewel in our crown. I say that Oliver Tambo has not died, because the ideals for which he sacrificed his life can never die."

His inborn and scholarship revealed in his creative works a keenness of intellect, a gift of vivid expression and the arbour of his great African soul, mingled and fused with a power that few within the liberation movement possessed.

President OR was endowed with



great wisdom which impelled him forward on a clear cut and direct road that carried him to lofty heights. His creations and articulations were rich, all depicting the African soul, its strive and yearnings, its sufferings and sorrow and its majesty.

During the time he was fighting the apartheid system, President OR Tambo acquired an almost mythic status because of his immense contribution.

The generation of the 1980s was inspired by him because its cadres knew that they were all soldiers acting under his orders and that they were involved in a "just war" to liberate South Africa from the minority apartheid government. This was an ideal for which that generation was prepared to die.

There's no doubt that President OR has left an indelible and eternal stamp on the history of our country and in the hearts and minds of our people. He was both a product and maker of history and has left us a vision of a new and better life and the tools with which to win and build a democratic and prosperous country.

It is befitting that as the ANC campaigns for the 2024 general elections, its leaders, volunteers and foot soldiers must emulate the virtues and examples of President OR, especially when they make contacts with the people. They must accept that in the course of prosecuting the struggle and governing our country, the ANC committed some mistakes that it was ready and willing to correct through its renewal.

More than anything else, the ANC must, in the honour, memory and respect of President Tambo, do everything positive to prosecute the struggle for economic freedom in our life. As we remember OR Tambo, we must close ranks and strive to do what could make him happy.

Uphi uTambo, uTambo u sehlathini befan'
Uyenzani na, u sa fundisa Majoni
One line, two line bafana'.

China Dodovu is an ANC Member of Parliament. He writes in his personal capacity.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) has finally arrived

■ By **THOBANI MTHETWA**

THE late former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Ghanaian Diplomat, Kofi Annan, once said – “It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for”.

“There is a bill I will sign into law in the next few weeks. We will have the NHI. This will ensure access to free healthcare. We want to end the two tier health system. There must be universal health coverage,” said President Ramaphosa. Compared to its predecessors, the National Health Insurance (NHI) is the most fiercely challenged healthcare policy in post-apartheid South Africa. It was seen by many Members of Parliament as the imperfect policy to have been adopted by government. As a result, the National Department of Health (NDoH), and the African National Congress (ANC) received heavy criticism about the NHI.

There is no doubt that the healthcare system in South Africa has been affected by numerous challenges and these challenges have been a major disruption towards achieving the main goals



of the state. It is critically important to point out that these challenges are also rooted in South Africa’s balance of power and economic relations. The reality is that South Africa is made up of different social classes that are currently affected by the failures

to reform the healthcare system. The elites of South Africa, that is, those who use the private healthcare system are undoubtedly feeling the greatest pain from the rising medical private costs. The public healthcare users have also felt more unjust, and the

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National Health Insurance (NHI) was seen as a response to the ongoing challenges in the health-care system. The poorest of the country have not had much to lose, as their lives were already a catastrophe of abject poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment.

There is a famous accusation across different articles that the NDoH failed to conduct a feasibility study and test of the NHI. This accusation simply undermines bureaucrats that are professional experts who have the ability to identify problems, and to formulate new policies within a pre-existing set of ideas and existing proposals. Bureaucrats from the NDoH reached the decision to formulate the NHI because often decision makers must make policy pronouncements immediately in response to emerging challenges. This confirms that there are times when political leaders have a substantial amount of leverage over the policy making process, and that they can ensure that their own policy preferences are considered for implementation.

The NHI outlines a sizable number of core principles, inter alia: the right to access health care, social solidarity, healthcare as a public good, affordability, and efficiency, effectiveness, and appropriateness. It is therefore clear that the NHI policy attempts to be a comprehensive framework of healthcare reform and broader development in South Africa. The White Paper also asserted that the NHI will be introduced in three phases over 14 years. Phase one of the NHI's implementation began in 2012 and it was completed in 2017. This phase encompassed a wide array of reforms that entailed pol-

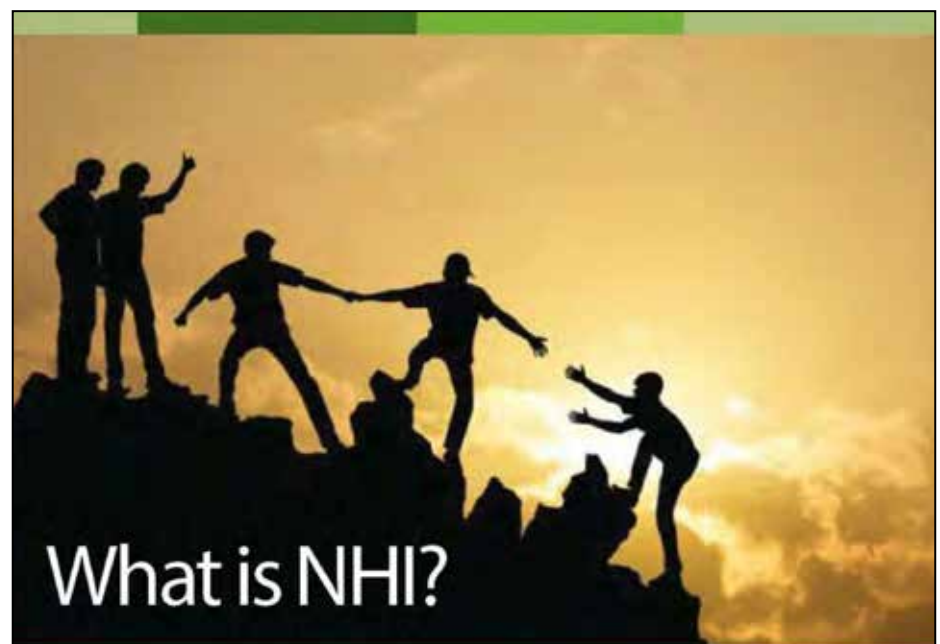
icy and legislative reforms at facilities, the strengthening of public healthcare systems through decentralising hospital management, implementing primary care, as well as improving quality assurance and service delivery.

Phase two of the NHI implementation resumed in 2017 and was meant to be concluded in the 2021 budgetary year.

This phase intended to, inter alia: purchase services to be funded by the NHI, mobilise additional resources, and to establish a fully functional NHI fund. Moreover, this phase aimed to establish the NHI Fund Management and Governance Structures. The NHI Fund will be governed by the NHI Commission. Therefore, an

NHI Commission will be created together with the appointment of a management team, as well as a stakeholder Representative Forum. The final phase is the full implementation of the NHI health system. This phase aimed to have begun in 2021 and to end in 2025. The main target of this phase is to ensure that there is a contributory system, and that general tax will serve as the source of the NHI's revenue.

In addition, the NHI will be managed at a National level. This means that the NDoH will be responsible for purchasing medical goods, undertaking auditing and risk management, maintaining the health demographic of the population, and conducting research and analysis. This will be



What is NHI?

NHI is about Ubuntu - we all take care of each other, as a nation, in times of need. NHI is the South African way of providing access to high quality health care for everyone.



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achieved through the creation of specific units which include planning and benefits design, price determination and accreditation, a purchasing, contracting, and procurement unit, as well as a provider payment unit. Furthermore, there will be a performance monitoring unit, and a risk and fraud prevention unit. The NHI also intends to attain a level in the healthcare system that will promote efficiency, and effective service delivery. This will be achieved through evidence-based interventions in both healthcare sectors. It also aims at upgrading and strengthening under-resourced and strained public healthcare facilities to improve performance and healthcare outcomes.

The NHI also intends to serve as comprehensive policy that adopts an appropriate, innovative health service delivery model that will meet the needs of citizens. Regarding the governance of the NHI, the NDoH states that “there will be appropriate governance mechanisms. This means that the NHI Commission will be tasked with providing oversight, and ensuring that there is accountability, as well as transparency, to protect the interests of the citizenry. The Commission will be made up of experts from various fields, as well as selected citizens, who will also serve as representatives. Furthermore, the Commission will report to Parliament annually, whilst the NHI Fund must prepare all its financial statements that must be audited by the Office of the Auditor-General, and these must be made known to the public.

It would be wise that the South African government and progressive stakeholders in society show the courage of their conviction,



Who will NHI cover?

Every South African, permanent resident, refugee and prisoner will be able to register for NHI. All children born and living in South Africa will qualify for NHI. Everyone else will qualify for treatment for emergencies and diseases that can cause outbreaks. (note: those working for SANDF will still have a separate fund)

How does it work?

The NHI will buy quality health care services on behalf of the people of South Africa. These services will be provided by health care professionals and providers in the public and private health care facilities and will integrate them into one health care system that serves the needs of all South Africans.

NHI will combine the many public and private health care funds into one fund that will pay for everyone when they need to access health care using the advantage of the size of the fund to reduce health care costs.



How can I be part of NHI?

You can register yourself and your family for NHI at your nearest GP or clinic

and the leaders of our country must be ready to undertake ever more engagements with the private and public healthcare sectors. In conclusion, the proposed NHI policy is in line with prevailing international conventions, agreements, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. Furthermore, it is important to state that the SA government and other stakeholders must understand that the failure to achieve SDG 3 has implications, as foreign investment carries more weight in developing coun-

tries like South Africa. Therefore, stakeholders' attitudes and conduct in policy making need to change. This must be guided by a sense of collaboration so as to ensure that all global and domestic agreements lead to superior outcomes. Added to this is the view governments are accountable, not only to their citizenry but to the international community as a whole. Effectively, through the implementation of the NHI the South African government claims protection for the well-being of its citizens.

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A WORKER'S DAY MESSAGE

■ By **HANIEF EBRAHIM**

THERE is little doubt that as the ANC-led government we have been through a tumultuous period in our history, especially over the last few years.

We first suffered the 2008 financial meltdown – an exogenous global event that burdened our country and her people through no act on our part. That was followed by a series of “missteps” referred to as “state capture” which was then followed by the dreaded COVID pandemic – a once in a generation catastrophe that again brought dramatic decline to bear on our economy bringing it to a screeching halt. And then, to boot too, the July 2021 mayhem in KZN and surroundings.

While these events severely

hampered our ANC-led government’s collective efforts to rebuild and grow the economy, we tried our very best to stay the course and “self-correct”. We launched an intensive social, economic recovery and reconstruction plan as part of a strategy to effect a turn-around of fortunes from the consequent decimation of jobs, opportunities and growth. It remains true too – we took all of South Africa along with us and left no one behind.

Again, what shone through was the remarkable resilience of the people, who despite great difficulty and hardship persevered on this, our long interrupted march, to freedom. We endured the heady days of “heavy lifting” of renewal, reform and recovery. The ANC-led government’s objective was always to *grow an inclusive

economy and create jobs* for the benefit of all.

To that end, the ANC-led government have continued to work together with its alliance partners, the SACP, COSATU and SANCO to overcome the crises of unemployment, poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.

The challenges, we concede, impacted on the lives of millions of people and undermined the trust and dignity we have worked so, so hard to restore throughout.

However, we maintained our resolve to move forward with optimism. We have come a long way. We are determined to accelerate efforts to achieve the free, just and equal country for which millions voted on Freedom Day, 30 years ago.

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It is with this in mind, that we are elated as we saw, yesterday, PWC's SA Economic Outlook, April 2024 and which also focuses on foreign direct investment (FDI).

It comes as an entirely welcome surprise to learn that, despite our country's many challenges, our economy still attracted almost ZAR100 billion in FDI inflows in 2023 – equal to 1.4% of GDP. This is quite remarkable!

In fact, while some might have expected SA's investment outflows to be larger than inflows, we have seen a net FDI inflow (inflows minus outflows) each year since the global financial crisis. Another reason to have hope!

We still have many positive attributes for foreign investors, including world-class financial services and communication industries. The perceptions among non-residents of SA's public governance and business ecosystem are 'moderately positive'. These perceptions align with results from other benchmarking reports

which show SA's global rankings on governance and the business environment is near the middle of the pack – and actually not as dismal as some might want us to believe.

The point is we are a country hard at work!

And as per the words of our very own, Cde Joel Netshitenzhe: *"On prospects into the next 30 years, what one can say is that the journey of a thousand miles starts with immediate catalytic actions"*.

These are elaborated in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan: the infrastructure programme; Master Plans for sectors with potential; a strategic African pivot in economic relations; and focused attention to absorption of the unskilled and semi-skilled through speedier land reform, low-end manufacturing and support for micro and informal enterprises. There will be time lags before these reforms make a palpable impact; but the economy can climb towards 4% growth in the coming two to three

years, if we are able to address the binding constraints."

We agree entirely with this point: indeed getting to 4% growth is now a moral imperative. A rising tide lifts all boats! As the ANC-led government we must commit to address the binding constraints faster and better...manje-manje...

Worker's Day is a reminder that even in the darkest times, **there is always hope**. We celebrate the strength and resilience of the people. Today, let us remember the sacrifices made by those who fought for workers' rights.

This message is a call to action for social change and justice.

We must remind ourselves – unity is our greatest strength!

Stay the course.

Be brave.

Be bold.

VOTE ANC ON 29 MAY 2024!

The rich man's squabble and the poor man's fight

■ By **SIKHUMBUZO THOMO**

THERE is an invaluable lesson and an analysis in Solomon's dissertation, the Book of Proverbs, in the bible that contains an insight in understanding the various black formations under the leadership of the DA. The wise man Solomon describes this as follows; ***"As dogs return to their vomit, so fools repeat their folly. You see those who are wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for fools than for them."***

uBab'uNxamalala has preferred to follow a path laid for him by the collective opposition, that is to further break the African National Congress and remove it from power to return the land and state to the former colonisers. This is further compounded by the fact that his formation is a corruption-fueled lifestyle political outfit of entrenched and unaccountable elite. Why does *uBab'uNxamalala* at this crucial phase of the NDR construct a reactionary social contract on stolen symbols of our liberation? Importantly, how realistic is it on their behalf that South Africans will be willing to carry out such a 'revolution' led by the criminally corrupt?

The DA-led collective opposition formula of thinking has always been an attrition fight, employing such a strategy against the ANC



and those Africans who clearly *uBabu Nxamalala* and his cloned political outfit is openly collaborating against through his hostile position. *uBabu Nxamalala* to a great extent still cannot quite grasp this attrition formula in spite of all the years he has spent in the struggle. Like all mushrooming puppet black opposition political parties, *uBabu Nxamalala* has locked himself into the DA-like attrition strategy formula that precludes the liberation of our people.

The only way of understanding Jacob Zuma's lack of a coherent strategy currently is in the duopoly that is seen as a 'rich man's family squabble for contracts that

will be stolen, against the poor man's fight he has come to take advantage of. The way in which he runs his mobilization is by basically deceiving the working class and the poor from the lower demographics into supporting 'a fight of his own making', a fight he cannot win.

Solomon again describes this as *"the wicked and the company they keep"* in his dissertation. In short, it is the abuse of the very poor and the very MK he neglected for the benefit of his inner circle, faction and family. How realistic is it that his outfit, given its political track record can carry out any revolution? In reality, this is a man who owes South Africans

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and the movement an apology.

Anyway, the people overwhelmingly have seen the reality of Jacob Zuma's fantasy that is detached from their own reality on the ground. Most recognise that there is no stalemate in our transformation but a narrative of a stab in the back for the democratic project by Jacob Zuma. Our revolution once more has been betrayed by Jacob Zuma who is now collaborating to return our land back to the colonisers through devious means. Jacob Zuma's outfit has locked itself into a far-right narrative that precludes a way out of the quagmire they are in without losing face. And the asymmetrical situation now working to Jacob Zuma's disadvantage stems from a narrative that is being confused by reality and is led to a response that is ill-suited to the nature of the NDR.

Unfortunately for the collective opposition, it will consistently fall open-eyed into the trap that the so-called MK Party has set for them for the overwhelming ANC victory again and again. And our former Party member Jacob Zuma knows this historical and dialectical fact, or so we assume.

And so, like Solomon said in the in the book of Proverbs chapter 26 "As dogs return to their vomit, so fools repeat their folly. You see those who are wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for fools than for them." This is invaluable because, *bafuna ukubuyisela izwe lethu ez-inkonjaneni zezulu, kondlebe zikhanya llanga*, like the proverbial dog returning to its vomit.

Sikhumbuzo Thomo is a member of the ANC and the SACP.



People's Contract: A Worthy Route to the ANC's Agenda for Renewal

■ By **DR S 'BIGGZ' MFUYWA**

“No one in the movement can be content with the present situation; all must be aware of the deepening malaise such as we have never known before.”

President OR Tambo
Morogoro Conference, 1969.

IN his organizational report in 2010 former Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said, the renewal process focuses on areas of rebuilding our structures, growing our membership base, embarking on massive political education programmes, building a campaigning ANC, and strengthening the strategic policy capacity of our movement.

In hindsight, the following words of President Mandela in his speech to the ANC 50th National Conference held in Mafikeng

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were prophetic:

“Many among our members see their membership of the ANC as a means to advance their ambitions to attain positions of power and access to resources for their gratification.”

1. People’s Contract Key to the Renewal Project

The social contract or social compact idea, which was created by political theorists, was not intended to be a historical account of how governments came into being, but it was used literally in America, where governments were in fact formed on contracts (Cohen, 2018). The Constitution’s social contract established duties on both the part of the state and the people. The social contract idea places a strong focus on the consent of the governed. The people give the government legitimacy by consenting to be governed, not because it is legitimate in and of itself. This is further supported by the South African Constitution’s preamble, which begins with the words *“We the people”* (Ebi, 2021).

Industrialized nations’ economic models are based on the idea that a social contract is the foundation for long-term economic growth and development. Political legitimacy arose from rapid economic expansion during the period of East Asian authoritarianism. Political engagement and social protection were discouraged.

2. ANC as the Leader of Society

The African National Congress is the driver of the National Democratic Revolution. The ANC was established to bring the Af-



rican people together in the fight against colonial oppression.

Since then, it has grown to represent and guide all the down-trodden and democratic forces in militant fights. The ANC, as the leader of the revolutionary coalition, currently holds a largely uncontested position as the popular vanguard force in the liberation struggle. Over the years, the vast majority of the struggling masses have shown loyalty and support for the movement.

“We are continuing to put together the social compact, despite delays, despite challenges and I know that a number of us are continuing to be frustrated, to be disappointed with us not being able to conclude this.”

President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The ANC defines the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) as *“a dialectical resolution of class, gender and national contradictions”*. NDR’s role, according to the SACP, is to fight for the overthrow of oppressive and colonial regimes and to change the fundamental, structural aspects of South African society that continue to oppress people based on their race, gender, and class (Mosala, 2019).

Growing up in South Africa post-apartheid, one has always recognized the ANC to be the leader of society. This is clear from the ANC’s history of being rooted in participatory democracy, which is focused on involving the people it governs in making important choices. The ANC has never considered itself to be only its supporters or its own leader. Its aim is to guide South African society as a whole in the pursuit of a truly non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic nation. The ANC’s history and the people’s struggle are marked by widespread engagement. Additionally, the idea that the ANC is a political vanguard is fundamental to the movement’s core character as a mass movement.

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3. What is to be done?

In this section of the article I propose a things that ought to be done as part of the renewal project. I will simple deal with only 2 i.e. membership and leadership.

ANC Membership

All South Africans over the age of 18, regardless of race, colour, or creed, who accept its principles, policies, and programs and are willing to follow its Constitution and rules are eligible to join the ANC. These are the only conditions that must be satisfied in order for someone to join. It appears that the criteria are quite lax and that there is no procedure in place to check applicants for credibility before accepting them.

It shouldn't be a free-for-all; instead, there should be a procedure that grants the ANC the authority to screen new members and consider factors like their criminal history, status on the sex offenders' register, level of education, leadership experience, etc.

Former President Mbeki attributed the ANC's declining electoral support on the membership's declining quality. He went on to remark that this eventually made people lose faith in the party. If extensive background checks are performed, this will result in leadership of high calibre. Being an ANC member has recently become "simple" as the majority of members have *"begun to acquire a sense of entitlement to leadership"*. Experience, talent, and perseverance in the movement *"became of little value."*

Leadership

Giving of oneself is important to leadership. A leader does not



intentionally set out to be one; rather, they develop this quality through the integrity of their acts and their intentions. In the end, genuine leaders are somewhat like eagles in that you must seek them out individually rather than in groups. The ability to lead requires a high level of curiosity as well as being extremely deliberate, conscious, purposeful, thinking, insightful, and introspective with an astounding sense of inquiry. Because the best amongst us must lead, they must do so from a servant's heart. Being a leader involves having a real obsession with others' growth (Mohale, 2018).

It would look like the ANC has dropped the ball and lowered the bar. Those that lead the ANC must not be short of what Professor Bonang Mohale mentions above. The 2001 through the Eye of the Needle document says, those in leadership positions should band together and direct the movement to be at the forefront of the process of transformation. They ought to take the helm of the movement as it organizes and motivates the populace to act as its own liberators. They should diligently take the reins and oversee government. Additionally, they must collectively represent the continuation of a

revolutionary legacy and renewal that long-term supports the movement.

It appears as if the ANC has been lukewarm in dealing with the corrupt leaders throughout the years, this could be attributable to those in senior positions being hesitant to act because they themselves in some instances have been beneficiaries of corruption. The ANC has no choice but to clean up its act, and failing to do so will lead to the movement's demise. Leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) should never compare themselves to ordinary people; the standard should always be set high and ethics should be the foundation.

4. Conclusion

A stronger ANC leadership will have positive spinoffs for the government, and this would in turn restore the dignity of the ANC. The movement needs to get rid of wounded characters who are driven by self-gain at the expense of the underprivileged and marginalized. ANC is required to rebuild the decaying state capacity that has been lost over the years as part of rejuvenation. Those who take on leadership roles should do so on the basis of their abilities, not on their ability to buy branches. The right to elect leadership of the ANC should be granted to all members in good standing not delegates to conference exclusively. A social compact which is embraced by all stakeholders is long overdue.

Matimba!!!

Dr. Siggibo Biggz Mfuywa is the Gauteng Black Management Forum (BMF) Chairperson. He writes in his personal capacity.

Part Three

THE MOONSHOT PACT AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS

■ By **JAMES NGCULU**

THE manifestos of the main parties of the MPC are all responsive and reactive to what the ANC is doing or has done. None of these parties offers a fresh and compelling agenda to South Africans that is neither reactive nor oppositionist. How do they think of governing if the policy options are not original?

This then takes us to some critical questions that need to be considered. The initiator of the MPC is the DA in a decision taken in 2023, which he called the moonshot pact. The first question is: Why did the DA initiate this pact? The DA has realised that the possibility of winning power alone is well-nigh impossible. In all national elections, the DA has never scraped beyond 25%. In other words, the MPC is a survival strategy for the DA that it seeks to establish as a bridge for a possible opportunity to bring itself closer to levers of power. However, by all indications, the DA remains a potent force with established election machinery and the capacity to get to the ground its massive structures on the ground. It is still the only party



that represents the aspirations of the people who continue to appreciate the work it has done in bringing improved quality of life to South Africans and transforming and continues to transform South Africa into a better country than before.

We now put the converse to our earlier question: What do other parties hope to gain from it? We have looked very carefully at the seven parties that comprise the MPC, and except for the DA, the three parties, which are IFP, FF Plus and ActionSA, will not get more than 5% of the votes. The balance of the three other parties, that is, UIM, Isanco, and SNP, it

is clear these will disappear into oblivion after the elections. This, therefore, means firstly, the MPC is in reality, comprising four parties as the other three are mere Christmas tree decorations. In the same way, the DA needs them as the bridge, other parties also need the bridge of the DA. Steenhuisen, in the foreword of the DA manifesto, makes a telling revelation that *“we have also seen that, for any multi-party government to be stable, it must be anchored by a big, strong party at its centre”*. In other words, the DA must be the alter ego of the moonshot pact.

If the MPC is founded on shifting

grounds, it is the basis to conclude that it will soon collapse for one reason or another. Secondly, if the primary purpose of the MPC is the survival first of the DA and secondly as a bridge for each of the parties, the obvious question would be, why not just merge to become one party? Given the experience we discussed regarding the coalition in Cape Town municipality in 2006, where the DA gobbled up all other parties, it may be that the parties may have to consider folding and forming one party. Of course, this would be a tough ask for a number of reasons which this paper will not discuss.

Another experiment is in KZN between the DA and the IFP. This involves two aspects. The first is some form of election pact where each party does not contest the other in areas where each is stronger. If this has not worked optimally, even though the intention is not to split the votes, it must be remembered that votes for the IFP and the DA do not come from the same fold. The second was signed with much fanfare and is called the service delivery pact (SDP) between the DA and the IFP. This SDP is claimed to be a framework designed to bring stability to various municipalities in KZN and, as it were, to keep the ANC out. During the signing of this SDP, Steenhuisen was quick to caution that it must not be construed as replacing the moonshot pact at a national level. However, if one reads the MPC agreement, it talks of replicating the same at local government. Why, then, do they have two agreements of parties from within the MPC? Perhaps here lies the seeds of conflict.

The arrangement entered into between the DA and the IFP, and



it must be noted that if we compare the two, the DA has declining support in KZN and controls only one municipality, Umngeni. Even that municipality it controls through an accident of history caused by internal challenges within the ANC in the area and therefore, gaining Umngeni municipality is not a reflection of the DA's significant growth. There could be two plausible conclusions to be made here, one being that the DA shall continue to use its muscle as it sees fit to edge over others. Or in some other areas may use other parties such as in KZN to keep itself relevant and use that presence to build itself. There is, therefore, a huge risk for smaller parties either way and whatever route they take, the DA shall always be the winner. When parties to the pact realise this, the potential or reality of cracks shall emerge.

One of the things that will undoubtedly bring tensions will be

how parties in the MPC manage specific policy issues, such as the current DA issue on the provincial powers bill. This is a response by the DA to populist and right-wing groups that have always harboured the position of federalism. However, this will bring forth its challenges, as evident in the response of ActionSA on the so-called cape independence, which ActionSA said would leave the MPC if the Cape Independence Movement were considered part of the Moonshot pact. It went on to state that "any party that challenges the fundamental principles of the constitution has no place in the MPC, and there is no such body as the multiparty charter for the Western Cape".

The main intention of the multi-party charter is principally fundamentally the survival of the DA, which is the big brother of the MPC. Simply put, the DA federal congress conceptualised and initiated first what it called the moonshot pact and later to

CURRENT AFFAIRS

give more life and meaning to the rest of the parties, the multi-party pact for its own sake. Other parties, particularly the small ones, have realised that on their own, the chances of co-governance without the DA would be slim or impossible. So, other MPC parties have more to gain from this as the path to levers of power.

The critical question that may be posed to the Moonshot Pact, especially with the benefit of having looked at all their manifestos (discounting those whom we said are the window dressers of the pact), is what is their vision of a South Africa it envisages. The DA's manifesto is titled the "rescue plan for South Africa". And then, when reading through, the rescue plan is responsive to what the ANC has done, and there is no originality in its ideas of the South Africa it wants. Perhaps what we saw in Pretoria during its manifesto launch, where the preponderance of people at the launch was black, may provide a window of the paternalism of the DA's so-called rescue plan and somehow "rent a darkie plan".

The manifestos of the DA is drafted in a manner that avoids dealing with the elephant in the room, which is the transformation of South Africa. It talks of abolishing cadre deployment and being in favour of merit-based appointments. The FF Plus is more open in opposition to affirmative action and calls for merit-based appointments. The IFP manifesto is more or less the same as others. They all talk of employment, crime and security, and, of course, load shedding. These issues are treated more as opposition tickets to power and the manifestos aren't weighed to the reality of transformative changes that have taken place on some

of the issues in their manifestos. It's like people who think they will come into government on a clean slate and forget the road travelled since 1994 with all the contours in the way.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the Moonshot Pact can be summarised thus:

- In structural terms, the Moonshot Pact is a risky, unwieldy, and somewhat sneaky consolidation of the DA's weakening political position – it seeks a win-win for the DA even if it declines in the 2024 election.
- Politically speaking, the pros-

pect of coalition governance by the Moonshot Pact at national level is an extremely high-impact, yet low-likelihood, risk that we believe will be averted at the polls – the Pact is unlikely to obtain more than 30% of the national vote in the 2024 election.

- Ideologically, the Moonshot Pact is unmasked as the waning face of right-wing neoliberalism in South Africa – a trend which we welcome in the interest of building a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa that enhances the well-being of all who live in it.

COSATU

Down with racism in workplaces
and in the society at large

**Forward with a
non-racial South Africa**

#VOTEANC

X VOTE ANC

African National Congress  

Ah Comrade Bra Mike

■ By **MONGANE SEROTE**

Our leader
Father brother uncle
One of the Leaders of the peoples Movement
Comrade Michael Dingake
you lie down now - Still.

You
A South African African Motswana of Africa
Once a member a cadre a fighter a commander
of the people's army

you
a leader of the people's Movement
How did you anchor this rudder

As you glide better than a bird in the vast space of the earth
The sky
Home bound to the ancestors of freedom fighters
you
You navigated that space as one of the human race would do
You sail
The sky and clouds
Deep into eternity
You glide not in our eyesight now
But in our collective spirit mind and being

TRIBUTE

For a human being you stand tall
 Scanning wide as the earth is on your sight
 It is with ease that you sail watched by the eagles and the vultures
 In admiration.

We the nation watch in spirit
 As with your educated sight
 You scan the path better than a bird's eye view can
 over the earth now

you scan
 The world the earth you left behind now
 as slide after slide after slide
 Pass past you
 in crimson patches scattered all over the world you left behind
 Bra Mike
 the world the land the earth
 lays there
 bare
 foreign to humane life
 past your sight
 as you gaze it in flight to another home
 at this time when there is no mercy for the human race
 you left in time
 this type of earth behind
 ah Comrade Mike child of Dingake

you have seen and you see Gaza
 and you carry in your spiritual memory
 the truths and deeds of America Europe Ukraine and the
 Zionists Apartheid Israel
 from where bullets rain and bombs puff bellows of smoke over
 human living life
 of mothers and children
 they explode

TRIBUTE

and their power drizzle everywhere as wild fire
they have exploded like thunder and in great speed flash
like lightening over everything
human made
they rain and pour fire down as if stars are falling down to
earth
and slice past the wind at high speed as if in slow motion to
demonstrate their killing power
this
the creation of death of women and children bearers of na-
tions and nation guarantors
pass by
at the wink of an eye as if the flame of a candle blown out
hundreds done out of life
in slow motion
they erase everything in sight on earth at high speed

crimson in blobs and drops in slow motion alive human flesh
is burning
flesh is burning human flesh is burning
or buried under rubble alive

ah Bra Mike
report to our leaders
report to the race of humanity what you left behind here
when you left
women know the deep pain of birth giving
the earth is bleeding

as if to say no one must leave home just like that
you came and bid South Africa farewell and you landed
back in Botswana
you walked
you sighed and stopped and lay down
still.

TRIBUTE

Bra Mike

Our leader

At times quite quiet like a still day
And then a thought from you like

my mother was a woman
comes alive among us

it is not that one lost a step or one did not hear what you
say or said

or you did not say what you meant to say

it is you

saying what has to be said

it is as you are asking us

do we think or we take thought off us like a jacket and
leave it behind

for thought was you

as also humility was yourself Bra Mike

you did come here

you did pass by here

we walked with you here

and looked at you twice many times

as if we had not seen or heard you before or the first time
or once

because what you would say

as now, we will no longer see you

but

we did hear what you were saying

for you spoke softly but you spoke

thoughts

of freedom being a place for human life

which enters one and were to incubate there forever in dif-
ferent forms

as they gently nest in the mind

TRIBUTE

Michael Dingake

until we remember
know
understand and if we think
think deep and deeper
being with you we had to borrow that from you and make it
our own
we have
and now you are still
still as still must be
but for a while
for you
being you and being how you were
you cannot leave us alone here
you glide in our thought and spirit
the battle field we walked with you keeps whispering
like the wind would in a restless day
the people must be the people must live life the people must
be free
every morning every day we learn something about this
that your at times silences
your at all times humility
your being a student at all times and one with the people at
all times
learning
is a contribution to Africa and the world

in silence
which you say after you said so
it is thought which keeps asking us questions

ah sleep peacefully
Bra Mike
for
Bra Mike

TRIBUTE

You will be here with us still
 as do the rivers of our continent
 they criss- cross each other underneath the earth
 and wink at each other if they can above the river banks
 as also they hiss like the whistle to the sky their mirage
 and reflect it and dare the heavens for their being born again
 to greet each other and acknowledge their journeys and des-
 tinations
 and roles

As do the roots of trees and plants of Africa criss- cross un-
 der and above the earth
 And feed each other and feed birds for new births to be
 they are of life and of time forever
 Ah Bra Mike Comrade Leader

Be at peace you did so so well
 Your life is still here
 As our hearts ask if we heard you
 About how humane human beings must be
 With your so ever soft voice you asked
 Probed
 time and again you did so our being and struggle
 asking
 did we know do we know do we see and do we understand
 You asked
 we were witness as you straddled South Africa and Botswana
 for Africa
 but we also knew
 it was for humankind as you also straddled the world
 Through your mind and heart and through your spirit
 You did.

Sleep peacefully Bra Mike
 our leader your soft voice is here
 We hear you.

Mongane Wally
Serote
 2024/04/18

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 – 10 May 2024

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

4 May 1843

Natal Colony established

Britain established the Natal Colony, setting the scene for several wars with the Kingdom of Zululand and eventual conquest, incorporating Zulu lands.

4 May 1925

Ruth First born



Ruth Heloise First, journalist, activist, academic, author and member of the ANC and SACP is born in Johannesburg. Her parents, immigrants from Lithuania were communists, and Ruth joined the Young Left Wing Book Club at age 14 and after matriculating from Jeppe Girls High, she became active in the student movement at Wits University. She was a founding member of the Congress of Democrats, and was part of the drafting committee for the Freedom Charter in 1955. She was amongst the accused in the 1956 Treason trial, was arrested and left for exile in 1964 with her small children. She spend some

time in the UK and after Mozambique independence in 1975, took up the post as Director for Research at the Eduardo Mondlane university in Maputo in 1977. First was editor-in-chief of *The Guardian*, later banned, and also editor of *Fighting Talk*, a publication of the SACP. Ruth First was the author of books *South West Africa* (1963); *117 Days* (1965); *The Barrel of a Gun: Political Power in Africa and the Coup d'etat in Africa* (1970); *Libya: The Elusive Revolution* (1970); *The Mozambican Miner: Proletarian and Peasant* (1983); and co-edited *The South African Connection: Western Investment in Apartheid* (1972). Ruth First paid the ultimate price when she was assassinated by the regime in Maputo on 17 August 1982.

4 May 1928

Hosni Mubarak, former Egyptian President born



Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak was born on 4 May 1928 in Kafr-El-Meslha. After finishing

high school, he joined the Egyptian Military Academy, where he received a bachelor's degree in Military Science. He later joined the Egyptian Air force where he served in various units, earning a degree in Aviation Science during this period. After completing aviation training in Russia, he served as a commander at many Egyptian air force bases and installations. He rose to the fourth President of Egypt in 1981, after Anwar Sadat was assassinated. He served as Egyptian president for nearly 30 years, from 1981 to 2011, when he was deposed during the Arab spring. Mubarak stood trial and was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2013, a sentence overturned by the courts in 2015, and he was finally released in 2017. Mubarak died on 20 February 2020.

4 May 1934

Author José Luandino Vieira born

The Angolan writer of short stories, José Luandino Vieira was born on this day. His stories reflected the African oral tradition, and he became known for his acclaimed short story *Luanda*, published in 1963. His portrayal of colonial rule saw his work banned by the Portuguese. His first novel, *The Real Life of Domingos Xavier* was published in 1961, and his second, *Nos, os do Makuhtsu* (We, from Makulusu) is regarded by some as his best work.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 May 1942 British troops land in Madagascar

Madagascar, a mountainous large island in the Indian Ocean, was previously a French colony controlled by the French Vichy government. The British were afraid that the French, would allow Japan to set up military bases on the Island. If this happened, it would have seriously threatened its sea routes leading to India and Ceylon. On 4 May 1942 British troops landed in the Bay Ambararata Mail, just west of the port of Diego Suarez at the northern tip of Madagascar. Britain then attacked its ally, France. The British decided to capture Madagascar, and handed it over to the Free French to control in order to consolidate their own routes to the East safely.

4 May 1960 Sobukwe sentenced

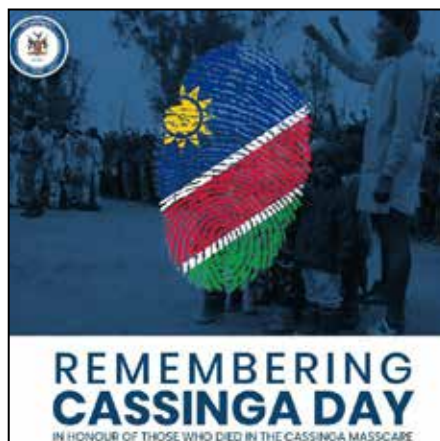
Robert Sobukwe, President of the Pan Africanist Congress, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for incitement of Africans to urge the repeal of pass laws. He refused to appeal, as he had refused the aid of an attorney, on the grounds that the court had no jurisdiction over him because it could not be considered either a court of law or a court of justice.

4 May 1966 Black Panther



The first African superhero, *The Black Panther*, debuts in Marvel Comic's Fantastic Four (no.52, cover date July 1966). The story is set in fictional Wakanda, with superior technology keeping its capabilities secret. The Black Panther hero is king T'Challa. The comic has been serialized in two block-busting films, the first after the comic title in 2018 and the second *Wakanda Forever* in 2022.

4 May 1978 SADF attacks Namibian refugee camp in Cassinga, Angola



On 4 May 1978, the South African air force flew over Cassinga, a Namibian refugee camp in Southern Angola. Close to 400 SADF paratroopers were dropped near the town of Cassinga. The airborne troops bombed the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) refugee camp and People's Liberation Army of Namibia's (PLAN) military base, SWAPO's armed wing. The bombing was followed by ground forces to complete the massacre. More than 600 Namibians, mostly women and children were massacred by the SADF airborne troops, and hundreds more were injured. A United Nations (UN) delegation that visited Cassinga a few days after the tragic event reported that what

the South Africans did was criminal in legal terms and savage in moral terms. The 4 May is now called Cassinga Day and is a national public holiday in Namibia.

4 May 1994 Peace accord for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza, Jericho

On this day, Israeli Labour Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat sign a peace accord to ensure Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, also known as the Oslo Accords. Together with Shimon Peres, the two leaders received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. A year later, Rabin was assassinated by a Zionist extremist.

4 May 2007 Former Zambian President convicted

President Frederick Chiluba is convicted of stealing 46 million USD from the country's treasury, allegedly sending it to his London bank account in a civil case. Two years later, in August 2009, Chiluba was cleared by a Zambian court in Lusaka of corruption and embezzling of 500,000 USD, with the judge ruling that the funds could not be traced to government money.

4 May 2018 Attack on Timbuktu

The Ansar Dine Islamic group occupied Timbuktu and went on the rampage in the city, destroying ancient archeological treasures, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Ancient documents in the city were saved and hidden away by Malian librarians and other volunteers, captured in the book *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* (2021).

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 May 2021 Nigerian director released Zoom movie



The film *Heart2Heart* by Nigerian director Obi Emelonye is the first commercial movie released on the internet platform Zoom. Emelonye shot the movie during the Covid-19 pandemic, gathering actors on Zoom to produce the story.

5 May 1925 Afrikaans declared an official language

The language originally developed from Dutch after colonization by settlers from the Netherlands. The language developed and was used by settlers, slaves and traders, and also influenced by indigenous languages, including Khoisan languages. Afrikaans became the spark for the 1976 student uprisings, when it was introduced as a forced language of instruction in black schools. According to StatsSA Community Survey (2018), 12.2% of the population speaks Afrikaans.

5 May 1930 National Museum of Fine Arts of Algiers opens doors

Set in an impressive garden, the Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Alger (National Museum of Fine Arts of Algiers) opens its doors to the public for the first time. It is regarded as one of the largest art

museums in Africa. By 2022, the museum houses over 4000 artworks, including prominent Algerian artists such as Baya, Yelles and Racim. Today it houses over 8,000 artworks.

5 May 1952 Feminist Author Hafsat Abdulwaheed born

Nigerian writer and women's rights activist was born on this day in Kano City, Nigeria. She was the first Hausa woman to publish a novel and has written more than 30 books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. She made an unsuccessful attempt at political office in Northern Nigeria, where no woman held high office.

5 May 1953 Egypt becomes a Republic

A recommendation by the Egyptian Constitutional Commission that the 5,000-year-old monarchy ruled by Pharaohs be ended adopted. Egypt became a republic on this day.

5 May 1960 Kenneth Kaunda meets Martin Luther King

Zambian independence leader Kenneth Kaunda meets US civil rights leader Martin Luther King in Atlanta, Georgia forging ties between the African liberation and Civil Rights movement.

5 May 1971 Musician Franco born

Frank Losokwane, King of Rumba was born on this day in Gaborone, Botswana. A prolific recording artist, he has released more than 18 albums since 2001, when he formed his band Franco and Afro Musica, performing kwasa kwasa music.

5 May 1978 Journalist Redi Tlhabi born

South African journalist and broadcaster, was born on this day in Soweto. A pioneer reporter on gender based violence, she works in broadcasting at home and recently with the BBC News, and published her award-winning memoirs in *Endings and Beginnings* (2021). Tlhabi is also an ultra-marathon runner.

5 May 1983 Tricameral Constitution passed



The Apartheid Government passed the third South African constitution, which introduced a racist tricameral system, where Indians and Coloureds vote for segregated parliaments. This, along with the racist Black Local Authority Act, prompted the United Democratic Front in August 1983, a broad front of anti-apartheid organisations, which called for the boycott of the tricameral parliament elections, organising under the slogan **UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides**.

5 May 2018 Truth about farm attacks

After global rightwing groups claims that attacks on white South African farmers are so widespread that it constitutes 'white genocide', the SA Police Services

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

released crime statistics, showing that white South Africans make up 8.1% of South Africa's murder victims, a smaller percentage than their representation of the country's population (9%).

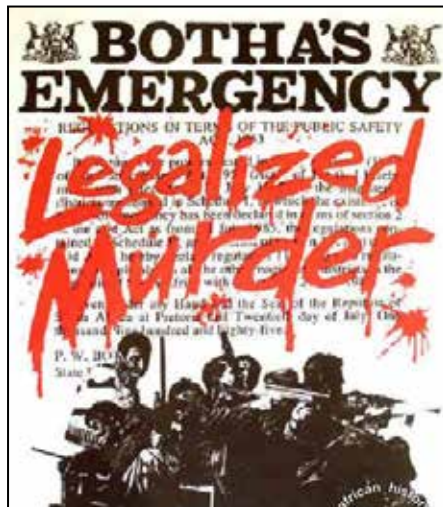
6 May 1945 Biking Minister born

Ojo Maduekwa, Nigerian foreign minister (2007–2010) was born in Abia state. As Tourism minister he advocated bicycles for use in crowded cities and countryside. The Minister cycled to work every day, even after a bus pushed him off the road and into a ditch.

6 May 1959 Congo adopts new flag

The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) ahead of independence adopts a new national flag, green for the forests and agriculture, yellow friendships of nobility of the people, and red as part of the Pan African movement.

6 May 1960 18,000 people arrested under State of Emergency



Parliament received reports that 18,000 persons had been arrested and detained since the proclamation of the emergency on 30 March 1960.

6 May 1994 Diplomatic relations with West African states

The democratic government signs agreements establishing diplomatic relations with Ghana, Mali and Senegal. These countries cut ties with apartheid South Africa after independence and only resumed links after the end of apartheid in 1994.

6 May 1994 First democratic elections results announced

Judge Johann Kriegler announces the final results of the first democratic elections, one week after elections. Despite major problems of fraud in KZN, Judge Kriegler announced the elections 'substantially free and fair.'

6 May 2016 Kigali Convention Centre hosts first event

The stunning Kigali International Convention Centre finally opened its doors to host its first event, the World Economic Forum on Africa. The multipurpose 32,200 m² has become an important landmark of the Rwandan capital.

7 May 1955 Actress Sharlene Surty-Richards born



The South African actress was born on this day in Upington, in the Northern Cape. She is known for her roles on television soap operas such as *Egoli* and the well-received, classic movie *Fie-la se Kind* (1988). Surty-Richards passed on in June 2021.

7 May 1985 Arusha Conference on Women and Children under Apartheid

The Arusha International Conference on "Women and Children under Apartheid" was convened by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Government of Tanzania, as part of the activities of the OAU in support of the struggle in South Africa.

7 May 1987 Cosatu House bombed



Early morning on 7 May 1987, two large bombs ripped through the basement of COSATU House in Johannesburg. Although no one was killed, the badly damaged building was declared a health hazard and Cosatu and affiliates forced to vacate offices. In 1998, former Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok with 22 members of the former security police appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to apply for amnesty for their involvement in the Cosatu House bombing.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7 May 2006 Minister Stella Sigcau passed on



Former Transkei Prime Minister and Minister of Public Work Stella Sigcau died at Durban's St Augustine Hospital at the age of 69. In 1994 first-post apartheid government she was appointed Minister of Public Enterprise and in 1999, when President Thabo Mbeki reshuffled his cabinet, she was given the ministerial of Public works. Mme Sigcau was also a member of the NEC of the ANC.

7 May 2014 Stock Exchange in Luanda formed

The Angola Debt and Stock Exchange is founded in the capital, owned by government, it trades in kwanza, the national currency. Over 70 state owned companies are privatized and allowed to list on the market to raise capital.

8 May 1921 Afrikaans replaces Dutch

The replacement of Dutch by Afrikaans as official language of South Africa is approved by a joint sitting of Parliament, one month after JBM Hertzog becomes prime minister.

8 May 1934 Prof Sibusiso Bhengu, first democratic Minister of Education born

The first national minister of education in South Africa's Government of National Unity (GNU), Prof. Sibusiso Mandlenkosi

Emmanuel Bengu was born in Kranskop, Natal. In 1969 he founded the Dlangezwa High School near Empangeni and was the Principal of the school until 1976. He completed a PhD in Political Science at the University of Geneva in 1974 and was appointed as a Professor in 1977 at the University of Zululand. He served as general secretary of the IFP, and left South Africa in 1978 to take up a position as Secretary for Research and Social Action for the Lutheran World Foundation. He returned to South Africa in 1991 and became the Vice-chancellor of Fort Hare University. In 1994 he was appointed Minister of Education and in 1999 as Ambassador to Germany.

8 May 1996 Adoption of South Africa's Constitution



The democratic Constitution of South Africa IS adopted by Parliament. The constitution with its bill of rights addresses the legacy of the past, as well as guarantee political, civil, socio-economic and environmental rights, the form of government and the role of different spheres of government. On this day, then Deputy President Thabo Mbeki also made his historic, "I am an African" speech to Parliament.

I AM AN AFRICAN

On an occasion such as this, we should, perhaps, start from the beginning.

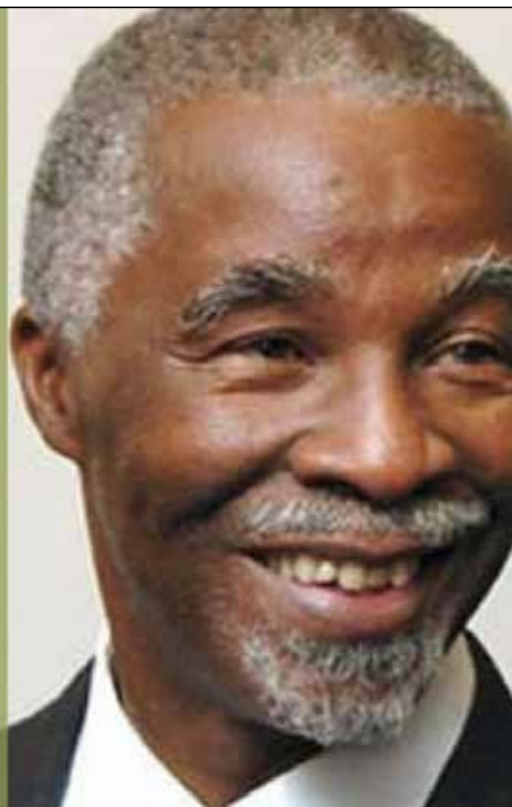
So, let me begin.

I am an African.

I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land.

Thabo Mbeki
FOUNDATION

Dedicated to Africa's Renaissance



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

8 May 1977 Djibouti votes for independence

Voters in French Somaliland approve a referendum calling for independence from France by a near unanimous 98.8% Yes vote. The colony formally became independent on 27 June 1977, with the name Djibouti.

9 May 1950 Bhawani Sannyassi Dayal passed on

Bhawani Sannyassi Dayal, journalist and campaigner for Indian rights in SA, died in Ajmer, India. Dayal was one of the organisers of the Indian strike led by Mohandas Gandhi at Newcastle in 1913, and was a representative of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC).

9 May 1966 Bram Fischer sentenced to life imprisonment



Bram Fischer, was arrested in 1964 for being a member of the banned Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA). After released on bail, he went underground until re-captured in Johannesburg on 11 November 1965. On 23 March 1966 his trial began in Pretoria. Fischer was convicted of conspiring with Umkhonto weSizwe to commit sabotage and violating the Suppression of Communism Act. On

9 May 1966 he was sentenced to life imprisonment for his political activities and 24 years for being a member of the CPSA.

9 May 1995 Kinshasa under Ebola quarantine

Kinshasa, capital of Zaire (now DRC) is placed under quarantine after a deadly Ebola virus outbreak.

9 May 2004 Brenda Fassie, Queen of Afropop passed away



Brenda Fassie, beloved music icon and diva passed away in hospital in Johannesburg. Fassie with her unique voice and personality dominated South African music scene since the 1980s until her untimely death, with such hits as *Weekend Special*, *Nomakanjani*, *Black President*, *Vul'indlela*, and *Amagents*, to name but a few. A book of reflections on her life, *I'm not Your Weekend Special*, by Bongani Madondo was published in 2014, a decade after her passing.

10 May 1920 Tennis champ Eric Sturgess born

South Africa's most successful male tennis player is born on this day in Johannesburg. Sturgess

won 6 Grand Slam doubles titles and was men's single champion eleven times between 1939 and 1957.

10 May 1952 Artist Ruben Xulu born

South African artist Ruben Xulu was born in Hlabisa, Natal. Xulu, born deaf, began carving with Bernard Gcwensa at Hlabisa mission station and embarked on a life-long career of producing religious sculptures in both stone and wood. He exhibited in 1965 and 1978 in the Bantu Inter Faith Art Exhibition and Mariannhill Art Centre, Natal. A book about his life Bernard Gcwensa and Ruben Xulu: Christian artists of Natal by Dina Cormick was published in 1993. Xulu passed away in 1985.

10 May 1988 New Nation and South newspapers banned

New Nation and South newspapers, leaders of the alternative press during the 1980s, were banned by the apartheid regime. In protest, twenty-six English-language newspaper editors handed petitions to government, protesting against these restrictions on the press.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 May 1994 Nelson Mandela inaugurated as President



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela inaugurated at the Union Buildings as South Africa's first democratic president, a position he held for one term until the second elections in 1999.

10 May 1996 First African to summit Kilimanjaro passes on



Tanzanian Yohani Kinyala Lauwo (107), the guide and porter who accompanied the first Europeans to summit Mt Kilimanjaro in 1889 passed on. Born in 1871, the 18 year-old was barefoot when he made the climb. He is also regarded as the first African man to summit Uhuru Peak, Mt Kilimanjaro, after nine previous attempts.

10 May 1998 Dr Louis Luyt resigns as SARFU president

Luyt was requested to resign by

the SARFU board, after accusations of racism, mismanagement and nepotism. A rugby player in his youth, he became president of the Transvaal Rugby Union, manager of Ellis Park Stadium and rose to the position of SARFU president. He was SARFU president when the Springboks won the 1995 Rugby World Cup, but his insulting remarks at a dinner during the tournament caused a walk out by the All Blacks from




the dinner. Luyt passed away in 2013.

10 May 2021 Kazungula Bridge opens

The long planned Kazungula bridge, connecting Botswana and Zambia over the Zambezi river opens. The borders of Zimbabwe and Namibia also meet at this spot, and the bridge curves to avoid their territories.

**LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER.
VOTE ANC**

A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

African National Congress   

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

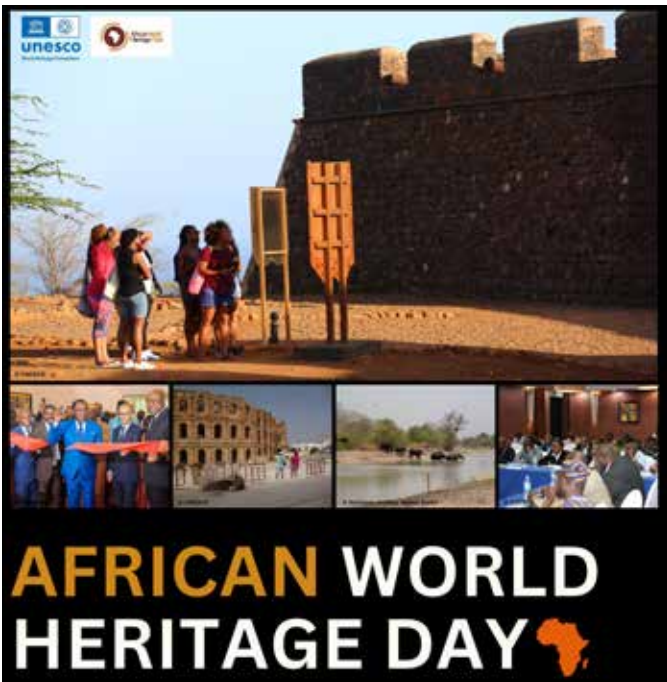
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

4 – 10 May 2024

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

5 May

African World Heritage Day

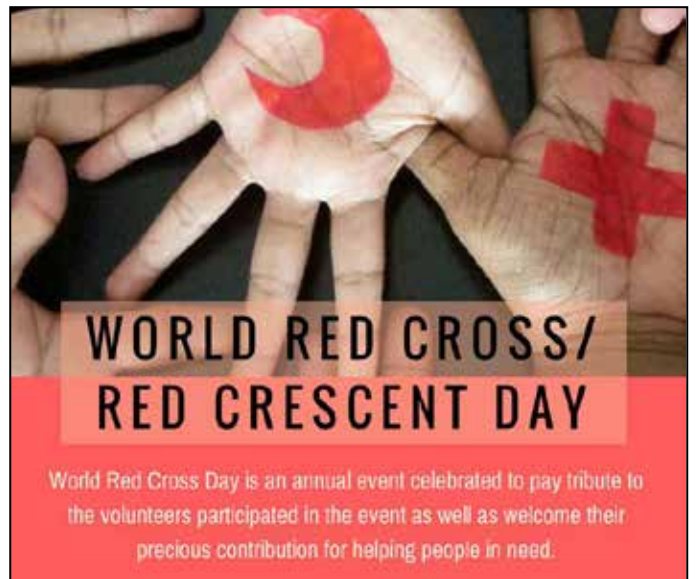


While Africa is underrepresented on the World Heritage List (African properties account for some 12% of all inscribed sites worldwide), a disproportionately high percentage (39%) of these properties are on the World Heritage List in Danger. Faced with various contemporary threats such as climate change, uncontrolled development, poaching, civil unrest and instability, many of Africa's wonders risk losing their outstanding universal value.

8 May

World Red Crescent and Red Cross Day

Each year Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated on 8 May. This is to commemorate those who volunteer their time in assisting these organisations in caring for vulnerable communities. The Red Cross Society was founded in 1863 after Henry Dunant; a Swiss national, who witnessed the suffering of the wounded, dying, and displaced in a battle in Northern Italy. The Red Cross or Crescent work worldwide as volunteers in public good and



charitable causes, as well as disaster situations and conflicts. The Red Cross played a major role in reducing incidence of measles by campaigning for vaccination, and in the fight to eradicate malaria. The Red Cross is a Christian symbol, and in Muslim countries, the Red Crescent is the symbol of this organization. In Iran, the local chapter uses the symbol of the Red Lion and Sun.

8 May

World Ovarian Cancer Day

Ovarian cancer occurs in the ovaries – containing human egg cells in women – causing a host of complications and is often misdiagnosed, causing deaths of over 140,000 women a year, if not diagnosed and treated early.

8-9 May

Second World War Remembrance Day

The Second World War took place from 1939-1945, engulfed nearly the entire globe, although the main conflict was between Germany, Italy and Japan on the one hand, and the Allies, which included the France, Great Britain, the USA, the Soviet Union and to a lesser extent, China. With over 40 mil-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



lion civilian deaths and 20 million soldiers who died. Nearly half of all deaths were in the Soviet Union alone; it was not only the world's largest conflict, but also its bloodiest. It became one of the watershed moments of the twentieth century history, with the extension of the Soviet Union into eastern and central Europe, the shift in power away from Europe to the USA, the coming to power of Mao Zedong in China (1949), the initiation of the European common market, the growth of social democracy in Europe and the emergence of a bipolar world with two opposing ideological powers – the Soviet Union and the USA. The Second World War involved all of the European powers colonies, in the form of soldiers, invasions and financing the war, and with the Allies banner of a war against fascism and for freedom, raising hopes for independence struggles. Post the WW2, a number of countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas gained their independence. WW2 Remembrance Day is commemorated across the world, since most countries lost soldiers. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists about 11,023 known white and black South African soldiers who lost their lives during the war.

8 May World Migratory Bird Day

Scheduled for the second Sunday of every May, it is an annual awareness-raising campaign for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It helps to raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. According to Birdlife South Africa, "migratory birds travel very long distances on their annual journeys, sometimes even tens of thousands of kilome-

tres. The survival of migratory birds depends on the availability of well-connected networks or chains of habitats along their migration routes, which are used by birds for food and water." Migratory birds in South Africa include the colourful greater striped swallow, Amur Falcon, White Rumped Swift, White Stork, Pygmy Kingfisher, and the Blue crane.

10-14 May UN Road Safety Week



The 5th UN Global Road Safety Week acknowledges that strong leadership is needed to advance road safety in countries and communities. Every year, it accounts for over 1.35 million deaths across the world, Road traffic injuries are now the leading killer of children and young people aged 5-29 years. According to the WHO, "this is an unacceptable price to pay for mobility. Whether we travel as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists or drivers, all of us – as parents, students, employees, volunteers and concerned citizens – can be leaders for road safety. When the right to a safe journey is a priority, everybody wins!"



X-WORD

Natal Indian Congress (1894)



ACROSS

2. NIC campaigned against Anti-Tricameral Parliament Campaign in the 1994 campaign.
6. NIC leader part of 1956 Treason Trial, along with Naicker
7. Freedom veteran and grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi
8. NIC Founding President.
10. 1946 Indian ... Resistance Campaign.
11. One of the radicalizing influences on the NIC.

DOWN

1. Naicker (NIC), Dad (TIC) and Zuma (ANC) signed the in 1947
3. NIC founder on 20 May 1894.
4. NIC embarked on passive resistance campaigns, based on Gandhi's ...
5. NIC member of Umkhonto we Sizwe.
9. NIC revived in 1971 and joined ...

WORD BANK

Billy Nair

Passive

Dont Vote

Ella Ghandi

Mahatma Ghandi

Dada Abdullah

UDF

Monty Naicker

Doctors Pact

Ebrahim Ebrahim

Satyagraha

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