



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

23 - 29 Nov 2018



## Conversations with the President

# We must teach our sons to Respect Women

**W**e have come to that time of year again. As South Africa prepares to mark the annual 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, we dare not allow the event to pass this year as if it were just another year, just another campaign.

This year we need to make a difference.

The Gender Based Violence (GBV) Summit we convened a few weeks ago was a defining moment for our country. It was a moment when we drew a line in the sand.

From this point on, ending GBV

must become a political priority for any ANC government, not only in words but in deeds.

We must work with civil society. We must listen and learn. There is a new generation of young women who have demonstrated their courage and commitment to tackling this curse head-on and we applaud them as government, and as society.

At the summit I committed government to working with civil society, to revising action plans and ensuring we have the kind of plans and resources in place to make a difference this time around.

We must be measured in cold hard facts. Not just by our efforts and what we put into the effort to end this scourge but by the

Our Constitution promises all our citizens, including women and children, the right to live in freedom and security

outcomes.

Everyone has the right to human dignity, the right to life, the right to freedom and security and in particular the right to be free from all forms of violence. These rights are enshrined in our constitution.

And yet there are millions of women and children whose human rights continue to be violated, often by those they hold most dear.

A person's home is supposed to be their sanctuary. It provides shelter from rain and wind. It is supposed to be the place where a person can raise a family, rest and find peace from the outside world.

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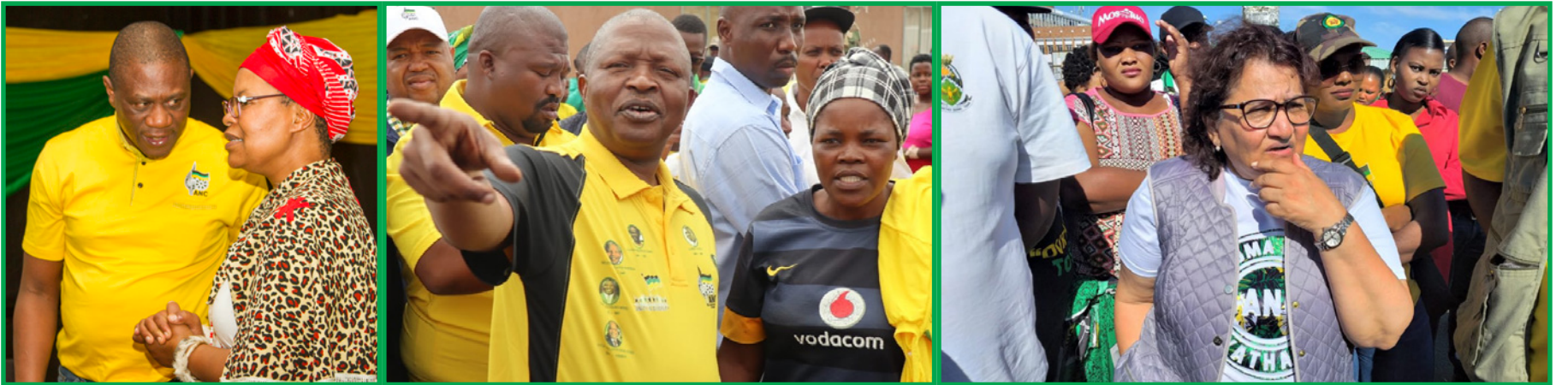
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## EDITORIAL

# ANC remains the **Hope** for the People– Leadership on the ground told



**E**merging from its 54th National Conference in Nasrec, Johannesburg, the ANC has embarked on a deliberate journey of deepening unity and renewal, underpinned by a firm commitment to its founding values.

However, for such a process to find expression, it must carry its members along. As part of reconnecting with the people and engaging in conversation with various stakeholders, the ANC officials, members of the National Working Committee and the National Executive Committee are visiting different provinces. This is a commendable initiative that must continue to find expression beyond the 2019 elections.

While the reception of ANC leaders by communities during the 'Thuma Mina' campaign is generally overwhelmingly enthusiastic, there have been occasions when some communities expressed their unhappiness at the conduct of local ANC leaders and the pace of service delivery. What remains unmistakable is that the people clearly recognise that only the ANC still carries their hopes, dreams and aspirations.

Over the month, ANC leaders visited different regions of Gauteng, Free State, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces, interacting with ordinary South Africans.

The leadership, which included President Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President David Mabuza, Secretary-General Ace Magashule, Deputy General-Secretary Jessie Duarte, and Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile, including National Executive Committee (NEC) members, addressed bread and butter issues affecting communities. These included electricity cuts, lack of job opportunities, human settlement, burst water pipes, and sewerage leakages, amongst others.

The land question was among the topical issues, with communities imploring the leadership to expedite the implementation of the 54th National Conference resolution

on expropriation of the land without compensation.

The ANC leadership reconnected with the people through active and close interactions and this spurred community member to air their frustrations and aspirations freely and without any inhibitions. They listened to the people's desires whilst solving some of the problems on the spot.

The ANC Deputy Secretary-General, comrade Jesse Duarte was candid in her address to the community meeting at Bronville, a suburb in Welkom, that

**The ANC will continue to walk with the people of this country in its determination to address the challenges of the past.**

if people come to the determination, wittingly or unwittingly, that their struggles could best be pursued outside of the ANC, the ANC will become irrelevant and eventually cease to exist.

She cautioned that should that be the case, the gains of the revolution would be reversed and future generations would, correctly so, blame the leadership for failing them. This was another clear indication of the ANC leadership's resolve to listen to the people and never take them for granted.

While communities have boldly instructed the leadership that all sectors must show willingness to address challenges faced by the country, the people must equally play their role to change the situation in

the country. As the masses on the ground emphasised, the ANC remain a vehicle to better their lives.

Building a better life for all requires a reciprocal relationship where communities appreciate and protect public assets, and not destroy them. It can never be that when a community is demanding better roads, schools get burnt down in the process. Such conduct is not only unacceptable, but undermines the progress we make as a nation of improving the lives of the poorest of the poor.

In the provinces that the leadership had already visited, there is clear evidence on the work done by the ANC-led government in all three spheres, national, provincial and local.

The communities are inspired that ANC delivers on its promises. During the January 8th celebrations in 2017, ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa promised Mama Fakazi of East London that her dignity will be restored by putting a roof over her head. The house is currently being built for the senior citizen.

Moreover, the construction of the Postdam Bridge connecting the Needs Camp and Postdam in the Eastern Cape is another testimony that the ANC is connecting with a community that has suffered travelling long distances and separated by a river as a result of lack of a bridge.

The ANC will continue to walk with the people of this country in its determination to address the challenges of the past. It is on the ground restoring hope, unity and renewal as it readies itself for the upcoming 2019 general-elections.

Importantly, the ANC condemns acts of violence which erupted in Ehlanzeni Region during one of the visits to Mpumalanga. All ANC meetings and events must be conducted in the spirit of peace. It is imperative that ANC members in all its structures must adhere to the constitution and entertain different views.



## Conversations with the **PRESIDENT**

# We must teach our sons to **Respect Women**

*continued from page 1*



Tragically, for many of society's most vulnerable, the home is not a safe space. Instead, it is a place of violence, inflicted by those closest to them. Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women in our country, and the leading cause of their death.

Our daughters, sisters, aunts, mothers and grandmothers are being battered, raped, abused and killed by their boyfriends, husbands or partners on a scale that exceeds nearly every other country in the world. This grim and deeply troubling distinction is in step with national statistics that show assault to be the third leading cause of death among the general population.

We must recognise the fact that women and children often have more to fear from violence in the home than out on the streets.

Thousands of women and children are suffering abuse at the hands of their partners, their relatives and those they should trust most. This often takes place in a climate of silence, enabled by deep-rooted belief systems, cultural and societal attitudes and socialisation.

Violence against women is not only physical but is also psychological in the form of manipulation, coercion or deprivation of liberty. There is often also a financial dimension to this assertion of dominance, with men believing that as the "breadwinner" they are entitled to do as they please with the women under "their" roof.

South Africa has come a long way from the days when women weren't allowed to vote or own property, or to hold positions of leadership. Thanks to the progressive policies of the ANC, gender issues are beginning to be mainstreamed into all government planning.

But we are still far away from eradicating patriarchy, which seeks to legitimise men's dominance and women's subordination. In places of work, places of worship, education, government, in the home and society as a whole there are many of us as men who hold chauvinistic beliefs that sanction the subjugation of women. This has a direct bearing on how we men define our masculinity.

This idea of masculinity, that it can only be

asserted through dominating women, is by far the biggest challenge we face in eradicating violence against women and children. It is handed down from one generation to the next. When boys are taught by example from their fathers, uncles, brothers and their peers the nature of "a woman's place", they carry these attitudes into adulthood.

So normalised has it become that I am ashamed to say that large proportions of men in South Africa readily admit to committing some form of violence against women in their lifetime.

We come from a painful past where men and women were humiliated and brutalised by the apartheid system, creating a culture of violence. Whole populations were subjugated through force, leading to disempowerment and anger...

Eradicating all forms of violence against women and children begins with disrupting the way in which men and boys are socialised around gender issues. It requires that we as men, and young men in particular, have to be at the forefront of our campaigns.

For far too long the discourse around violence against women has focused on what women should be doing to protect and insulate themselves. They are told to dress "properly", to not go out alone after dark, to not provoke men.

Yet women aren't the problem; men are. It is their attitudes and behaviour and their definitions of masculinity and how it must be asserted. Until this is addressed at a very fundamental level, we will not win this battle.

Our Constitution promises all our citizens, including women and children, the right to live in freedom and security. It is our duty as the ANC to make these rights a reality. We will continue with our campaigns, programmes and activities to advocate for the greater inclusion of men and boys in the fight against violence against women and children.

The ANC is an organisation deeply rooted in the progressive values of non-sexism and non-discrimination as it is committed to advancing gender equality though working with all South Africans regardless of race, gender or social strata.

If there is one message I want to leave you with as we embark on this year's activities to mark 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, it is that we should never lose sight of our own individual responsibility to ensure that our sons and brothers are taught from a young age to respect and value women, and to reject and abhor violence against them. We must remember that the boys and young men we teach today, will become the men – the real men – of tomorrow.

**ANC CONGRATULATES**

Phelisa Nkomo selected as a Woman of Fortitude, Mama Albertina Sisulu Centenary



## DOMESTIC

# Intersectionality: Infringement of Women's Rights to Property



**T**his article is inspired by media reports that Ingonyama Trust Board (ITB) prohibits women in the rural Kwa Zulu-Natal from signing leases for land, thus infringing on their rights to property as espoused in Chapter 2 of the Bill of Rights. My own research findings, in pursuance of my masters' dissertation, lend credence to the said reports that rural women are indeed disenfranchised and deprived of property rights under the guise of Zulu indigenous laws applied by traditional authorities in distributing communal land.

Intersectionality is a theory coined by the American feminist and race theorist Kimberle Crenshaw which argues for acknowledgement of distinct marginalized identities such as race, class and gender and their interconnection in understanding yokes of oppressions. Addressing structural race, gender and class discrimination and how they relegate black women into a vocational group is imperative since the interlocking connections provide the means at which micro-level structures are shaped in society. Within the current land debate, race, class and gender intersect in shaping rural women's socio-economic experiences and have been instrumental in consigning rural women into a class with a precarious economic stability. One would enquire on the inclusion of race within this intra ethnic issue. Justification is that the conditions of the landless in society – more especially women – are remnants of the colonial conquest which elevated one race above the other.

Effects of colonialism are not limited to land dispossession but extends to the labor system and its effect on families as

By **Fundi Skweyiya**

*Fundi is a postgraduate scholar in the fields of Political Communications, Political Psychology and Political Anthropology.*

to how it created hegemonic masculinities. Former Bantustans, including KwaZulu, had continued to supply labor to colonial masters through traditional leaders. This marked the genesis of gender roles – men left home to work in urban areas, whilst women remained behind to take care of children. It is in such conditions that hegemonic masculinities are idealized and an unequal status of women is embraced as the normal social order.

Zulu tradition is highly entrenched in patriarchy and women are excluded in participating in decision making within the Trust and are often overlooked even in families. Women are excluded in decision making pertaining to the land, whereas they are usually the one's working it. Patriarchy is pervasive in the rural KwaZulu Natal and this is evidenced in the cases of women who have been refused the right to appear in traditional courts and have been advised to task men to represent them in tabling their grievances. Widowed women have lost their homes as their security of tenure for the land they occupied ceased to exist when their spouses died.

The voices of the ordinary remains insignificant to the trust which claims to represent their interests; more especially women and the youth – with no provision of democracy in decision making. Traditional leaders posit themselves as feudal lords and opt for the capitalist notion of leasing

land to big businesses without consent of communities. Women are further assigned to poverty-perpetuating conditions of remaining landless. This modern day feudalism is rendering land ownership as a means in which social relations are defined and women folk remain disenfranchised and economically excluded.

It is through intersection of race, gender and class that rural poor women have been made prisoners of tradition and considered not to be legitimate to own land. These conditions are not unique to South Africa. In Burundi, for example, women were deprived of their rights to inherit land and so have Tanzanian women. The interesting aspects about these African countries were that the women took a stand to challenge the status quo.

In South Africa we must commend the efforts of the Rural Women's Movement which has continued to fight for women's rights to access land since 1995. Theirs had been inspired by brave women such as Queen Nonesi who led abaThembu Kingdom against the British government around 1855. It was the story of the Great Queen Nonesi that was cited in 1954 to inspire women as the Women's Charter was drawn, hence the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) resolved in its conference to, "struggle for the removal of laws and customs that deny African women the right to own, inherit or alienate property".

Nothing stops women – within the congress movement and beyond – from emulating the spirit of FEDSAW in uniting women in the struggle for their rights to land.



## Domestic

# Nothing About US Without US

By Robert Masambo & Sipho Mbele

**P**eople living with disability represents 7.5% of the total population, according to Statistics South Africa, and is “more prevalent among females compared to males (8,3% and 6,5% respectively). The proportion of persons with disabilities also increases with age, with more than half (53,2%) of persons aged 85+ reported having a disability.”

The Constitution of the Republic and Bill of Rights guarantee the rights to dignity, to inclusion, to equal treatment and protection to all persons with disabilities. To take this further, the White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Rights Strategy of 1997, emphasised that disability matters cuts across all spheres of Government.

The Integrated National Disability Rights Strategy is based on the following critical principles: the right to self-representation, accessibility, support system, self-respect and self-sufficiency, access to appropriate services, social integration, cooperation between sectors, equitable resource allocation and inclusion.

The strategy aimed to redress past imbalances and ensure access to economic opportunities and social

services. Arising from this, the Employment Equity Act and the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment target persons with disability for deliberate affirmative action policies to promote economic inclusion and employment. The National Building Regulations Part S looks at issues of access to public and other buildings. In the social welfare sector, services include social security and disability grants, residential facilities and support to families.

The ANC over the years has worked with various organisations to highlight the plight faced by people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in society. In the past months, in the context of the #Thuma Mina Campaign to improve services to our people, the ANC has been hosting People's Manifesto events with various sectoral groups. These forums across sectors noted

... despite the noble intentions of the National Strategy, disability matters are still seen as social welfare matters.

that whilst there are gains, these are often outweighed by the socio-economic challenges faced by people with disability in the private and public sector, and in broader society.

The ANC hosted a People's Manifesto, on 16 November 2018 in Soweto to provide a platform for people with disability to shape the ANC Manifesto. The objective of the dialogue was to bring to the epicentre of society the need to create economic opportunities for people with disabilities,

eradication of unemployment, poverty, inequality, illiteracy, discrimination and the need for better quality services for disabled people. Participants at the dialogue brought into sharp focus pertinent GBV-related issues and called on society to stop the neglect and marginalisation of people with disabilities. The dialogue also specifically highlighted the need to put an end to the isolation, the killing and mutilation of people with albinism.

One of the example of marginalisation highlighted, is that despite the noble intentions of the National Strategy, disability matters are still seen as social welfare matters. The dialogue therefore called for the ANC government to locate disability in the Presidency, because these matters cuts across all sectors. The Manifesto submission emphasised that disability issues are human rights issues, developmental in nature and therefore cannot be reduced to welfare.

Other submissions spoke about the need for people with disability to be included and to participate in legislative, executive, and judiciary systems as well as in all spheres of government. These engagements must also find expression at provincial and local level, including the structures of the ANC and on its lists of public representatives.

The ANC listened, engaged and heard the views and concerns of persons with disabilities. It must and will form an important platform in our Manifesto and programmes.



## Religious Dialogue

Venue Johannesburg | 27 November  
City Hall, 2018  
Helen Joseph Str | 11h00

### #PeoplesManifesto

Kindly confirm your attendance with [naomimokgatla64@gmail.com](mailto:naomimokgatla64@gmail.com)  
For more information contact **Sipho Mbele** at 0836253446



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# The Midterm elections in the USA

By Tasneem Motara

The midterm elections in the United States of America (USA) always present a very interesting political dynamic and flavour into the politics of the country. This year's midterm elections were no different from the rest, as the Republican Party and the Democratic Party took the opportunity to reclaim lost ground and reassert their political control of US politics, especially the two houses of Parliament and governorships in some states, writes Tasneem Motara.

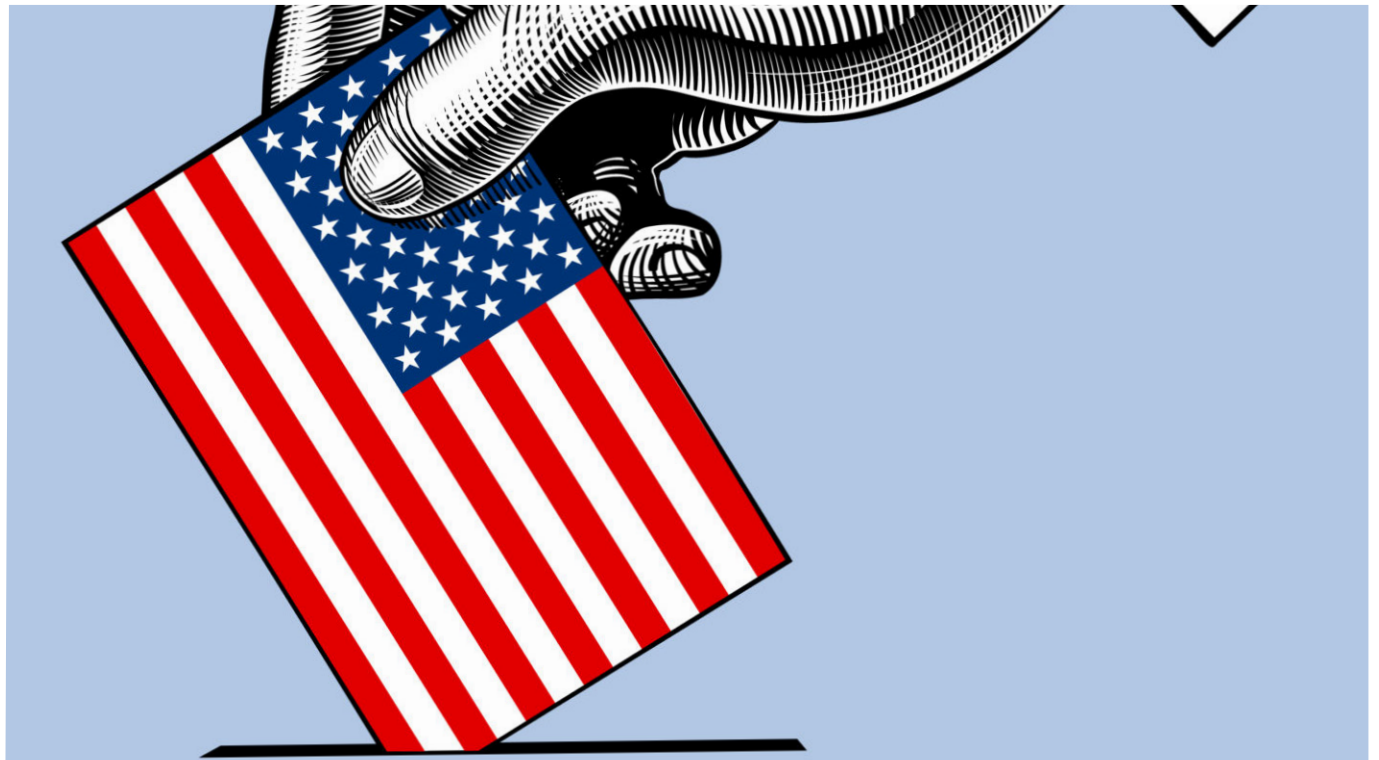
On Tuesday, 6 November, the USA held its most anticipated midterm elections almost two years since Donald Trump's shocking and controversial election victory. The midterm elections are simply about the combination of elections for the US Congress, the Senate, governorships and other state-wide races that take place every two years.

Traditionally, the mid-term elections tend to act as a referendum on the President. They serve as a key indicator of the President's approval rating. With an approval rating hovering around 42% and increasing concerns about the polarised state of the USA politics, resignations of key President Trump's aids and protagonists of 2016 elections campaign, allegations of elections rigging and general discontent among minorities, President Trump needed a positive outcome not that much at odd with his predecessors.

In comparison, former President Obama's approval was at 45% before the 2010 mid-terms in which the Democrats saw some of the biggest electoral losses in US history.

This year's elections presented a very interesting political dynamic and flavour into the politics of the USA.

Before the Tuesday midterm elections, Republicans controlled the House of Representatives (the equivalent of the National Assembly) and the Senate (the equivalent of the NCOP), which are the two chambers which make up the US Congress. They also took place within a wide range of



There are now more women represented in Congress than ever before



**Tasneem Motara, is a Spokesperson of the ANC in Gauteng and the Provincial Whip of the Gauteng Province in the National Council of Provinces**

public discontent and concerns about President Donald Trump's protectionist rhetoric, which seemingly resonated well with the majority voters in 2016 to reclaim the United States and the emergence of what was popularly known as the 'blue wave' that would wash over the country and cleanse the nation of Donald Trump and his combative Republican Party.

There were even some talks of impeaching President Trump and those who believed that if the Democrats won control of one or both of those houses, they would be able to limit how much President Trump would achieve in the final two years of what they considered a distractive and reckless President.

In the Senate, there were 10

Democratic candidates up for re-election in states that Donald Trump won in the 2016 presidential election. Several of these seats were vulnerable to flip back to the Republicans. At least three of them did — Indiana, Missouri and North Dakota — suggesting that where Democrats were vulnerable, the messaging they peddled was ineffective.

In the House of Representatives, the Democrats were poised to make significant strides. While they gained a majority in the House, and made some inroads into typically Republican states such as New Mexico, they did so by mostly affirming their control of states that Hillary Clinton won in 2016. What gains the Democrats did make

in the House are modest at best, especially when viewed against the backdrop of record fundraising and the intensified voter engagement that saw tremendous amounts of early voting, a development unknown to midterm elections.

Although the midterm elections weren't a resounding victory, there were specific elections that were certainly historic and worthy of highlighting. In Minnesota, the first Somali-American, Ilhan Omar, was elected to the House of Representatives; in New York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was the youngest woman yet elected to congress; and in Kansas, a state with deep conservative roots, Sharice Davids was the first Native American elected to the House of Representatives — among a number of other women.

These candidates reflect the complex disposition of America's political landscape, as well as the shifting demographic tides taking place.

There are now more women represented in Congress than ever before, and representation matters whether one wants to admit it or not. A label such as "Trump's America" or "reclaiming America" seems hollow considering the historic elections of candidates from minorities that were considered undesirable for the kind of America that President Donald Trump and his ardent supporters want.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# The Demand for **Justice** for Palestinians runs through our veins

By **Jessie Duarte**, Deputy Secretary General

**R**eading reports recently of the two school learners at Herzlia School in Cape Town who face disciplinary and education consequences, according to the school, because “they took the knee” during the singing of the Hatikva, the Israeli national anthem, stirred up some emotion. One felt a mixture of pride and displeasure, pining and yet also pain.

Pride because no matter what the reasons and even if these reasons are as noble as portraying a defiance against apartheid Israel, these two young people had the courage and determination, in the face of Zionism which is entrenched as the school’s ethos, to protest. Displeasure because it is unbelievable that in democratic South Africa a school, entrusted with the shaping of young minds, could have Zionism as its ethos and could be singing another country’s national anthem. Yet one supposes that this is what we fought for; a democratic dispensation. Our schools have the right to teach religion, but it cannot be right that such teachings encourage singing national anthems of another country. This is clearly not a religion but an ideology being taught.

A sense of pining as thoughts of one’s own past surfaced, youth spent fighting an evil and unjust system. Many of us were so young when our consciences forced us to fight this crime against humanity and yet we knew that we wanted a better country, a better world. As young people fighting apartheid. We were joined by young people the world over and acts of defiance, in other countries but in solidarity with our struggle as those two Herzlia learners did, were a great source of strength to us.

Yet it remains deeply painful that we are not free because people around the world are not free. At the heart of international solidarity lies the spirit of ubuntu: we are free because others are free. We will not be free until all is free. A luta continua, the struggle continues, echoes through the actions of those two learners. Their acts of defiance are not isolated. They join our acts of defiance and the acts of defiance by men and women, often young people, throughout history and across the globe who stand up against injustice, discrimination and oppression.

On 29 November, the world will once again mark the International Day of Solidarity with the people of Palestine. 29 November has been declared this day by the United Nations because it was the day that UN General Assembly Resolution 181(II) was passed. The resolution recommended the establishment of a Jewish state as well as an independent Arab state with special recognition and a regulation, which would match this recognition, for the city of



**Our struggle for the rights of the people in Palestine to be free from oppression and suppression... it is a human rights**

Jerusalem.

Today, 71 years after the ratification of Resolution 181(II), the people of Palestine remain without a homeland and an independent state, with their territories under Israeli occupation and Jerusalem being declared by some as the capital of Israel.

In fact, the atrocities perpetrated by the apartheid regime of Israel is so horrendous that Gaza remains under siege and conditions so devastating that by 2020, according to the United Nations, the territory would not be conducive to having people live in it. For the people living in the Occupied Territories and Gaza in particular, free movement, the import and export of goods as well as access to medical supplies have been denied. The Palestinian economy is in tatters as fishing and farming is hindered while infrastructure, much of which was destroyed through Israeli bombardment, and untreated sewerage continues to be left destroyed.

In the light of unilateral moves made by some countries on the status of Jerusalem, the resolutions of the 54th National Conference of the ANC held last year, 70

years after Resolution 181, suggested that the Palestinians must reconsider the viability of the two state solution; even though the ANC has always supported the two states solution. The ANC also resolved more interaction between social bodies, especially those involved in peace building and women’s organisations.

More importantly, the ANC called on unity among the Palestinians and in particular their leadership. The ANC has had a historic relationship with the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority and recently has made inroads in developing ties with Hamas. It is important for these and all Palestinian political organisations to work together in order to forge unity but more so that strong state institutions may be built within Palestine.

Our struggle for the rights of the people in Palestine to be free from oppression and suppression is not a struggle against a religion or for a religion, it is a human rights struggle to end a vicious war against a people who have every right to exist and to have their land back.

The Zionists want us to forget about Palestine. They long for the day when no one will refer and demand a state of Palestine. Yet the demand for justice for Palestine runs throughout our veins, for we are a people who know what it is like to endure pain, displeasure, pining and a bit of pride in fighting for justice. Where would we be, as South Africans, if it were not for international solidarity in the fight against apartheid? We will never abandon Palestine as they too face the criminal injustice of an apartheid regime. Yet just as freedom came to South Africa, so too freedom will visit Palestine and we will not relent until Palestine is free!



## OPINION

# Reflecting on the National Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

**G**ender Based Violence (GBV) denotes systemic violence perpetrated mostly by men against women, and is an expression of power inequalities between women and men within a context of patriarchy. In South Africa, the most pervasive form of GBV is perpetrated by women's intimate male partners, and not by strangers.

The statistics tell the painful story: the equivalent of FOUR Boeing of women die in SA annually as a result of GBV. While recognising GBV to be a global phenomenon, it's impossible to ignore the fact that South African women die at a rate that is almost five times the global average! According to Stats SA, 138 per 100,000 women were raped last year, said to be the highest incidence of rape in the world.

This pandemic of GBV in our country is the outcome of a complex set of historical conditions and the solutions are therefore equally complex. There is no single driving factor. Instead we recognise a spectrum of drivers that intersects in complex ways. This necessitates to crafting of similarly nuanced solutions taking account of the full range of forces propelling this pandemic.

On 1 and 2 November 2018 we held our first ever historical National Summit on Gender Based Violence and Femicide in response to the mobilisation of the #totalshutdown movement. The summit was attended by close to a thousand representatives from all sectors.

In his powerful opening address, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced to the

summit the establishment of an intersectoral GBV council with a mandate to develop a national strategy to combat GBV. In SA, we already do much across all sectors in response to this crisis, but our efforts are uncoordinated, under resourced and do not utilise a shared framework. This planned strategy is meant to address these deficiencies.

To date, most of our resources have been focussed in responding to the crisis: addressing the considerable acknowledged gaps in the criminal justice system and providing mechanisms for protecting survivors in the aftermath of violence. The summit recognised that while these are important and quite literally save lives, our investment in the long-term eradication needs also to be focussed on shifting prevailing societal values in terms of gender.

The progressive values of equality and dignity that underpins our constitution, stands in sharp contrast to our prevailing societal values which are profoundly patriarchal and misogynistic. Re-socialisation of our values is thus key in winning this battle against GBV. This would require a sustained national public gender values campaign. Such a campaign should utilise public institutions and mechanisms at our disposal to effect such a change. These would include interventions across all media platforms as well as the formal education curriculum and should also include repeated key anti-patriarchy and anti-GBV messages by leaders on all platforms. Crucially, we would need to see non-patriarchal values role, modelled in the conduct of our leaders.

While most engagements on



**Fatima Shabodien, Independent Development Consultant**

While most engagements on GBV (rightly) focus attention on the roles and obligations of the state, the summit importantly recognised the pivotal role of the business sector

GBV (rightly) focus attention on the roles and obligations of the state, the summit importantly recognised the pivotal role of the business sector. In particular, the prevailing neo-liberal economic model was recognised as being key to the subjugation of women. This summit called for the review of our economic model and placed due obligation on corporate SA to craft business models that are first and foremost not based

on the exploitation of its people and the environment. While representation is obviously important, the growing number of women who are in the board rooms of corporations is little consolation to working class women when the very model of business is premised on exploiting women as a casual expendable workforce. We want to see a system that values the labour power of black women, not through rhetoric, but decent work and decent pay.

The summit was historically significant and should denote the turning point in our struggle against GBV in SA. The litmus test for the success of this summit lies in the work of the council, the plan that it produces and the resources we will collectively be willing to commit to realise our dream of a country in which women are free. Besides this significant cost in terms of lives lost, GBV results in diminished quality lives, the limitations to women's full participation in social, cultural, political and economic spheres. Women, who represent 52% of the SA population live lives of diminished potential as a result of GBV, so limiting our possibilities for greatness as a nation. Without turning the tide of this GBV pandemic, our greatness as a nation will remain unrealised.

Views contained in this article are personal views of the author and do not represent official positions or policy of the ANC.

write for us

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## OPINION

# Urgent action needed to fight Destruction of our Value System in Society

**T**he harrowing slaughter, sexual and physical abuse of women and children in South Africa continues to rise despite numerous efforts made to protect the vulnerable people in our society.

In a study called, 'Intimate partner violence in Khayelitsha schools: A Culture of silence' released in August this year by the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) it was reported that 41% of primary schoolgirls in the Western Cape's Khayelitsha area have experienced sexual violence. The study found that only about half of the learners disclosed their experiences of sexual violence to someone so that the majority of these transgressions go unpunished. This culture of silence "is linked to fears of negative consequences - for both the victim and the perpetrators."

Furthermore, a report released by Statistics South Africa (statssa) in October 2018, on victims of crime, estimates that women experienced 90.2% of the 36 451 incidents of sexual offences committed over the past year. The majority of the sexual offences recorded were rapes and a considerable number of these rapes were committed by intimate partners or people known to the victim.

This demonstrates the level of degeneration of our society's morals and the destruction of a value system that promotes the right to dignity. However, it still requires us, as a society, to ask the following questions: what kind of society have we become or are we becoming? What has happened in our communities and our homes that women and children can no longer feel safe?

The HSRC study found the

gender inequality is a major cause of gender based violence. Accordingly, men and boys are privileged in a society that is characterised by gender norms that disadvantage women and punishes women who break the silence around sexual violence.

To deal decisively with gender inequality, society needs to engender a new value system that will break patriarchy and bring back the respect for the dignity women and children. This requires a sustained effort driven by interventions not only by government but by all South Africans collectively, men and women, to foster the kind of attitudes and conduct required to turn things around.

With the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for No Violence Against Women and Children fast approaching, we must push for heightened activism around the issues by ensuring the campaign can remain relevant beyond November 25 to December 10.

In 2014, government extended the 16 Days Campaign into a 365 Days Campaign called "#365 Days of Activism Campaign" to raise awareness about the scourge, while continuously mobilising all South Africans to joining forces all year long to actively work towards the eradication of gender based violence by declaring: "#CountMeIn".

"#CountMeIn" is a social media tool of the #365 Days Campaign for mass communication programmes meant to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (VAW&C).

But these campaigns will yield very little results if we don't practically intensify our efforts to improve the economic status of women. By economically empowering women we will



**Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane is a member of the ANC NEC and Minister of Science and Technology**

**It starts with police officers being committed to do their work**

begin to break the culture of silence around gender based that is often perpetrated by those they see as their providers.

In addition to dealing decisively with those that abduct, kill and rape women and children, the criminal justice system needs to create a conducive environment for the victims to speak out.

It starts with police officers being committed to do their work and being properly skilled to give confidence to those who come forward to report cases of abuse. Women cannot continue to be ridiculed or turned back when they report cases of sexual abuse. Police stations and other centres that deal with victims of gender based crimes must be capacitated with adequate specialised and professional services.

Navigating the justice system can be difficult and this period of activism must be used to

create awareness to ensure easy access. More urgently, our law enforcement agencies must speed up the finalisation of cases and ensure their efficient prosecution and adjudication. The upgrading of regional courts to sexual offences courts designed for the delicate handling of sexual offences through the use of technology, intermediaries and an appropriate court environment for dealing with sexual offences is indeed encouraging. This will further increase the conviction rate and reduce secondary victimisation.

However, we must remember that violence against women and children is not a government or criminal justice system problem alone, but a societal problem. Hence, the success of the 16 days of activism campaign relies on our daily individual and collective actions to safeguard our society against this cycle of abuse.

President Ramaphosa last month convened a National Summit Against Gender Based Violence & Femicide and committed to act through the launch of a revised action plan in 2019 to address the scourge. The summit in which we witnessed emotional appeals of the women and whose testimonies struck a painful chord, was in response to continued high levels of violence and femicide against women and children. We dare not fail them.

Views contained in this article are personal views of the author and do not represent official positions or policy of the ANC.

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## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

# Gender Based Violence is an **Affront** to our shared Humanity

**Dear Mr President,**

**M**r President, in a few days, the country and the world will be observing Sixteen Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. In our country, this campaign must build on the momentum generated by the recent National Gender-Based Violence Summit that you convened recently. We are inspired by the Summit declaration and the commitment by all sectors to confront this scourge with uncompromising firmness. The call to action is for all of us to fight this scourge with every available ammunition at our disposal.

In your keynote address to the Summit, Mr President, you correctly characterized gender-based violence as an affront to our shared humanity.

True to the character of the ANC as a listening organisation, your government used the Summit to listen and continue to learn from the experiences of survivors and the lived experiences of women and children.

We thank you, Mr President, for providing visible leadership to the fight against the abuse of women and children in our country. We agree with you that we need a multi-sectoral approach if we are to respond comprehensively and decisively to the causes and effects of this violence.

Mr President, there is no way we can deny the fundamental truth – that the majority of perpetrators of gender-based violence are men. It therefore stands to reason that men must be central to all plans and programmes to end this scourge. Men must take responsibility and say: “Not in my name!”, and if all men abusers were to turn their backs on this horrible practice, and all real men were to stand up to abusive men, we will succeed in eliminating gender-based violence.

Mr President, no one can contest the assertion that in the twenty-four years of our democracy, the ANC-led government registered significant progress in restoring the dignity of women. Through the Constitution and other measures introduced since 1994, the living conditions of the majority of ordinary women have undergone significant qualitative change. However, most of these achievements and noble interventions have been undermined, if not reversed, by the daily horrors of violence being perpetrated against innocent and defenceless women and children.

Mr President, violence against women and children continues to be a dark spot



**During the Sixteen Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, we must publicly declare to work tirelessly to reclaim the streets of our towns**

in our democratic society. Child and women abuse spits on the sacrifices made by many South Africans who laid down their lives in pursuit of our struggle for liberation. Gender-based violence robs women of the opportunity to become productive citizens of our country. It denies them their constitutional rights and condemns them to a life of perpetual fear.

Together as men, we must pledge to liberate our homes, streets, workplaces and every space from the scourge of gender-based violence. Women and children long for the day when they can walk the streets without fear of being raped or brutally murdered. Women long for the day when they can walk the streets without having to look over their shoulders

to see who is following them. Let real men help to reclaim our streets from those who terrorise women and children.

We must declare in one united voice: This far and no further! We must state unequivocally that the barbaric actions of child and women abusers have no place in our society. We must expose those in our communities who derive pleasure from the suffering of our women and children.

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment must be central to our collective efforts to combat gender-based violence. Mr President, as we all know, women bear the brunt of poverty in South Africa, with young, African women worst affected. We remain convinced that the economic empowerment of women holds the key to our victory against women abuse.

During the Sixteen Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, we must publicly declare to work tirelessly to reclaim the streets of our towns, villages and cities from these abusers.

Mr President, I was once reminded that all societies and animal species make an effort to protect their children. Even animals protect the weak among them. From time to time, they can be seen defending their young ones from aggressors with all the might they have. This, therefore, poses a number of questions to us the male species. Could it be that, through our own behaviour as men, we have degenerated to a point where we have turned our society into something worse than a jungle?

As we ponder answers to these and many other questions we must be mindful that history and future generations stand ready to judge us.

Mr President, If we are to defeat the scourge of gender-based violence as patriots and peace loving South Africans, protecting women and children must become second nature And a way of life.

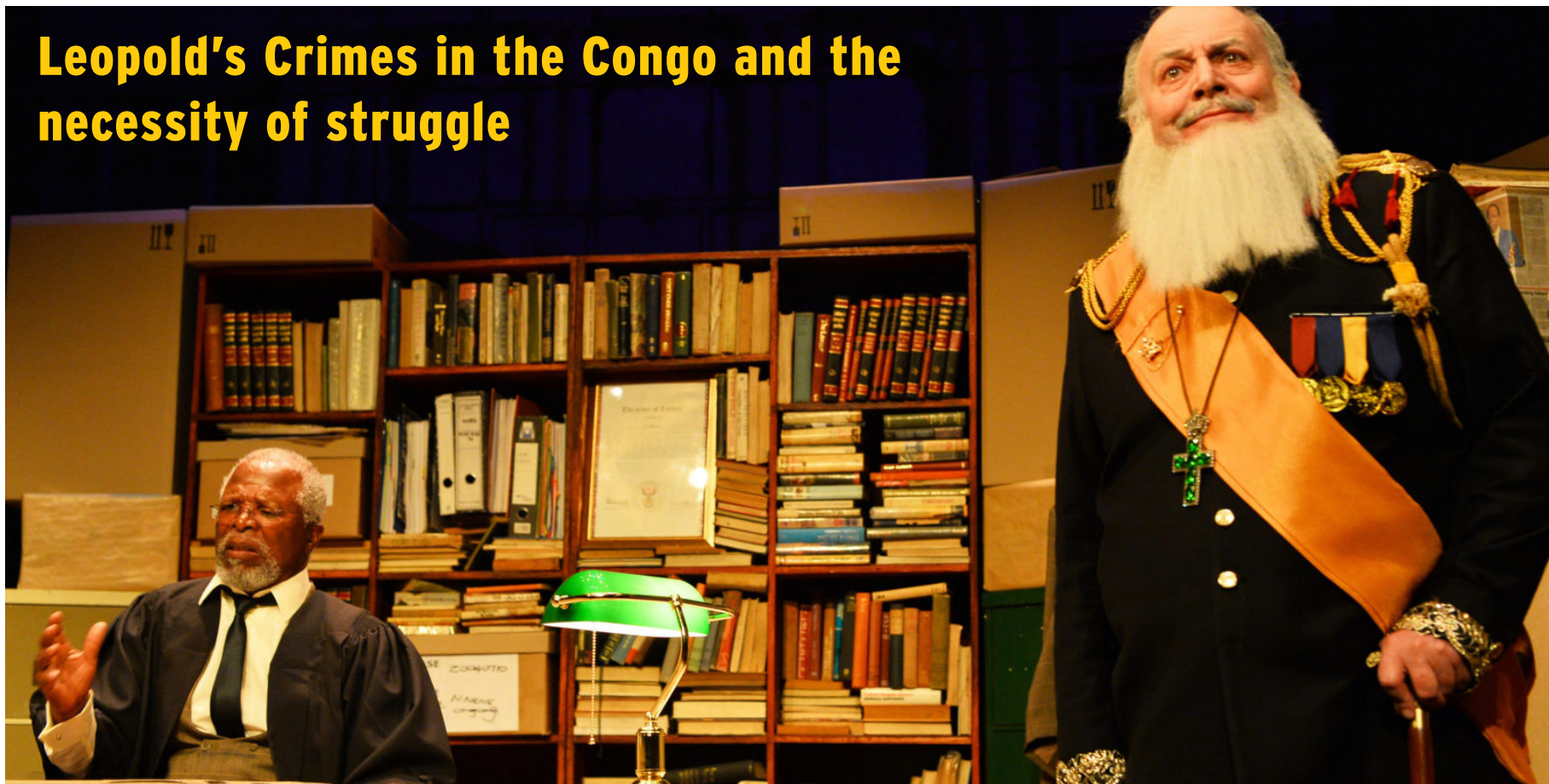
Comradely Yours  
**Pule Mabe**  
 ANC National Spokesperson  
 twitter: @pulemabe



## LIFESTYLE

# "Unworthy Victims"

## Leopold's Crimes in the Congo and the necessity of struggle



By **Mandla Nkomfe**

### Congo:

#### The Trial of King Leopold II,'

the play developed by John Kani as an adaptation of Mark Twain's 'King Leopold's Soliquay' brings to the fore the postulation that history has its "worthy" and "unworthy victims." First employed by Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman in their book 'Manufacturing Consent,' the theory holds that "worthy victims" are casualties of those who are despised by the powerful while the "unworthy" are those upon whom injustice is visited by the powerful.

The Genocide perpetrated by Belgian King Leopold II in Congo (present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo) remains the least known historical crime to date. For their unworthiness, the victims of the Congo genocide are the invisible savages that Leopold characterised to be.

In his book: *"The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order,"* Samuel P. Huntington wrote that: "The West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion [...] but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence. Westerners often forget this

fact; non-Westerners never do."

However, it was the favoured refrain of western colonial powers to dress their crimes and exploitation in the garbs of the so-called civilising mission. According to this logic, superior Europeans had a God-ordained duty to bring the benefits of western civilisation to the inferior savages in the colonies. And a recent controversy stoked by one Helen Zille illustrate the fact that belief in the virtues of colonialism and the characterisation of victims as "worthy" and "unworthy" still looms large in the intellectual and political considerations of many among whom it would have been mistakenly thought of as an aberration.

Through a mock trial, the stage play, performed by veteran actors John Kani and Robert Whitehead and directed by Lesedi Job, lays King Leopold II's civilising mission in the Congo bare – "unworthy victims" galore! After ruling the Congo for 23 years as his personal property with which he could do as he pleased, he eventually succumbed to pressure and ceded ownership to the Belgian state.

But prior to the transfer, as a soon as the price of rubber became dear in the market, Leopold brutalised the natives into forced labour to harvest and process the rubber. In his

book: "King Leopold's Ghost," Adam Hochschild, quotes an extract of oral history, recorded by a Catholic priest, of a man named Tswambe, who speaks of a particularly hated state official named Leon Fievez whose favourite past time was to terrorise the natives for the

Through a mock trial, the stage play, performed by veteran actors John Kani and Robert Whitehead and directed by Lesedi Job

rubber business. Hochschild wrote:

"All the blacks saw this man as the Devil of the Equator. . . . From all the bodies killed in the field, you had to cut off the hands. He wanted to see the number of hands cut off by each soldier, who had to bring them in baskets. ... A village which refused to provide rubber would be completely swept clean. As a young man, I saw [Fievez's] soldier Molili, then guarding the village of Boyeka,

take a big net, put ten arrested natives in it, attach big stones to the net, and make it tumble into the river."

Ten million Congolese are estimated to have died under King Leopold's regime.

The play is therefore about (in) justice and (abuse of) power. Who has the power to ensure "that victims of crime, especially crimes against humanity, get justice? The Nuremburg trials delivered justice to the victims of the holocaust precisely because Germany, the perpetrator, had lost the war.

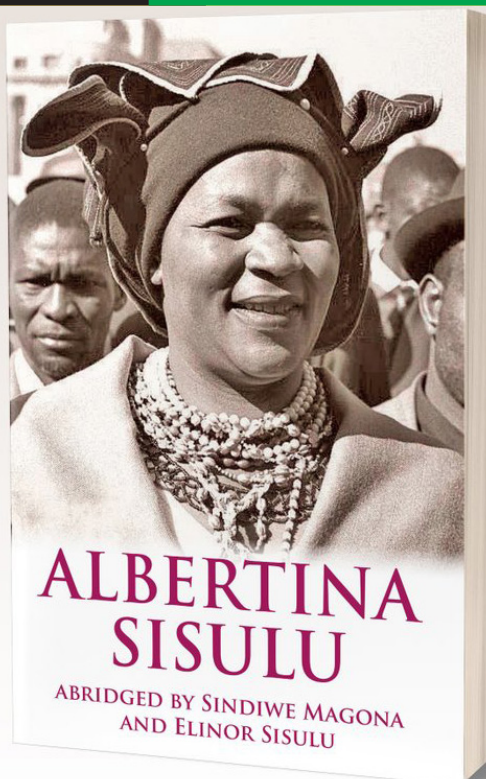
The people of the Congo were liberated from colonisation in 1961. But she entered Independence in a context of global power relations long defined by the devastation unleashed by Leopold, which made the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba possible and the rise of one Mobutu Sese Seko (who was nothing but a client of Belgium) a reality.

In spite of the progress that has been achieved by way of the institutionalisation of international justice, inequities of global balance of power continue unabated, to the detriment of "unworthy victims."

Congo: The Trial of King Leopold II is a reminder to all progressive thinking people that the struggle for a just world remains worth pursuing.

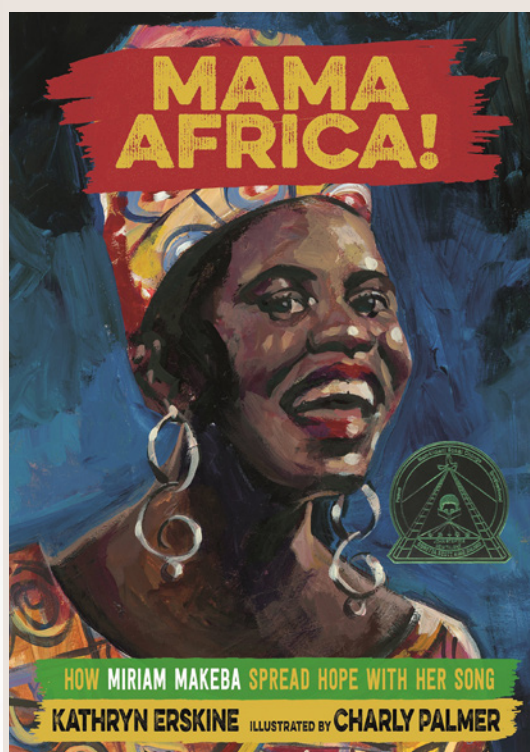


## BOOK REVIEW

**Albertina Sisulu (2018)**

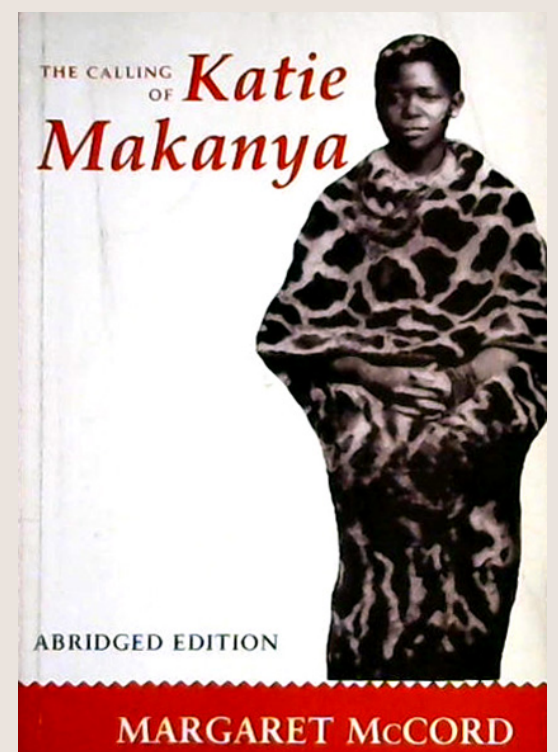
Abridged by Sindiwe Magona and Elinor Sisulu

David Phillip Publishers: Cape Town

**Mama Africa. How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with her Song (2017)**

By Kathryn Erskine, illustrated by Charly Palmer

Publishers: Farrar Straus Giroux: New York

**The Calling of Katie Makanya (1997)**

By Margaret McCord, abridged by Robin Malan

David Phillip Publishers: Cape Town

Academics Annie Chiponda and Johan Wassermann from the University of KZN, writing on the portrayal of women in history textbooks in schools observed, that “women are portrayed as historically unimportant and incapable, contributing little to society outside of the domestic sphere...this type of portrayal sends powerful messages to the youth about men and women in history and in contemporary society.” The portrayal of women in these written texts, according to Chiponda and Wassermann, is therefore one of underrepresentation, misrepresentation and marginalisation. The same can certainly be said of women in general and African women in particular in biography as a genre. And even more so in biographies aimed at youth and children.

As a parent, looking for

children and youth books that portray empowered images of women (and black people) remains a challenge. The three books featured in this review are therefore a breath of fresh air.

The abridged memoir of Mam Albertina Sisulu, illustrated with beautiful pen sketches throughout the chapters, is much welcome, even if it was not the centenary anniversary of her birth. It takes us through the life of this wonderful icon, from childhood struggles, her life as a nurse and her consistent and unwavering commitment to the struggle for freedom and dignity of all people. I usually find biographical references to childhood rather boring, but Magona and Sisulu write in a manner that is engaging and interesting.

The same must be said about the childhood of Katie Makanya, especially the dialogue between the ‘characters’ in this biography. Makanya is the sister to Charlotte Maxeke,

together they were part of the choir that toured the UK. This conversation between an 18-year-old Katie and an old British gentleman is but one example:

*‘Whereabouts in South Africa do you live?’  
‘In Kimberley, sir.’  
‘Ah, Kimberley! Then you should be wearing diamonds around your neck.’*

*‘Me?’ Katie giggled. ‘We black people don’t wear diamonds, otherwise the police would come and put us in jail.’*

The abridged version of Katie Makanya’s biography is most welcome (even for adults!), since the original is a rather lengthy tomb. My only gripe is that the publisher could have ensured a more youth friendly layout and cover, not simply just a thinner version of the original.

The life of Miriam Makeba has

been told in a few books, but this is the first for children that I came across. The introduction says it all: “Miriam sang as soon as she could walk. She sang folk songs as her mother played the drums. She sang pop songs for her brother and his friends. She sang hymns with her sisters in the Sunday school choir. ‘Music gets deep inside me and starts to shake things up!’ she said. And from deep inside, Miriam began to shake up the world...”

The three books are an important contribution to the genre of women’s biography for youth and children, and we of course need many more, lest we keep complaining that the younger generations do not know their past. **FPG**

*Reference: Chiponda, Annie, & Wassermann, Johan. (2011). Women in history textbooks: what message does this send to the youth?. Yesterday and Today, (6), 13-25*

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STATS

Fast Facts Statistics on Violence against Women and Girls

66%	Of women in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, were murdered by husbands, boyfriends or other family members.
8,093	Cases of dowry related deaths were reported in India and an unknown number of deaths are simply reported as ‘accidents’ or ‘suicides’.
20,000-50,000	Women were raped during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
200,000	Cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996 in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; the actual numbers are believed to be far higher.
150 million	Girls under the age of 18 world-wide are estimated to have suffered some form of sexual violence in one year alone.
40-70%	Of female murder victims in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, were killed by their intimate partners.
60 million	Girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18.
50,000-64,000	Women in camps for internally displaced people in Sierra Leone were sexually assaulted by combatants between 1991 and 2001.
50%	Of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16.
800,000	People trafficked across national borders annually, 80% are women, with the majority (79 percent) trafficked for sexual exploitation.
83%	Of girls in the United States aged 12 to 16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.
250,000-500,000	Women and girls were raped in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
1 in 5	Women across the 28 EU Member states has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner.
30-40%	Of women in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea suffer workplace sexual harassment.
130 million	Women and Girls in the world have experienced female genital mutilation.
20%	Of women in Nairobi, have been sexually harassed at work or school.

Source: UN Women, <http://www.endvawnow.org>

VERBATIM



“If you are to free yourselves you must break the chains of oppression yourselves. Only then can we express our dignity, only when we have liberated ourselves can we co-operate with other groups. Any acceptance of humiliation, indignity or insult is acceptance of inferiority.” - **Mama Winnie Mandela**



As parents we should encourage our children to apply and attend higher education institutions. The qualification that they will attain regardless of the level brings our young people a step closer to their ultimate career goals, it becomes the “knock on the door” to being employed. - **ANC NEC member Cde Khensani Khubai- Ngubani**



“Women are the people who are going to relieve us from all this oppression and depression. The rent boycott that is happening in Soweto now [in the 1980s] is alive because of the women. It is the women who are on the street committees educating the people to stand up and protect each other” – **Mama Albertina Sisulu**



“ I’m from a continent of poverty and long walk accomplishments.Where former heroes give birth to spoiled rotten kids. The opulent meet the poor cleaning their offices. ”

- South African rapper and Poet -

*Stogie T*





CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1. Acronym gender based violence
  - 2. More than a quarter million women and girls were raped during the 1994 ... in Rwanda
  - 5. Many women face sexual ... at work
  - 10. Real men don't ...
  - 11. Women hold up half the ...
  - 14. Take action against or for something
  - 15. ...is a crime of power
  - 17. Feminists aren't anti-men. We are pro-...
  - 18. ... protect the young
  - 19. Over 90% of acts of gender based violence are committed by ...
  - 20. Female ... mutilation affects 130 million women in the world
  - 21. Fighting for women's equality and a just society

- Down**
- 3. School and university .... should also teach values that undermine GBV
  - 4. Interconnection between race, gender, class
  - 6. The root causes of gender based violence and inequality.
  - 7. Violence against women globally has become part of the fabric of society or ...
  - 8. We can all make a ... in the fight against GBV
  - 9. Violence .... the potential of girls and women
  - 12. .... violence happens in the home
  - 13. This movement grew into a global movement against sexual harassment
  - 16. Gender based violence undermine the ... of women and children

Word Bank

Activism	Difference	Genital
Me Too	Men	Systemic
Harrasment	Patriarchy	Rape
Genocide	Dignity	Hit
Feminism	Domestic	Women
Curriculum	Gbv	Animals
Sky	Intersectionality	Diminish

ANC DONATION





IN ACTION #ThumaMina



ANC National Chairperson Cde Gwede Mantashe was given an opportunity to speak to congregants at the Assemblies of God in Bushbuckridge, Bohlabela Region.



ANC NEC member Cde Zweli Mkhize addressing the volunteers & community of Thokozani Village after doing door to door with the #ThumaMina volunteers in Amsterdam, ward 19, Gertrude Sibande Region



ANC secretary general cde Ace Magashule meets with the community of Hlalamnandi section in Middleburg. The Land question is high on the agenda of the meeting.



ANC Deputy President David Mabuza doing door to door in of Phola Park in Peit Retief, Gertrude Sibande Region



ANC TG Paul Mashatile alongside NEC members doing a door-to-door campaign in Ehlanzeni Region. We visited a child-headed household where the children are unemployed and out of school. Cde Khensani Kubayi- Ngubani made a commitment to assist with regards to education.