



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President

Guest Feature,

ANC Deputy President, **David Mabuza**



Moving South Africa to an **AIDS**-free generation!

African National Congress Deputy President and Chairperson of South African AIDS Council Comrade David Mabuza believes that it is in our hands to realise the vision of having an HIV-free generation in our lifetime.

The World AIDS Day is commemorated each year on the 1st of December and is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and remember those who have passed away.

The global theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "Know Your Status". This theme ties in well with our own national theme

Our people are resilient even in the face of vast and unimaginable struggles they face on a daily basis...

which is: "Cheka Impilo" - Know Your Status! This is a call to all South Africans to take care of their health by testing regularly for HIV, TB and other non-communicable diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, cancers and other conditions.

Just as we fight the scourge of HIV and AIDS, so we should with equal measure, fight to end the culture of gender-based violence. It is a bad mark to the democracy

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EDITORIAL

Fidel is not Dead, Fidel is Alive

The African National Congress Secretary-General, Comrade Ace Magashule memorialises the Commander in Chief of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro on the occasion that marked the second anniversary since his passing. The anniversary was held in Free State Province at the Fidel Castro building on the 24 November 2018.

ANC Secretary-General Ace Magashule, in paying tribute to former President of the Republic of Cuba, and in the presence of a Cuban delegation led by Ambassador Rudolfo Benitez Verson, made the following observations:

“We are celebrating the living memory of a legendary figure who has made an enormous contribution towards the development of human society, a rebel leader of the Granma expedition, the Commander-in-Chief of the historic battle of the Playa Giron, which saw the first military defeat of the American Empire in the Latin American Region.

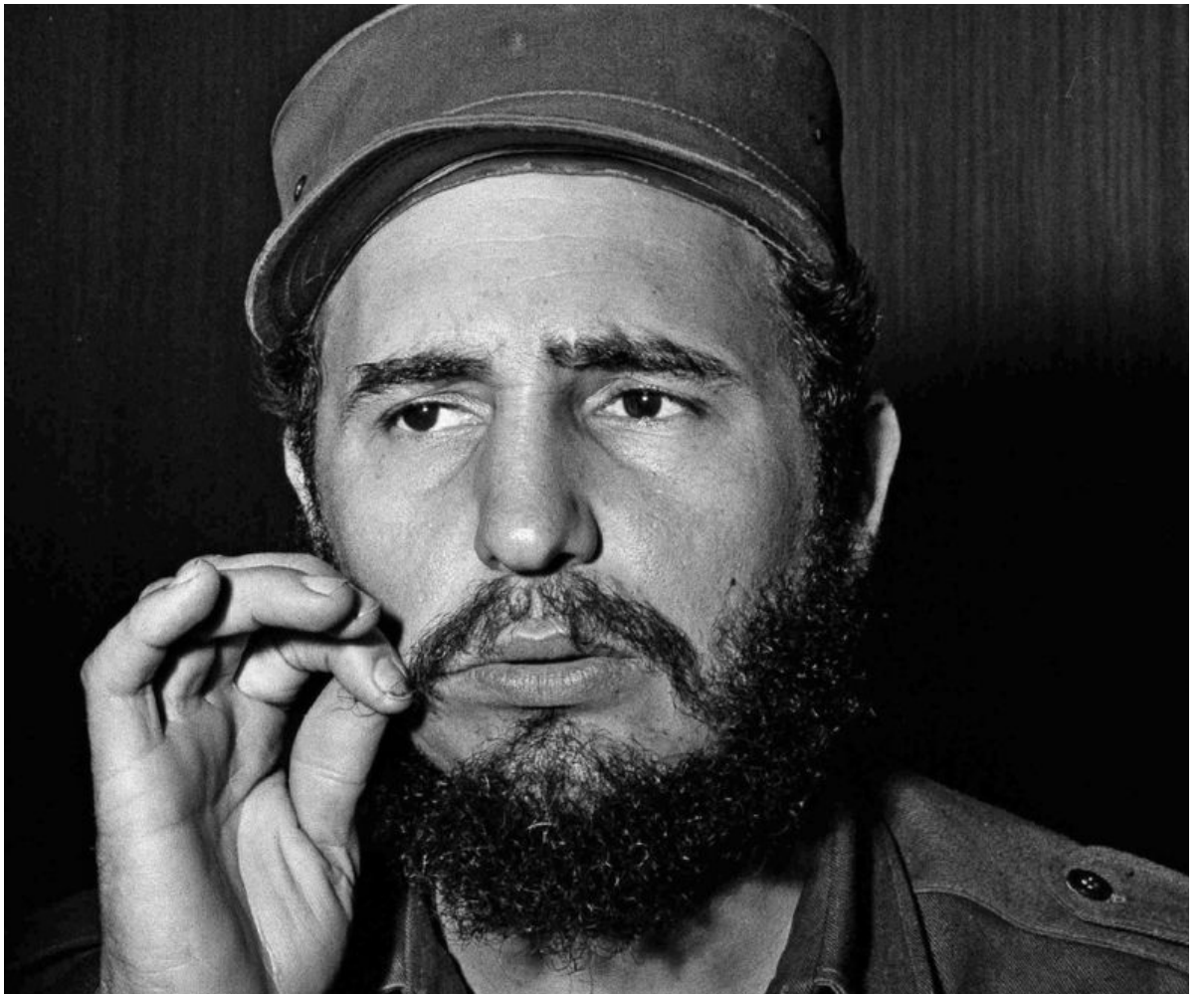
His far reaching ideas represented the objective realities of the century and the overall demands of the struggle of our people for the transformation of society. He was a hero born out of the struggles of the century, especially the struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Comrade Fidel led his people to join the trenches of the struggle of the people of the African continent including several other parts of the world in their battle against colonial oppression and exploitation.

Fidel was a hero who led the struggle which defeated the white Apartheid regime in the Southern African region during the battle of Quito Cuanavale. This was decisive battle which heralded the independence of Namibia, and the end of the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, culminating in the advent of our democracy in 1994.

He was able to build infrastructure, and provide his people with free social services such as education, health, housing, security, electricity, water and other social amenities despite the over fifty years of economic blockade imposed by the US administration.

Through his leadership, Cuba was able to send thousands of its medical doctors, engineers and other volunteers of the revolution to assist the needy across the



world. Thousands of Cuban doctors are performing extraordinary work in many of the poverty stricken communities in our country, the African continent and many parts of the Latin America.

Thousands of students from the Least-developed and developing countries are studying medicine and other scientific disciplines, such as engineering and various technologies, in many of the Cuban institutions of higher learning. Cuba has become a perennial fountain of knowledge and leadership, offering assistance to many of the suffering people of the world.

“In honour of Fidel, we shall continue with the struggle for the freedom and dignity of the people of Palestine and the SAHARAWI Republic.” ANC

Secretary-General Ace Magashule

In his memory we will continue to navigate the historic mission of our struggle through the complex theatre of the world socio- economic power relations.

In his memory our immediate task is the transformation of the world into a better place for humanity. We celebrate the life of this revolutionary when the forces of reaction have heightened the offensive onslaught against the

revolutionary movement across the world. The determination is to undermine the genuine struggle of our people in the former colonies and semi-colonies.

In our country the forces opposed to transformation have been demonising the ANC and the entire liberation movement over the years of our struggle. We have been called ‘terrorists’, with no regard to democracy and the noble goal of the improvement of the living conditions of our people.

When the ANC started to talk about the expropriation of land without compensation, and the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank and other key sector of our economy, they started instigating a regime change strategy. When we talked about the need to consolidate democracy, they started spreading a false narrative that the ANC has been in power for too long.

The main battle is about the protracted struggle for the socio- economic ownership of our economy. They do not want the wealth of our country to be shared amongst those who live in it. They are diametrically opposed to the great ideals of the Freedom Charter.

We shall therefore work hard with the masses of our people to make sure that the ANC gets an overwhelming victory during the forthcoming general national. We shall make sure that power returns to the majority of our people in all areas of our country, including those now governed by unholy coalitions.

In his honour, we shall mobilize the world community to ensure that we end the vicious economic blockade imposed by the American Administration against the people and government of Cuba.

In honour of Fidel, we shall continue with the struggle of the people for the freedom and dignity of the people of Palestine and the SAHARAWI Republic. This we shall achieve following in his footsteps of solidarity and internationalism.

We shall forever be indebted to his extraordinary acts of heroism and dedication to the struggle of our people.

Conversations with the **PRESIDENT**

Moving South Africa to an **AIDS-free** generation!

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for which we had fought and sacrificed so much for. It does not represent the values of ubuntu and human rights that we stand for and have committed to in our Constitution as a country.

We must draw inspiration from our struggle for freedom, wherein we stood united in action against the indignity of racial oppression. We drew a line in the sand and vigorously fought for a united non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa, a South Africa based on human dignity. Our youth, civil society organisations and our media stood firm and exposed the brutality of the apartheid regime at the time.

In my capacity as the Chairperson of the South African AIDS Council, I wish to convey my gratitude to all our people for the critical work they are doing in building the much needed networks to ensure that our country remains one of the leading countries in the fight against HIV, TB and STI's globally.

As a country, we have come a long way in the fight against HIV and AIDS. We are today acknowledged by UNAIDS and related organisations as a global and continental leader in HIV response. This is precisely because we have the right policies in place and have developed the right responses to this epidemic. The ANC government has demonstrated the right political will to see these policy responses being implemented.

Today, we have the biggest HIV treatment programme in the world, with more than 4.2 million people on life-saving antiretrovirals. Millions of South Africans who previously had no hope now live productive lives due to our massive rollout of ARV treatment. The treatment has led to an increase in life expectancy and low levels of mother-to-child HIV transmission rates.

To a large degree, the success of our country's response can be ascribed to the fact that at no point did we say that we can now shift into lower gear in terms of meeting our targeted indicators. South Africa is at the forefront of finding new interventions to improve the global response on this pandemic and its associated challenges and complexities.

As a country, we remain committed to advancing the vision of meeting the global target of getting to zero (zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination). What we are also beginning to see, and this is fundamental, is that beyond the indicators and strategic blueprints, lies

real people, communities and households. Our plans need to lift this central element of people-first in whatever we set out to achieve.

Our approach as a country, is firmly entrenched in following a bottom-up approach where communities play a central role in shaping and defining the response as it impacts our diverse communities. This again, emphasises the fact that our people know what works best and how services should be rendered.

Our people are resilient even in the face of vast and unimaginable struggles they face on a daily basis that are further compounded by poverty, unemployment and inequality. When we recently met during the South African TB conference in Durban, we heard of the real hardships and struggles that people have to endure whilst undergoing TB treatment. Such testimonies must spur us on to act faster and improve on our current range of interventions and services, in providing a higher level of service that responds to the need of all our communities.

South Africa, like most countries, signed up to achieve the 90-90-90 targets by December 2020. The 2017 national household survey suggests that we have achieved 81-71-86.

This simply means that we have some way to go in both people knowing their HIV status, being initiated on ARVs and being virally suppressed. The middle 90 being initiated on ARVs, is our biggest challenge.

The results suggest that going forward, our focus should be on young people and men. It is young people, especially those between 15 and 24 years of age, that are not testing for HIV, not being initiated on ARVs and not reaching viral suppression.

It is in our hands to realise the vision of having an HIV-free generation in our lifetime. Most importantly, it is in our hands not to leave those infected and affected by HIV and TB behind. It is possible to realise this noble vision that should be embraced by every one of us to move our national response forward.

By working together and by being relentless in implementing our National Strategic Plan, South Africans will be healthier; will live longer; and stand a better chance to accelerate the development of our country.

A major factor in successfully implementing the National Strategic Plan, is the functionality of the AIDS Councils at all levels of

our country, from national all the way to ward level. This should not be seen as the sole responsibility of those working in the sector, but a responsibility of all of us to build healthy communities that

are free from the pandemics of AIDS and TB.

Let our actions count! Let us move South Africa forward to an AIDS-free generation!



DOMESTIC

Banyana Banyana flying South Africa's Flag High

By Donovan Williams

“Sport has the power to change the world... It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more power than government in breaking down racial barriers.”

Nelson Mandela's words on the occasion of South Africa winning the 1995 Rugby World Cup rings true for Banyana Banyana's participation in the African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

In congratulating Banyana Banyana in their achievement as they beat Mali 2-0 in the semi-finals, the ANC joins the nation in celebrating this outstanding achievement. This achievement also means that Banyana Banyana will fly South Africa's flag at the FIFA Women's World Cup in France in June 2019.

The nation's excitement will reach fever-pitch when Banyana Banyana squares up with their perennial rivals, Nigeria, in the final this weekend. We join the rest of nation in wishing Banyana Banyana well and pin our hopes on them to do the nation proud and bring the AFCON trophy home.

The last time a South African football team qualified for the World Cup was in 2002. Since then, as a nation we have been disappointed time and time again. Their performance in this tournament has renewed the nation's hopes in our national teams and the fact that it is a women's team breaking this drought is of particular significance.

Banyana Banyana has given South African much to celebrate, and they continue to fly our nation's flag with pride. Their continued winning streak and stellar performance requires of us to accord them the recognition they deserve. This recognition extends to paying attention to systemic discrimination that continues to characterise the treatment of women football players in contrast to their male counterparts by the same organisation.



Do us proud Banyana Banyana, the nation is fully behind you.

Non-sexism is a core value of the ANC, and we have actively championed the struggle for women emancipation since the founding of our glorious movement.

A report presented to the Chair of the FIFA Reform Committee in 2015 reflected that, “The FIFA Secretary General recently observed that it has taken many World Cups for the men's competition to reach its current stature, and there are 13 more editions until the Women's World Cup potentially reaches the same level. This implies the year 2067. At that rate, a girl born about the year 2040 might grow up to be the first woman to enjoy equality.” In 2016 FIFA announced that it was placing gender equality and women's empowerment high on its agenda, reinforced by a number of initiatives which includes the establishment of a specialised Women's Football Division. The ANC adds its voice to the clarion call to recognise the transformative benefits of investing in and supporting women's football.

We call upon SAFA, the Minister of Sports and Recreation, the Minister of Basic Education, the Minister of Higher Education and Training to rise to the challenge and be trailblazers in taking women's football

to new heights in Africa by investing significant resources, increasing women's representation in governing structures and ensuring women's football has presence in every centre of learning. The role of the private sector in enabling this forward momentum cannot be downplayed. Sponsors need to do more to support women's football and address the glaring challenge of resources. More importantly, our government must take a leaf from the FIFA book and meaningfully resource participation opportunities for women and girls at all levels, without gender discrimination in fair financial proportion to its female participation and potential. As we take off our proverbial hats to Banyana Banyana, their sterling performance must inspire us to act decisively in making sports a flag bearer of non-sexism.

Indeed, as much as the burden of responsibility lies mainly with SAFA and government to advance women's football development, there is an equal obligation on the general public to support the games. We cannot claim to be proud of our footballers when we fail to fill the stadiums. Our support should not be mere lip service, but must translate into butts on seats at our world class stadiums.

As Banyana Banyana prepare to tackle Nigeria on Saturday, we are encouraged that they represent a formidable opponent who will no doubt represent the nation well under the able leadership of coach Desiree Ellis. Do us proud Banyana Banyana, the nation is fully behind you.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Commemorating the Nelson Mandela Centenary at the Hellenic Parliament

By Dr Khulu Mbatha

At the invitation of the President of the Hellenic Parliament Nikolaos Voutsis and Ambassador of South Africa to Greece, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Dr Khulu Mbatha, adviser in the Presidency, gave a keynote speech on Commemorating the Nelson Mandela Centenary at the Hellenic Parliament in Athens, Greece this week 27 November 2018.

"With this event, the people of Greece are honouring the heroic struggle of South Africans against the evil system of apartheid and oppression.

Mandela's incarceration on Robben Island, was the incarceration of the oppressed people of South Africa. The ideals for which he fought and was prepared to die for, represented the ideals that inspired the struggle against apartheid.

Just recently, on 24th September this year, I participated at another major occasion, where President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled a full life-size statue of Nelson Mandela at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

We will recall that the people of the world through the United Nations led in championing the struggle of the South African people against apartheid. They demanded the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

After his release, President Mandela firmly believed that the United Nations was the most important and effective instrument for the advancement of peace, development and equality.

Mandela's perseverance, steadfastness and dedication to liberate South Africa and thereafter the whole of humanity, his preparedness to contribute to the culture of peace and freedom, ignited so much solidarity for our struggle – from all corners of the world, including Europe and here in Greece.

The Greek people did not

shy away from supporting our struggle. In 1988, I, as the only chief representative to serve here, was sent by the African National Congress to come and mobilise the Greek people for our cause.

In this context, it is noteworthy that the Greek Government supported UN sanctions against the Apartheid regime. Greece hosted a number of events, like the United Nations Symposium on Culture against Apartheid in Athens in September 1988. At this conference a number of artists from the US, Europe, Africa and a number of South Africans – both from inside South Africa and those living in exile participated.

Another event of historical importance, was the Conference of the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid (AWEPA) held in October 1989 in Athens.

This event was also addressed by Advocate George Bizos, whose roots are here in Greece. Advocate Bizos played

The work of these artists found continuity through other Greek musicians, including the famous Vasilis Papakonstantinou

an important role against apartheid by defending many fellow South Africans against apartheid laws, especially during the famous Rivonia Trial that involved his student friend, Nelson Mandela.

As these events and other activities were taking place, the Greek artists and musicians answered the call for people around the world to unite against apartheid. One of the biggest events ever organized, produced and performed was



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the Afriki Tora (Africa Now) concert.

The lead performers at this concert were the legendary Lakis Halkias (Singer), Dimitris Iatropoulos (Poet) and Georgos Katsaros (Saxophonist). From this concert they produced a popular album of songs and poetry to raise funds in support of the ANC and the struggle against apartheid.

The work of these artists found continuity through other Greek musicians, including the famous Vasilis Papakonstantinou, who contributed generously to support the ANC office.

In this vein, I would like to recall the support we received from the people of Cyprus. I must mention Dr Vassos Lyssarides, who founded EDEK, the first socialist political party of Cyprus in 1969 and remained a strong friend and supporter of the ANC. I understand he is 98 years old and I wish his life to blossom as he reaches his centenary in two years' time.

From the day a confident Mandela walked out of prison he made it his task to see to

it that the dreams of South Africans to be free are realised. He oversaw the negotiations and worked hard to find solutions.

As a young man, who participated in the June 16, 1976 uprisings in South Africa and finding myself working with Nelson Mandela during the negotiations period between 1991 and 1994, I found it very thought-provoking when he advocated for young people to question their leaders.

South Africa, like many other countries, is going through difficult economic challenges, and we are slowly showing progress in addressing some of these challenges.

We would like to encourage more Greek people to leave the thousands of islands that extend throughout the Aegean and Ionian seas, and come to South Africa, either to exchange experiences and learn from each other, or simply to leave their beautiful beaches of Santorini and Mykonos, and come and see the Big Five live and not in the Zoo."

OPINION

Zondo Commission Deserves Our Support

By Zizi Kodwa

This week the ANC appeared before the Zondo Commission on State Capture to address issues emanating from the testimony of the big four banks. At the outset the ANC affirmed its support for the work of the Commission and implored all South Africans across the racial and political divide to fully support its work.

As the governing party, the ANC shoulders a mammoth responsibility to advance the project of building a nation that is truly emancipated and a capable state. However, this is a shared responsibility that requires every citizen and every organ of civil society to play their part in bringing to fruition this noble ideal. Our experience in government over the last two and a half decades have taught us that there are no shortcuts or quick fixes to nation-building.

We are under no illusion about the long and tortuous path we have to traverse towards the realisation of the goals of national democratic revolution. We must stay the course, and endure the challenges that come with efforts to build a single national identity, and eradicate the remnants of our past of racial subjugation and oppression.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission played an important role in laying the foundation for our post-apartheid nation-building project. As a young democracy we have achieved much, made significant strides in eradicating apartheid legacy, and crafted a roadmap to a common future in the form of the National Development Plan. We have come a long way in transforming our society and making significant inroads towards eradicating poverty, addressing unemployment and reversing the gaping inequality.

We must jealously guard the gains of our democracy and not allow anyone to drag us back to the dark days of a racially polarised society. Nelson Mandela's words at his inauguration remain a compass that will continue to guide our nation for generations to come,



Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa, will respond to a broad set of issues relating to the ANC which arise in evidence placed before the Commission and will explain what action the ANC took and why it omitted to intervene in circumstances when it should or could have done so.

when he said, "Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world. Let freedom reign. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement!"

In appreciating the significance of the Commission as a yardstick measuring our progress as a nation, the ANC believes this Commission represents a reality check on:-

- How far we have progressed as a nation in building a state that is responsive to its constitutional mandate?

- How have we fared in actualising our collective values enshrined in the Constitution and the legacy we bequeath to future generations?

- How has our democracy matured and the extent to which the scourge of corruption has undermined the ability of the state to deliver a better life for all?

The ANC has made a firm commitment to make a more

comprehensive submission to the Commission at a future date, the deal with, amongst others, its Deployment Policy adopted by its National Executive Committee between January and July 1999.

It its final submission to the Commission, the President of the ANC, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa, will respond to a broad set of issues relating to the ANC which arise in evidence placed before the Commission and will explain what action the ANC took and why it omitted to intervene in circumstances when it should or could have done so.

To assist the work of the Commission, the ANC reiterated its call on all its members and any South African, who may have information or evidence that can assist the Commission in the discharge of its mandate to come forward with such information or evidence.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, A Building block to a New World Order

By Lawrence Venkile

Over the coming week, from 4 - 6 December 2018, the ANC will host the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, a first of such engagements amongst the BRICS countries, to build a foundations for a new consensus to drive an alternative world order steeped on the fundamental values of multilateralism, peaceful co-existence of nations and shared prosperity. The dialogue will see approximately 200 political leaders from the five nations converge in the City of Tshwane for a dialogue that seeks to craft a new path in the face of the rise of extreme nationalism and isolationism and threats to world peace. The parties must find each other and provide leadership on four critical areas:

- Economic development
- Peace and stability
- Multilateralism and
- the 4th Industrial Revolution

South Africa assumed the Chairmanship of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) at its summit held in July 2018. The July summit set the tone for South Africa's chairmanship for the next year when it adopted the Johannesburg Declaration, which emphasized the following:

1. The BRICS Summit was convened on the occasion of the Centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela as we recognise his values, principles and dedication to the service of humanity and acknowledge his contributions to the struggle for democracy internationally, and the promotion of the common culture of peace throughout the world.
2. A number of decisions were taken on development, inclusivity and mutual prosperity in the context of the technology driven 4th industrial revolution and growth.
3. Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction regarding the achievements of BRICS over the last ten years as a "strong demonstration of BRICS cooperation towards the attainment of peace, harmony and shared development and prosperity, and deliberated on ways to consolidate them further".
4. The Summit affirmed "the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, democracy, inclusiveness and strengthened collaboration. It further committed BRICS countries to enhancing its "strategic partnership for the benefit of our people through the promotion of peace, a fairer international order, sustainable development and inclusive growth, and to strengthening the three-pillar-



The need for an effective, rules-based multilateral system underpinned by peaceful co-existence of nations, has never been greater.

- driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges."
5. Recommitted BRICS countries to "a world of peace and stability, and support the central role of the United Nations, the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and respect for international law, promoting democracy and the rule of law. We reinforce our commitment to upholding multilateralism and to working together on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as we foster a more representative, democratic, equitable, fair and just international political and economic order."
6. Reiterated the "determination to work together to strengthen multilateralism and the rule of law in international relations, and to promote a fair, just, equitable, democratic and representative international order."
7. Recommitted the "support for multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and uphold fair, just and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for international law, promoting democracy and the rule of law in international relations, and to address common traditional and non-

traditional security challenges. In this context, the ANC 54th National Conference of December 2017 resolved:

- To leverage our chairing of BRICS in 2018 to be beneficial to South Africa and the continent (Africa);
- That the South African government should support the setting up of the BRICS Ratings Agency;
- That the BRICS Bank that has been established must be used effectively to provide an alternative Global Financing Mechanism.
- That the ANC and the ANC government should effectively use our membership of BRICS to deepen and align our policies with each of the individual BRICS countries.
- That the ANC should discuss with BRICS countries how the G20 can be better utilised to promote a progressive agenda;
- That the ANC and ANC government should promote student exchange programmes for South African students with the BRICS countries as part of skills development.
- That the ANC should work with other BRICS member parties to sign a joint BRICS party to party agreement.

As we host this dialogue amongst political parties from the BRICS countries and the rest of the African continent, we remain mindful of the pressing challenges confronting the world order which manifest themselves in the form of increase of armed conflicts, elevation of narrow national interests at the expense of multilateral consensus. The need for an effective, rules-based multilateral system underpinned by peaceful co-existence of nations, has never been greater.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Let's all get Tested and Know our Status

Dear Mr President,

On Saturday, 1 December 2018, South Africa and the world will observe World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the fight against HIV and Aids. This year, we are called upon to get tested and to know our status.

Mr President, knowing one's status is a powerful weapon in our battle against HIV and AIDS. Our call to every South African to know their status is premised on our understanding that knowing your HIV status helps you to make informed decisions on preventative measures, treatment, care and support.

World AIDS Day is a platform to mobilise society to appreciate the impact of this scourge and to raise public awareness about the virus, how it is spread, its symptoms and treatments. Collectively, we must redouble our efforts in our quest to achieve zero new infections in the country.

There is no doubt, Mr President, that the ANC government has made significant progress in its efforts to respond to the AIDS pandemic. UNAIDS has commended South Africa for having the largest ARV programme in the world with close to 4.2 million people on treatment. The treatment has led to an increase in life expectancy and low levels of mother-to-child HIV transmission rates.

All HIV positive South Africans now have access to anti-retroviral drugs irrespective of their CD4 count. This intervention has led to a decline in HIV/AIDS related deaths and increase in life expectancy as well as low levels of mother-to-child HIV transmission rates. We attend funerals week in and week out of family members and friends who may have succumbed to the scourge. Therefore, the noticeable relief brought by the decisive action of your government are making a quantifiable difference, giving our families, friends and comrades a second chance.

Mr President, the number of AIDS-related deaths have been declining consistently since 2007 from 276 921 to 115 167 AIDS-related deaths in 2018. More noteworthy is that HIV prevalence among the youth aged between 15 and 24 has declined from 6,7 per cent in 2002 to 5,5 per cent in 2018. The infant mortality rate has gone down from 53,2 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 2002 to 36,4 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 2018.

The ANC government, under whose stewardship we are witnessing progress on many health indicators, especially those that relate to women and children must be commended. I am confident, Mr President, that a programme that takes the fight against HIV and AIDS to the schoolyards, factory floor, churches, boardrooms, political parties and football



fields amongst others will continue to shift the balance of power in our favour as we strive to defeat this scourge.

**My Comrade with HIV is still my Comrade!
My brother with HIV is still my brother! My sister with HIV is still my sister! All of us are either infected or affected by HIV!**

Unless we continue along the same progressive trajectory, HIV and AIDS will have a devastating impact on all aspects of our lives. AIDS-related illnesses add to the burden on health resources due to an increased number of hospitalisation and the provision of treatment. During this World AIDS Day, our fellow countrymen are called to show compassion to those who are affected and infected with the pandemic. The story of HIV and AIDS now offers each one of us an opportunity to showcase love and solidarity to our fellow South Africans who are infected against the sorry past of rejection, despair and death.

Mr President, we must continue to boldly assert: My Comrade with HIV is still my Comrade! My brother with HIV is still my brother! My sister with HIV is still my sister! All of us are either infected or

affected by HIV!

We call upon all sectors of society to do whatever it takes to help minimize the impact of the scourge. Mr President, to deliver the goal of a better life for all the fight against HIV and AIDS must be intensified throughout all sectors of society. The impact of HIV and AIDS can undermine the development and growth of the economy. Practically, this means that if we are unable to stop the spread of HIV and minimize its impact, our collective objective of meeting the job creation targets as envisioned in the National Development Plan will not have been advanced.

The private sector must be urged to come on board. HIV affects the most economically active sections of the population who are critical to sustaining a healthy economy. Research shows that if companies invest in prevention and treatment programmes, the savings will outweigh the costs in the long-term. Providing care and treatment for HIV-positive employees can reduce the financial burden of HIV/Aids by as much as 40%.

Mr President, we must continue to fight the stigma of HIV and AIDS by suppressing inhumane attitudes that it only happens to a certain breed of people. Coming from the dusty streets of this beautiful country, I can attest to this reality that even people of faith do succumb to the pandemic. Defeating the scourge, Mr President requires all of us to stand together as it knows no morality. It can happen to anyone of us We must all embrace the fight against HIV and AIDS with an equal measure of commitment.

Mr President, in our battle against HIV and AIDS, we must never repeat the mistakes of those who are merely focusing on the virus, blaming the infected and affected and promising ourselves that victory will be attained with a return to morality, the discovery of a vaccine or some magic injection or tablet. For us to emerge triumphant we must abstain, be faithful to our partners and condomise.

Victory is certain!

Comradely Yours
Pule Mabe
ANC National Spokesperson
twitter: @pulemabe

LIFESTYLE

The Abantu Book Festival – Telling our stories!



As late as 2000, cultural guru and author Andries Oliphant wrote that whilst at the start of democracy South Africa had “a strong indigenous publishing sector that developed during the decades of isolation imposed ... by the cultural and academic boycott, this industry was nevertheless developed to serve the interests of minority domination in the spheres of literary production.”

Against this backdrop, black South Africans (men and women) have used the space of democracy since 1994 to tell and write their own stories and to challenge this domination of ‘literary production.’ Within this value chain of production, book fairs play a critical role. According to the Indian literary magazine All About Book Publishing, book fairs are important because they “bring together publishers, agents, distributors, retailers and book lovers together on a single platform.”

Since 1994, book fairs have flourished. We now have the Durban Time of the Writer International Festival;

the South African Book Fair (Johannesburg); the Cape Town Book Fair; the Franschhoek Literary Festival; the Jozi Book Fair; the Open Book Festival (Cape Town); the Kimberley Book Fair; the Abantu Book Festival (Soweto), the Jozi Book and Blog Festival (Lenasia) and the South Africa’s Children’s Book Fair, also in Johannesburg.

Each of these festivals have carved their own space in the South African publishing landscape. Abantu Book Festival, founded in 2016 by author Thando Mgqolozana, sees itself as different, an antithesis to the “colonial literary establishment”, a “healing space for black writers and authors.”

Now in its third year, the Abantu Book Festival is widely supported by black authors, having featured at past festivals the likes of Mandla Langa, Gcina Mhlope, Judge Dikgang Moseneke, Don Matera, Mongane Wally Serote, Rehana Rossouw, Phumla Dineo, Bongani Madondo, Elinor Sisulu, Nozizwe Jele and Pumla Dineo Gqola, to mention but a few literary notables of Abantu. The 2018 line-up, include in excess of 55 authors

Abantu Book Festival also increasingly attracts writers from other African countries and the African diaspora, such as No Violet Bulawayo and Chika Unigwe

and word smiths, across generations and genres.

Abantu Book Festival also increasingly attracts writers from other African countries and the African diaspora, such as No Violet Bulawayo and Chika Unigwe in previous years. This year’s international line-up that is causing a large buzz includes heavy-hitter Chimamande Ngozi Adichie.

The festival is about books, show-casing books, buying books and listening to spirited discussions about books

and the topics they cover. Participants are from all walks of life and all ages, a real haven for book lovers.

Niq Mhlongo, in a 2015 interview on Litnet.co.za spoke eloquently about the changing (albeit slow) culture of reading amongst black South Africans, decrying outdated books in public libraries, the cost of books and the challenges of distribution. Despite these challenges, Mhlongo optimistically stated:

...let me declare that the reading culture among the black South African youth is changing very fast. With the emergence of the post-apartheid crop of writers I see the South African youths organising themselves into book clubs every day, and they are buying books. The question that we should ask ourselves is that regarding the accessibility of books written by this new crop of writers. Here I’m not talking about the prices of books, but about distribution. Are we selling the right books to our customers, the kind of books they want to read, or are we selling them what we think they have to read.”

This year’s Abantu Book Festival will be held from 6-9 December 2018 in Soweto, during the day for free at the Eyethu Lifestyle Centre in Mofolo, and evening events at the Soweto Theatre in Jabulani for R20 a ticket. **FPG**

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HEALTH

World Aids Day

By Dr Bandile Hadebe

This year marks the 30th anniversary since the World Health Organisation designated the 1st of December as a day to raise awareness around the AIDS pandemic across the globe. World Aids Day is also an opportunity to take stock of progress made through various initiatives aimed at curbing the spread of HIV and facilitating a conducive environment for those infected and affected to lead dignified and quality lives.

In the recent past South Africa has registered several victories in the fight against HIV/AIDS:

- The decision, taken in 2016, to provide antiretrovirals to all HIV infected patients, irrespective of their CD4 count, is a significant commitment towards continuously searching for impactful tactics to improve our roll-out strategy.
- By December 2016, South Africa had 3.9 million people initiated on antiretroviral treatment (ART), the largest HIV treatment programme globally.
- The successful roll-out of ART has produced a 72% reduction in the incidence of HIV among adults from 1996 to 2016 and a 74% reduction in AIDS-related mortality from 2006 to 2016.
- South Africa is now on its fourth edition of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, which was released last year in May. This five-year plan (2017–2022), which aims to track the progress towards transitioning these epidemics to no longer being public health threats by the year 2030, is built on the successes and barriers of the previous NSP (2012–2016)
- South Africa’s successes since the previous NSP include a 34% and 15% decrease in new HIV infections and TB incidence, respectively.
- Despite this good story to tell, there is a growing tendency amongst young people, in their private conversations and on various platforms on social media, to revere the pleasures of unprotected sex, which is referred to as iskuni or skoon. While this is often said in jest, it raises a concern as to what extent is this iskuni practiced in reality behind closed doors, and as to what precautions are taken to test for HIV before such skoon happens.

Our commitment, as various stakeholders, on improving the treatment and access to quality care for people infected HIV/AIDS, might have possibly taken our other eye off focus from the educational programmes on safe sex and the importance of condomizing. This could also be compounded by the disappearance of programmes such as Love Life from our public discourse. Now in its 19th year of existence, Love Life seem more and more muted than it was a decade ago. Their silence is audible.

In South Africa today, whether genuinely or jokingly, young people speak openly about the joys of unprotected sex, iskuni. Action, at a national scale, is needed in this regard.

With the focus having turned to the National Strategy Plan 2017–2022, which puts forth eight goals, including breaking the cycle of transmission; reaching the 90-90-90 targets in every district; having targeted interventions reaching all key and vulnerable populations; utilizing a multidepartment and multi-sectoral approach; implementing equal treatment and social justice; promoting leadership and shared accountability; mobilizing resources and maximizing efficiencies for a sustainable response; and taking data-driven action.

We must all rally behind the 4th National Strategic Plan (NSP), and where there are gaps, a robust, client-centred strategy addressing the gaps needs to be implemented. The strategy must be cost-effective; provide active linkage to care; and address health system weaknesses that inhibit its successful implementation, including human resources, service delivery and supply chain management, accountability and M&E.

AIDS in Numbers

By 2020,	
90-90-90	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status.• 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy.• 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.
600,000	Number of South African students involved in peer-to-peer AIDS education and campaigns
2030	Date set by the UN to end the global AIDS epidemic
39 million	Number of People globally who have died of the disease.
20	People living with HIV are 20 more times likely to fall ill with TB
203,359	Number of HIV tests conducted at South African universities and TVET colleges in 2017
11	University health clinics were accredited to provide anti -retroviral treatment and offer pre-exposure prophylaxis to HIV-infected young persons.
3.4 million	Number of people in South Africa on ARV treatment, the largest programme in the world.
15-25	Age group of adolescents and young women where HIV infections are still rising, accounting for 37% of infections.
30 th	Anniversary of World AIDS Day on 1 December 2018
45 million	TB is curable, 45 million lives have been saved since 2000
Sources: WHO, UNAIDS and SA Department of Health	

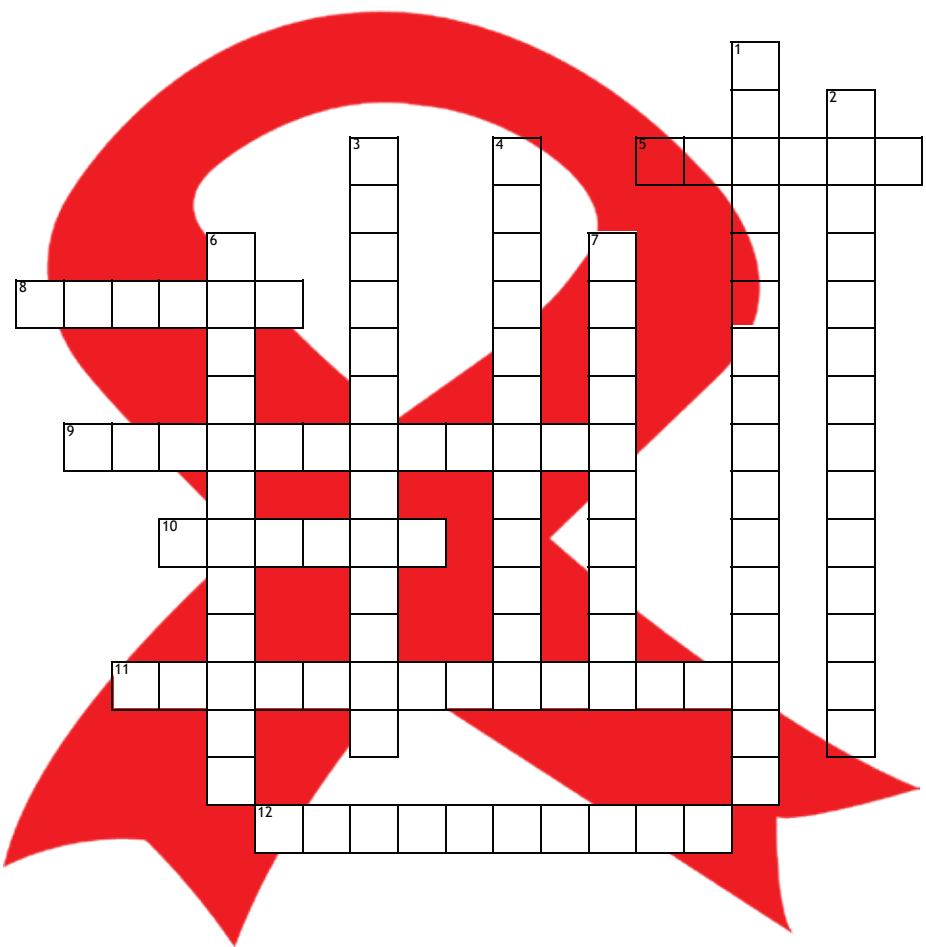
write for us



Maximum contributions of 600 words, in accesible language, in any South African language, adequately properly referenced. We reserve the right to edit.

info@anc1912.org.za

CROSSWORD



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

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

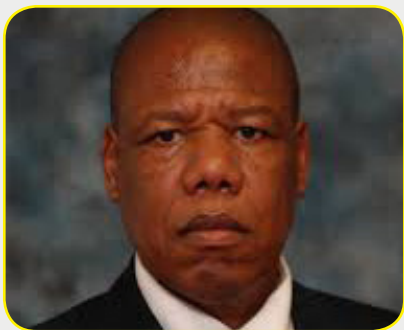
- 19. Over 90% of acts of gender based violence are committed by ...
- 20. Female ... mutilation affects 130 million women in the world
- 21. Fighting for women's equality and a just society

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

In MEMORIUM



Duma Moses Ndleleni
(1958-2018)

The ANC this week bids farewell to a humble and selfless servant of the people, Cde Duma Ndleleni, who was the first Provincial Secretary of the ANC in the North West province (1994-1998). Before becoming secretary, he served as head of organising and political education in the former Western Transvaal region of the ANC.

Cde Duma went on to serve the people of the province as a member of the provincial legislature (MPL) where he chaired the Portfolio Committee on agriculture, environment and land, and later as MEC for Agriculture (2004-2006) and MEC for sport, arts and culture between (2006 and 2009).

He served as a member of Parliament in the National Assembly from 2009-2014, and at the time of his passing, he was a member of the North West legislature.

Cde Duma hails from Potchefstroom, and is fondly remembered as a selfless and humble leader.

ANC CONGRATULATES

Vusi Nova for his latest album, Manyan-Nyan achieving Platinum within 6 weeks of release.



VUSI NOVA

FT: JESSICA MBANGENI

AS'PHELELANGA



LUNDI MIRIAM MAKEBA SFISO NCWANE

AKHUMZI RAY PHIPPS

FLABBA JOE MAFELAMANDOZA

BRENDIA FASSIE HUGH M

LUCKY DUBE JOE MAFEL

KOYO BALA BROWN DASH LUN

MOSES MOLELEKWA LEBO MATHOSA

ZIM NGQAWANA TEBOGO MADINGOANE

LES MA-DA SIPHO GUMEDES

DUMI MASILELA JABU SITHOLE JACOB (SKEEN

ZOMBO SENYAKA PAUL NDLOVU AKHUI

LULU DIKANA MAKHENDLAS STOMPIE N

ROBBIE MALINGA TSEKELEKE PURIT

MAHLATHINI JABU KHANYILE

NDABASSIE LAZARUS KGAGUDI FLABBA

MEDE FELA PAUL NDLOVU PROKID

BO MATHOSA DUMI MASILELA TK

DUBE BROWN DASH SPOKES H

MAGEU MGQUMENI HUGH MASEKELA

AHLATHINI JABU NDABA KHABZELA

IERE MANDLA HLATSHWAYO MA-WILLIS

LEBO MATHOSA VELAPHI MJONGENI

OTSEPE JABU (MALAIKA) LULU DIKANA

THEMBELIHLE MBANJWA

UN MAN SANDY MOKWENA KOYO BALA

INGOANE DAVID PHETOE LES MA-DA SIPHO GUMEDE

People Manifesto

Pics by Musa Masilela



Creative Sector Dialogue



“Let’s tell the truth to ourselves. Even if the truth coincides with what the enemy is saying. Let us tell the truth.”
Former **ANC President General OR Tambo**

VERBATIM



“I never ever want to be a leader that’s feared because I feel then that your people don’t give you their best because they are scared of you so they are always like tip-toeing around you. I don’t want to be that person. I’m very approachable, I’m very warm but when I need to put my foot down, I can do that as well.” -**Connie Ferguson, TV Personality** in Forbes Woman Africa



“In the ANC, there should be no member who lacks honesty and integrity. If you have no honest and integrity you don’t belong to our movement. ANC is the home for the people, divide is a lack of ambition.”-
Cde Naledi Pandor, ANC MEC Member addressing ANC structures in Thulamela Sub-Region, Vhembe Region in Limpopo Province on the 25th of November 2018



“Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture.”
— **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**, We Should All Be Feminists

IN ACTION #ThumaMina



ANC Secretary General Comrade Ace Magashule alongside Namibian President Hage Geingob and Secretaries-General of former liberation movements in Windhoek. Pics by Amos Phago



#ANC Deputy President David Mabuza together with NEC members as well as the Provincial and Regional Leaders on a #ThumaMina trial & leading a door to door campaign in the Peter Mokaba Region - Limpopo Province. Pics by Reabetsoe



ANC NEC member Cde @JacksonMthembu has called on the community of Maruleng near Bakenberg in Limpopo to continue to support the party. This as Ward 10 of Mogalakwena Sub-region prepares for by-elections next month. Cde Mthembu says the ANC remains the only hope. #ThumaMina. Pics by Amos Phago



ANC Secretary General commemorating the 2nd Anniversary of the passing on of Fidel Castro.



ANC NEC member Cde Nathi Mthethwa leading a #ThumaMinacampaign in Ward 35, Vhembe Region, Thulamela Sub-Region-Limpopo Province. The ANC leadership are on the trail to reconnect with the people, restore hope, unity and renewal. Pics by Musa Masilela



ANC Former President Cde Jacob Zuma took part in the blitz campaign of the ANC KZN in Margate Taxi Rank.



ANC National Chair, Comrade Gwede Mantashe the Thulamela Sub-Region for a #ThumaMina programme with the leader of the ANC in various structures in Limpopo Province. Pics by Musa Masilela



Community and ANC members at Thulamela Sub-Region #ThumaMina. Pics by Musa Masilela