



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with  
the **President**



## There has never been a better time to Invest in Africa



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA  
THIS WEEK AT THE FINANCIAL TIMES AFRICA SUMMIT, LONDON

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE to open this year's FT Africa Summit. Over the years, this Summit has built a reputation for attracting key decision-makers, financiers, investors and development partners from Africa and across the world.

It has become a valued platform for African voices and for a frank engagement on the many challenges and opportunities on the continent.

Those who have been watching developments in Africa over recent years would

have seen the emergence of a common vision for peace, growth and development.

The continent has undergone profound changes since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 and even since the African Union was formed in 2002.

While our founding forebears had to end colonialism, free their countries and establish independent nation states, the recent generations of leaders have been forging an ambitious programme to fundamentally transform Africa's fortunes.

This ambitious programme for the continent is outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisages a continent that is at peace, stable and well-governed, and a continent where its substantial natural endowment is used for the benefit of its entire people and not just a few elites.

In pursuance of achieving these bold objectives of changing our continent, new imaginative initiatives are embarked upon, the type that would have made Pliny the Elder, the Roman Empire era

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author and philosopher, continue to observe: *"There is always something new out of Africa."*

Africa is ready to partner with investors and the private sector because its been proven many times over and in numerous countries that discerning investors who have the foresight to invest in Africa can earn good returns.

We have reached a moment in our history where Africa needs investment more than it needs foreign aid.

This year's Summit comes as we begin the countdown to the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It will bring together into a single market 54 nations of some 1.2 billion people and a combined GDP of over \$3 trillion.

Just as the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 represented a new era of European cooperation and integration, the African Continental Free Trade Area is the realisation of the dream of the founders of the Organisation of African Unity 56 years ago.

As we meet here to discuss the potential for scaling up investment and trade with and within the African continent, we do so with an appreciation that we are on the cusp of a new era.

We share a common vision to see greater levels of investment directed into Africa and to see higher volumes of intra-African trade. Trade among countries in Africa is currently at 15%, compared to 47% in the Americas, 61% in Asia and 67% in Europe. By some estimates, the new free trade area could increase the value of intra-African trade by 15 to 25% by 2040.

In addition to its economic impact, the African Continental Free Trade Area will have far-reaching political, social, physical and international effects.

On the economic front, it will improve access to existing markets and lead to the creation of new ones.

The free flow of goods and services will enable African businesses and entrepreneurs to expand their horizons. It will lead to the creation of a huge number of both big and small businesses.

On the political front, the AfCFTA will help



to consolidate the union among all African states. It will reduce the potential for conflict because there is no benefit in waging wars with countries that you trade with.

From a social perspective, it is likely to result in a more cosmopolitan Africa as the greater movement of people and skills brings more people of diverse backgrounds and nationalities together.

As African countries become more connected to each other through highways and railway lines, through regional power grids and water infrastructure, the continent will undergo a infrastructural transformation.

The borders drawn up in the palaces of Europe will gradually become less significant than the infrastructure matrix that will link African economies together.

The AfCFTA will also have a broader international impact as Africa will be able to deal with other trade blocs from a position of greater strength, able to demonstrate economies of scale.

As the incoming chair of the African Union next year, South Africa will put great emphasis on giving effect to the agreement on the Continental Free Trade Area. There is much work that needs to be done and many obstacles that need to be overcome, but we are determined that Africa should seize this moment.

The convergence of economies and the integration of markets under the AfCFTA will make the case for investing in the African continent even stronger.

This is a continent with abundant natural resources such as minerals, oil and natu-

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We have reached a moment in our history where Africa needs investment more than it needs foreign aid.  
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ral gas, but also vast tracts of arable land and water, as well as wind and sunshine – the drivers of the renewable energy revolution.

Africa is the continent with the youngest population in the world, and which is expected to have a working age population of 1.8 billion by 2035. It is a rapidly urbanising continent.

By 2030 Africa will host more than 41 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants each. This growth in urban populations is contributing to raised standards of living and rising affluence.

Africa has become a sophisticated consumer market with increasing spending power, and increased demand for products and services.

Over the last two decades, Africa has become more stable as democracy has spread. This year alone, elections have been held in Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi, Mauritania and now Tunisia.

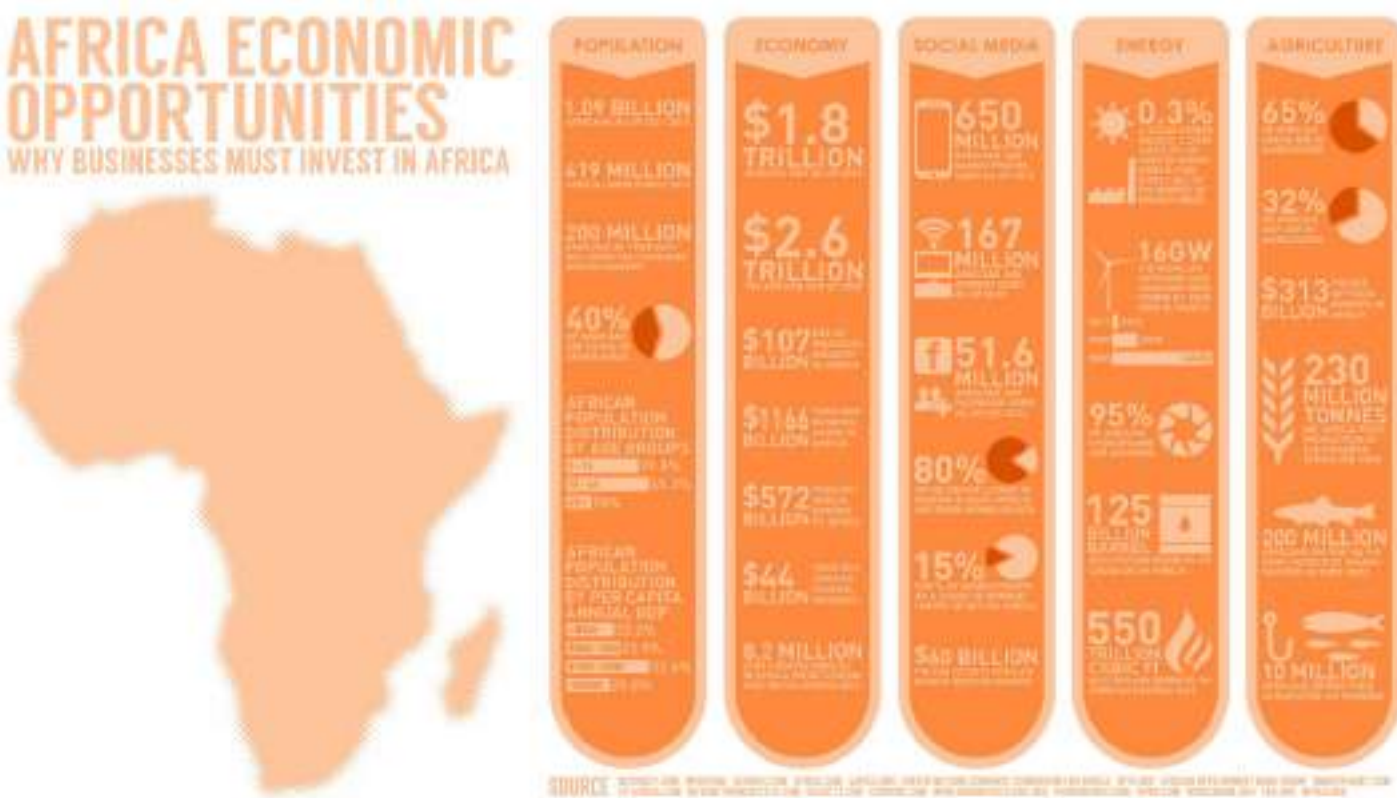
This week there will be elections in Mozambique, and later in the year in Ghana, Cameroon, Botswana, Namibia and Algeria.

These aren't just political milestones for the respective countries. They are a signal of growing political stability.

National elections on the African continent have become the norm rather than an exception. Across Africa, countries are enacting reforms to improve business confidence.

Public institutions are being reformed and laws around corruption and bribery are

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being strengthened. Because of these cumulative reforms, five of the ten most improved countries in this year's World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index are from Africa. This should bolster and increase investor confidence.

Between 2017 and 2018, global foreign direct investment to Africa rose by 11% at a time when global FDI flows fell by 13%.

According to the IMF, of the world's 10 fastest growing economies, six are in Africa. These countries are industrialising, diversifying and attracting new investment.

Their economies are becoming increasingly sophisticated as investors seek returns in industries from renewable energy to ICT, from telecoms to agribusiness.

This is not to make light of our challenges. Unemployment, especially among young people, is still high. Poverty is widespread and inequality is growing. Millions do not have access to proper health care or decent education.

The IMF estimates that Africa needs to create 20 million jobs a year over the next two decades.

The average debt-to-GDP ratio on the continent has risen to 57%, with debt servicing costs increasing sharply.

Policy and regulatory uncertainty, weak implementation and corruption is deterring investors. These are challenges we recognise and are working to overcome.

Like many other countries on the continent, South Africa is positioning itself as an investment destination of choice. At the core of these efforts are good governance, growth enhancing reforms and macro-economic stability.

We have vast mineral and natural resources, and the third largest coastline in Africa.

We have world class infrastructure, a sophisticated and well-regulated banking and financial services sector, an independent judiciary, strong institutions, an efficient revenue service, a diverse manufacturing base and an able workforce.

Since last year we have been implementing key structural reforms to address perennially weak growth, ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence and create jobs.

We have taken steps to provide greater policy certainty in areas such as mining, oil and gas and telecoms as part of efforts to create a stable environment for investment.

We are finalising our energy roadmap – called the Integrated Resource Plan – which includes a diversified portfolio of technologies, including more efficient and lower-emission coal technologies, nuclear, hydropower, gas, renewables and battery storage.

As the largest manufacturing economy in sub-Saharan Africa, the AfCFTA presents immense opportunities for South Africa. For example, we are the largest exporter of trucks to the rest of Africa, and the fourth largest exporter of cars.

Exports to other African countries directly support about 250,000 South African jobs.

We are also strengthening trade ties with other regions of the world. Most recently, South Africa and five other countries in the Southern African region concluded a new trade agreement with the United Kingdom in the event of a 'no-deal Brexit'.

The new agreement will effectively replicate the terms of trade present in the existing SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement in respect of tariffs, quotas, rules of origin, and health and safety regulations.

This agreement is important for the thousands of South African workers whose



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jobs are dependent on bilateral trade with Britain, and for the investors who have utilised South Africa as an export base to the UK and the rest of the world.

In less than a month from now, we will host the second South Africa Investment Conference, as part of our national drive to attract \$100 billion in new investment over a five year period. The inaugural conference last year raised around \$20 billion in investment commitments.

Our focus at this year's conference will be on moving beyond commitments to bankable projects that are ready to be implemented.

It is through building social compacts among all partners – government, labour, business and civil society – that we will be able to overcome our economic and social challenges.

We are a continent of entrepreneurs, a critical ingredient for growth. African governments, companies and citizens are embracing innovation and technology to overcome the developmental constraints Africa has long faced.

One need only look at the exponential growth of mobile money transactions since M-Pesa entered the East African market over a decade ago. Twenty-one percent of adults in sub-Saharan Africa now have a mobile money account – the highest of any region in the world.

In Ethiopia, drones are being used to deliver medication and even blood supplies to remote areas of the country.

Across cities in Nigeria, solar powered phone charging kiosks have become a

familiar sight. But Africans aren't just consumers of technology. They are inventing, adapting and customising it for their needs.

Africa's need for infrastructure is a major investment opportunity as we strive to meet our industrialisation goals. We need more dams, power plants, fibre optic cables and ports. We also need more social infrastructure like roads, schools, public housing and clinics.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa's infrastructure needs amount to some \$130 billion to \$170 billion a year. This need will not be met without significant private funding.

For its part, South Africa is in the process of setting up an Infrastructure Fund to leverage investments from financial institutions, multilateral development banks, asset managers and commercial banks.

With the global move towards cleaner energy sources, Africa is perfectly situated for investment in wind, solar, bioenergy, hydro and natural gas.

South Africa's renewable energy independent power producer programme, for example, has attracted approximately \$14 billion in private sector investment in 102 projects and created around 40,000 jobs.

Africa's success will lie in collaboration, in cooperation and in partnerships for mutual benefit. It also depends on African countries working to advance the interests of their people, seeking African solutions to African problems.

Africa wants to deal with the rest of the

world on its own terms. It wants to see an end to outside interference, particularly from those countries that continue to fuel conflict in African countries.

The continent cannot develop fully for as long as parts of Africa remain theatres of war to advance the interests of powers beyond our shores. Foreign money that buys the weapons that are used in theatres of war on the African continent should instead be building bridges, ports and rail lines, schools, hospitals and clinics.

As governments we are committed to create the necessary enabling environment for business to flourish.

I call on the investor community to harness the climate of reform that is sweeping the continent and take advantage of its momentum.

**There has never been a better time to invest in Africa.**

As the continent grows and develops, the benefits will continue to be reaped in years and decades to come.

As African nations, there has never been a better time to deepen our collaboration to ensure the African Continental Free Trade Area, our most ambitious collective venture yet, is a success.

As Kwame Nkrumah famously said: *"Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world."*

**Our destinies intersect.**

**And ultimately, our success story will be a shared one. ■**



President Ramaphosa addressing the inaugural South Africa Investment Conference held in 2018.

The second investment conference will take place in less than a month from now.

# Getting South Africa to Work

I write to you on the occasion of October Transport Month. The government made a conscious decision to dedicate the month of October to the issues of transport. This important development was to highlight the importance of transport in enabling the movement of people and goods to grow the economy. This year's slogan is "Khawuleza", in line with the sixth administration's resolve to accelerate service delivery.

Indeed there is no modern economy that can be sustained without an efficient transport system. South Africa has one of the most advanced transport systems in the world, the maintenance of which remains the crux of ensuring a well-oiled economy.

Given our large geographical footprint, which straddles the Indian and Atlantic oceans, this country is well positioned to be the gateway of the African continent. As a matter of fact, Mr President, the colonisation of our southern most continent emanates from the Dutch East Indian Company's aborted mission on their way to India to purchase spices when their ships stalled at the southern-most tip. Their docking at Cape point unveiled the most beautiful country they had ever seen, and they subsequently established a refreshment station which would later whet their appetites to explore the magnificence of what this country had to offer.

Mr President, five centuries later, this country remains a shining jewel which attracts people from all four corners of the world. Our aviation expertise is the envy of the world in terms of safety and efficiency. Our extensive roads network is what most countries aspire to achieve. Our rolling stock is the nerve centre that keeps our economy ticking. Over 80% of our exports and imports are transported through our modernized harbours.

Unfortunately, the apartheid spatial development, which separated our people according to race, left our people far from



By Pule Mabe

economic opportunities. This is the legacy this government has dedicated itself to eradicate. To this effect, the bus and taxi industries have eased the movement of our people to facilitate access to their place of employ. The taxi industry, which

carries millions of people on a daily basis, is the bedrock of transport. Rail transportation remains the leader in ensuring the movement of people and goods across the whole country.

Mr President, road safety remains a sticking point in an otherwise excellent roads network in our country. The exponential growth of the middle class since the African National Congress came into power in the last 25 years has seen an increase of vehicles on our roads. Unfortunately, this increase has come at a huge economic and human cost due to the accidents that continue to rob families of breadwinners and their next of kin. The Arrive Alive campaign is the crux of ensuring road safety, but the responsibility remains with all of us. Vehicle un-roadworthiness and driver behaviour has unfortunately conspired to reverse the gains we have made in utilising our first world road network.

The time has arrived to change driver behaviour since the accidents come at a huge cost to the economy in lost lives and

▼ President Ramaphosa getting first hand experience of the train







broken limbs that require extensive health care.

The Moloto corridor is a case in point wherein reckless driving has led to the needless loss of lives.

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) has received a much-needed injection to modernise infrastructure.

Metrorail, which ferries millions of people on a daily basis, is the epicentre of a modern transport system. The new trains and advanced signaling systems have begun to bear fruit in improving turnaround times. Metrorail has made huge strides in ensuring commuter safety in the face of criminality such as cable theft and vandalism.

The Gautrain is without doubt a great success story of our post-democracy dispensation and therefore, offers the blueprint to roll it out to the rest of the country. A high speed train service between Johannesburg and Durban will go a long way in meeting the requirements of the modern economy.

Transnet, as the biggest parastatal in Africa, has achieved much in facilitating the movement of goods inside and outside of South Africa. To this extent, there is a se-

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”

rious business case to be made to ensure that our rail network reclaims its position as the mover of goods and people. For instance, the exportation of our coal and iron ore reserves to Asia is a huge enabler to obtain foreign currency and Transnet has undoubtedly carried the torch in this regard.

Mr President, the maritime industry has been neglected for too long and the time has arrived to unlock its full potential. It is a blot in an otherwise excellent record that South Africa is not a flag bearer of the ships that carry 80% of our imports and exports. The maritime industry carries a huge potential in our endeavour to create the much-needed jobs. The neighbouring countries such as the landlocked Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland rely on South Africa for their economic sustenance and

our ports and harbours remain their gateway.

Last but not least Mr President, the implementation of the integrated transport plan has become imperative to enable ease of movement and a symbiosis between the different modes of transport.

The rapid transit systems operational in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Ekurhuleni and Rustenburg is the future of public transportation in this country.

The time has arrived for motorists to wean themselves of driving to their destinations and utilise the efficient public transport system to reduce our carbon footprint that comes with the burning of fossil fuels. This is not only important in meeting global targets, but crucial in leaving a healthy planet for the future generations.

Mr President, an efficient transport system that operates optimally is the only way to get South Africa to work.

Yours sincerely

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson  
Head of the Department of Information  
and Publicity

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# October Transport Month

## A NATION IN MOTION

By Fikile Mbalula

**T**HE DAWN OF democracy in South Africa in 1994 heralded the birth of a young nation, which rightfully occupied her position among the nations of the world, embracing her new responsibilities and obligations with renewed energy and vigour. As we traverse the country shaping the narrative of a transport system that enables economic growth and social emancipation, we take stock of the building blocks that we need to harness in aviation.

Gracing the 40th International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly, held in Montreal, Canada early this month, we stood for election onto the Council, a seat we have diligently held since the 34th Extra Ordinary Assembly in 2003. Since then, we have actively served the international community as one of the 36 member states that constitute the Council. Having been re-elected to serve on the Council at this Assembly, we remain resolute in our commitment to advance the objectives of the ICAO.

ICAO remains a strategic Agency of the United Nations, not only because it brings together nations of the world through aviation, but also because of the critical role it plays as an instrument of trade diplomacy and multilateralism. Our commitment to multilateralism as a nation is unwavering and we believe that ICAO is exemplary in finding solutions to intractable challenges through collaboration.

South Africa continues to play her role in contributing to ICAO programmes such as the No Country Left Behind initiative, through technical co-operation and support that we provide to other member states within the broader African Continent and the Southern Afri-



Comrade Mbalula at the International Civil Aviation Organisation Assembly

can Development Community (SADC) Region. In seeking another mandate from the 40th Session of the Assembly to serve on the Council under Part II, we re-affirmed our commitment to playing a meaningful role in ushering in a new world order in aviation.

Our contribution to the work of the Council has been through various leadership roles South African officials played within the ICAO Council, including Vice President and Chairperson of different Council Committees and the Human Resources Committee and Air Transport Committee. We remain ready to continue being of service in whatever capacity the skills of our representatives permit. We are humbled by the election of our Director of Civil Aviation, Ms Poppy Khoza, as a second Vice President of the 40th Assembly.

South Africa continues to provide expert Air Traffic Control and Management solutions for 10% of the world's airspace. South Africa is recognised as a valuable contributor to the development of mature procedures to support Future Air Navigation System (FANS) operations and manages the Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) on behalf of the Africa Indian Ocean (AFI) and South Atlantic (SAT) Regions.

The fact that South Africa is a major provider of air navigation facilities, coupled with her crucial and strategic position, enables the linking of major air routes from east to west and north to south.

It is important to note that South Africa pledged both financial and human capital for the AFI Regional Monitoring Agency (ARMA) to ensure the seamless utilization of Reduced Vertical



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Separation Minimum (RVSM) airspace. We also provide financial and human resources for the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization (CANSO) Africa office to ensure effective coordination of air navigation issues in Africa.

South Africa took a lead by committing to advancement of women's rights and hosted the first ever Global Aviation Gender Summit in Cape Town, on 08 – 10 August 2018. The event was organized in collaboration with ICAO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations (UN) Women. We encourage ICAO Member States to develop action plans towards the achievement of the proposed programmes emanating from the Global Aviation Gender Summit. Women empowerment is a central tenet of our democracy, and we call on the nations of the world to join us in creating opportunities and empowering the girl child.

Threats to aviation continue to be complex and difficult to mitigate. Hence, a key factor to attaining success in the implementation of aviation security measures is collaboration amongst government agencies and aviation stakeholders, with the key focus being on the protection of people and property. It is therefore imperative to establish collaborative structures, which will deal with all security aspects affecting air travellers.

In shaping the new world order in aviation, skills development must be at the centre of our agenda. South Africa actively supports the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) in efforts to mitigate the gap between the young and the senior aviation professionals who are facing retirement. We are actively participating in efforts to reshape the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), which is aimed at addressing skills shortage in Africa.

South Africa is currently researching viable alternatives in the form of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management (UTM) or Anti Drone Systems in addition to an already existing regulatory framework, to ensure that RPAS accommodation and end state integration into controlled airspace is managed

and implemented in accordance with the ICAO guidelines in a safe and efficient manner.

South Africa is one of the first signatories to the Single African Air Transport Market and is playing an active role to ensure the full realization of the pledges signed by African States in this regard. South Africa has and is always prepared to avail expertise to AFCAC to advance the economic development of air transport in the AFI Region.

South Africa has pledged resources to constantly upgrade aviation related infrastructure to cope with the ever-growing industry. All our major international hubs OR Tambo, Cape Town and King Shaka International Airports are under-

going infrastructure upgrade.

South Africa commits to continue working together with the progressive world in the advancement of civil aviation. She has, and will always provide assistance to our fellow brothers and sisters in all areas of civil aviation within our capability. The goal of South Africa is to see all AFI States to be above world average in the implementation of all SARPs and pledges to work tirelessly together with all concerned for the realisation of this goal. ■

**Fikile Mbalula** is a member of the National Executive Committee and a Minister of Transport

## JUSTICE FOR AHMED TIMOL

### Rodrigues' Legal Team Petitions the SCA

*By Imtiaz Ahmed Cajee – nephew of Ahmed Timol*

**T**HE legal team of Joao Antonio Jan Rodrigues has petitioned the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) in Bloemfontein against the Judgment and Order of the High Court of South Africa (Gauteng Division, Pretoria) delivered on 12th October 2019. This is in relation to the Order that dismissed their leave to appeal for a permanent stay of prosecution against their client for his role in the murder of ANC Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe and anti-apartheid activist, Ahmed Timol. He was killed in police detention on 27th October 1971 at the notorious John Vorster Square Police Station (renamed Johannesburg Central Police Station).

The main points of argument for the petition includes amongst others that an amnesty granted to perpetrators or alleged perpetrators of unlawful conduct of a political nature, alternatively

that there was an agreement with the authorities to the effect that no prosecutions would be instituted for political offences of this nature.

It also argues about improper conduct of deponents who filed opposing affidavits for the first and second respondents, namely the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) and Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, for failing to file affidavits timely.

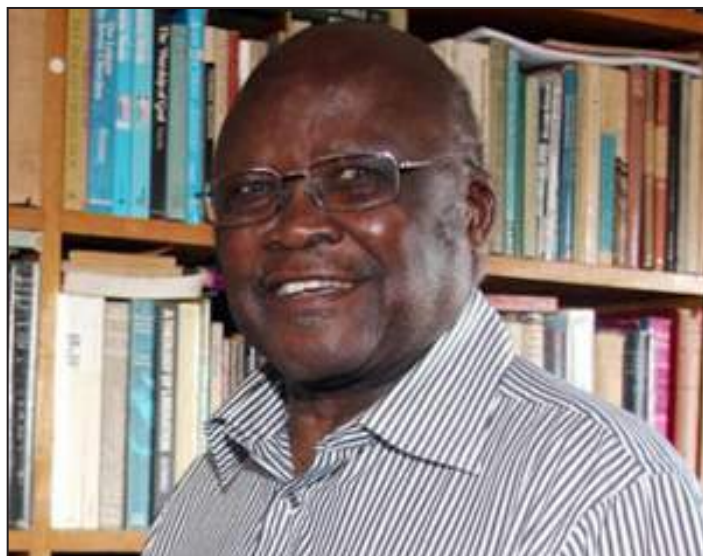
To commemorate Timol's 48th anniversary of his passing, Freedom Park is hosting an exhibition titled, **TIMOL – QUEST FOR JUSTICE** that will be opening on **22nd October 2019** at 11:00. This is a powerful celebration of the life and legacy of an anti-apartheid activist whose life was brutally cut short by the apartheid regime. ■



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# Working towards Ethical and Servant leadership

*Inaugural Memorial Lecture on Reverend Dr Simon Gqubule delivered by Eastern Cape Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane on October 10, 2019 at Rhodes University*



**W**E MEET HERE this evening at the behest of the Rhodes University SRC, who felt now is the right time to start a series of Memorial Lectures to celebrate the life and times of Rev Dr Simon Gqubule who sadly passed on three years ago.

I mention this particular point to acknowledge the foresight of the leadership of the Rhodes University Students Representative Council (SRC) for gathering us in this fashion to remember and honour the son of the soil.

At times our society, whether rightly or wrongly, tends to brand our youth as apathetic to the socio-political discourse in our country. However, with this initiative that has been born out of the SRC of this institution, you have shown me and others that the youth is interested to participate in matters of national interest which affect our daily lives.

Who is Simon Gqubule and why are we meeting here this evening to start a series of lectures in his honour?

History records that in 1928, in a small rural farming community of Cookhouse, yet another seed by the name of Simon Gqubule germinated out of this Province that we correctly call the Home of Legends. He would defy all odds that were stacked against him, of being born in a poor farming community, under the evil system of apartheid and become the person we today refer to as Rev Dr Simon Gqubule.

“  
Rev Gqubule stood  
for ethical and servant  
ideals as a political  
activist. What is a  
politician of today  
standing up for?  
”

His journey of course, was not without challenges, but with the help of good Samaritans who saw his enormous potential that was nurtured overtime in the religious, political and education strata, he rose to a level where he became entrusted with leadership responsibilities in all these three roles.

He was part of a special generation of individuals from this province who became problematic in a good and revolutionary way for the benefit of the majority of us who were oppressed. I know that sympathizers of the apartheid regime would not agree with my notion because Rev Dr Simon Gqubule was a constant thorn on the system of apartheid.

The Afrikaner Broederbond, the leadership of former Transkei and Prince Man-

gosuthu Buthelezi knew the courageous and defiant Rev. Dr Simon Gqubule, as they constantly fought to stop him from doing his seminary work which they believed was more a breeding ground for black opposition against apartheid.

They were right. I don't know of any Black Reverend of the era of Rev Dr Simon Gqubule who was not a political activist. The circumstances of the time required these men of the cloth to preach within the context of oppression and socio-political injustices that were meted out against the black majority.

The leadership of the SRC has asked me to conduct this Memorial Lecture under the theme: **Ethical and Servant leadership.**

The Rev upheld very high ethical beliefs and values, he carried himself with dignity and was always a proponent for the protection of the rights of others. I can attest that he was a trustworthy, honest, principled and considerate leader, thus today we can say without fear that he had an unblemished record of service.

I had numerous interactions with him when I was Provincial Secretary of the ANC where I also facilitated a R100 000 donation for his church resource centre project at Kwa Magxaki community. In my everyday life, because of lessons I learnt from him and his generation, I always try my outmost to extend a helping hand to others.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

My university tuition at Forth Hare was paid for by an old man in my village who belongs to the generation of the Rev. When I started working, I returned his R15 000 and he refused to take it back and told me that it was not a loan but rather he wanted me to help others also in life. I had to insist that he take the money which he eventually did because he had children to support. But his gesture has stuck with me like glue till this day. We must instill this culture of service for the benefit of others in our generation.

Rev Gqubule always put the better good of humanity first and himself last. His entire life was characterized by an ethos of honest service to humanity and not personal gain. His name should be mentioned alongside names of other outstanding, ethical and morally sound leaders of his generation such as Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.

They left us with a sound legacy of ethical and servant leadership and I must admit here and now that we have failed dismally to uphold their legacy in all the facets of our socio-political life. The ethical and servant leadership that was a way of life for Rev Dr Gqubule and his generation has been replaced by unprecedented lust for money which leads to fraud and corrupt practices.

Contrary to mischievous narratives that place blame for this squarely in the door of government, it is worse but well hidden in the private sector and its effects are felt mainly by the poor and marginalized in our communities.

We all saw the effects of the VBS scandal on the elderly people of Vhenda. We have seen the competition commission issuing multi million rand fines to various private sector companies for price-fixing and fixing of trading conditions. These include Independent Media and Caxton Media, Major construction companies such as WBHO, Aveng and Group Five, and banks such as Investec, Standard Bank of South Africa and Absa Bank Limited.

In the public sector, we have seen how fraud and corruption robs ordinary people of critical government services. Unfinished infrastructure projects in our municipalities, train locomotives that are bigger than the railway tracks they are supposed



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Rev Gqubule's name should be mentioned alongside names of other outstanding, ethical and morally sound leaders of his generation such as Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.

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to run on, and SOEs that are dependent on bailouts – these are some of the gross injustices that come to mind. The community of Makhanda, the seat of Rhodes University, have also suffered immensely from the erosion of ethical and servant leadership particularly in the municipality.

All the anomalies I have mentioned have happened in the presence of leadership. However, this has been a leadership that fell far short of the standards of ethical and servant ideals that was displayed by Rev Dr Simon Gqubule throughout his life.

In June this year, I tabled the State of the Province Address wherein I committed to run a service orientated sixth administration. We are already highly visible on a daily basis with our municipal counterparts to address the needs of our communities.

It is the conviction of the sixth administration that Makhanda will overcome all the challenges that have beset it over the past few years. This town is historic and

strategic in our province and cannot be allowed to deteriorate any further. The District Development Model that was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in OR Tambo Municipality will assist us to address infrastructure developmental challenges here in Makhanda.

We are fixing leadership in Makhanda Municipality because John C. Maxwell reminds us that - *Everything rises and falls on leadership.*

One of the priorities we are pursuing as the sixth administration which I think would have brought a smile on the face of Rev Dr Gqubule is the one of **creating a capable, ethical and developmental state in our administration.**

We acknowledge that corruption has eroded our progress of development in the past 25 years and caused us serious reputational damage. We are tightening controls to prevent further malfeasance in the government system. Every cent that is budgeted for services in Municipalities and Provincial Government Departments must go to where it is intended, that is, to service the people of our province and not to line pockets of officials and politicians.

We are also re-introducing a culture of performance, service excellence and consequence management to improve provision of services to our people. We are closing room against wasteful and fruitless expenditure and legislation is now allowing the AG to recoup such monies from the responsible accounting officers. **Amatyholo ongakhathali ngemali zabarhafi atshile.**

Rev Dr Simon Gqubule stood for ethical and servant ideals from his days as a student. What is the student of today standing up for?

Rev Gqubule stood for ethical and servant ideals as a teacher. What is the teacher of today standing up for?

Rev Gqubule stood for ethical and servant ideals as a political activist. What is a politician of today standing up for?

All of us here today must pledge to honour this gallant servant leader who once walked amongst us by upholding good and not evil; by choosing right from wrong and by contributing towards building the Eastern Cape and South Africa we want. ■

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# The Real Politics of NHI

By Siyabulela Tsengiwe

ON 8 AUGUST 2019, government introduced the enabling legislation on the National Health Insurance (NHI) to Parliament. The overall objective is to provide for universal health coverage through a mandatory and central fund that will be the purchaser of health care from accredited service providers. Once successfully implemented, this will see the majority access high-quality health care. Government estimates that 16% of South Africa's population is on private health care, which cost R250 billion while the vast majority is on public health which cost R220 billion. In terms of the NHI Bill, the chief source of income for the fund will be various taxes. There is fierce contestation among political parties and key stakeholders on the design and implementation of NHI. The focus of this article is on the political dimension.

The response of the official opposition, the Democratic Alliance (DA), has been that it is not opposed to the principle of access for all to quality health care, but is vehemently against the mechanism of the NHI Bill. According to the DA, the Bill is unconstitutional, among others, to the extent that it tampers with the powers of Provinces in the provision of health care. It may well be that although the stated reason of the DA in opposing NHI includes legality, the motivation could be its philosophical leaning, which is libertarian. According to a statement issued by the DA shadow Minister of Health on 15 August 2019, the Bill is fundamentally problematic, in that, among others *"The financing of this Bill will mean the imposition of a new tax on ordinary South Africans to fund this new SOE; and the Bill removes the autonomy of South Africans to choose their own health care."* The DA's alternative is mainly focused on fixing public health and the preservation of private health care.

Libertarianism advocates free-markets, in which there is freedom of choice and



▲ President Ramaphosa addressing a stakeholder engagement on NHI

the minimal state, best represented in the 1980s by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. The libertarian school of thought stands against government intervention that mandates some people to help others – taxing the rich for purposes of redistributing income and wealth, subsidising in the case of NHI the health care of others. This violates freedom of individuals to do what they want with their hard earned income and wealth. The libertarian logic is underpinned by an egoistic morality that can be said to be best represented by philosophers such as Herbert Spencer, who in his book, first published in 1900, *The Principles of Ethics*, used the theory of evolution through natural selection to explain how society was organised, asserting that life of humans in society was a struggle for existence, ruled by 'survival of the fittest', similar to animals. Accordingly, the weak and the poor should be left to their fate and not be allowed to impede the rise of the strong and more able.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, on the 22

August 2019, answering a question on NHI in the National Assembly, having spoken on how NHI was underpinned by principles of fairness, equity and social justice, shared what he was told by former Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, about their own universal health care. He said that one of the country's previous Prime Ministers, Erlander, ended up in hospital in a ward of about four people and found himself lying next to somebody who, upon conversation, discovered was a steel worker. Prime Minister Erlander then said to this person lying next to him *"This is exactly what we were working to achieve, that a steel worker could lie in hospital with the Prime Minister and get same medical care."* President Ramaphosa proceeded and said to the National Assembly. *"This is precisely what this is about – we want to improve and revolutionise our health care..."* If I may respectfully add to His Excellency, and engender human solidarity."

South Africans, given the vast inequalities, are increasingly living separate



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

lives and ironically expect social order. The middle class and the rich, among other things, live in gated communities with private security; send children to private schools and public schools in the suburbs; and make use of private health care. This means there are diminishing public spaces where citizens coming from different backgrounds, economically and socially, meet and understand each other, engage on common problems and solutions - so the social distance can only become bigger. This is particularly critical for South Africa, given its not so distant history.

The other objection to NHI is that, because it will be a publicly owned fund, it is prone to corruption and mismanagement as it has happened with other public enterprises such as Denel, Transnet, SAA, and Eskom. It must be said that there is nothing innately corrupt about public entities. Corruption is human made, and usually starts with appointments - so, appoint the most competent and ethical into leadership and management and respect the independence of such institutions.

In some business quarters, it has been said that the timing of introducing NHI is not right, given the current economic situation and fiscal constraints. Further, NHI creates policy uncertainty and therefore not conducive to investments. It must be stated that National Treasury is better placed to lead on the costing and financing of NHI and maybe at some point, South Africans will have to define what constitutes policy uncertainty, so that the concept may not be thrown at anything that one is against. The concerns that have been raised around implementation issues are valid and must be addressed. The report on the Evaluation of the Phase 1 shows mixed results and its recommendations must be implemented to demonstrate readiness. The gradual implementation of NHI has to be open and transparent with accountability.

The largest private medical health insurer in South Africa, Discovery, that like all medical schemes it could be argued, stands to lose, at least to the extent that it is currently benefiting under the status quo, has adopted an interesting disposition towards NHI, positive and constructive. This is unlike what South Africa experienced in the past from big business,

when government introduced similar progressive and major laws. I do not know if it would be gullible to suggest that the example of cooperation with government set by the leadership of Discovery is a sign of the beginning of transformation of 'hearts' in big business. Big business tends not to be in touch with lived experiences of people, where their operations are located. The recent compact of the health sector, signed by government and key stakeholders must be welcomed as it is the right way to go towards building a new society - some sacrifices have to be made in order to succeed.

Former US President Barack Obama on July 2018, delivering a speech on the 16th Nelson Mandela Memorial Lecture, among others, called for an inclusive market-based system. He described it as

one that among others, maintains some form of progressive taxation so that rich people are still rich but they are giving a little bit back to make sure that everybody else has something to pay for universal health care and retirement security.

I believe that there are many among the South African middle class, black and white, who are silently having questions on the rationale and practicality of NHI. Communication on the vision, objectives and administration of NHI will be critical as the process unfolds towards the Bill being brought back for finalisation by the National Assembly. ■

**Siyabulela Tsengiwe** is Former Chief Commissioner of the International Trade Administration Commission of SA



**What if I don't want to follow the referral pathways or my preferred clinic or hospital is not registered with NHI?**

Under NHI you will still have access to your preferred clinic or hospital. If you seek treatment in a facility that is not registered with the NHI or if you do not wish to adhere to the referral pathway, your expenditure will not be reimbursed. This may necessitate that you pay cash or out-of-pocket for the services rendered by that particular facility.

**Will I have to pay more tax for NHI?**

Initially, there will be no tax for the NHI. The government will pool the funds that already exist in the public sector to start the NHI. When the NHI is up and running, then Treasury may introduce a small tax to augment the money allocated through the public budget.

**What will happen between now and when the NHI starts?**

Before it can become a law, the NHI Bill must be passed by Parliament. In the next five years government's efforts will be concentrated on preparing the NHI infrastructure that will administer the fund and provide services. At the same time government will give priority to attention to refurbishing clinics and hospitals, train and employ more staff, improve the quality of health care, implement systems to ensure that medicines do not run out of stock in our facilities, and ensure that maladministration and corruption is uprooted so that all facilities will be ready for NHI.



Extracts from the Department of Health's NHI leaflet

## CURRENT AFFAIRS



By Tshepo Ikaneng

**A**FRICAN WOMEN parliamentarians have made a call for increased investment in women and children's socio-economic activities, to mitigate the negative impact of gender inequality. Women from the rest of Africa and the diaspora gathered in Midrand, Gauteng, this month to discuss pertinent issues affecting women.

The two-day conference was held under the auspices of the African Union's "Decade of African Women" which had been declared as such in 2010.

The scourge of gender-based violence dominated discussions at this conference on Women's Rights. Whilst the South African government was praised for introducing new interventions and pledging additional funds for campaigns to curb gender-based violence, the continent's parliamentarians and Women's Rights advocacy groups called for the implementation of sustainable programmes to curb gender-based violence.

The leader of the South African parliamentary delegation and Chief Whip of the ANC, Cde Pemmy Majodina, challenged men to lead the fight against the scourge.

*"It's a global phenomenon and it can't be solely based on women to come up with solutions. The abusers, who are men, must lead this campaign and say not in our name and not only through words but through actions. That's why the importance of this conference should be to ensure that each and every country must come up with a clear plan of action on how to intervene in saving women and*

*children from gender-based violence and femicide."*

The conference had in the meantime, bemoaned the low levels of women representation in high leadership and decision-making positions. The United Nations demand a 30% minimum threshold for women representation. However, countries like Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa have been lauded for affirming women in top leadership positions, especially within their national parliaments and other local government spheres of governance. Cde. Majodina stressed the need for women to occupy top political leadership positions as part of the continental initiatives to adequately address gender parity.

*"Gender equality must start at the top. If you have a man who is a President, a deputy must be a woman, and if we can start there, then we may start to place in senior, strategic leadership positions."*

The call on all African Union (AU) member states to ratify the Maputo Protocol on the rights of women and children was also amplified. The Charter on Human and People's Rights, adopted by the AU in 2003, also advocates for an end to child marriages and female genital mutilation. Cde Majodina urged men to support efforts to end these cultural practices still prevalent in many African states.

*"Who are marrying teenagers at an early age.....those are men and it tells of moral decay. It is an outdated cultural stereotype and that's abuse of girls' human rights. Therefore women must have a*

*choice on whether to get married or not".*

Cde Majodina used her own experience as Social Development MEC in the Eastern Cape, to emphasise the need to put an end to these antiquated and harmful practices.

*"When I was an MEC for Social Development in the Eastern Cape, I had to fight tooth and nail to ensure that those men around Bizana and Lusikisiki, who were kidnapping girls and marrying them against their will should know that it can't be African to do that. We must respect women and girls rights".*

The conference also underlined that women continue to be the backbone of African economies as subsistent farmers, informal traders and now successful entrepreneurs and thought leaders. Cde Majodina called for the adoption and implementation of policies to create a conducive environment for women participation in socio-economic development programmes like land and agrarian reform.

*"Even if you talk about land....it must be shared amongst those who work it, who are mostly women....and we are equal to the task of developing our socio-economic wellbeing".*

Conference delegates also supported the call for the Pan-African Parliament to be transformed into a legislative body so that it could be able to exercise the powers to force AU member countries to enforce laws which are critical for the socio-economic development of the continent. ■



## Q &amp; A

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Bheki Ntuli

## Q &amp; A

By Bongilewe Msweli  
DIP Intern

**1. What has politics taught you and how has it improved the person that you are today?**

Since my involvement in politics during the liberation struggle, I have viewed politics as an essential tool that can change people's lives. During the dark days of Apartheid, we always knew that it is through political liberation and activism that we could ultimately achieve freedom and shape our own destiny as a people.

I have learnt through my involvement in politics that selflessness and putting the interest of the people first is the most noble satisfaction you can ever get.

**2. As someone that served before and after our liberation, what is your greatest strengths and lessons from both times?**

An important lesson I learned over the years is to respect the tasks that is assigned to you on behalf of the movement and the people, no matter how difficult and challenging it may be.

An important lesson and our task now is to ensure that we give true meaning of freedom to our people. This can be achieved through improving the pace of delivering services, thus addressing the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In my years, the best strength I have acquired is to be a good negotiator. This skill I developed during the difficult times of violence in the Northern Natal (mainly between the ANC and IFP). Even today I continue to rely in negotiation in my area of development.

**3. What is your top priority as the MEC of transport?**

My main priority is to improve the roll-out of service delivery. Twenty-five years into democracy, most people have received tarred roads and safe crossing bridges – but some are still waiting. Our obligation is to reach those who have not benefited through up-graded road infrastructure.

Whilst delivering much needed infrastructure, our priority is also to expand the beneficiation to ensure that Africans are also benefiting from the transport value chain. This equally applies in the subsidised public transport sector. We want to drive transformation in response to the priorities of government as outlined both in the State of the Province



Address and the State of the Nation Address.

One critical part that will be the area of focus in the next few months is the creation of stability in the taxi industry. The majority of the working class relies on taxis every day, therefore any violence or instability affects people directly.

**4. What policies can be put in place to minimize taxi violence within the associations?**

There is currently the National Land Transport Act. However, we need to discuss if this legislation is giving enough powers to provincial and local authorities to intervene decisively in the interests of the people. In some instance where government has intervened, courts have ruled in favour of the taxi association whereas innocent people are dying in the cross fire. As the Provincial Department, we have developed regulations which will soon be implemented. These regulations are aimed at standardizing operations and introducing a new culture of responsible leadership coupled with good governance in the taxi industry. These regulations will also assist in addressing common issues which are always a source of conflict in the taxi industry.

**5. How is the government planning on making railway transportation safe and accessible to everyone?**

The issue of rail safety is very critical. Majority of workers are using trains as it is an affordable mode of transport. As the provincial Department working with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) in the region, we have developed plans to track improvements in the functioning of trains in the province. The efficiency is very important and is essential in the functioning of our economy. Beyond this, we have put together plans of addressing cable theft in railway lines in the province. There is

*Bhekuyise Ntuli is an African National Congress (ANC) veteran who served during the liberation struggle.*

*He is a long-serving regional chairperson of the departments' portfolio committee for three terms. Ntuli has also been the chairperson of ANC's Musa Dladla Region for 15 years and has been elevated to the KwaZulu-Natal cabinet as the new Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC.*

currently a team of police monitoring our rail lines and engagements with stakeholders and communities to conscientise them on the need to play an active role in protecting our infrastructure.

**6. Besides politics, which other field would you have loved to explore and why?**

My passion has been very much in the teaching profession. This is because I believe, like Madiba said "the power of education can change the world". There is a African saying that Lugotshwa Lusamanzi – meaning you must teach them values while they are still young. I believe that through education this country can be able to compete with big global economies. Education is the only way we can end poverty and inequality in our society.

**7. How would you like your great grandchildren to remember the ANC?**

I want them to remember the ANC as the only movement that liberated the people of this country. The movement that has placed their interest at the centre for over 108 years of existence. This is the movement that has been able to adapt with the changing times and environment. Fundamentally, beyond all the weaknesses, the ANC remains the only movement that has relevant policies that are responding to the challenges facing the country today and for the future.

**8. What is your favourite Quote or Motto?**

*"Those who complete the course will do so only because they do not, as fatigue sets in, convince themselves that the road ahead is still too long, the incline too steep, the loneliness impossible to bear and the prize itself of doubtful value."* Thabo Mbeki ■



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19–25 October 2019

Sources: : SA History Online ([www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za))

### 19 October 1954

#### Britain and Egypt sign the Suez Canal agreement

The Suez Canal was opened in 1869, linking the Indian and Mediterranean Oceans, thus a strategic asset. It forms part of Egyptian territory, and was largely owned by Egypt. Shares in the canal operating company were sold to the British government in 1875, and when the British invaded Egypt in 1882, they seized full control of the canal. brought the canal and the country of Egypt under full British control, which was maintained by a lease throughout the Second World War. This situation was resisted by the Egyptians, and the Agreement signed on this day was an attempt to maintain the status quo, with Britain maintaining control of the Suez canal even after withdrawal from Egypt, especially with the discovery of oil in the Middle East.

### 19 October 1977

#### Apartheid government bans BC organisations and media



After the Soweto uprisings in 1976 and on-going protests, followed by arrests and the death in detention of Steve Bantu Biko, the Apartheid government banned the South African Students Organisation (SASO) and 18 other black consciousness organisations, and also clamped down on media freedoms, banning *The World*, *Weekend World* and the church publication *Pro Veritate*.

### 19 October 1992

#### Skweyiya Report on abuses in ANC camps released

ANC President Oliver Tambo appointed the Skweyiya Commission, following reports of abuses in ANC camps, especially Quatro in Angola. On 19 October 1992, the internal

commission with members Louis Skweyiya (chairperson), Gilbert Marcus and Brigitte Mabandla, found evidence of brutality and torture to extract confessions from alleged South African spies and other detainees. The worst abuses were at the Quatro rehabilitation centre in Angola, but they added that the conditions in other ANC camps in Angola, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia had in no way been acceptable. On behalf of the ANC, Nelson Mandela accepted responsibility for the findings of the commission.

### 19 October 1986

#### Samora Machel, President of Mozambique dies in a plane crash



On 19 October 1986, the Mozambique President, Samora Machel and thirty-three other passengers, died when their Tupolev 134 plane crashed into the Lebombo Mountains, South Africa, after allegedly following a false beacon. Machel was a prominent leader of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) and he led the Mozambican people in their fight for independence from Portugal. In 1975 they were victorious and he was elected as Mozambique's first president. At the time of his death, Machel had been in power for 11 years. On the day of the crash he was returning from an African leaders' summit in Zambia. His death sent shockwaves throughout Southern Africa and the entire world. The crash remains a mystery; with some blaming it on bad weather and others believing that the South African authorities were to blame.

### 20 October 2011

#### Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi killed in Tripoli

The death of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi made global headlines, following soon after

### ▼ Muammar Gaddafi



the attack by NATO on Libya. Initially, Gaddafi was said to have perished in the bombings of Surti, but it later emerged that he was captured and tortured before he was killed.

### 21 October 1968

#### Author, Linguist and Activist, AC Jordan passes on

Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan was born on 30 October 1906 at the Mbokothwane mission station in the Tsolo district of Pondoland, the son of an Anglican minister. He was educated at St John's College in Umtata and Lovedale College at Alice. He followed his dream to become a teacher when he won a scholarship to Fort Hare University College, where he obtained a BA degree in 1934 – the start of an exceptional academic, political and literary career. He taught for 10 years in Kroonstad, where he mastered Sesotho and was elected president of the African Teachers' Association. Some of his poetry was published in the *Imvo Zabantsundu* newspaper. In 1940 he started working on his only novel, *Inggumbo Yeminyana*, a tragic epic about the conflict between Western-style education and traditional beliefs. This novel was to become a landmark in Xhosa literature. In 1945, having earlier obtained an MA on the subject of the Nguni and Sotho groups, Jordan began teaching in the Department of African Languages at Fort Hare. In 1957 – the year he achieved a doctorate with a phonological and grammatical study of Xhosa – he was appointed to a lecturer's post in African languages at the University of Cape Town. There he evolved a new method of teaching Xhosa to speakers of other languages and became an inspirational teacher of Xhosa culture and

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

▼ AC Jordan



languages, as his students were later to testify. But his tenure was brief. Like many others, Jordan became involved in opposition to the government's racial policies, and when he took up a Carnegie bursary for research work in the United States of America, he was refused a passport. Jordan opted to leave South Africa on an exit permit and settled in the USA, where he was made a professor in African Languages and Literature at the University of California's Los Angeles campus, and later at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. There, after a long illness, he died On 21 October 1968. His voice continued to be heard long after his death. In 1972, his critical study of Xhosa literature was published, and in 1973 a collection of short stories in Xhosa was translated into English under the title *Tales from Southern Africa*. His great novel *Ingqumbo Yeminyana* was published in English as *The Wrath of the Ancestors* (1980), in Afrikaans as *Die Toorn van die Voorvaders* (1990) and in Dutch as *De Wraak van het Voorgeslacht* (1999). In 2004, 36 years after his death, the University of Port Elizabeth conferred a doctorate in literature on him. He was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold for his contributions. The award was collected by his son, Pallo Jordan. [Source: <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/archibald-campbell-mzolisa-jordan-1906-1968>].

### 23 October 1920

#### Poet Nontsizi (Cizama) Mqgwetho's first poem is published

Nontsizi Cizama is amongst the most significant female Xhosa poets, with her work only recently being rediscovered. She contributed close to ninety poems, which urged South African Black people to put aside their differences and unite to fight against the White oppressors. Her poetry also recognised the role of rural people in the struggle against apartheid.

### 23 October 1958

#### Apartheid government established a department of Coloured Affairs



Long before the inception of apartheid, "Coloured" people in South Africa occupied this precarious position between White and Black South Africans. This position was intensified during apartheid by the creation of a separate identity, reinforced by the various apartheid laws that strove to keep racial groups apart. Some of these laws included the Mixed Marriages Act, the Immorality Act, the Group Areas Act and others. The apartheid classifications of Coloured was later sub-divided into "Cape Coloured"; "Malay"; "Griqua"; "Chinese"; "Indian"; "Other Asiatic"; and "Other Coloured".

### 24 October 1985

#### 'Purple rain' used on women protestors in Cape Town



The police in Adderley Street, Cape Town used their new water cannons to suppress a Cape protest that had, for the third time, spread to White areas. Protests started when groups of women wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Troops Out" marched to the city centre to demand that troops, that were permanently stationed in townships because of the state of emergency, pull out of the townships. The police ordered the people to disperse, but the crowds refused. Finally, the police decided to use water cannons with purpled dyed water to force the crowd to disperse. People dubbed this 'Purple rain' after the title of first album of songwriter Prince.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS

Source:

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>

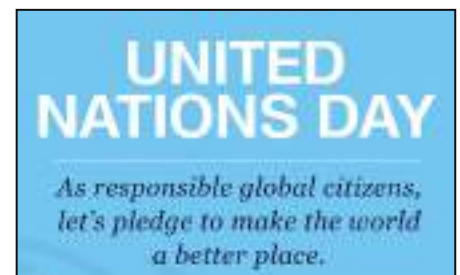
### 20 October

#### World Statistics Day

World Statistics Day is celebrated every five years, highlighting the role and importance of This is the second World Statistics Day. This year's theme emphasizes the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis, policy making and monitoring the well-being of societies. The day also raises awareness about the importance of building national statistics capacity, such as our official Statistics South Africa.

### 24 October

#### United Nations Day



United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

### 24 October

#### World Development Information Day

World Development Information Day is used to distribute information on the state of development of the world, on all fronts and on international cooperation. The day also focus on the role of journalism, TV, radio, newspapers, the Internet, and all other major forms of media used throughout the world since that is the means of getting the "information" out about development. In recent years, there has also been a big focus on information technology and how it is aiding in spreading the word about development and in development itself.



By Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule

# Profiting from Parity

## Unlocking the Potential of Women's Business in Africa

(World Bank)

**T**HE WORLD is preparing for the anniversary of 25 years of the historic Beijing Conference in 2020, and there are important advances made in such action items as access to education, maternal mortality and political representation. However, in the area of economic emancipation, the picture is largely negative.

### Examples

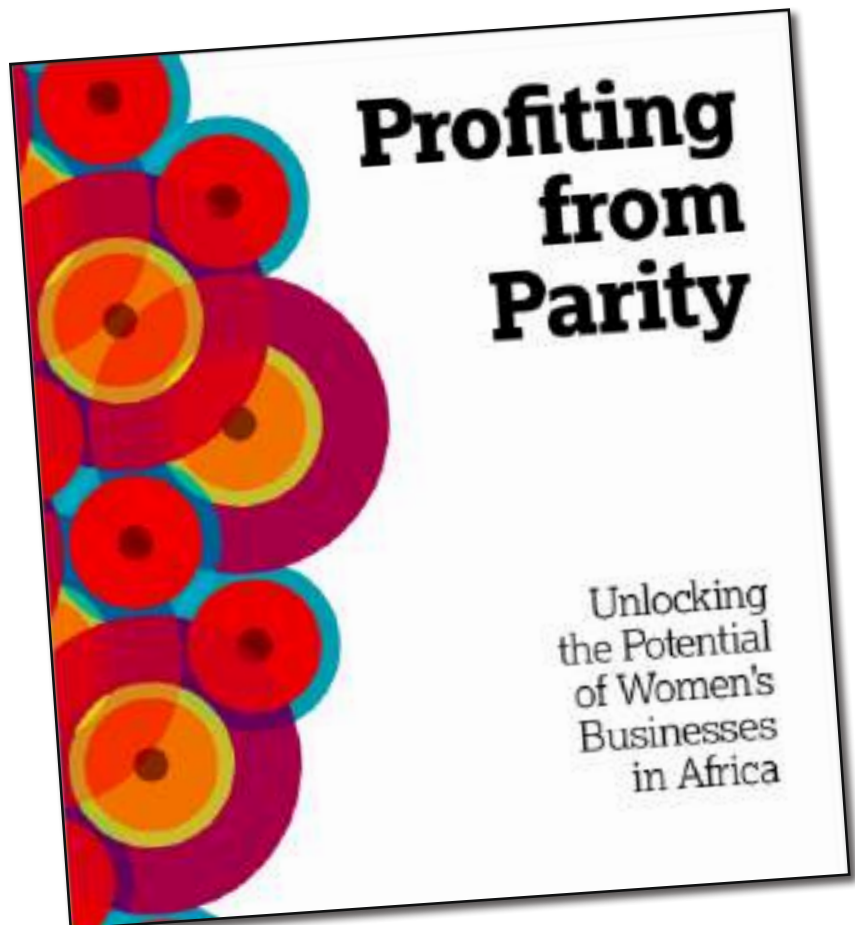
Profiting from Parity is a welcome addition to the discussions about what needs to be done to advance in addressing gender parity in national, regional and global economies. It focusses on the barriers to profitability and growth faced by women-owned businesses in Africa. The report looks at a number of indicators for women entrepreneurs, across ten countries (Benin, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda).

### Drivers of the Gender gap in Entrepreneurship

The report starts with the glaring reality of the gender gap in profits. On average, the gender gap in profits in Africa is 34%; meaning that businesses owned by men are on average 34% more profitable than those owned by women. In South Africa, male businesses are 65% more profitable than female owned businesses and this gender gap reach a high of 82% in the manufacturing sector in Ghana. (see figure 1).

Part of the overall context, which the report draws attention to, is high levels of entrepreneurship in Africa, as well as amongst African women, above the global averages. Profiting from Parity, however noted, that the ventures into entrepreneurship is often as a result of economic necessity, given slow private sector development in the continent.

*"Many women who become entrepreneurs out of economic necessity do not intend or*



*have the skills to build large and successful companies. Their decision to start a business instead of seeking wage work is influenced by important constraints such as differences in skills, capital, networks, time and family formation, occupational opportunities, and safety."*

Amongst the other reasons for the poor performance of women entrepreneurs noted by Profiting from Parity, are:

- Women entrepreneurs are concentrating in "crowded" sectors, with reduced opportunities for growth;
- They have less available assets and capital to invest into their businesses;

- They show less willingness to compete.
- They are more likely to operate in the informal economy and less likely to adopt advanced business practices.

These factors are not "natural" to women entrepreneurs, but a product of women's exclusion from economic power, key to patriarchy. The underlying causes are therefore highlighted: access to finances and productive assets, networks and information, inheritance, social norms, legal discrimination, and education/skills. The fact that women entrepreneurs, like other working and professional women, also have the dual jobs of having to care for families, reduce the time they can spent on their businesses.



## BOOK REVIEW

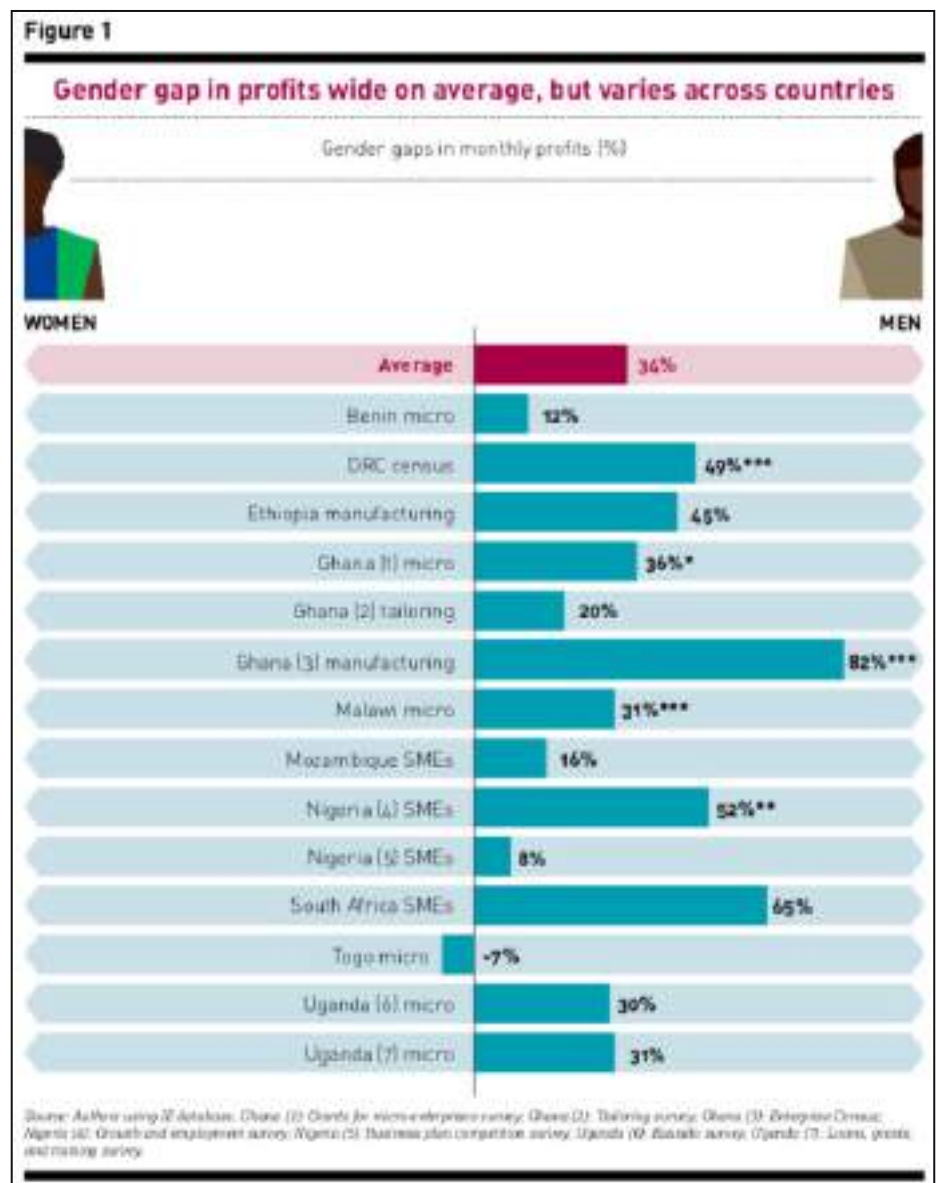
The report has some interesting findings from the ten countries. For example, women are more involved in retail and less involved in the transport, manufacturing, and construction sectors than men. However, for women entrepreneurs to cross over to male dominated sectors, the “risks of harassment and gender-based violence, as well as unfair practices from male competitors” increase.

### Unlocking the Potential of Women’s Business in Africa

Having gone into quite a bit of detail on the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, Profiting from Parity lists a host of proposals to policy makers on how to tackle these challenges and bridge the gap:

- Tackle legal discrimination, especially discrimination in inheritance laws and customs, land rights and so forth;
- Access to skills, invest in the education of girls and women, entrepreneurship training for women entrepreneurs and mentorship;
- Access to capital and fight financial exclusion of women;
- Interventions at household level, access to childcare, engaging men;
- Deliberate strategies to reduce barriers of entry to women in male-dominated sectors, support women’s business networks in different sectors and mentorships.
- Address market access for women entrepreneurs.

Women constitute more than half of the continent’s population and entrepreneurs. We must therefore create conditions to make wom-



en’s owned businesses more profitable, so that we move women entrepreneurs out of

the informal and micro sectors, and real players in the economy, as envisaged by Beijing.



## in pictures



*ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule addressed students ahead of the SRC elections at the University of Venda in Limpopo on 8 October 2019.*



*ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule, accompanied by ANC Women's League President bade farewell to the group of students at OR Tambo International Airport, who will be studying in Turkey. The students left for Turkey on 17 October 2019.*





## X-WORD | African Aviation Market



### Across

3. The aviation sector is a strategic industrial sector for which country?
6. Transport linkages are critical to African...
7. Number of African airports
8. Ethiopian Airline, Africa's largest airline is ... larger than Egypt Air, Royal Air, Maroc and SAA.
9. Largest and busiest airport in Africa...

### Down

1. Rwanda, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius have introduced ... policies.
2. Number of jobs in the African aviation industry.
4. Africa accounts for ... percent of global population, but only 2.5% of global passengers.
5. Africa is becoming one of the ... regions in the world.

### WORD BANK

fifty percent  
seven hundred and thirty one  
visa on arrival

fastest growing  
twelve

Ethiopia  
integration

Oliver Tambo International  
six point nine million

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.

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