



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

11 -16 January 2020



## ANC 108<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Conversations with the **President**

## HERALDING THE YEAR OF UNITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RENEWAL AND NATION BUILDING

EXCEPTS OF THE ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AT TAFEL LAGERPARK, KIMBERLEY

11 JANUARY 2020

**W**e gather here today, in the city of Kimberley in the province of the Northern Cape, to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the formation of the African National Congress.

We have come together where the Khoe, San, Korana, Batlhaping, Batlhor, Griqua and Batswana courageously fought against the colonial occupation of their land and the subjugation of their people.

We are gathered where great leaders of our people were born and lived and fought for freedom. On this day and at this place, we pay tribute to the likes of Sol

Plaatje, the first Secretary General of the African National Congress, and to leaders like Charlotte Maxeke, ZR Mahabane, ZK Matthews, Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe and Mittah Seperepere.

Over the past week, we, the leadership of the African National Congress, have walked the streets and visited the homes of this province. We have spoken with you – the people of the Northern Cape – about your lives, about the challenges you face, about your wishes and ambitions.

You have told us about the progress you have seen – the schools and clinics that have been built, the electricity and water

that now comes to your homes, about local business opportunities and improved roads.

But you have also told us about the problems – about the lack of jobs, about the devastating drought, about streets that are not maintained and drains that don't work, about alcohol abuse and crime.

Today, we are releasing the January 8th Statement of the African National Congress, which sets out the priorities and tasks of our movement for 2020.

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## HERALDING THE YEAR OF UNITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RENEWAL AND NATION BUILDING

This year, we celebrate the centenary years of several great leaders of our nation.

These include Raymond Mhlaba, Harry Gwala, Vuyisile Mini, Rusty Bernstein and Robert Resha.

This is also the centenary of the birth of Eduardo Mondlane, the founder and President of Frelimo, whose close relationship with ANC President Oliver Tambo laid the foundation for joint military operations between Umkhonto we Sizwe and Frelimo fighters in Portuguese-occupied Mozambique.

During the course of 2020, we will organize events to recall the achievements of these leaders and honour their contributions to our freedom.

This year will be 60 years since the Sharpeville Massacre, in which 69 peaceful protesters were killed by the apartheid police, ushering in a new period of repression and resistance. It is also 60 years since the ANC and PAC were banned, driving opposition to apartheid underground and the leadership of the movements into exile.

In 2020, we will be celebrating 30 years since the unbanning of the ANC, PAC, SACP and other organisations and the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, which set the stage for negotiations and the transition to democracy in South Africa.

Our priorities this year will be informed by the demands contained in that historic document, which continues to guide everything we do.



Our first priority is to build a capable state that serves all the people.

We will restore our public institutions to a higher standard of accountability and service.

It is therefore vital that local government – which is closest to where people live and work – performs its functions efficiently and consistently. We will focus on the capabilities, commitment and integrity of councillors and local government officials.

Our second priority is to build a united and cohesive society.

We must bridge the divides between South Africans, be they economic, social, political or cultural. To build a united society, we must recognise the equal right of all South Africans to share in this country's wealth and its land.

We must ensure that every South African appreciates their equal right to call this country home. All South Africans must feel that they have a future here.

Our third priority is to pursue investment, jobs and inclusive growth.

The creation of jobs remains our central priority for 2020.

To achieve a far greater pace of economic development, we will step up our investment drive, invest in a massive infrastructure build programme, reduce the cost of doing business, and expand pathways for young people into the world of work.

We will unlock the potential of small business, cooperatives and the township economy.

Our fourth priority is an effective land reform programme.

The struggle to return the land of this country to all the people of South Africa remains a historical and economic imperative.

It is to address this persistent injustice, that we are proceeding with the implementation of an accelerated land reform programme to provide land to those who work it and

who need it, including young people and women.

Our fifth priority is to eradicate poverty and improve people's lives.

We will intensify both job creation and other measures to improve the lives of the poor. This includes the provision of electricity, water, sanitation and other services to those South Africans who still do not have access to them.

We will work to reduce the cost of living for poor and working people generally, through better public transport and lower costs for electricity and other services.

We will work to improve access for all to quality health care, focusing in particular on the introduction of a National Health Insurance.

Our sixth priority is education and skills for a changing world

The matric results released this week demonstrate that South Africa has made great strides in improving educational outcomes over the last 25 years, particularly in township and rural schools,

However, we must do more to effectively prepare South African youth for the society and economy of the future. We will continue to prioritise the upskilling of educators and school management.

Our seventh priority is social cohesion and safe communities.

We will ensure that our law-enforcement agencies are supported so that they

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## HERALDING THE YEAR OF UNITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RENEWAL AND NATION BUILDING

can investigate thoroughly and prosecute effectively without fear or favour.

We will intensify our efforts to end state capture in all its forms, ensure those responsible are held accountable and that all money stolen from the government or public bodies is recovered.

We will strengthen the ability of the ANC's Integrity Commission to act decisively, without fear or favour, against those within our ranks who are implicated in corrupt activity.

We will work to make our streets, homes and communities safer through improved police visibility, more effective training of police and the greater involvement of community policing and safety forums in fighting crime.

Our final priority is to build a better Africa, a better world

Africa is poised on the threshold of a new era of integration, growth, prosperity and development. But to seize these opportunities requires a concerted effort to silence the gun

We commend our brother, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019, affirming the determination of the people of Ethiopia and of the continent to strive for lasting peace.

In line with the decisions of our 54th National Conference, we will intensify actions of support and solidarity with the Palestinian, Saharawi and Kurdish people, and all people who suffer occupation, oppression and discrimination.

In the context of the pursuit of global peace, the ANC is deeply concerned by the provocative military actions of the United States in Iraq that resulted in the death of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani.

We urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

On the 30th anniversary of the ANC's return from exile, preparations are in prog-

ress to bring back to South Africa the mortal remains of former ANC Secretary General Duma Nokwe and former ANC Women's League President Florence Mophosho as well as to honour the bravery of the Luthuli Detachment during the Wankie and Sipolilo campaigns.

Based on these priorities, we have identified a number of tasks that should guide the work of all ANC leaders, members, public representatives and supporters for 2020.

During this year, we will renew the ANC as the most effective force for social change, by rebuilding branches as centres for community development and rolling out a mass political education campaign,

We will build a movement united in action, by healing the divisions with our organisation and Alliance and placing the interests of the people above all other interests.

We will prepare for a decisive local government mandate, by strengthening local government, reviewing the selection of local government candidates and meeting with communities on their needs and concerns.

We will mobilise all social partners to grow and transform the economy, by focusing all efforts on increasing investment, stimulating growth, deepening skills development and removing all impediments to greater economic activity.

We will strengthen governance and tackle corruption, by continuing to rebuild public institutions and ensuring that all appointees are fit for purpose and demonstrate the highest levels of integrity.

We will work to end gender-based violence and femicide, by mobilising communities, civil society, faith-based organisations and others to confront violence against women and children in all its forms.

We will work for peace, integration and development in Africa, by working with fraternal organisations across the continent for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, to advance



peace and stability, and to promote sustainable growth and development.

On this occasion, the ANC honours the courage, dedication and selfless service of those veterans, stalwarts and activists who passed away over the past year.

We dip our banner in honour of His Majesty King Mpendulo Zwelonke Sigcawu, Ben Turok, Rhoda Joemat, Bavelile Hlongwa, Ebrahim Moola, Dumisani Kumalo, Mfengu Makhallima, Thuliswa Nkabinde-Khawe, Eddie Nair, General Isaac Lesiba Maphoto, Nomhle Nkonyeni, Johnny Clegg, Mam Agnes Dlamini, Magang Mmereki Phologane, Thandi Ndlovu, Thobile Mhlalo, Mam Joyce Jili-Mkhize, Duma Ndleleni, Sindisiwe Ndlovu, Andile Gumbi, Rose Nkondo, Sandile Dikeni, David Koloane, Dorothy Masuka, Hugh Lewin and Richard Maponya.

We also join the people of Zimbabwe and the continent in mourning the passing of President Robert Mugabe, an icon of African liberation.

In recognition of the tasks set by the 54th National Conference of the ANC and the ideals for which our movement was founded, and in recognising the challenges we face and the tasks we must undertake, the ANC National Executive Committee declares 2020 as **THE YEAR OF UNITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RENEWAL AND NATION BUILDING.**

# 108 Years of Fortitude - Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

## Dear Mr President

**T**he mighty African National Congress has once again shown remarkable fortitude by reaching the milestone of 108 years since its founding.

This great movement, which has defied the odds to survive headwinds and turbulence as well as predictions of demise, gathered in Kimberley this week to recommit itself as the only force of hope in turning the fortunes of South Africa around. Whereas other liberation movements at home and abroad fell at the first hurdle, the ANC has demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that it is here for the long haul.

The people of South Africa, those that the ANC liberated in a protracted struggle against oppression, have come to the party and endorsed the ANC's incumbency at every election since 1994. The warm reception and hospitality of the people of the Northern Cape as the ANC celebrated its 108th anniversary can be attributed to their awareness that the ANC Lives and the ANC Leads.

The Northern Cape is the home of one of this country's foremost intellectual, author, linguist, translator and politician, Solomon Tshekiso Plaatjie, who was also the founder member and first General Secretary of the South African Native National Congress, which later became the ANC. Although born in the Boshof in the Orange Free State in October 1876, Plaatjie's family moved to Pniel in the Cape Colony when he was four years old. In 1892, aged only 15 years, Plaatjie became a pupil-teacher, a post he held for two years.

As an activist, comrade Sol Plaatjie spent much of his life in the struggle for the enfranchisement and liberation of African people. As a member of the SANNCU deputation, Plaatjie travelled to England to protest the Natives Land Act of 1913 and later to Canada and the United States where he met Marcus Garvey and



By Pule Mabe

*Mr President, Ntate Maponya shall always remain an inspiration to our people as a pioneer of black business and the epitome of fortitude against all odds.*

*As with Comrade Sol Plaatjie, Ntate Maponya leaves an indelible mark on our national tapestry.*

W.E.B du Bois.

Plaatjie was a polyglot who was fluent in at least seven languages and his talent led him to a career as a writer. He was

the editor and part-owner of Kuranta ya Becoana in Mahikeng.

Comrade Sol Plaatjie was the first black South African to write a novel in English – Mhudi.

Although Plaatjie, who passed on in 1932, did not live to realise the fruit of his struggle, his legacy lives on in the democratic breakthrough of 1994 and the concerted efforts of the ANC to improve the lives of our people.

Sol Plaatjie's name lives on the renaming of the Kimberly municipality after him as well as a university in the same city. The Sol Plaatjie University is one of the two universities established by the democratic government and the first in the Northern Cape province.

This decorated stalwart has been honoured in many and varied ways, such as his house in 32 Angel Street in Kimberley being declared a national monument and his grave in West End Cemetery being declared a national monument in 1998 and now a provincial heritage site. In 2000, the ANC initiated the Sol Plaatjie Award to recognise the best performing ANC branch.

Mr President, the ANC remains proud of this son of the soil for his immense contribution and we owe it to him to ensure that his sacrifice was not in vain. We are indeed grateful to his family for borrowing us one of their own and we remain resolute that the thousands of members of the ANC who graced this year's anniversary took a leaf out of his book. The lessons of fortitude provided by Plaatjie and his peers can only strengthen and unite the ANC to deliver a country he envisaged in his struggles.

Sadly Mr President, as we celebrate the legacy of our great stalwart, we also mourn the sad passing of Richard Maponya, a titan of black business and

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## 108 Years of Fortitude - Standing on the Shoulders of Giants



activist in his own right. Ntate Maponya was ahead of his time when he defied the might of the apartheid machinery to subvert the oppressive legislation which sought to exclude black people from meaningful economic participation.

The apartheid regime stalled his efforts to open a clothing retailer by refusing him a licence, despite being represented by none other than the law firm of former ANC presidents, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela. Maponya and his wife, Marina (Mandela's cousin) went on resolutely and established the Dube Hygienic Dairy to deliver milk to customers in Soweto. By the 1970s, Maponya's empire had grown to include several general stores, car dealership and filling stations.

In the 1960s, Maponya was a founding member and first president of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc), an organisation which survives to this day to assist black entrepreneurs. His bold political move was his

choice of black green and gold (the colours of the ANC) as the first black person to be granted horse racing colours.

Many comrades and the rest of the country would remember Maponya driving comrade Nelson Mandela home after his release from prison after spending 27 years. In 2007, Maponya opened a mall named after him in Soweto.

Mr President, Ntate Maponya shall always remain an inspiration to our people as a pioneer of black business and the epitome of fortitude against all odds. As with Comrade Sol Plaatje, Ntate Maponya leaves an indelible mark on our national tapestry. His contribution to the emancipation of black people is more remarkable when one considers the seemingly insurmountable obstacles he faced as a budding black businessman under apartheid.

The government of the ANC has since dismantled many hurdles that put chains

around the ankles of black entrepreneurs but the journey is still far from being completed.

The ANC has introduced legislation that expedited the participation of black people in the economy of South Africa and we have already seen the results in the number of new black entrants in the business world as well as the growth of the black middle class.

The road may be long but we are proud to be standing on the shoulders of giants like Sol Plaatje and Richard Maponya. Amandla!

Yours sincerely

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

# NEC VISIT TO THE JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

By Tshepo Ikaneng

**A**NC Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile led the NEC delegation to a visit to the John Taolo Gaetsewe district municipality, which named after a former fiery trade unionist and Robben Island prisoner. It's the richest and biggest mining area in the Northern Cape, with extensive manganese deposits. With Kuruman as its administrative enclave, the municipality also boasts of sprawling villages and little towns like Kathu and Hotazel.

Cde. Mashatile first met with a delegation of traditional leaders from the Joe Morolong sub-region. They raised several issues lack of provision of adequate water for the rural communities including the electricity and tarred roads. They also appealed to the ANC government to handle the process of the expropriation of land without compensation with utmost sensitivity. They argued that like in Kwa-Zulu Natal, traditional leaders are custodians of land on behalf of their subjects. They also bemoaned poor working relations between them and municipal authorities.

In reply, Cde. Mashatile said the ANC will continue to respect the institution of traditional leadership. He remarked that "Traditional leaders, like the priests were at the forefront of the formation of the African National Congress". Whilst acknowledging some tensions that often characterize the relations between the state and traditional leaders, he emphasized the need to foster greater cooperation and mutual respect on issues that affect ordinary citizens.

The highlight of Cde. Mashatile was a cake cutting ceremony to mark the 108th anniversary of the ANC. The event held at the Mothibistad community hall was packed to capacity, with throngs of people eager to hear his speech. Cde. Mashatile thanked the local community for having trust in the ANC. He



however, acknowledged socio-economic challenges facing the district's citizens. He spoke out against infighting amongst local leaders, and warned those who used their positions to enrich themselves. He also called for the strengthening of the ANC structures. He said "the weak ANC is not good for South Africa" reminding his audience that "it's the responsibility of all ANC members to bequeath a strong and healthy organisations to future generations". Cde. Mashatile pledged to relay concerns raised by the local community to the party's top leadership and committed to dispatching a high level senior leaders to come and provide feedback.

Earlier NEC members Senzo Mchunu and Sdumo Dlamini visited the Joe Morolong sub-region ahead of the ANC January 8 anniversary commemorations. During their door-to-door campaign, they engaged face to face with local communities of villages of Esperanza and Gadiboye. During a meeting with an elderly man, he complained about the impact of drought on their livestock. The Northern-Cape is one of the country's hardest hit by drought which has led to loss of livestock which the community is heavily depended on for survival. Both leaders promised to urge government to respond to their call for assistance with regard to provision of finance to buy feed for their livestock.

In one of the door-to-door campaigns, community members complained about

lack of job opportunities especially for the youth. However, they were grateful of government's efforts to extend services, such as the disbursement of social security grants to their villages. They also called for greater cooperation between local traditional leaders and counsellors on issues local economic development and other service delivery related issues. The highlight of the NEC visit to the district was the convening of a community engagement session at the Joe Morolong local municipal council chambers. In his opening speech, Cde. Senzo Mchunu appreciated the high turnout of women especially the elderly. He remarked that "this is a clear sign that women continue to play a pivotal role in decision making processes". However, some members of the community raised issues lack of sufficient water supply to the mushrooming small villages and called for tough action against corrupt and inept councillors and municipal officials. Whilst the NEC visit came at the time when the community of the John Taolo Gaetsewe were still reeling from the negative impact of the devastating drought, it came as a relieve that during the entire week marking the ANC 108 anniversary commemorations, there were periodic rain showers which brought much relieve and hope that despite the prevailing socio-economic challenges afflicting the district there is trust that the ANC led government remain the only party which will address their plight.

# ANC GOVERNMENT GIVES PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE

By Nathi Shabangu



**A**s part of the build-up programme to the 108th anniversary celebrations of the African National Congress, the National Chairperson of the ANC, Comrade Gwede Mantashe visited the Namaqua Region and the Pixley ka Isaka Seme Region in the Northern Cape.

The National Chairperson had robust and fruitful engagements with small scale miners and community members in Port Nolloth and Schmidtsdrif. He further, addressed a cake cutting ceremony which was attended by hundreds of community members in Calvinia, Namaqua Region.

The main message delivered by the National Chairperson at all the gatherings, was about the ANC's 108th anniversary celebrations. "In the ANC, there is a tradition that we rotate the annual celebrations of the ANC birthday among the Provinces. The year 2020, is for the Northern Cape. We are in the province to celebrate 108 years of the ANC - the oldest political organization in

the continent," said Comrade Mantashe. The National Chairperson listened to issues raised by attendees of the meetings relating to, but not limited to; challenges faced by small scale miners, poverty, unemployment, and lack of service delivery.

He particularly responded to the following issues:

- On Licensing Artisanal Miners he said that the process of licensing artisanal miners was underway. "We have a number of licensed artisanal miners in Kimberley. We are systematically spreading that programme to other areas. It should not be illegal mining driven. It should be driven by economic compulsion. We are facilitating a programme that gives people an opportunity to be active economically."

- On Poverty and Unemployment, the National Chairperson said a duty facing the ANC is the importance of understanding that levels of poverty are bad, and levels of unemployment are too high. If we don't succeed in addressing these problems, we will struggle to explain

to our people as to why they continue to live in poverty. We are working on finding solutions. The January 8th statement will outline our work in this regard. We further urge you to give us ideas on how to deal with these challenges."

- On Energy challenges, he said: "We are expected to ensure that there is energy security in the country and invest in uninterrupted energy supply for our people. We are working hard to ensure that the current challenges do not continue."

The National Chairperson reiterated the message of uniting the ANC and the alliance. "We need to give our people confidence, a right to be themselves and not to depend on handouts. The day we are free, nobody will blame government for everything. People will be able to do things themselves. Then, that day, we will be able to say, we have undone apartheid – a system that was planted so deep that no future government must undo"

# POIGNANT MOMENT AS SOL PLAATJIE HONOURED

**Khadija Magardie**

The first Secretary-General of the ANC was honoured at a wreath-laying ceremony in the Northern Cape by President Cyril Ramaphosa this week in a moment that was poignant not just for the icon's family but for the entire movement.

The President told those gathered at Plaatjie's graveside at the West End Cemetery that he was 'our DNA as a movement' – and that his legacy was all the more important as the country grappled with the burning issue of land reform. The President quoted from Plaatjie's seminal work titled *Native Life in South Africa*, saying that in the ANC's resolution at the 54th National Conference around land expropriation without compensation was inspired in part by Plaatjie's book.

The ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Plaatjie family who had been embroiled in controversy earlier this month around the erection of a fence around the gravesite. Northern Cape Premier Cde. Zamani Saul said the province held the liberation icon in the highest of regard, and had named an institution of higher learning after him.

The President also met with the family later in the day where he reaffirmed the ANC's commitment to keep the Sol Plaatjie legacy alive.

## ANC COLOURS FLY HIGH IN ROODEPAN

Residents turned out in force to listen to ANC President Cde. Cyril Ramaphosa at Roodepan flats in Kimberly, a traditional stronghold of the Democratic Alliance (DA).

The President was given a rousing welcome by the community, hundreds of whom braved the heat to attend the gathering. The community faces a number of challenges such as unemployment and poor delivery of basic services. Last year angry parents protested over poor sanitation and sewerage maintenance at a local high school. The President vowed to ensure there was accountability by municipal officials at the poor state of services in the area.

The community meeting was part of build-up activities in the lead up to the delivery of the January 8th statement on Saturday. The President addressed the crowd flanked by Northern Cape Premier Cde.

Zamani Saul as well as other senior ANC leaders.

"The ANC has always been on the side of our people, to bring change and to improve their lives," the President told the community. He told the capacity crowd that government was experiencing a number of challenges. "But I want to promise you that the ANC has the leadership, has the capability, has the willingness, has the commitment at all levels to address these challenges and to make sure we do deliver a better life for our people."

The crowd was delighted when the President addressed them in Afrikaans: saying: "The ANC walks with the people, the ANC lives with the people, and the ANC stands for the people."

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE UNDER SPOTLIGHT AT ANCWL DIALOGUE

The high levels of alcoholism and substance abuse in the Northern Cape were under the spotlight at an intergenerational dialogue convened by the ANC Women's League Young Women's Desk on Thursday the 9th of January. The Mayibuye Youth Center in Kimberly played host to the dialogue aimed at getting insight into the challenges confronting young women in the Northern Cape.

National Convenor of the ANCWL YWD Precious Banda told participants that the Young Women's Desk was not 'decorative human beings that just wear (ANC) doeks to look nice; but was about a call to work and a call to action.' Addressing the crowd, she said there was a lot of work to be done in the Northern Cape to overcome the many challenges facing women, and that it was incumbent on all present to 'renew their commitment' to the Young Women's Desk – and that they needed to work actively in their communities.

The dialogue was also attended by the leadership of the ANCWL including ANCWL President Cde. Bathabile Dlamini. Participants highlighted the contribution of substance and alcohol abuse to the high levels of gender-based violence, and the need for the ANCWL to work with community activists to educate young people in particular about the hazards of substance and alcohol abuse.

Teenage pregnancy was also raised as a matter of concern. The Northern Cape has one of the world's highest rates of foetal alcohol syndrome, hence the need for young women to receive access not just to reproductive health services but also ante-natal care and information. The ANCWL YWD activists pledged to play their part in being active forces for change in the community.

## ANC SG PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR INDIGENT STUDENTS

The Secretary-General of the ANC Cde Ace Magashule pledged to personally cover the tuition fees of 10 matriculants from the town of Jan Kempdorp. The SG made the commitment during engagement with community members in the Northern Cape this week during pre-January 8th mobilization activities.

Accompanied by community leaders Cde. Magashule met with residents who expressed frustration at the lack of opportunities and facilities for young people in the town.

Community members pointed to the absence of recreational and other facilities for young people – resulting in many becoming involved in criminality as well as falling victim to substance abuse.

The SG expressed concern that internal divisions within the ANC in the Francis Baard region was detracting the organization's local representatives from focusing on their primary mandate – namely to support government's programme of action and taking up the concerns of the community. Saying "we have smelled the poverty in this province," the SG said it was unacceptable that community concerns were going unheeded – and that ANC councillors needed to regularly engage with communities and report back to them. He also said that youth unemployment needed to be urgently addressed – pledging to find work for three unemployed graduates from the community.

## ANC PLEDGES TO RETURN NORTHERN CAPE TO FORMER MINING GLORY

The National Chairperson of the ANC Cde Gwede Mantashe has pledged the ANC's support for communities in the Northern

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Cape engaging in small scale mining activities. The National Chairperson this week engaged with artisanal miners and community members in the Northern Cape town of Schmidtsdrift as part of build-up activities to the ANC's January 8th commemoration.

Schmidtsdrift is a diamond-rich region that has been the center of a highly-publicized land claim between two communities. The communities were forcibly removed from their ancestral land in 1968 and lodged a successful land claim that was resolved in 2000. There have been historical challenges with illegal diamond mining in the region and mining rights remain a major issue of contention.

The National Chairperson told the community there needed to be rational discussions between them, the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and mining companies in the region to facilitate greater access to land for mining. He said there needed to be move away from rhetoric to 'action-oriented' solutions. He said agreements should be concluded that are the outcome of a process of negotiation as opposed to 'hollow messages of hope.' He cited examples of engagement in the Namaqualand where small scale miners expressed determination to be recognized, as opposed to being labelled as 'thieves' and 'illegal miners' – and want to be given licenses for artisanal mining.

"It is not the small person who digs who is a criminal, it is the syndicates out there.. who make big money and leave others poor," the National Chairperson said.

Cde. Mantashe told the community the process was underway to grant more licenses to artisanal miners and that a number had already been issued in Kimberly. He said the programme was being spread to other parts of the country in order to give people an opportunity to become more economically active, and should not be driven by illegal mining.

"We are here to implement action," he told the community.

### THE JOURNEY TO TAFEL LAGER PARK STADIUM

The composition of citizens streaming into Kimberly's Tafel Lager Park Stadium on Saturday the 11th of January 2020 to listen to the delivery of the ANC's January 8th statement were a reflection of the diversity of the region.

The Northern Cape is the largest of South Africa's nine provinces but is also the most sparsely populated. The diverse communities of the province are scattered

across vast expanses of desert, cities and towns.

The number of languages, and cultures, of the Northern Cape are diverse: including Afrikaans, Setswana, Xhosa, English and indigenous languages like Nama, Khwe and the endangered Nlu language.

The stadium was a sea of green, black and gold as supporters young and old streamed into the arena singing songs and waving ANC flags.

Boeta Gammie, a performer from Calvinia, told ANC Today he travelled 650km to attend the celebrations and to perform the traditional rieldans (riel dance) at the stadium. He described it as 'a great honour' to be able to be part of the cultural performance at the stadium – saying he would be 'kicking up serious dust' during the cultural show at the stadium.

A couple from Kimberly told ANC Today they were happy to be at the stadium to celebrate. "The ANC is our movement... we are here to celebrate with our President because he promised us changes: now is the time for him to make those changes," they said.

Kopanyana Maribe, a young woman from Taung was at the stadium early with a friend. "It's great to be here, I say forward, ANC, forward!" Her friend Unathi Gumede was animated, describing his Fourways branch as 'the best.'

Mama Ntombi Namane, clad in Xhosa traditional dress travelled from Colesburg saying she was eager to listen to the President.

Sasha Hendricks, a young woman from Upington said she was happy to be at the stadium where she wanted to hear the President's vision for resolving the challenge of youth unemployment as well as on the issue of substance abuse that was destroying communities in the Northern Cape.

Susan Gertse, also from Upington arrived at the stadium clad in party colours. "I love my ANC and my comrades, and I feel so lucky because the ANC has brought change... we have houses, we have electricity, we have clean water.." She added: "We are going forward, I am very happy, and I feel free."

Two young women from the Free State offered their best wishes to the ANC saying they wanted the President to address the issue of employment opportunities not just for young people but for those over the age of 35. "We still have strength and we want to work", they said.

The burning issue of student debt was of concern to Mpho Sabata-Mokoae a lecturer at Sol Plaatje University. "The President must remember that the future of this country is in the hands of young people, and whatever he addresses must include young people, and one of these is student debt." He added: "of course we have education being partially free but we have a lot of students who are partially indebted, and I hope he addresses this. I also hope he addresses not only the issue of employment but also entrepreneurship..young people must be encouraged to be empowered and to be skilled."

An ANC supporter said that as a mother she was pleased with the ANC's achievements in supporting young children. "There is nutrition, there is free education, that is a thumbs up, we receive free healthcare." She said government needed to do more to address gender-based violence. "As women we don't feel safe and free in our country, even within our homes.. there are still those who don't respect us as women." She added: "The ANC must address gender-based violence more than any other issue."

A young man at a stall selling ANC merchandise told ANC Today the government needed to support small business more. "We are here, we are entrepreneurs, and we want to grow, and be part of cutting the unemployment rate."

Kimberly resident Desmond Springbok said he had come to the stadium to await the President's announcement on changes to the lives of residents of the capital. "There are no schools, no clinics here" he said, adding that more needed to be done for communities living in shanty towns and for the unemployed.

Joey Mokone arrived in Kimberly all the way from the Gauteng West Rand, and is a SAMWU member. She said SAMWU's expectation from the January 8th statement was that job creation was prioritized, as well as education and land distribution. "These are key elements that will improve the lives and dignity of our people," she said, adding that her foremost concern was the exploitation of workers especially, she said, around the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

# MATRIC RESULTS 2019 - PASSING THE 80% GLASS CEILING!

**E**xtracts from Minister of Basic Education and Training Angie Motshekga's speech, Basic Education and Training on 7 January 2020

The National Development Plan commits all of us to ensure that "by 2030, South Africans should have access to education and training of the highest quality, leading to significantly improved learners' outcomes. The performance of South African learners in international standardised tests should be comparable to the performance of learners from countries at a similar level of development and with similar levels of access".

The 2019 Matric results saw steady progress towards this goal for the first time in our democracy, the pass rate reached 80%, a glass ceiling which we have been struggling to achieve for a number of years.

## Learners with Special Education Needs

We appreciate the extra support given by all provinces to progress learners and learners with special education needs (LSEN). We strongly believe that an Inclusive Education system makes an immense contribution towards an inclusive economy, to serve an inclusive society. Providing learners with special education needs access to quality basic education programmes, is an imperative, based on the Constitutional social justice principles of equity, inclusivity and redress, among others. We have for the past few years included the learners with special education needs in tracking learner performance in the NSC examinations.

We are happy to announce that

- 2 576 learners with special education needs wrote the 2019 NSC examinations.
- 1 281 and 684 of these learners, achieved Bachelor and Diploma passes, respectively.

## Class of 2019 in Numbers

**788 7171** registered for 2019 year-end Matric examinations in  
**57 579** more girls than boys, wrote the 2019 NSC examinations.

**97 candidates** wrote South African Sign Language as a home language

**39 087** wrote the new Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Technologies, and Technical Mathematics and Science stream.

**147 question papers** set;

**8 million** question papers printed;

**6 872** examination centres;

**14 000 markers** in 141 marking centres

**186 058 total number** who obtained Bachelor passes

**103 310 female** candidates obtain Bachelor passes

**82 748** male candidates obtain Bachelor passes

**156 884** distinctions

**63.8% of distinctions** were gained by female candidates

**36.2% of distinctions** were by male candidates

**96% of 12.7 million** children in school are in the public schools

- 211 and 79 obtained Higher Certificate and NSC passes, respectively.
- Learners with special education needs achieved a total of 1 277 distinctions, including distinctions in the critical subjects such as Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics and Physical Science.

Benefits of "pro-poor" policies on the 2019 NSC examination results

The 2019 NSC passes for quintiles 1 to

3 ("no fee") schools combined, stand at 248 960. The Bachelor passes achieved by learners in "no fee" schools stand at 96 922 – an increase of 14.4% from 2018. This is a drastic shift, as against in 2005 when 60% of the Bachelor passes, came from the best performing 20% of the schooling system.

With the introduction of a pro-poor financing of the education system, in 2015, "no fee" schools, produced 51% of the Bachelor passes, which increased

*Continues on page 11*

*continued from page 10*

## MATRIC RESULTS 2019 – PASSING THE 80% GLASS CEILING!

to 55% in 2019. The gap between the Bachelor passes produced by “no fee” schools versus those produced by fee paying schools has significantly and progressively increased from 2% in 2015, to 10% in 2019. This is remarkable indeed!!

Whilst from 2015 to date, greater equity and redress imperatives are addressed, inequalities still remain in the system. We must therefore continue and strengthen the social wage policies aimed at improving access and retention of learners in school, through such initiatives as the pro-poor funding of schools; the provision of nutritious meals on a daily basis; and the provision of scholar transport to deserving learners on a daily basis.

There is no doubt that the system is beginning to reach the desired stability, which is healthy for a large system, as large and important as ours. The public system in South Africa continues to enjoy the confidence of our people; and thus, we have to give our best at all times. South Africans continue to send about 96% of about 12.8 million of the country's children to our public schools; and according to Umalusi, the 2019 NSC exams coordinated by the DBE, accounted for 98% of the 803 035 candidates, who sat for the 2019 NSC exams in the country (including the IEB and SACAI candidates).

It is a very important milestone for a system as diverse, large and challenging to have surpassed the 80% glass ceiling – the first time in the history of our country. This is a humbling, heart-warming and also an encouraging achievement. To maintain, or even go higher than this pass mark, will be definitely be a tall order. The focus, as encapsulated in our Sector priorities, will be about the consolidation of ECD; ramping the performance in all the four phases of our schooling system; continuing to improve the architecture of the education and training system; working with all our partners to usher in a Skills Revolution through the Three-Stream Curriculum Model and the Fourth Industrial Revolution amongst others; and strengthening the assessment regime in all four phases of the system.

### The top ten (10) district level performances:

Out of the top ten performing districts in the country, six (6) are from Gauteng, and two are from the Free State; one each from the North West and the Northern Cape – this is definitely no mean feat!!!

1. Tshwane South in Gauteng, with 93.3%
2. Gauteng North in Gauteng, with 90.7%
3. Tshwane North in Gauteng, with 90.6%
4. FezileDabi in the Free State, with 90.3%
5. Namaqua in the Northern Cape, with 89.9%
- 6 & 7. Tied Sedibeng East in Gauteng and Bojanala Platinum in the North West, with 89.6%
8. Districts Xhariep in the Free State, with 88.9%
9. Ekurhuleni North in Gauteng, with 88.8%;
10. Johannesburg West in Gauteng, with 88.7%;

### Provincial level performance

- Freestate: 88.4%, an improvement of 0.9% from 2018
- Gauteng achieved at 87.2%, a 0.7% decline from 2018
- North West achieved at 86.8%, an improvement of 5.6% from 2018;
- Western Cape achieved at 82.3%, a 0.8% improvement from 2018
- KwaZulu-Natal achieved at 81.3%, an improvement of 5.1% from 2018;
- Mpumalanga achieved at 80.3%, a 1.4% improvement from 2018;
- Eastern Cape and Northern Cape are tied at seventh, both standing at 76.5%. Eastern Cape improved by 5.9%, making them the most improved province; and Northern Cape improved by 3.2% from 2018; and
- Limpopo achieved at 73.2%, an improvement of 3.8% from 2018.

I believe that the Class of 2019 will continue to shine wherever they are. In celebrating the Class of 2019, I must also thank the principals, teachers, and parents for the work they continue to do. Schools are at the coalface of Basic Education delivery. What you do at the school level, is what matters the most. The future of our learners, and the prosperity and further development of our nation, is in your hands. We applaud you for the great work you continue to do on a daily basis.

Lastly, but certainly not the least, I wish to thank our partners – teacher unions, governing body associations, our business partners working directly with

us or through the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), the NECT itself, our statutory bodies – Umalusi and SACE, researchers whose work we cannot do without, our sister departments, South Africans, who together with us have made the stability and the improvement of the Basic Education Sector their responsibility. We also wish to thank the Vodacom for hosting us this year. Let me end by saying, the Governing Party was definitely correct in declaring education a societal matter. Therefore, all hands must be on deck.

Adapted and Extract from Minister Motshekga Speech on 7 January 2019

## Q and A : Sonia Bosman

By Bongwiwe Msweli (ANC DIP Intern)

Sonja Bosman is a young African National Congress comrade that was born on the 27 January 1989 in the northern province in Kimberly. She holds a diploma in Public Management from the Northern Cape Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) collage. Bosman works as a portfolio coordinator at the provincial treasury, economic development and tourism.

### 1. What is the significance of celebrating January the 8th?

January 8th marks the birth of the African National Congress the significance of celebrating this day is to trace the milestones achieved by the organization since being formed. It is also to reflect on the policy position of the ANC and how it is benefiting ordinary masses. This day is also significant because the President will communicate a clear policy directive, the plans of the ANC and give marching orders to employees of the ANC. This year's celebration has already been dubbed the year of action. Ordinary masses are expecting more action than rhetoric statement and I'm hoping the President will use it to restore hope to the people.

### 2. What creative ways can we use to make the Northern Cape province a popular tourist destination?

There are so many hidden treasures within the Northern Cape. E.g. the Gong Gong falls. The department of Tourism needs to start marketing the hidden treasures that people don't know of because people think that the Northern Cape is just about the big hole in Kimberley. The Northern Cape Consists of 5 Districts and within each of those districts there are hidden gems that people don't know about. We have the Kuruman Eye, which is in Kuruman, Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. There is also the Riemvasmaak Hot Springs that can be found few Kilometres outside of Upington. For those who love water sports there is Orange River Rafting which is situated in the Namakwa District. These are but a few of the hidden gems that can be found in the Northern Cape province. The department will have to start looking into making these places a popular tourist attractions and they can utilize young people to market them through their social media accounts and also taking on tourism ambassadors who will start spreading the word and attract the relevant people.

### 3. How can the government assist in creating youth initiatives and activities to ensure that they benefit from the event?

Getting the youth involved. The dialogues that were held were great however many young people didn't know about them and we could see this based on the attendance as they were attended by a lot of old people and the youth was not really present, so government needs to create a platform where young people can get relevant information about these issues as well as a platform for young people to be able to share their ideas and challenges as well.

Many young people don't get involved because they don't know and understand the whole process. So getting them involved will help. Government can also look into various activities where these young people can come on a monthly basis to share their ideas, challenges as well as struggles and it shouldn't only happen when there is an event happening.

### 4. What are the greatest challenges that the province is facing and how do you plan on improving them?

The greatest challenges we are facing as a province firstly is unemployment, we are amongst the top provinces with the highest unemployment rate but the Premier has got a plan to assist with this problem. The other great challenge is that Kimberley has got one of the highest suicide rates in South Africa which would indicate that we have a great mental illness problem in the province and the Department of Health is working towards creating awareness around the issues of mental health. The other challenge we have is that we have the highest rate of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, which goes hand in hand with the high alcohol rate in the province. Service delivery is also a challenge in the province but there are various initiatives in place that will assist us in ensuring that we tackle these challenges. The plan is to tackle these challenges head on and take them from the root cause. We need to start having more and more dialogues with the people and finding various ways of assisting.

### 5. How can the ANC attract more young people to be part of the January 8 celebration?

Young people tend to rather stay away than go out and ask relevant questions, so when it comes to attracting more young people to the event we need to make them understand why there is such



a celebration and also give them an opportunity to be a part of all the activities that lead up to the main event. We need to create an environment that will allow young people to be comfortable to ask questions and also allow them the opportunity to shadow some of us so they can get an understanding of everything that goes into these events. We need to start being more young people friendly and start opening our doors for them to come to us and provide us with ideas as well information on how we can assist them to be a part of the ANC.

### 6. What would you like the residence of the province to take away from the experience of the event?

I would like the residence of the province to see that we are aware of the problems that they are faced with the mayors of the various places have been tasked with ensuring that all the issues that were identified during the door to door will be addressed. We also want to remind them of the words of the President when He asked them to be patience as many of the changes will take some time but that does not mean that they are going to be neglected, we are asking for patience as well as understanding as we deal with the many challenges that were raised during this time. It is also important for the residents to see that the Province has not been forgotten more especially because the celebration was bought to the province, so we all just need to be patient and work with government to ensure that things will be done in due time.

### 7. What is your favorite quote or motto?

"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela

1 -17 January 2020

*Source: SA History Online [www.sahistory.org](http://www.sahistory.org), the O'Malley Archives and [www.onthisday.com](http://www.onthisday.com)***January 1962.****Mandela leaves country for Addis**

**Ababa.** Nelson Mandela secretly leaves South Africa to attend a Pan African Freedom Movement conference in Addis Ababa. He receives military training in Ethiopia and travels to other countries to receive military training and then comes back into the country to continue operating underground.

**1 January 1894.**

The South African Amateur Athletics Union is established in Johannesburg.

**1 January 1906.**

Poll tax payable in Natal.

The colonial governments imposed poll taxes and other taxes to force Africans away from agriculture and other forms of indigenous economic activity, to provide a cheap labour force for the mines and white agriculture. The Natal parliament voted for the poll tax in 1905, obligatory for all black adult males in the colony, with married black men and indentured Indians males exempted.

**1-3 January 1922.****Coal miners' strike, joins Rand Revolt.**

White coal miners in the Transvaal, embark on a strike in response to a wage cut, which quickly escalated into a large-scale revolt against the government, known as the Rand Revolt. The white told black workers not to join the strike, and on 3 January 1922 the Chamber of Mines announced plans to cut 2000 white miners' jobs. (Baruch Hirson, The General Strike of 1922)

**1 January 1956.****Sudan gains independence.**

What was then known as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan gains independence from Britain and Egypt, who up till then shared powers over the territory. Although there were initial talks of unity with Egypt, the Sudan parliament voted for independence.

**1 January 1960.****Cameroon gains independence.**

From 1884, the current territory of Cameroon became a Germany colony, with the capital initially at Buea and later moved to Yaoundé. After the First World War, it was partitioned between the British and French, under the mandate of the League of Nations. In the French Cameroon, the Union des populations de Cameroun (UPC) was formed in 1948 to fight for independence, and faced fierce repression from the colonial powers. The UPC was supported by other Pan African leaders such as Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. Cameroon gained independence on 1 January 1960, followed by sixteen other African countries who gained independence the same year. In 1961, the southern part of British Cameroon voted to become part of the Federal Republic of Cameroon as it is known today.

**1 January 1960.****Minister of Bantu Education takes control of Fort Hare University.**

The Bantu Education Act of 1953 established segregated and deliberately inferior education and infrastructure for black South Africans. This was extended to include the higher education sector, with the Extension of University Education Act of 1959. Under this Act, the hitherto independence University College of Fort Hare was placed under the control of the Minister of Bantu Education, with effect from 1 January 1960.

**1 January 1972.****Women allowed in the SA Police force.**

On 1 January 1972, for the first time in the history of the South African Police (SAP), white policewomen were enlisted as 'full members of the force'. More women began their basic training at the police College in Pretoria on 1 March 1972. Before this,

three women was recruited to SAP in 1916 as an experiment, but this did not go well, and their posts were abolished in 1920. The female police officers of 1972 were not allowed to perform ordinary police tasks such as patrols and arrest. Women were mainly employed in the areas of victim support and administration, and were given functions such as typing, issuing licences for firearms and the compilation of medical boards. In 1981, 82 and 83 Coloured, Indian and African females were recruited to also join SAP. After 1994, the SA Police Services (SAPS) committed to gender equality in line with the Constitution and legislation, in 2012 the first woman National Police Commissioner, Mangwhashi Riah Phiyega was appointed.

**1 January 1976.**

The United Nations Centre against Apartheid was established in the United Nations Secretariat, with E. S. Reddy, Chief of Section for African Affairs, as director.

**3 January 1924.****Henry Fazzie born.**

ANC MP, UDF Vice President, member of Umkhonto we Sizwe and civic leader, Henry Fazzi was born in Stutterheim, and later moved to Zwede, Port Elizabeth where he grew up. He joined the ANC in 1949, was amongst the Defiance campaign volunteers and later joined Umkhonto we Sizwe was arrested and spent 21 years in prison. After his release from prison, he became active in the civic movement, the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO) and later the UDF where he served as one of its vice presidents. He joined the first group of MPs in 1994, and after his retirement, continued to be active in ANC structures in the Eastern Cape. uBaba Fazzi passed on in August 2011.

5 January 1976.

SABC first television broadcast.



A full-scale television service is officially opened by the Prime Minister. He issues a warning against slanted news and unbalanced presentations. Verwoerd was vehemently opposed to the introduction of television, but relented after the US moon landing, with South Africans amongst the countries not able to watch it live.

6 January 1906.

Benedict Vilakazi, poet and educator born.



Benedict Wallet Vilakazi was born in Groutville, KZN on this day and passed on in 1947. He studied to become a teacher, and earned a bachelor's degree from UNISA in 1934. He started publishing poetry, articles and novels in isiZulu, and helped to compile a isiZulu-English dictionary. He obtained a MA from Wits University in 1938 and in 1946 became the first black African in the country to obtain a PhD from the same university. His doctorate was in literature with a thesis on Zulu poetry. He lectured at Wits university and later in Lesotho.

6 January - 12 January 1961.

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold visits SA

The United Nations Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, visited South Africa. He reported to the Security Council on 23 January that in the course of his discussions with the Prime Minister of South Africa, "so far no mutually acceptable arrangement" had been found on racial policies in South Africa.

7 January 1919.

The Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) formed

The ICU was formed in Cape Town on this day, with Clements Kadalie as its first General Secretary. A loosely organized general workers union, it merged with other Coloured and African trade unions, with the objective to create "one great union" of workers south of the Zambezi, covering Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe

8 January 1912.

South African National Native Congress founded



The SAANC was founded in Waaiohoek (now Mangaung) in Bloemfontein on this day to fight for a South Africa that belongs to all.

8 January 1978.

Assassination of Richard Turner.



Dr Richard Turner was at home on 8 January 1978, and was shot through the window of his house in Durban, and died

in the arms of his 13 year old daughter. Born in 1941 in Cape Town where he completed his schooling and then went to UCT. He was one of eight leaders of NUSAS (the National Union of South African Students) that were served with banning orders in 1973. He went to do a doctorate at the Sorbonne in Paris, on the philosopher Sartre. After moving to Natal in 1971, he became a senior lecturer in political science and an active anti-apartheid and left intellectual, especially in support of the black consciousness movement. He also played a role in the rebuilding of the trade union movement in the 1970s.

11 January 1879.

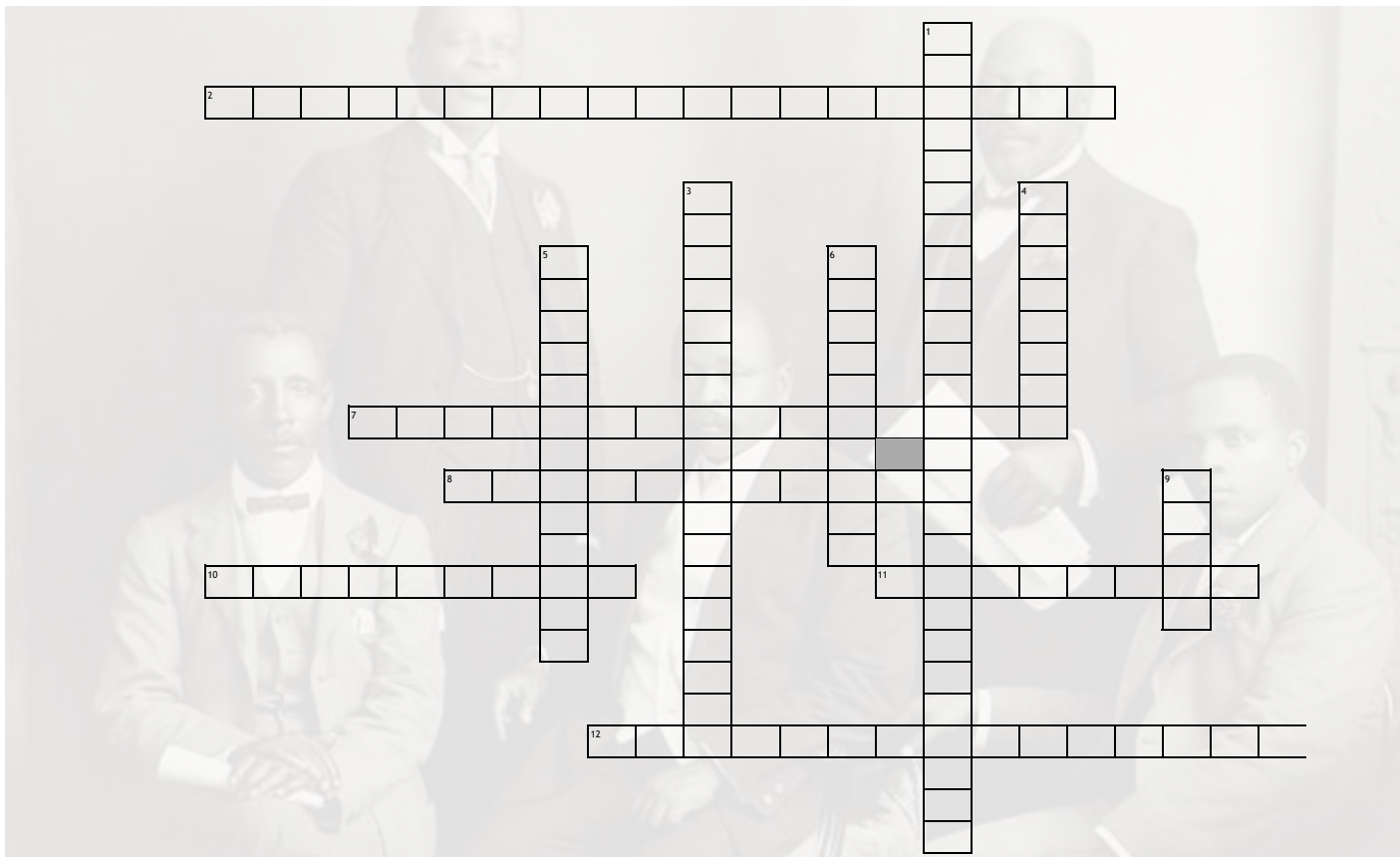
Start of the Anglo-Zulu War.



The British intended to establish Native reserves in South Africa, like they successfully did in Canada. On December 11, 1878 the Governor of the Cape issued an ultimatum to the Zulu Kingdom to submit or face war. They refused and Britain declared war on 11 January, suffering a heavy loss in the opening battle of the war at Isandlwana.

13 January 1949.

Start of Durban race riots, which left 142 dead. On the evening of 13 January 1949 attacks by Zulu groups on Indian shops in Victoria Street, Durban, which spread to Cato Manor and Clairwoods, resulting in the deaths of 142 people, and thousands were injured. The authorities were slow to respond, but eventually quelled the attacks after a few days.

**Birth of the ANC 8 January 1912****Across**

2. Conference closed and opened with singing of  
 7. One of the pioneers of ANC's formation  
 8. Founding conference resolved to establish this newspaper  
 10. In 1911, the Mines and Works Act was passed, introducing the ... in employment  
 11. Place where ANC founding congress was held in 1912  
 12. Woman delegate at founding conference in 1912

**Down**

1. Organisation of Coloured people founded in 1902 by Dr Abdurahman that formed alliance with ANC.  
 3. ANC formed in response to which 2010 Act that excluded black South Africans? 4. Founding president of the ANC  
 5. Another major act due in 2013 prompted formation of ANC  
 6. One of the pioneers of the formation of the ANC  
 9. Founding name of the ANC changed in 1923

**WORD BANK**

Native Land Act  
 John Dube  
 Mangaung

Charlotte Maxeke  
 Sol Plaatje  
 Union of South Africa

Abantu Batho  
 Nkosi sikelel iAfrika  
 African Peoples Organisation

Pixley Isaka Seme  
 SAANC  
 Colour Bar

*write for us*



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

***info@anc1912.org.za***



in pictures



## 108 Anniversary Celebration





in pictures



## 108 Anniversary Celebration

