



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

17–23 January 2020

Conversations with the
President



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND ADVERSITY ARE NO BARRIERS FOR SUCCESS

*Eulogy by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Official Funeral Service of Dr Richard Maponya.
University of Johannesburg SOWETO Campus, 14 January 2020*

WE HAVE COME to bid a sad farewell to a man of extraordinary resilience, who rose above his circumstances and persevered until he reached the pinnacle of success. And yet he remained humble, magnanimous and generous.

South Africa indeed has lost one of her finest sons. The Maponya family have lost a father and a brother. Those who knew and loved Ntate Maponya have lost a confidante, a mentor and a comrade.

On behalf of the government and the people of South Africa, I convey my deepest condolences to the family, to the business community and to the people of Soweto – a place for which he held the deepest of affection and where he first began his journey into the business world.

Richard Pelwana Maponya was the most devoted of patriots. He loved his country and he loved his people. He was soldier, not of the battlefield, but at the frontline of the struggle for the economic emanci-

pation of his people – a struggle that endures to this day. He was a fighter for the liberation of black South Africans from the shackles of poverty, from the manacles of marginalisation and from the chains of economic exclusion.

There have been others today and during the memorial, who have expounded on his life, and shared their memories of a man whose personality was larger than life, and who has left such a deep impact on all who knew him.

**BUILDING A
MOVEMENT
UNITED IN ACTION**

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Dear Mr President
**AMANDLA
ASEMASEBENI**

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**THE ANC MUST
RUN AGAINST
ITSELF**

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



He was truly a man who lived for others. He was a business person, yes. But he was driven by the conviction that South Africa would never be truly free until the fruits of prosperity were shared by all its people.

He stood for self-upliftment and in doing for oneself. He inspired a whole new generation of business people, some of whom are here today, and took them under his wing. He gave courage to many. Despite his stature as the doyen of black business, he was always there with a hand to pull up those who stood below.

Having scaled the heights, he wanted to see others alongside him on the rostrum of success.

Ntate Richard was always pushing back the frontiers, agitating for more to be done to support small business, and encouraging more people to take the great and daunting leap into entrepreneurship. From his earliest days, and long before it became a popular term, he demonstrated the qualities of responsible corporate citizenship.

He did not hoard the gains he made over his decades in business, but ploughed much of it back into the communities in which he operated. He did not see corporate social investment as an exercise in box ticking, but as an imperative to transform the racialised patterns of the economy.

During the apartheid era, he saw black business as part of the broad liberation movement to advance economic freedom. In a democratic South Africa, he saw the role of business as that of a partner to government, assisting to resolve

the challenges of unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment.

Those who knew him will remember him for being forthright and a straight talker. He did not hesitate to chide us when he felt we were going off course, but always did so from a position of principle, not malice. He was alive to the challenges our country, but always urged us to do more, and to go the extra mile to improve the operating environment for business, especially small business.

I personally received many a late night call from him, sharing his viewpoint on one or another pressing issue of the day. In my very last engagements with him he urged me to do everything I can to see his greatest dream realised, to set up a youth entrepreneurship academy. It is a wish I will endeavour to see fulfilled on his behalf.

What I will remember most from these conversations is that he did not intellectualise problems, simply rant or speak in vague terms. He always ended these discussions by saying: ***'Here, this is what I can do. This is what I will do. This is what I have. Send me.'***

He knew that in building the society that we want, business must take the lead in coming up with solutions to the unemployment crisis. And that we can only prevail if we work together. He was a great and passionate networker, forging partnerships not just locally but across the continent and the world. He believed that to nurture a national culture of self-employment, big business must do more, through training budding entrepreneurs and by procuring goods and services from smaller businesses.

He had boundless energy and his passion was infectious. Not even the onset of ill-health could hold him back. Retirement was not an option. I am told he would say: *"For as long as the Lord has given me health, I am going to work until the last day when they say 'Lala Kahle'."* For him, resolving our country's challenges wasn't somebody else's problem, or government's problem. It was something that preoccupied him until the very end of his life.

Fifty years ago, the very idea that a black person could build and own a shopping mall in a black township, where young black men and women could socialise, eat, buy books and watch movies, would have been dismissed as a fantasy. And yet, Richard Maponya did it.

Fifty years ago, if it had been said that a black husband and wife team could build a business empire with interests in some of the most important sectors of our economy, it would have been laughed at. And yet, Richard and the late Marina Maponya did it.

A mere fifty years ago, if a young black child told their teacher their ambition was to have their own business, and train and mentor other young black men and women to become entrepreneurs, they would have been dismissed. And yet Richard Maponya did it.

If there is any lesson we take from the life of our departed friend, it is that humble beginnings and adversity are no barriers to success. He was a man who understood that to get to the very top you have to begin at the very bottom.

Continues on page 8

EDITORIAL

BUILDING A MOVEMENT UNITED IN ACTION

TASKS AND CLARION CALL FOR THE YEAR 2020 DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AT THE ANC'S 108th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN KIMBERLEY, 11 JANUARY 2020

THE TASKS OF the ANC for 2020 are informed by the 54th National Conference resolutions, which identified two strategic priorities for the five years: organisational renewal and unity, and radical socio-economic transformation. They reflect the organisation's commitment to implement the Conference resolutions. They also reflect the ANC's response to the issues raised by South Africans in the 2019 elections.

Therefore, the tasks of the ANC for 2020 are as follows:

1. **We will renew the ANC as the most effective force for social change.** Branches will be rebuilt as centres for community development. Through the implementation of the new membership system we will empower members to engage in political work and tackle patronage, gate-keeping and vote-buying within our structures. We will roll out a mass political education campaign as part of a national effort to develop our cadreship throughout the organisation.
2. **We will build a movement united in action.** We will work to heal the divisions with our organisation and Alliance and end all factional activity through a cohesive programme of action that places the needs and interest of the people above all other interests. We will work to strengthen the ANC Women's League, Youth League and Veterans' League. We will take forward the engagement on



- strengthening and reconfiguring the Alliance. We will use preparations for the National General Council and the conferences of the ANC Women's League and Youth League as well as the MK inclusive conference to forge unity and cohesion within the movement.
3. **We will prepare for a decisive local government mandate.** In addition to the implementation of our far-reaching resolutions to strengthen local government, we will undertake a radical review of our approach to this sphere of governance, the selection of candidates and the deployment of cadres to various positions. This will include the establishment of a permanent Electoral Commission. There will be intensive engagement with communities on their needs and concerns.
5. **We will mobilise all social partners to grow and transform the economy.** The focus of the efforts of all South Africans needs to be directed towards an economic recovery that creates jobs and opportunities. We will intensify all measures to increase investment, stimulate greater growth, deepen skills development and remove all impediments to greater economic activity.
5. **We will strengthen governance and tackle corruption.** The work to rebuild public institutions will continue, ensuring that all appointees are fit for purpose and demonstrate the highest levels of integrity. We will deepen efforts to root out corruption and tackle mismanagement, incompetence and wastage. The effort to end state capture and hold those responsible to account will receive priority.

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6. ***We will work to end gender-based violence and femicide.*** Communities, civil society, faith-based organisations and others will be mobilised to confront violence against women and children in all its forms. Broader society needs to become more involved in the work of government and civil society formations to implement the National Strategic Plan on GBV.
7. ***We will work for peace, integration and development in Africa.*** We will support South Africa's programme as AU Chair for 2020 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.



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CALL TO ACTION

The fundamental transformation of South African society and the economy requires the efforts, ingenuity and energy of all South Africans working together in pursuit of a shared vision.

We call on the **workers** of South Africa to be at the forefront of revolutionary change, to intensify the struggle for a living wage and decent working conditions, and to be partners in the urgent task of promoting investment, growing an inclusive economy and creating jobs.

We call on **young people and students** to lead the skills revolution, and to be the champions of innovation and entrepreneurship. Following in the footsteps of earlier generations, we call on the youth to take a leading role in building a better, peaceful country, Africa and world.

We call on **women** to remain at the forefront of struggles for equality and justice, to challenge patriarchy in whatever form it takes, and to consistently remind their male counterparts of their shared respon-

sibility to advance gender equality across society.

We call on **civil society formations** to continue to champion the values of our democratic constitution, to fight for social justice and equality, to intensify the campaign for ethical governance and to hold those in positions of authority to account.

We call on **faith-based organisations and leaders** to continue to provide spiritual and moral guidance to society, to challenge crime, corruption and violence, and to care for the poor, the marginalised and the mistreated.

We call on all **farmers, farmworkers and traditional leaders** to work together in support of meaningful land and agrarian reform, to build relations of trust and respect within

rural communities, and to significantly expand food production and ensure food security.

We call on **business leaders** to support the national effort to grow an inclusive economy through greater investment in productive sectors of the economy, by promoting ethical business practices and progressive labour practices, and by ensuring the advancement of black and women South Africans throughout the economy.

We call on **public servants** to diligently serve the people of South Africa, to fully implement the electoral mandate while remaining non-partisan, to ensure that public funds are not wasted or stolen or unused, and to build a state that is capable and developmental.

We call on **cultural workers, artists and intellectuals** to actively contribute to social cohesion and nation building by giving expression to the great diversity of views, traditions, cultures and practices of the South African people.

We call on the **South African people** to join us as we advance towards a better society founded on the principles of unity, democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism and equality.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS



Amandla asemasebeni

Dear Mr President

THE MEMBERSHIP of the African National Congress is neither bestowed nor inherited. Being a member of the ANC comes with immense responsibility since this is a party that has earned its stripes in a long and protracted struggle for the emancipation of the downtrodden.

This year, the ANC will take stock of the application of the 54th conference resolutions in the much awaited National General Council. As every member of the ANC would know, this gives all of us the opportunity to gauge the progress in terms of the resolutions since the last conference of the branches, the highest decision-making body of our movement.

It is in this spirit, Mr President, that I would like each and every one of us who have been bequeathed with the responsibility to lead and champion the cause of our people to self-examine and introspect.

This self-introspection is not a futile endeavour but a critical exercise which seeks to determine whether all the cadres are singing from the same hymn sheet.

As a leader in society, the ANC is required to harmonise and speak in one voice. Democratic centralism requires of each one of us to fall in line and defend and respect the decisions of the national conference.

These are the ethos, the norms, standards and practices that have helped to keep the ANC together



By Pule Mabe

throughout the years and beyond.

The ANC has also shown remarkable foresight and visionary leadership by fearlessly affording every single member the platform to voice their views in a transparent platform during conference.

As a governing party, it is incumbent upon every single member of the ANC to champion, articulate, defend and implement the wishes of the congress movement.

None dare deviate from that mandate. It is a responsibility which every member of the ANC should bear with pride and dignity. According to Rule 4 of the ANC constitution, the membership of the ANC is open to all South Africans who accepts its principles, policies and programmes and who are prepared to abide by its constitution and rules.

Mr President, there is no doubt that on your shoulders you bear a weight bigger than that of ordinary members and as the face of the ANC, you bear the responsibility when the organisation falters in its mandate.

Of course, falling into line does not translate into blind loyalty and support of resolutions which go against one's conscience.

Many of members of the ANC will know that the January 08 statement, which as president you presented to our members and other interested stakeholders, is a collaborative effort with inputs from the leadership collective. Ditto the State of the National Address, which is similarly a collaborative effort from different government departments in your deployment as the country's Commander-in-Chief.

I am reiterating these basic tenets of discipline and ANC membership because as an organisation, we have reached a critical stage as a governing party wherein the enemy has shown determination to drive a wedge and dislodge us from the overwhelming mandate given to us by the people of South Africa.

The only beneficiary when the ANC does not speak with one voice is the enemy that seeks to reverse all the gains we have made as a liberation movement and ruling party.

The branches of the ANC were unanimous in the last conference that the leadership collective that emerged from Nasrec had a responsibility and mandate to unite the movement and secondly, to im-

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

plement the resolutions that were adopted and agreed on.

Mr President, the ANC is easily the only political party in South Africa with visible presence in every ward in South Africa. Our branches stretch beyond the valleys of the Tugela to the intersections of Bryanston. These are the same branches whose resolutions echo far beyond our individual opinions because they guide the overall work of structures of the movement far and wide.

Similarly, Mr President, all members regardless of their standing in our organisation are expected not to fall for the vicissitudes and flirtation of ideas that contrast with acceptable ANC ethos of which amongst others include offering constructive criticism on any policy programme or activity internally through appropriate channels. It was not by accident Mr President, for members to be duty bound to belong and take active role in the full life of our organisation's basic unit: the Branches – **"Amasebe"**. To demonstrate the power of Members, Mr President; it is also an enshrined entitlement for the members to determine policies of our glorious movement with the leadership answerable and ac-

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countable to them.

The opening up of the democratic space and granting of the freedom of ideas and speech should be embraced with greater care and responsibility. Mr President, the fundamental goal of constructing a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society requires greater cohesion from all the progressive forces.

The principles of freedom of speech and free circulation of ideas and

information operating within the organisation enjoins members to observe maximum discipline even in their articulation of ANC policy outside the confines of structures.

However, where the ANC has clearly and unequivocally pronounced, and uniformity has already been reached, it is expected of all patriotic members of the ANC to desist from engaging in activities that might otherwise contribute towards the self liquidation of our revolution. This will not only enhance the uniformity of the message of the ANC, but demonstrate to the enemy that unity is sacrosanct in the movement.

In its 108 years of existence, the ANC has shown remarkable survival instincts underpinned by uniformity and unity. The progress we have made has been marked by advances and setbacks. However, the glue that holds the ANC together has always been the understanding that we are the sum total of all parts and no single member of the ANC possesses the wisdom to impose their ideas on the collective.

As the NGC lurks on the horizon, this gives the enemy the opportunity to try and drive a wedge and divide the ANC by fostering propaganda and pre-empting the outcomes of the conference.

It is the responsibility of every single member of the ANC to ensure that we remain resolute in defending the ANC and standing our ground, ensuring that the message remains uniform and similar.

Anything less will be a betrayal of our founding ethos and determination to transform the society we inherited from the oppressor.

That, Mr President, is the hallmark of discipline.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



OPINION

The ANC must run against itself to effect continuous improvement

By Dr Confidence Moloko

AS WE START the New Year and enter this new decade, we must re-dedicate ourselves to be the best servants of our people through a rejuvenated, renewed and strengthened ANC.

We are now three years away from the 2017 ANC National Conference where we took very important and incisive resolutions.

We also made serious commitments on how to serve the masses of our people better, how to make the government of South Africa a better tool of delivery by the ANC and how to renew, redesign and strengthen the ANC to remain the leader of the revolution and the best servant of all South Africans, Black and White.

We are a few months away from the ANC National General Council whose main purpose is to assess the performance of the ANC against its own resolutions and programmes in the movement, NGOs, business and government.

We have a duty as South Africans to participate in this process; and more so as members of the ANC of good standing, committed cadres and activists, to drive the process in our communities.

A lot has happened in the intervening period from December 2017 up to now, good and bad. However, and most important of all is the fact that the ANC has been re-confirmed as the leader of the national government of the Republic of South Africa and the leader in eight (8) provinces and most municipalities. It is also very important to note that many programmes are on course.

Thousands of cadres of the ANC have silently slogged on, shoulder on the wheel, to ensure that the country stays afloat and the ANC moves from strength to strength. They have sacrificed their own time and money to support every effort to make the ANC effective. They have been true cadres in the ANC, government, civil society and business. They have flown the ANC flag in COSATU and the SACP.

Some ANC members have justifiably spent the last two (2) years or twenty four (24) months worried about weaknesses of the ANC because of their love of the movement. Unfortunately, they spent most of their energies on negative criticisms and factional activities. Many were using a lot of energy worrying but doing nothing to implement resolutions of conferences and to strengthen the branches, zones, regions, provinces and national structures of the ANC. Hopefully they will allocate some of their energies and resources contributing positively to the good of the ANC.

As we enter this year and decade 2020 to 2030, we must note that the ANC remains our only hope, as the political party whose cause of freedom for all, Black and White, is just; and whose political line which is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic is correct; that is, the political line of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

Flowing from the above, we must realize that the ANC is unmatched in every department by every opposition party in South Africa without exception. None comes nowhere near the ANC in terms of political stakes, membership, organization, revolutionary edge, programmes and experience.

Therefore, like all successful individuals and organizations, all ANC members, leaders and activists must be conscious of and understand that the ANC will prosper if, amongst other positive deeds, its cadres realize that the ANC can and must compete very hard against itself. That might just be the best formula for success.

It is this frame of mind of an ANC that competes against itself and not against



OPINION

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any political party, that might assist us to sharpen the revolution further with committed, reliable, objective, consistent and available army of comrades mostly volunteers working without any pay or expectations but functioning inside constitutional structures of the ANC, in progressive NGOs and in government.

If everyone of these ANC volunteers would extend themselves by joining the army of ANC volunteer organizers to mobilize workers into COSATU affiliates like we did during the UDF days without taking membership of unions or seeking any rewards, that would have a very positive effect of massive growth and strengthening of COSATU which is a very important member of the Congress Alliance.

Lastly, the ANC has been battling inside and outside of the ANC in business and in government against unemployment, poverty and inequality. It is imperative that the ANC concentrates on only one issue to resolve all. If we were to focus on unemployment, then poverty and inequality will be defeated. This is especially so if the ANC could pressure the private sector to employ South Africans preferentially in every available job in every sector, every level and every industry.

Let us note that any ruling party that does not compel the private sector in the country to focus on preferential employment of its nationals eventually loses power.

So, let us as activists focus on the positives of the ANC and government, push the ANC to compete very hard against itself and to prioritize preferential employment of its citizens by business or the private sector everywhere to get rid of unemployment amongst South Africans and defeat poverty and inequality.

The ANC has done it before hence its versatility. It has the capacity to motivate and lead the masses of our people of South Africa, Black and White, to rise up by themselves against all odds. What we need is a mindset shift and a new surge towards the beckoning political stars. ■

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HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND ADVERSITY ARE NO BARRIERS FOR SUCCESS

He was born in the Lenyenye area near Tzaneen in Limpopo at a time when South Africa was a dominion of the British Empire. He lived through the excesses of colonial and apartheid rule, and was witness to the systematic dispossession of black South Africans during both eras. In his 75 years as a businessman he stared adversity in the face, and always found a way.

His entrepreneurial flair began at an early age, when as a young boy he would divert river water to his vegetable garden, providing food for his family and selling the surplus. The limitations and constraints of the time did not deter him as he embarked on his business career. There were many obstacles put in his path: licenses were denied, permits were not granted, obtaining credit and land was a challenge.

His businesses were raided frequently by apartheid authorities looking for any excuse to penalise him or close him down. But he did not take no for an answer. His story is a window to the mean-spiritedness of the apartheid regime on the one hand, but a tale of triumph over adversity, on the other.

He was a champion of black business. He was adamant that economic development begins in communities, and saw the great potential of the township economy. Like a true entrepreneur, he could always spot an opportunity. He tried his hand at many things. Some were successful, others less so. But he persevered.

He was always prepared to acknowledge the contribution of others to his success, especially that of his beloved wife Marina. He was an ethical and principled business person. He was appalled at the practices of some businesses that provided sub-standard services and inferior goods because the public they served were poor.

He was fond of young people and always availed himself as a mentor. He encouraged young people to be disciplined, to demonstrate initiative, and to be serious about training and study. He spoke often of the dangers of having a sense of en-

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Richard Pelwana Maponya was the most devoted of patriots.

He loved his country and he loved his people. He was a soldier, not of the battlefield, but at the frontline of the struggle for the economic emancipation of his people – a struggle that endures to this day

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titlement, and impressed upon them the virtues of hard work and of taking up opportunities, especially to educate themselves.

We draw other lessons from his life. We learn that natural business acumen, admirable though it may be, is no substitute for sheer hard work. We learn that ambition must be tempered by humility, that when the going gets tough, you never give up or give in. Above all, to draw from the prayer of St Francis of Assisi, we learn that *“it is in giving that we receive”*.

Our dear father has been called to his Maker. We mourn him, but we pay tribute to a life well lived. He has left behind a legacy that extends well beyond the brick and mortar of his companies. Through his struggles and successes he forever changed the face of business in South Africa. In return for all he gave to his people and to this country, his head was anointed with oil and his cup overflowed.

In the words of Psalm 23, surely goodness and mercy shall follow him, and he shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. In the history of this country, his life, his contribution and his achievements will forever be remembered and celebrated.

Farewell our father, brother, patriot, friend and great South African. ■

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Nosipho Hani Khumalo

Q & A

By Bongile Msweli
DIP Intern

1. What can you tell us about your grandfather, and what have you learned from him?

From what I have heard from my family and many veterans who shared memories of him is that he was a leader who never put himself above his people. He never allowed a title to define him, nor pressure to remould him. He was human before being a leader. One of the many things I have learned from him is bravery and the skill of going beyond your comfort zone even if it's stepping onto other people's toes, never give up. Always believe in yourself and be the difference the world needs. Most importantly, never forget your community, never forget your people.

2. What are some of the stories you heard about your grandfather during his involvement in the liberation struggle?

One of the most beautiful stories I heard that purely describes the man that my grandfather was, is a captivating blow by blow incident, narrated by one of his fellow combatant and veteran of the struggle. During the course of the struggle against apartheid, the veteran's brother was stationed in Angola and was attacked by enemy forces. He was badly wounded and fell into a coma. My grandfather happened to be around the scene of battle and knew how devastating this news would be received by the veteran. So, my grandfather played messenger between the veteran and the place of care where the veteran's brother was recuperating. He said my grandfather would constantly read to his brother even though he was in a coma. He would do this to assist in the recuperation of the brother, while risking his life in travelling between the place of care and where the veteran brother was



Nosipho Hani Khumalo is the first National Youth Ambassador of South Africa and the granddaughter of fallen apartheid struggle stalwart Chris Hani. She is a youth and social media influencer for her community and the co-founder of a mentoring and tutoring platform – Learnstar – an entertainment company. Nosipho is an aspiring Neurosurgeon currently studying at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University. She is also the first USSA (University Sport South Africa) Black and Female President in the year 2020.

stationed. This was to ensure that the veteran was kept informed about the health of his brother. To me this was humility being defined.

3. How did the political history of your family influence your current career choice?

My great grandfather – Mr Gilbert Hani was the initiate of the Hani name in the fight against oppression which has fed my philanthropic journey, as the great granddaughter of Mr Gilbert Hani. Times may have changed but some battles re-

main the same. As a black female in leadership, I see the golden evidence of the sacrifices my forefathers made.

4. As someone who is a youth ambassador, what role do you play in assisting young people?

My role is making sure that every young person who has the ability to have a dream has the opportunity to live it.

5. How do you plan on carrying and preserving the Hani legacy?

The Hani Legacy will be preserved through the Youth who my family has spent three generations fighting for. The plan is outlined in the young lives that walk on our African soil. My grandfather's fight has granted me and many others the opportunities to be in leadership when it was once deemed impossible. It is my duty to firmly grab the torch and help grant young people more opportunities.

6. Which other career interest would you like to pursue?

I'm all about philanthropy, science and medicine. Because of fighters such as my grandfather, I can pursue them all.

7. What would you like your children to know or learn about your grandfather?

I want them to have a close grasp of what self-acceptance is and what being empowered and never giving up means. This will bear the fruits of their desire.

8. What is your favourite quote or Motto?

"What we need in South Africa is for egos to be suppressed in favour of peace. We need to create a new breed of South Africans who love their country and love everybody, irrespective of their colour."

– Chris Hani ■



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

18–24 January 2020

Sources: : SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za) and www.onthisday.com**19 January 1940****Mary Burton, Black Sash President is born**

Mary Maria Burton was born on 19 January 1940 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She moved to South Africa in 1961, and upon witnessing the injustices of Apartheid, became a member of the Black Sash (predominantly white women's organisation) in 1965. The Black Sash, initially formed to oppose the removal of the few remaining categories of Black voters from the common voters roll, went on to over the decades protest forced removals, and other apartheid injustices. Mary Burton was Black Sash President from 1985 to 1990. After 1994, she also served as Commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

19 January 1999**Devastating storm in Mt Ayliff, Eastern Cape**

A severe storm hit the small town of Mount Ayliff, with 22 people killed (including 10 children) and over 4000 left homeless.

20 January 1914

The first group of Transvaal Indian women **satyagrahis**, passive resistant volunteers, are released from Pietermaritzburg Prison in South Africa after three months imprisonment.

20 January 1939**Highest temperature in shade recorded in Goodhouse, Northern Cape**

On this day the highest temperature ever recorded in the shade was noted at Goodhouse, in the Cape Province. The temperature reached 47, 8 degrees Celsius. In December 2019, the Weather Service recorded an even higher temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius, recorded in the village of Vioolsdrif, also in the N Cape, but experts have been disputing this claim.

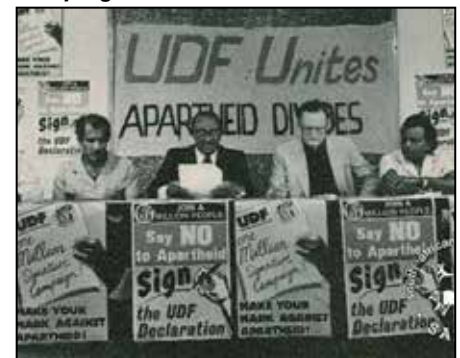
21 January 1960**60 years since the Coalbrook Mining disaster**

On this day, 60 years ago, a large section of the Clydesdale Colliery, at the Coalbrook mine near Sasolburg, Orange Free State, caved in and trapped 435 mineworkers 180m underground. There were no survivors. No machine capable of drilling holes large enough through which to rescue people was available anywhere in the country. Following this incident, the Chamber of Mines decided to purchase a suitable drill that would make it possible to reach men trapped underground in coal mines. The accident was believed to have been caused by the disintegration of some 900 underground pillars which cause a massive collapse. Around 1000 miners were underground, only about half of them survived. After weeks of trying, no bodies were ever recovered and the shaft was abandoned and sealed with concrete. Amongst those who died, also included a few rescue workers, who got trapped due to collapsed ground and methane gas. Based on apartheid policies, families of white miners received compensation in the forms of pensions, whilst black miners families received a measly once-off payment. This disaster is listed amongst the worst mining accidents in the world. (www.mining-technology.com)

22 January 1874**Founder of the SA Library for the Blind born**

Josephine Ethel (Josie) Wood was born on 22 January 1874 in Grahamstown. Wood was trained as a teacher and in 1919 Wood began her work with the blind. She started a small library for the blind in her own home. During the first

year, Woods sold her art works to raise funds for her small library. The library grew with the help of international donors. The Library was officially opened in 1946 as the South African Library for the blind in Grahamstown. Woods was also co-founder of the National Council for the blind in 1929.

22 January 1984**UDF Launches Million signature campaign**

The United Democratic Front (UDF) in response to the apartheid government's constitutional reforms, which introduced the Tricameral parliament and the Black Local Authorities, creating segregated, racial and unequal franchise, announce a campaign to collect signatures against these policies. Although only 400,000 signatures were collected by October of that year, the campaign helped to mobilise against apartheid structures, and resulted in a widespread boycott of these institutions.

22 January 2001**SA History Online Goes Live**

The South African History Online non-profit organisation's website began operations on 22 January 2001. CEO Omar Badsha founded the organisation as

a Section 21 non-profit and launched its website two years later. Since then SAHO has popularised history in South Africa and become the largest independent history education and research institute in the country.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

23 January 2018

Jazz veteran Hugh Masekela passed on

Hugh Ramopolo Masekela, a global icon of South African and African music

passed on after a battle with cancer. Born on 4 April 1939 in Witbank, near Johannesburg. Masekela showed musical ability from a young age, and began to play piano as a child and later the trumpet. From a young age, he played with artists such as Dollar Brand (Abdullah Ibrahim), Johas Gwangwa and Kippie Moeketsi, and collaborated with famous icons like Miriam Makeba, Zimbabwean Dorothy Masuka, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Hedzoleh Soundz, Francis Fuster and Dudu Pukwana. In a music career that spanned many decades, at home and in exile, he continued to tour and release successful albums until the last years before he died. Masekela is still honoured today as one of South Africa's most prominent and talented musicians.

24 January 1964

Apartheid government stops Nkosi Albert Luthuli's tenure as Rector

Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli (1898-1967) was Glasgow University Rector from 1962 until 1965. The University's Luthuli scholarship is named in his honour. It was announced on this day in 1964 that the apartheid government aims to stop former ANC President's tenure in this position, refusing to issue him with a passport and permission to travel. ■



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

Source: <https://www.un.org>

24 January

International Day of Education

Education offers children a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future. But about 265 million children and adolescents around the world do not have the opportunity to enter or complete school; 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math; less than 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school and some four million children and youth refugees are out of school. Their right to education is being violated and it is unacceptable. Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind.

The theme for International Day of Education in 2020 is **Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace,** highlights the

integrated nature of education, its humanistic aims, as well as its centrality to our collective development ambitions. It also gives stakeholders and partners flexibility to tailor the celebration for diverse audiences, a variety of contexts and for priority themes. ■



I believe that here in South Africa, with all our diversities of colour and race; we will show the world a new pattern for democracy. There is a challenge for us to set a new example for all. Let us not side step this task.

– Chief Albert Luthuli –

Reviewed by Andries Nel

New Cities New Economies: South Africa & Africa's Grand Plan – A Pan-African Economic Revolution

by Dr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga

(Staging Post. Jacana Media. 2019. Pages: 177)

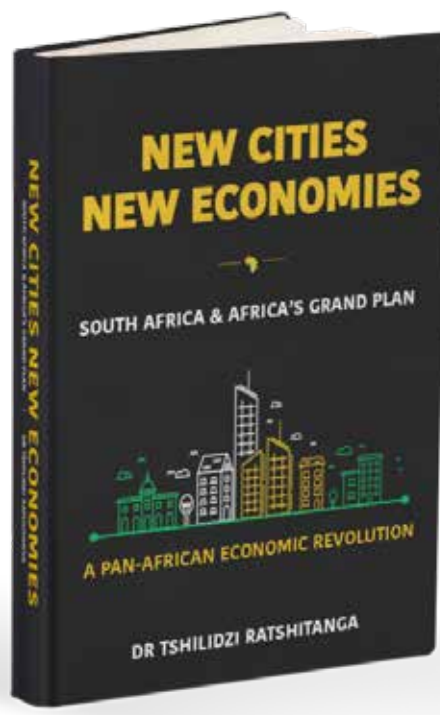
DR TSHILIDZI Ratshitanga is an activist intellectual. **New Cities New Economies** is not just a book. It is a vision, a generational manifesto, and a rallying cry for a movement for the fundamental transformation of South Africa and Africa.

Ratshitanga is a former general secretary of the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) and the SA Student Congress (Sasco) as well as a leader of the ANC Youth League. He is active in business and academia. **New Cities New Economies** is based on his doctoral dissertation.

His activism manifests itself both in the content and style of the book, as well as the near apostolic vigour with which he is promoting it, and the formation of a New Cities New Economies movement, across the country and on social media.

Ratshitanga is bold and ambitious, both in the scope of his analysis as well as the plan he advances.

His point of departure is that spatial segregation and injustice constituted the core characteristic and mechanism of apartheid colonialism – colonialism of a special type. Accordingly, no attempt to undo its legacy can be successful without fundamental spatial transformation and the attainment of spatial



justice. This includes dealing decisively with the land question, rural and urban.

The New Cities New Economies thesis rests on three fundamental pillars:

Firstly, massive urbanization, industrialization and economic transformation anchored on the creation of hundreds of new megacity regions across South Africa and Africa, which will reverse the ubiquitous distortions of apartheid and colonial spatial legacies.

Secondly, newly created egalitarian city nodes that will define new economies across South Africa and Africa and thereby abolish neo-apartheid, which is manifested through racial economic inequality, and bring about unimaginable prosperity, employment and progress to the lives of the majority of our people.

Thirdly, a totally reconstructed, highly developed and modernized South African society that is intertwined with the African continent through the One Africa One Grid Pan-African Economic Revolution.

Comprehensive in its scope, the book touches upon a historical overview of apartheid and colonial spatial conquest, expropriation and injustice; world urbanization trends; South Africa's urban development patterns and their challenges; factors impacting on current patterns of urban development; as well as governance, funding and conditions for success of the New Cities New Economies plan.

Whilst recognizing the importance and merits of policy instruments such as the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) and National Development Plan (NDP), he is also critical of them.

Ratshitanga argues that: *"The current developmental plans of the South Afri-*

can government do not emphasise spatial reconstruction as the overarching foundation for societal transformation and economic development. This is surprising because their aim is to eliminate the apartheid legacies which were primarily envisioned, propelled and are currently being sustained by racial spatial engineering."

He is also critical of government's lack of policy coherence and the absence of the requisite institutional arrangements, including a central planning authority to coordinate and direct plans from different government agencies. This frustrates the implementation of policy frameworks such as the IUDF.

However, at certain points, Ratshitanga's boldness and infectious enthusiasm result in analyses and propositions that sail close to the winds of voluntarism, and are capable of being construed as suggesting that new forms of social reality can be willed into existence.

He is, however, careful not to lapse into Saint Simonian utopianism, or the utopian urbanism characteristic of the likes of Robert Owen's New Harmony settlement and Ebenzer Howard's Garden Cities movement.

He recognizes that much research needs to be done on, amongst others, the location of new cities, the linkage between these cities and economic activity, financial modelling and sources, the impact on old cities and existing townships, ideal design frameworks, legislative requirements, intergovernmental relations, the interweaving of urbanization in Southern Africa and Africa as a whole, as well as a detailed analysis of the post-apartheid emerging city models such as Waterfall, Steyn City, Century City, etc.

The book is both an invitation to dialogue as well as call for more intellectual work by universities and research institutions, and especially young intellectuals.

Ratshitanga describes the New Cities



Dr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga

New Economies thesis as **"the promise of our generational oath"** and asserts boldly that **"[w]ith this pledge, we declare, without a shadow of doubt, that 'our generation is ready to govern. Let freedom reign!'"**

He argues that the success of New Cities New Economies will also depend on a well-organised, modern and disciplined ANC and the launch of a mass-based ANC-aligned coalition for economic revolution – The New Cities New Economies Movement.

Here he touches upon the important, yet under-theorized, subject of the politics of urbanization and the vexed question of how multiple, often contradictory, interests continue to over-determine the form and content of our urban development.

Central to this is the political and technical capacity of the local state, in collaboration with other spheres, to mediate and give direction to competing social forces in the urban space, without itself being captured by sectional interests.

Equally important is the need for ANC as a movement to define properly its relationship with the local state and to build its capacity to mobilize and lead the broadest range of forces for spatial transformation and spatial justice.



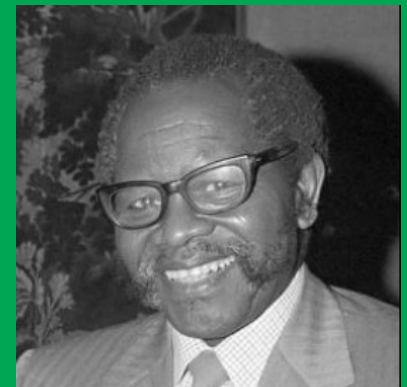
These matters require further discussion in our ranks. This book is an important contribution to our national discourse.

Those wishing to obtain copies of the book or presentations on its content can contact Dr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga on: Email: info@newcities.co.za or Mobile: 067 007 6771.

Andries Nel is ANC NEC / NWC Co-ordinator.

VERBATIM

O.R. TAMBO ON RACISM




Using the power you derive from the discovery of the truth about racism in South Africa, you will help us to remake our part of the world into a corner of the globe on which all of humanity can be proud.

**WISHING THE CLASS OF 2020
WELL IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR**

@MyANC-led government, made **great strides** in **improving educational outcomes** in South Africa over the last 25 years.

#ANC108



#ANCBACK2SCHOOL #KHAWULEZA

**WISHING THE CLASS OF 2020
WELL IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR**

@MyANC maintains that despite progress, South Africa's education system **must be more effective** in **preparing our youth** for the **society** and **economy** of the future.

#ANC108



#ANCBACK2SCHOOL #KHAWULEZA

**WISHING THE CLASS OF 2020
WELL IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR**

@MyANC led Government will continue to **tailor curricula** and **equip educators** to respond to an **increasingly digitalised world** with **constant technological advances**.

#ANC108



#ANCBACK2SCHOOL #KHAWULEZA

**WISHING THE CLASS OF 2020
WELL IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR**

@MyANC believes that South Africa needs to **undergo a skills revolution** to **break the cycle of poverty** and **grow an inclusive economy**.

#ANC108



#ANCBACK2SCHOOL #KHAWULEZA

UNITY, NON-RACIALISM & DEMOCRACY

"I call upon our people in all walks of life ministers of the Gospel of Christ, who died to save human dignity, teachers, professional men, business men; farmers and workers to rally round the congress at this hour to make our voice heard.

We may be voteless, but we are not necessarily voiceless; it is our determination more than ever before in the life of our congress, to have our voice not only heard but heeded too."

CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI



#UnityMustRise



in pictures



108th Anniversary



X-WORD

Reading Culture



Across

2. Education department campaign to improve reading culture.
3. Reading also improves...
6. Percentage of schools that had libraries in 2010...
8. Average number of hours South African adults spent reading.
9. Reading to children helps them to know sounds, words and...
10. Reading to children sparks their...
12. Benefits of reading – expands...
13. Reading improves...

Down

1. SA agency encouraging reading and books.
4. Parental involvement is critical to children's...
5. Benefits of reading, expands...
7. Reading also improves...
11. We achieved this ranking in the International Literacy study in 2016.

WORD BANK

knowledge
imagination
memory
SA Book Development Council

last
vocabulary
Read to Lead campaign

seventeen
language
literacy

analytical skills
writing skills
four

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.

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