



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



BUILDING A CAPABLE STATE - REALISING THE SOUTH AFRICA WE WANT

A FEW WEEKS AGO we celebrated the start of a new year and a new decade. This gave us an opportunity to reflect on our plans for the year ahead but also to think deeply about the challenges that confront us. Of these challenges, and perhaps the most pressing, is the need to build a capable state. This is a task that does not capture the imagination of most people, yet it is essential to everything we want to achieve.

Walking through the streets of Kimberley and other towns in the North-

ern Cape a fortnight ago drove home the point that if we are to better the lives of South Africans, especially the poor, we need to significantly improve the capacity of the government that is meant to improve their lives.

It was disheartening to see that, despite progress in many areas, there were several glaring instances of service delivery failures. Many of the places we visited struggle to provide social infrastructure and services simply because they have such a small revenue base. But, in some cases, elected officials and public servants

have neglected their responsibilities. A common feature in most of these towns, which is evident throughout all spheres of government, is that the state often lacks the necessary capacity to adequately meet people's needs.

As public representatives and civil servants, we derive our legitimacy from our ability to act professionally as we serve the public and manage state resources to the benefit of the public. We also need to ensure that we embody the Batho Pele principles. Putting people first. It is through such

"We are committed to work hard and address challenges collectively"

3

**Dear Mr President
Ready to govern**

5

Admissions 2020, what do they tell us?

7

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

an approach that we can have a state that places people and their needs at the centre.

Yet, the achievement of such a state is undermined by weak implementation. Poor coordination and alignment between departments and lack of effective oversight has meant that policies and programmes have not had the necessary impact on people's lives.

That is why this administration has prioritised the task of building a capable state.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes, ensuring that policies are aligned, processes are streamlined, technology is effectively deployed, budgets are adhered to and programmes are properly monitored and evaluated.

A capable state starts with the people who work in it. Officials and managers must possess the right financial and technical skills and other expertise. We are committed to end the practice of poorly qualified individuals being parachuted into positions of authority through political patronage. There should be consequences for all those in the public service who do not do their work.

Through the ongoing and focused training of civil servants, the National School of Government will be playing a greater role in providing guidance for career development.

A capable state also means that state owned enterprises need to fulfil their mandates effectively and add value to the economy. State companies that cannot deliver services – such as Eskom during load-shedding – or that require continual bailouts – such as SAA – diminish the capacity of the state. That is why a major focus of our work this year is to restore our SOEs to health. We will do this by appointing experienced and qualified boards and managers. We will be clarifying their mandates, and give them scope to execute those mandates.

One of the most important innovations of this administration is the intro-



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duction of the district-based delivery model. This way of working is a departure from the top-down approach to the provision of services and will ensure that no district in our country is left behind. It is a break from the 'silo' approach, where different parts of government operate separately from each other.

This aims to produce a single, integrated district plan in line with the vision of: **'One District, One Plan, One Budget, One Approach'**. It will give us a clearer line of sight of what needs to be done, where, how and with what resources. By pooling

resources, by focusing on projects that directly respond to community needs, and by setting delivery targets on a district-by-district basis, we will be able to better meet our people's needs.

Through the proper execution of the district development model, we will be able to know which police station needs vehicles, which rural clinic has run out of medicine, which businesses are struggling to obtain water use licenses, and respond in a targeted manner. District-based development is the basis for growing and sustaining a competitive economy.

Although we face great challenges, we do not have a dysfunctional state.

None of this will happen overnight. Much of the work will not be immediately apparent. But as we make progress, people will notice that government does things faster. Already, for example, we have drastically reduced the time it takes to get a passport or receive a water licence. As we continue to improve, people will notice less interruption of services, more roads are being built, infrastructure is better maintained, more businesses are opening up and more jobs are being created. Those who follow such things, will notice that government audit outcomes are improving, money is being better used and properly accounted for.

For this work to be successful, citizens need to get involved. We must all participate in school governing bodies, ward committees and community policing forums. It is on citizens that government will rely to advise us on the standards of public services in communities. It is on you that we depend to hold those who are failing you to account.

Where government needs help, we should be prepared to draw on the skills, expertise and resources of the private sector and civil society. **If we all work together to build a more capable and developmental state, we will be that much closer to realising the South Africa that we all want. ■**



"We are committed to work hard and address challenges collectively"

Closing remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the NEC Lekgotla, 20 January 2020

OUR MEETING takes place at a pivotal moment for our country, when our economy is facing severe challenges and many of our people continue to endure great hardship.

Prior to this Lekgotla we held an ANC NEC meeting. The NEC meeting was extremely constructive. The NEC was united around the most important issues that concern the nation: the economy, SOEs, building a capable state and strengthening local government.

In the same vein, our Lekgotla was robust, constructive and yielded extremely productive proposals. The Lekgotla benefited from the wealth of knowledge and experience present here.

Through our deliberations here we have forged a clear and concrete programme to address the challenges our nation faces.

We have been frank about the extent of the difficulties in our country. We acknowledged where we have fallen short in the implementation of our policies and have devised realistic measures to address these.

Listening to the reports from the Com-

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missions, it is clear that comrades worked hard to formulate proposals to be taken forward in the plans of government and the movement.

There is a clear commitment by all parties to work hard, address the challenges collectively and communicate our policies and programmes clearly and coherently.

All commissions presented proposals on cross-cutting issues such as the empowerment of women, young people, addressing issues of climate change and the just transition and the socio-economic impact of migration.

We all agreed that will speak with

one voice. We also agreed that we will act with discipline.

We discussed how we should foster economic growth and deal with state-owned enterprises.

We agreed that the creation of jobs and the re-ignition of inclusive growth in the following key areas should be undertaken:

We all agreed that manufacturing continues to be a major sector of South Africa's economy. The government should continue to support and boost the manufacturing sector as it seeks to transform the structure of manufacturing.

The Lekgotla agreed that we should build new growth sectors such as renewable energy, creative industries, aviation industries and 4IR-related activities.

Tax avoidance and illicit capital flows were seen as an impediment to economic growth. The Lekgotla called on the government to urgently crack down on tax avoidance and illicit capital outflows.

BEE processes must be strengthened to assist in transforming racial ownership patterns in the economy.

EDITORIAL

The Lekgotla agreed that a renewed emphasis must be placed on localisation, particularly linked to infrastructure projects and to procurement by government and SOCs. The Lekgotla took a dim view of the threatening activities of people who describe themselves as business groups that go to infrastructure projects demanding 30% stakes. These groups often act illegally and threaten violence. This cannot be allowed to continue. We will take strong measures to stop this.

We agreed that we should strengthen government and SOCs procurement. We should in the process leverage private sector procurement to support local enterprises, township and village enterprises, and black industrialists.

On the mineral resources area, the Lekgotla agreed that the unbundling of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill will provide policy certainty to a mature solid mining industry and has assisted with the development of standalone legislation for the upstream Petroleum Sector, which Bill was gazetted for public comment in December 2019.

On the issue of the spectrum, we should ensure that the spectrum release should lead to lower data costs to realise the extension of access to online service and put more money in consumer pockets.

The easing of visa requirements and related changes to encourage tourism and the inflow of needed skills into South Africa should be accelerated.

The initiative aimed at reducing youth unemployment through the Presidential Youth Employment intervention is fully supported. The Lekgotla welcomed the five pillars this intervention is based on namely: building a national programme for young work seekers, agile work solutions, youth self-employment, workplace experience and expanded national youth service.



The Lekgotla endorsed several programmatic priorities for the forthcoming year, which will ensure that land reform contributes to economic recovery.



It was agreed as follows with regard to the SOEs:

The ANC will continue to be guided by the vision outlined in our *Ready to Govern* policy document, which stated that the balance of the evidence will guide our structuring and restructuring of state owned companies, and our decisions on when we need to increase or reduce public ownership in order to advance our economic programme.

The Lekgotla endorsed the following proposals with regard to SOEs.

- That the commercial and developmental mandates of SOEs and SOCs should be clearly outlined and stated. Where a review is necessary we should be able to do so.
- We should examine the institutional design which will support their developmental mandates.
- There should be greater and more effective attention to the operational efficiency, integrity of SOEs as well as ensuring that people who are fit for purpose are appointed to various positions.
- We should look to embark on a consolidation and rationalisation process of our SOEs.
- In line with the Nasrec Resolutions, we must avoid political interference in operational matters, other than an intervention in the case of mismanagement and possible company failure.

ON LAND REFORM

The ANC needs to do more to popularise our position on the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution to clarify circumstances in which expropriation without compensation will take place.

We are encouraged that the Lekgotla endorsed the recommendation that the power to determine the quantum of compensation for land expropriation should reside in the executive.

The Lekgotla endorsed several programmatic priorities for the forthcoming year, which will ensure that land reform contributes to economic recovery. Some of these programmes include:

- Addressing spatial inequalities through the prioritisation of urban land for development of low-income housing.
- Advancement of women in land reform. Women must be considered especially in communal areas and with respect to ownership of land. Women must be at the centre of the land debate.
- Trade agreements with other countries should prioritise black emerging farmers.
- Blended funding must be made available in order to assist black farmers.

SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

The Lekgotla agreed on a number of measures to ensure communities are safe and build social cohesion. Some of these priorities include:

- Reviewing and strengthening the moral regeneration programme.
- Government to strengthen its programmes to combat sexual harassment at the workplace.

Continues on page 10

READY TO GOVERN

THE YEAR 2020 is an important one in the calendar of the African National Congress since it'll be the half-way mark in the term of the leadership collective that was elected at the 54th national conference in 2017.

This halfway mark between conferences is gauged through a sitting of the National General Council, wherein progress in terms of implementing the resolutions adopted in the Nasrec conference will take centre stage. The branch delegates who attended the Nasrec conference mapped the way forward to assist the ANC as a governing party to take the country forward.

Pundits have sought to downplay the enormous task that faces the governing party in reversing the destruction wrought by the supremacist racist regime. When the ANC came into power in 1994, it inherited a moribund economy and a country divided within itself. Through a negotiated settlement, the ANC brought all registered parties on board to form a government of national unity. This was done in spite of the fact that the ANC had effectively won an overwhelming mandate to govern alone.

Instead of purging all the mandarins from the apartheid regime, the ANC acknowledged that even those civil servants who had served the apartheid government, had requisite skills to contribute as we trudge on a journey to build a new dispensation which would benefit the people of South Africa.

The question on the lips of the pessimists has always been whether the ANC was ready to govern. No less than a person of the stature of



By Pule Mabe

former president, Comrade Nelson Mandela demonstrated the readiness of the ANC to unite and dutifully govern South Africa when he unveiled the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). Madiba pulverised the last apartheid president, FW De Klerk in the famous televised debate when he produced the RDP document which set out the priorities of the incoming administration. The RDP would serve as a roadmap towards building a unitary state wherein everybody had a place under the sun.

The adoption of the constitution in 1996 would cement the principles of the democratic government as agreed to by all the parties and civil society that participated in the Constitutional Assembly. The 1996 constitution was hailed by the whole world as an important document to glue a society that had been wrecked over the years by the supremacists.

Mr President, since those formative years, the ANC has enjoyed

pre-eminence at the polls through a pact with the citizens that the ANC was the only party that represented their interests.

The government of national unity fractured when remnants of the National Party pulled out after realising that they had no place in the Rainbow Nation. This afforded the ANC the opportunity to govern unhindered. The readiness of the ANC to govern was set out in the resolutions of the subsequent conferences, wherein the voices of the people are echoed through the resolutions adopted by the branches which represent every nook and cranny of our vast land.

The 54th national conference took place at a time when the ANC faced serious challenges as a governing party. The sins of incumbency were threatening to derail the reconstruction project and the capability of the state was weakened. Against all predictions of mayhem and fractures, the ANC emerged stronger from the Nasrec conference. The last 25 years of the ANC government had imbued the organisation with a better understanding of the importance of taking our people along, thus ensuring an inclusive governance stratagem.

The ANC was the first to acknowledge that mistakes were committed. The founding principles of the ANC were jettisoned for the benefit of a few. A new dawn emerged from the Nasrec conference wherein it would no longer be business as usual.

The need to build a capable state took centre stage on the back of the realisation that when the state was weakened, it would not have the capacity to implement the resolutions of the ANC.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS



It was with this in mind that we re-dedicated the organisation to the guiding document since the Morogoro conference, “*Through the Eye of the Needle*”. This document remains as true today as when it was adopted over half a century ago.

The need for all cadres of the ANC to be steeped in the principles and ethos of the ANC has become more urgent than ever. The 54th national conference resolved that in order to build a developmental state which is capable of delivering on the resolutions of the ANC, it was important for all the cadres to go through the eye of the needle.

The readiness of the ANC to govern will be tested at the NGC, when the cadres take stock of the progress in implementing the resolutions of the 54th national conference. Admittedly, a lot of progress has been made in terms of capacitating the state-owned enterprises to deliver on their mandate, to deliver services to the people. The recent ANC Iekgotla was unequivocal that the SOEs

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must serve the people and thus gave the government the go-ahead to restructure SOEs in a bid to save them from collapse.

There has also been tremendous progress in rebuilding trust in the law enforcement agencies as well as the Chapter 9 institutions.

Mr President, all these intangible outcomes point to the ruling party that has always been ready to govern for the common good and in the interest of the South African society.

The ANC has also demonstrated its ability to ensure economic growth even as the local private sector shows reticence in investing locally. Since the Nasrec conference, the government has bent over backwards to draft policies that create and facilitate an environment that enables a favourable business climate. To mention but a few, the government heeded the call to scrap the regulations that required unabridged certificates from the minors travelling across our borders. The government also moved with speed to adopt a mining charter that addresses the concerns of the investors.

None but the blind would seek to ignore these groundbreaking concessions.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



OPINION

Admissions 2020, what do they tell us?



By Kgethi Dlamini

IT IS TIME to roll up our sleeves and play our part in fixing education. Our country needs us.

The recent challenges with admissions in Gauteng schools in 2019 for 2020 are a reflection of a sad reality of the state of our schools. It means that there are few schools of choice for parents and their children. It means that a handful of schools are perceived as good schools hence they receive hundreds of applications when they can only accommodate a hundred new learners.

The intention to centralise admissions through Gauteng online admissions was noble. It was to address chaos in schools, stopping people from queuing the whole night in their schools of choice and payment of people to stand in queues. One can imagine that the MEC wanted to address the perceptions of exclusivity of these schools, rightly or wrongly so. The belief at the time by parents was that the sought after/in demand schools wanted to retain their whiteness and exclude black pupils. They took white learners from far- away places but not blacks who stayed near these schools.

If this was the case, it was indeed wrong and needed to be addressed. The Principals of the schools that are in demand needed to follow the given criteria and if there was trust from the black community and confidence that Principals were genuine and sincere in making good quality education accessible to all children, black and white and poor from their immediate neighbourhoods, there would not have been the problem in the first place. The chaos could have been avoided with the cooperation of Principals, consultation with communities and listening leadership from Gauteng Department of Education.



But Principals of these schools themselves are gatekeepers for communities and white parents that do not want integration, do not want to transform schools, do not want African languages in their schools and do not want to put the best interest of the country and its vision first. The criteria have always been there and very clear:

- **Option 1: Home address** – Distance of the learner's home from the school.
- **Option 2: Siblings** – the applicant has a sibling in the school. This does not apply if the sibling is leaving the school.
- **Option 3: Work address** – at least one Parent works in the area
- **Option 4: 30 km radius** – the applicant resides within 30km radius of the school.

Implementing the above smoothly without hiccups could have gone a long way towards positive social cohesion.

The current chaos of admissions 2020 is as a result of Gauteng Department of Ed-

ucation trying to address the above, and in the process not adhering to its very own criteria in 2019 application season. Over and above the given criteria, the MEC is on record for insisting that first-come-first serve principle did not apply, plus the fact that your child was in Northcliff primary does not guarantee that she/he will be taken in Northcliff High school that is just across. This too is baffling and begs the question 'what criteria then was finally used'?

I am one of the parents that confidently ticked all the boxes above and trusted the process and my child was not placed in all the three public schools as listed in her application. Over and above this, she is a top scholar in her school (she worked hard hoping the hard work will earn her a place in a public school of choice). Within the first 20 minutes of the opening of 2020 Gauteng online admissions our application was in. All the required documents were delivered to all the three schools within the first three days. Many other parents that I know have gone through exactly the same. I know because all of

OPINION

us have been anxious since the beginning of this year about this process.

Like university, it has become extremely unpredictable and frustrating. A Comrade in our branch, who stays less than 1.5 km from Northcliff High and his child was in Northcliff Primary (a coincidence that the MEC uses these schools in his example), was instead placed in Roosevelt High. This needs them to pay an extra R600 on transport to take this girl to Roosevelt High. Why, when it could have been avoided?

A colleague of my husband's (they work in the education sector), a single mother who has now had to take her child to Curro, a private school and pay more school fees even though her home is less than 10km to all her schools of choice in Dawn Park, a comrade's colleague who stays in Benoni and his/her child was placed in Germiston. What happened to a parent's right to choose? Why put parents through these extra expenses that could have been avoided? Who then are in these schools? It is not true that all the 27 000 parents who have not been allocated schools did not submit the required documents. Only a few are affected by this and a few have not applied at all. I am a Principal and the challenges were the same in my school. I know that there are other parents that went smoothly through the process.

The given criteria by the Department were reasonable and considerate. It is reasonable and ideal for every parent to expect his/her child to walk from school. It is a universal ideal throughout the world. It talks to safety, convenience and better quality of living and saves money, time and reduces stress. That is why people move closer to places of work. It makes economic sense.

As part of the solutions, the Department should, amongst many other things, consider the input of different stakeholders and monitor implementation of the input and come up with a long-term plan of making every school in Gauteng a school of choice, a provider of good quality education. This is the heart of the problem. It has been since the days people queued overnight for spaces. Centralising admission was never to be the main solution. The MEC himself acknowledged this in the news when he said that there are

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Taking black children from far away townships and forcing them into the suburban schools in the name of transformation does not solve the problem. It is unfair on them.

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schools that have so many applications and schools that do not have a single application. How does this happen? This is the biggest responsibility if not the only function of any Department of Education, accessibility of good quality education for each and every child in the Province wherever they are.

There are schools of choice even in the townships. One such school is UNITY in the East Rand. Taking black children from far away townships and forcing them into the suburban schools in the name of transformation does not solve the problem. It is unfair on them. Spatial planning problems cannot be solved by destroying/disrupting education in the townships that need it most. Children in the townships like all children elsewhere should be able to have access to all opportunities created by democracy and take hold of them with both hands. I must say some schools have these but still do not function.

There are very competent, committed, professional teachers that teach in circumstances that are far from ideal in the townships. This has to be fixed with the stakeholders, teachers, teachers' unions, parents, learners and communities. Consultation and communication will be key. People are not passive spectators of their far from ideal lives. They are actively seeking solutions and they need to be consulted about the solution to their problems. It is important for all of us to bear this in mind in all our interventions of seeking to make life better to those we perceive need our intervention. ■

Kgethi Dlamini is a Member of the Jeannette Schoon ANC Branch, Ward 87

VERBATIM

NELSON MANDELA

on Education



EDUCATION is the great engine of **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**.

It is through **education** that the **daughter** of a **peasant** can become a **doctor**, that the **son** of a **mineworker** can become the **head of the mine**, that the **child** of **farm workers** can become the **president** of a great nation. It is **what we make out of what we have**, not **what we are given**, that separate one person from another.

IN MEMORIAM

Paying tribute to Mama Florence Mnumzana – A MODEST REVOLUTIONARY

Mama Florence Elizabeth Mnumzana was born on 21 February 1919 in Mhinga Village, Limpopo, from the Mhinga traditional royal family, where her father was a local chief.

Mama Mnumzana was a highly qualified nurse by profession who could have had a comfortable life, but she threw her weight behind the cause of freedom by joining the African National Congress (ANC) during the Defiance Campaign of 1952, and never looked back.

She obtained her Surgical Nursing Certificate in 1943 and a Midwifery Certificate in 1944. She went on to work as a nurse in several hospitals, during which time she developed a strong awareness of the link between the social system and health problems on the one hand, and apartheid on the other.

Mama Mnumzana joined the ANC in the early 1950s, at the beginning

of the Defiance Campaign. She also joined the Federation of South African Women and became Secretary for Transvaal from 1960 until 1966. In her formative political years in the 1950s, Mama Mnumzana was part of the anti-pass Women's March of 1956 to the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Due to her political involvement, she was banned and restricted for five years, during which period she violated the conditions of the ban and was arrested in 1969. In 1970, together with her two young girls, she left illegally for Botswana as a refugee, and in 1971 moved to Lusaka, Zambia.

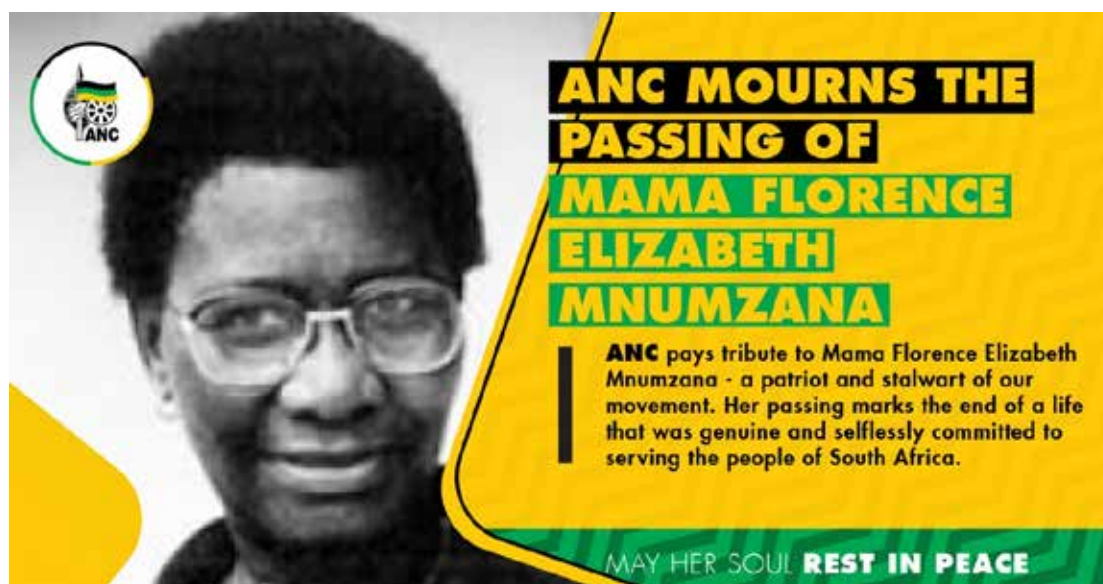
In the years 1970 to 1977, she worked for the Health Ministry in Zambia in Kabwe, which became handy for the maintenance of the kids on the one hand, while contributing to the much needed skills in the health sector.

While working in the health sector and providing for her family, Mama Mnumzana was at the same time

participating in ANC-related activities, including branch meetings, health assistance to comrades and participating in international solidarity and women's gatherings such as the United Nations Women's Conference in Mexico in 1975 and the 1980 Women's Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

When the number of exiles swelled in the aftermath of the 1976 students' uprisings, the ANC established professional services, particularly in Health and education and Mama Mnumzana served diligently in the health section, offering full-time services. In 1978, she was sent to Mozambique to take care of the health services for the ANC cadres, including those in Swaziland and Lesotho.

The apartheid Government was mounting attacks and raids in neighbouring countries, during a time that was called the 'total onslaught'. Owing to her bravery and political matu-



“Mam Flo”, as she was affectionately called in Zambia, was remarkable in her readiness to serve the liberation movement at first call.

OPINION

rity, Mama Mnumzana managed to stay on course in her service during all these challenging times, heading the ANC Women's Section in those countries.

In 1983, she was transferred to Luanda, Angola, where she headed the ANC Women's Section.. She worked in Angola for six years during the most trying period of the South African Government's aggression against Angola. At Vianna ANC Health Centre in Luanda, she tutored future ANC nurses in Mathematics and Science, in preparation for the formal World Health Organisation course in Tanzania.

Mama Mnumzana returned to Lusaka when the ANC camps in Angola were closed, and served on the Health Committee and at the ANC Emmasdale Clinic. In all these countries she paired her health work with leadership of the ANC Women's Section.

After the ANC unbanning, she was instrumental in the organisation of one of the first ANC activities, the Kimberley Women's League Conference in December 1990. She finally returned to South Africa permanently after 21 years in exile in August 1991, and continued working with the Health Committee of the ANC until she retired to her village.

A committed and selfless political activist who shunned the privileges of royalty, Mama Mnumzana chose a modest career of nursing and dedicated her entire life to the struggle for freedom and equality in South Africa.

"Mam Flo", as she was affectionately called in Zambia, was remarkable in her readiness to serve the liberation movement at first call. She was very modest and unassuming, not one used to complaining or seeking attention.

Mama Florence Elizabeth Mnumzana was honoured by the ANC with the Order of Luthuli in Silver for her lifetime commitment to the struggle for liberation in South Africa, and her complete dedication to the creation of a better South Africa. ■

continued from page 3

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORK HARD AND ADDRESS CHALLENGES COLLECTIVELY"

- Strengthening of border management by ensuring that the Border Management Bill is concluded and comes into effect.

It is important that the review and updating of the National Crime Prevention Strategy is concluded speedily. We must emphasise that the comprehensive strategy must go beyond providing only effective policing. It must also provide for mobilisation and participation of civil society in assisting to address crime.

Within the context of South Africa's sustained programme to eradicate gender-based violence, we must have regard to various international instruments such as the ILO Convention 190 on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL

We are all aware of the importance of ensuring that local government becomes more effective and serves the people better.

The District Development Model provides an opportunity for government to serve the people better through coordinating district-based plans and budgets.

At the same time, the ANC will become more stringent in the selection processes for all public representatives, including setting qualification criteria for cadres to be put on ANC lists.

The ANC commits to consistent monitoring of performance of all our public representatives and we will apply urgent remedial steps and consequence management for poor performance, ill-discipline and mismanagement.

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In support of South Africa chairing the African Union, we will work with progressive political parties on the continent to silence the guns.

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A BETTER AFRICA AND A BETTER WORLD

South Africa takes over the chairpersonship of the AU at a crucial time for both the institution and the continent, characterised by positive dynamism, opportunities and complex challenges facing the continent.

In support of South Africa chairing the African Union, we will work with progressive political parties on the continent to silence the guns.

We are committed to Africa's economic development and social and political integration of the continent. In this regard, we will work to ensure that the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement is implemented.

The Lekgotla appreciated the continued relations that South Africa has in a number of multilateral organisation, including BRICS, with China. The Lekgotla also reiterated our policy position on a One China policy.

The empowerment of women should be treated with great priority.

The ANC reiterates our support for the oppressed people of Palestine, supports the Saharawi in their quest for self-determination and confirms the resolution of the 54th National Conference on support for the Kurdish people.

Amandla! ■

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Fanele Mbali

Q & A

By Bongiwe Msweli
DIP Intern

1. Describe your days as a young man and being involved in the Arms struggle?

I was born on 1 December 1937 in a village called Egolweni. I spent the first four years of my life in this village but later left, together with my mother and sister for Queenstown, and later to Middledrift where I began my primary school education and looking after cattle as a herd boy.

At fifteen I attended my first political meeting. This meeting was addressed by Doctor Bokwe (Dr. "RT"), who was the incumbent African National Congress (ANC) Treasurer of the Cape Province. It was Bokwe's speech that inspired me to resolve joining the African National Congress (ANC).

Fast forward, in 1958, I enrolled at Fort Hare University African National College where I joined the ANC Youth League and became actively involved in its programmes. I graduated from Fort Hare and obtained a University Education Diploma (UED).

Soon after writing my diploma, I was approached by Stanley Mabizela who presented me with a proposal to study abroad. This was part of the Mandela-Plan (M-Plan) driven by Govan Mbeki. I skipped South Africa on 8 January 1962 through Botswana, then into Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) into Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) and then to Tanzania. Together with other comrades we then travelled to the Soviet Union (Russia) where we studied at the University of Lamanosov. We graduated in August 1966.

I formerly joined Umkhonto we Sizwe



(MK) in 1966, and needed to return to the Soviet Union for further training. I trained in sea navigation and clandestine landing. In 1968 I was chosen to join the Reconnaissance Unit operating along the Zambezi River during the Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns.

2. Did you know what you were getting yourself into and did you understand the level of seriousness of the task that was given to you?

At that time I was fully conscious of what I was getting myself into. However, I was not aware that the struggle would be that difficult, even though we used to sing a song which, loosely translated meant that this struggle was difficult, that we don't care if we are arrested, what we want is our freedom.

3. How did you communicate with your family and how often would you see them?

I did not get to see my family until I was sent underground into South Africa in 1972. However, I saw them briefly because I had to leave for Lesotho where I continued with the struggle.

4. Who was the key person that assisted and guided you through the process?

It was Oliver Tambo, that giant of a man who was not only the Acting President of the ANC but also the Commander-in-chief

*Fanele Mbali is ANC Veteran and the author of **In Transit**, a riveting book that tells the history of the struggle of South Africa, especially from 1952 to 1994. He is a political activist, former member of ANC Youth League and Umkhonto we Sizwe. He was also Treasurer of the ANC Veteran's League.*

of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He it was who gave orders for me to surreptitiously go back home and revive structures of the movement in my region that at the time were moribund.

5. What did you appreciate the most and what did you enjoy the most about the time you spent underground?

Underground work is not a walk in the park. It is nerve wrecking. You are always on your toes. But what I appreciated was that I knew that every little step I was taking, was a sure step towards the attainment of freedom.

6. What would you want the youth to learn from your journey?

I don't want to be presumptuous, but there is one thing, actually two things that are important in life when you are young. The first is education. Once you have studied to your heart's content, nobody can take away the knowledge you have gained. The other is discipline, twined with humility. If you master these, other traits will come by themselves, traits that will mould you to be a good, strong human being.

7. What is your favourite motto?

"Victory in a great cause is measured not only by reaching the final goal. It is also a triumph to live up to the expectations in your lifetime". Nelson Mandela ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

25–31 January 2020

Sources: : SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za) and O'Malley Archives (www.omalley.nelsonmandela.org)

25 January 1971

Idi Amin comes to power after a coup in Uganda



On 25 January 1971, General Idi Amin Dada led a military coup that overthrew Ugandan President, Milton Obote while he was at a Commonwealth meeting in Singapore. Obote was a leader of Ugandan independence, serving as its first prime minister and then president since 1962. Amin was one of Uganda's commissioned officers, rising to become the army's chief of staff. He became famous in 1976 when he provided a safe refuge for hostage-holding Palestinians, who were later killed at Entebbe by Israeli forces. In 1978, under Amin's command, the Ugandan forces invaded neighbouring Tanzania. The Tanzanian forces forced them to retreat and invaded Uganda, forcing Amin to escape to Saudi Arabia via Libya. After a long illness, Amin died in 2003 in Saudi Arabia.

25 January 1981

Laingsburg floods

Severe rains flooded the entire town of Laingsburg in January 1981. The Buffalo River burst its banks, with flood levels reaching over 10 meters above the usual level and only roofs of the town were visible. Bodies were swept as far as Mossel Bay; over 104 people lost their lives, with more than 72 bodies never found.

26 January 1887

Ethiopia defeats Italy in Battle of Dogali

A united Italy wanted to prove its mettle as another European colonial force and invaded coastal Abyssinia in what is now part of Eritrea. Ethiopia Emperor Yohannes IV, after diplomatic efforts failed,

deployed a battalion which defeated the Italians at the Battle of Dogali. These attempts of occupation by Italy were repeated in the first and second Italo-Ethiopian wars from 1895 to 1896 and 1935 to 1937 respectively.

26 January 1905

The world's largest diamond found in South Africa



The Cullinan diamond, the world's largest gem-quality diamond (weighing over 620g) was found in South Africa. It was named after the chair of the mine, Thomas Cullinan. It was put on auction, but was not sold for two years. The then prime minister of Transvaal Louis Botha presented a motion for government to buy it and to gift it to British king, Edward VII, as "a token of the loyalty and attachment of the people of the Transvaal to His Majesty's throne and person". The then Parliament voted 42:19 in favour of this motion, and it was presented to King Edward VII in 1907 on the occasion of his 67th birthday. The Cullinan was sent for cutting in Amsterdam, which resulted in 9 large stones and 96 smaller stones, the majority set into various parts of British crown jewels.

26 January 1896

Oldest teachers training college opened

The oldest teacher training college in South Africa opened on 26 January 1896, in Wellington, in the Western Cape, South Africa. It was a settlement of the 1688 French Huguenot refugees and this region was known as Limiet Vallei. Dr. Andrew Murray, a Minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, was instrumental in developing early tertiary education in South Africa especially for women, making Wellington famous

as an education centre in the country. The foundation stone for the building, Murray Hall, was laid on 19 November 1874. The building also served as a hostel for girls and women, the Huguenot University College and the Teachers Training College, and became part of the Boland College of Education.

27 January 1914

Women drafted petition against Pass Laws



Black women in the Free State protested when they were included in Pass legislation previously reserved for African men only. A petition against Black women carrying passes was drawn up, presented to the authorities, with protests organised by women. This law was subsequently relaxed until the 1950s.

28 January 1981

Journalists issued with banning orders

Phil Mtimkulu, acting president of MWA-SA and Joe Tlholoe, Transvaal vice president, are served three-year banning orders.

28 January 1997

Apartheid police confessed to killing Steve Biko



Apartheid-era police officers who appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) admitted their

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

role in the 1977 killing of Steve Biko, the leader of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM). In an inquest into his death by the apartheid government following local and international pressure, no-one was held responsible. The five former policemen, Harold Snyman, Gideon Nieuwoudt, Ruben Marx, Daantjie Siebert and Johan Beneke applied for amnesty to the TRC for their role in the death of Steve Biko.

28 January 2013

Legend Victor Ntoni passed on

Victor Mhleli Ntoni was born in Langa, Cape Town in 1947. As a teenager, Ntoni gradually established himself in the townships playing with saxophonist McCoy Mrubata. He was part of the sextet, "The Uptown", which included the Ngcuka brothers. A self-taught musician, he studied at the Berkley School of Music in Boston in 1976. On return, he co-founded the Afro Cool Concept band, and became a legend of South African music and culture.

29 January 1950

Formula One Champion Jody Scheckter born

Jody David Scheckter was born in East London, Eastern Cape on this day. Scheckter became South Africa's first and thus far only Formula One World Driver's Championship winner in 1979. He drove a Ferrari, and won several Formula One races in Europe. Jody Scheckter is also infamously known for being the cause of one of the biggest accidents in the history of Formula One.

29 January 1986

Police ban on struggle media, including t-shirts

Brigadier Christoffel Anthonie Swart, divisional commissioner of police of the Western Province, issues an order that would in effect ban even t-shirt slogans. It says: "No person shall in any place affix, display or distribute any placard, banner, sticker, pamphlet, clothing or similar object on or in which any viewpoint of a political nature or in relation to any system of Government or Constitutional policy is expressed, advocated or propagated."

29 January 1996

Film producer Jamie Uys passed away

Johannes Jacobus Uys, popularly known as Jamie Uys, was an internationally ac-

claimed South African film director who made 24 films. Prizes for his work included the 1981 Grand Prix at the Festival International du Film de Comedy Vevey for 'The Gods Must be Crazy' and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association award for best documentary in 1974 for 'Beautiful People'. 'The Gods Must be Crazy' enjoyed three years of uninterrupted screening in the United States of America. Jamie Uys passed away on 29 January 1996, Johannesburg, South Africa from a heart attack.

30 January 1987

Carte Blanche denied permission to quote OR Tambo

On 30 January 1987, the Minister of Law and Order issued a message to the newspapers denying Carte Blanche, an investigative television programme permission to quote exiled president of the African National Congress (ANC) Oliver Tambo. The communication from the office of the minister stated that: "Please note that the Minister of law and order has not given Carte Blanche permission to quote Oliver Tambo."

31 January 1986

Pregnant journalist Zubeida Jaffer still jailed

Zubeida Jaffer, former reporter from the Cape Times, is among 335 still detained under the State of Emergency regulations. Jaffer, three months pregnant, was



held *incommunicado*, with no access to a doctor. Her lawyer was also detained.

31 January 1985

P. W. Botha offers to free Mandela if he denounces violence

On 31 January 1985, State President P W Botha offers Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC), conditional release from the prison sentence he had been serving since the conclusion of the Rivonia Trial in 1964. The condition of his release is that he renounces violence, and violent protest, as a means to bring about change in South Africa. Mandela communicates his refusal of the offer through his daughter, Zinzi Mandela, who reads his statement to this effect at a rally in Soweto on 10 February 1985. He states that the ANC only adopted violence as a means of protest "when other forms of resistance were no longer open to us". Mandela had refused previous offers of conditional release where the condition was that he be confined to the Transkei.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

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

27 January

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the ending of the Second World War, and the ending of the Holocaust. 2020 also marks the establishment of the United Nations, formed in response to atrocity crimes of the Holocaust and the Second World War, with the aim of building a world that is just and peaceful. Acknowledging the milestone year, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme has chosen as the theme for Holocaust education and remembrance in 2020, "75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice".

The theme reflects the continued importance, 75 years after the Holocaust, of collective action against antisemitism and other forms of bias to ensure respect for the dignity and human rights of all people everywhere.



By Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule

Time to Care.

Unpaid and underpaid care work and the global inequality crisis.

(Oxfam, 2020)

THE anti-poverty NGO Oxfam, in 2016 published the shocking report, *An Economy for the 1%* ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, which indicated that as of 2015, the richest 1% had more wealth than the rest of the world combined. At the same time, the wealth owned by the bottom half of humanity has fallen by trillions over the preceding five years. Since then, Oxfam with other NGOs is running a campaign on this severe inequality crisis we face in the world.

The 2018 report on the same topic was *Reward Work not Wealth*, and their latest report *Time to Care*, again released ahead of this year's WEF Davos meeting, focuses on unpaid and underpaid work.

Here are some of the startling facts from *An Economy for the 1%* (2016:2):

- In 2015, just 62 individuals had the same wealth as 3.6 billion people – the bottom half of humanity. This figure is down from 388 individuals as recently as 2010.
- The wealth of the richest 62 people has risen by 44% in the five years since 2010 – that's an increase of more than half a trillion dollars (\$542bn), to \$1.76 trillion.
- Meanwhile, the wealth of the bottom half fell by just over a trillion dollars in the same period – a drop of 41%.
- Since the turn of the century, the



poorest half of the world's population has received just 1% of the total increase in global wealth, while half of that increase has gone to the top 1%.

And two years later, from the *Reward Work not Wealth* (2018:8):

- 2017 saw the biggest increase in the number of billionaires in history, with one more billionaire every two days. There are now 2,043 dollar billionaires worldwide. Nine out of 10 are men.
- Billionaires also saw a huge increase in their wealth. This increase was enough to end extreme poverty seven times over. 82% of all of the growth in global wealth in the last year went to the top 1%, whereas the bottom 50% saw no increase at all.

Four years since the first 1% inequality report was released, the *Time to Care* (2020) pointed out that “economic inequality is out of control”:

- In 2019, the world's billionaires, only 2,153 people, had more wealth than 4.6 billion people.
- At the bottom of the economy, women and girls, are putting in 12.5 billion hours every day of care work for free.
- The richest 22 men in the world own more wealth than all the women in Africa.

Oxfam acknowledges that there has been progress in reducing ‘absolute poverty’, although this is being challenged by the likes of Jason Hickel (author of *The Divide: a Guide to Global*

BOOK REVIEW

Inequality and its Solutions), but advocates that the rise in inequality is key to slowing down progress on tackling poverty in the world. This is not a “*natural phenomena*”, it is as the result of deliberate policy choices that we make, in global and national policies.

Thus ***Time to Care*** notes: “*Despite much handwringing about the divide between rich and poor, and the evidence of its corrosive effects, most world leaders are still pursuing policy agendas that drive a greater gap between the haves and the have nots.*”

These policies include the erosion of progressive tax policies, with the super-rich and large corporations increasingly paying less and less of their

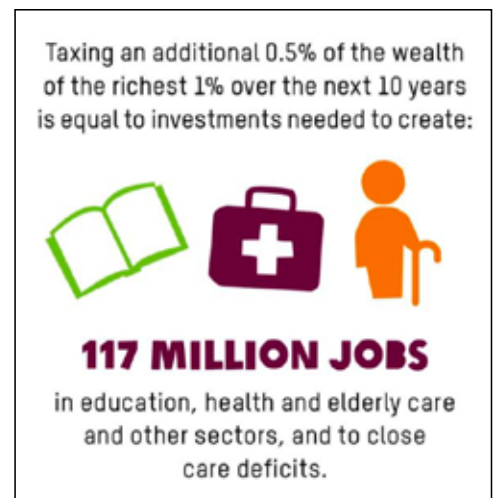
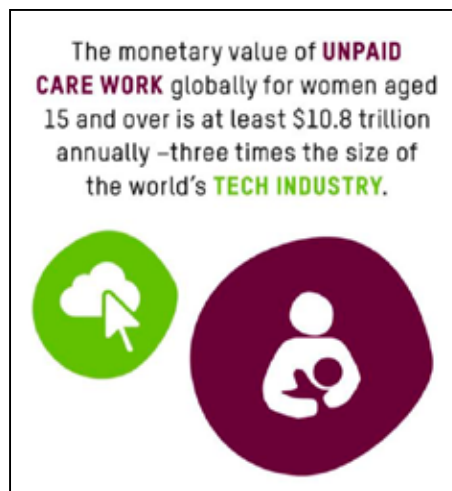
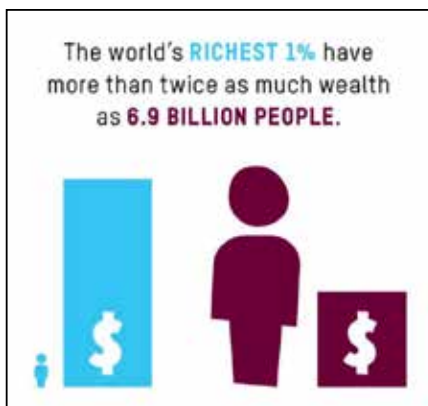
share of taxes, hiding their wealth in tax havens, looting developing countries through illicit financial flows, and above all, not paying decent wages and the privatisation and corporatisation of public goods, such as education, health, infrastructure, energy, sanitation and water and basic care. The national and global scourge of inequality also has an adverse effect on the environment and climate change.

The ***Time to Care*** report sheds light on the care economy, and the unpaid labour provided by women and girls across the world. The report notes: “Tending to others, cooking, cleaning, fetching water and firewood are essential daily tasks for the wellbeing of societies, communities and the func-

tioning of the economy. The heavy and unequal responsibility of care work perpetuates gender and economic inequalities.” Apart from these household tasks, there is also the responsibilities of childrearing, caring for the well-being of families, as well as the elderly, sick and people living with disabilities, which disproportionately fall on the shoulders of women, especially when these are not regarded as part of public services, nor are these contributions to society and humanity counted as part of GDP.

The report thus correctly calls for change, calling on governments around the world to “*act now to build a human economy that is feminist and values what truly matters to society, rather than fuelling an endless pursuit of profit and wealth.*”

INFOGRAPHICS FROM REPORT



THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES REWARD MEN MORE THAN WOMEN

WORLDWIDE, MEN OWN 50% MORE WEALTH THAN WOMEN.



On average, globally, 18% of government ministers and 24% of parliamentarians are women. As a result, women are often excluded from decision making.



in pictures



NEC and NEC Lekgotla



in pictures

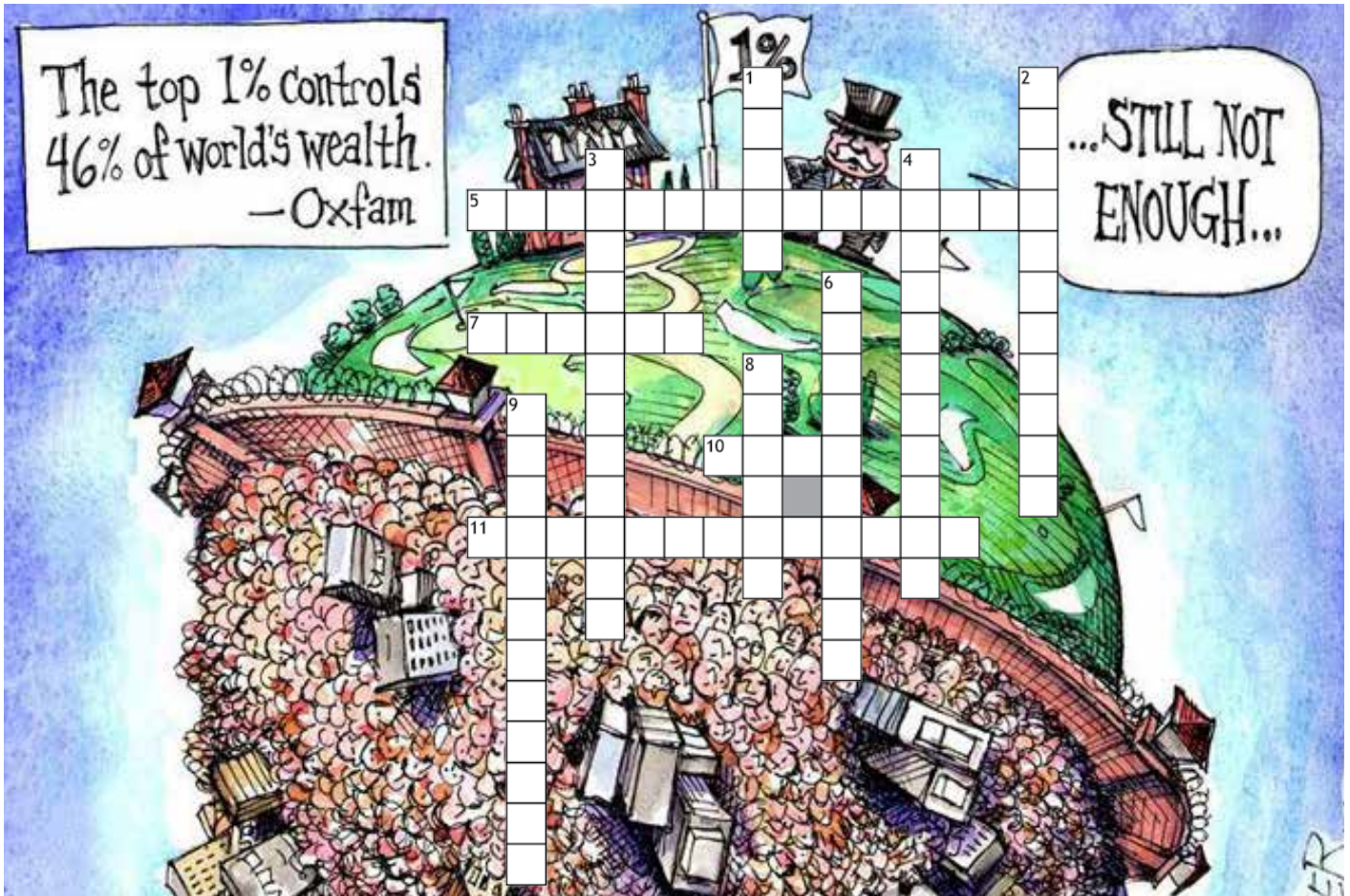


NEC and NEC Lekgotla



X-WORD

Global Inequality



Across

5. Inequality is not inevitable, its a ...
 7. World's 22 richest men have more wealth than all the women in ...
 10. 285 million children globally are not in school. This represents one in every ... children.
 11. Super-rich avoids as much as ... of their tax obligations.

Down

1. Which NGO produces the global inequality reports?
 2. Because the rich and corporates evade taxes, public services (education, health, water, etc) seriously ...
 3. Nine out of ten of the world's... are men.
 4. Only ... of revenue comes from taxes on wealth.
 6. Richest ... has twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people.
 8. A ... world is possible
 9. Unpaid care work of women is six times the value of which industry

WORD BANK

political choice
 one percent
 five

billionaires
 thirty percent
 Africa

underfunded
 four percent
 tech industry

Oxfam
 fairer

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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