



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



FREEDOM DAY 2020

OUR INTERDEPENDENCE IS KEY TO OUR VERY SURVIVAL AS A PEOPLE

*MESSAGE BY **PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** ON THE OCCASION OF FREEDOM DAY, 27 APRIL 2020*

ON THIS DAY twenty-six years ago, a new nation was born in Africa. On the 27th of April 1994, the men, women and children of South Africa emerged from the dark vale of oppression to stand in the light of freedom.

As millions cast their votes for the first time, they boldly declared to the world that South Africa belongs to all who live in it.

The price of our freedom was paid by generations of patriots.

We pay tribute to the great leaders who resisted colonial domination and who fought for our liberation, both those who have left us and those who are still living.

We remember Chief Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Oliver Reginald Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Albertina Sisulu, Stephen Bantu Biko, Robert

Mangaliso Sobukwe, Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Mam Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

We remember John Langalibalele Dube, Dr AB Xuma, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho, ZR Mahabane, Josiah Gumede, Pixley ka Isaka Seme, King Cetswayo, King Hintsha, Makhanda, Sekhukhune, Makhado, Bambatha and the many brave leaders of the Khoi and San rebellions.

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



They watered the tree of liberty so we could enjoy its fruit and stand under its shade today.

We honour their memory and the contribution of the many ordinary compatriots whose names are unknown but whose sacrifices were just as great.

Our Constitution, and the Freedom Charter from which it draws its inspiration, both begin with the words: **'We, the People'**.

They are an ever-present reminder that everything we have achieved as a young democracy and everything we hope to achieve is founded on the will of the people.

Our Constitution is the defender of all who live in our great land, be they black or white, rich or poor, young or old, man or woman, citizen or resident.

Over the past 26 years we have made great progress in building a common future in which all South Africans have a part.

We have been building homes, schools, hospitals, clinics and universities.

We have been providing water, sanitation and electricity to many South

Africans who never had access to such services.

We have expanded access to health care and education.

We have been hard at work to rebuild our economy and strengthen our institutions.

We have initiated work, internship and study opportunities for young people, assisting them to secure jobs or to be self-employed.

We have accelerated programmes to give our people access to land, and returned land to those who were forcibly removed.

We are supporting vulnerable families, parents, the elderly, persons with disabilities and our veterans with social grants.

Our young democracy has much to be proud of. But the devastating legacy of our past runs so deep that at times we ourselves have been found wanting in addressing the suffering it has subjected our people to.

Poverty and inequality continues to stalk our land.

A child born to parents of means has a comfortable home, is fed and sheltered, receives a good education and has good prospects for a prosperous life.

For a poor child, every day of life can be a struggle for shelter, for food and for opportunity.

For such a child, their chances of finishing school, of studying further, of gaining useful skills and of finding a job are much smaller.

Even now, after all the progress we have made, the circumstances of one's birth largely determines where and how we live, where we study, where we work and where we are cared for when we are sick. It is the greatest form of injustice. It is a stain on our national conscience.

The triumph of 1994 was about much more than being able to vote.

It was about setting right the wrongs of the past, about redress, restitution and restoration.

It was about leveling the field for the black child and the white child, and making sure they each have an equal chance in life.



CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



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Relief of hunger and social distress

Details on measures within the next few days.

- Increase Child Support Grant by R500 for 6 months
- Increase other grants by R250 for 6 months
- COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant of R350 for 6 months
- Distribution of food parcels to 250,000 homes in next two weeks
- New model for food assistance through vouchers and cash transfers



The promise we made on the 27th of April 1994 can no longer be deferred.

We must make real the right of all our people to health care, food, shelter, water, social security and land.

In this final decade of the National Development Plan, we must change the pace of social and economic transformation.

As a country, we are more than capable of building a more equal society where these rights are realised. For as long as this is delayed, freedom for some is freedom for none.

This Freedom Day, we find ourselves engaged in a struggle that has thrown into sharp focus the poverty and inequality that still defines our society.

The coronavirus pandemic forces us to confront this reality.

Though we are certainly all braving the same tide, we have not been impacted in the same way by this pandemic.

Some people have been able to endure the coronavirus lockdown in a comfortable home with a fully stocked fridge, with private medical care and online learning for their children.

For millions of others, this has been a month of misery, of breadwinners not working, of families struggling to survive and of children going to bed and waking up hungry.

The social relief measures announced last week that are now being implemented are therefore as much about narrowing the gulf of inequality as they are about supporting vulnerable citizens through this trying time.

The social relief measures announced last week that are now being implemented are therefore as much about narrowing the gulf of inequality as they are about supporting vulnerable citizens through this trying time.

With every day that passes, this experience is teaching us much about ourselves, about our society and about our country.

We are learning about the limits of our endurance, about our relations with others and about our very nationhood.

The true lessons of this experience will not just be about the necessity of social distancing, proper hand washing and infection control.

They will also be about whether we have the ability to turn this crisis into an opportunity to invest in a new society, a new consciousness and a new economy.

In this new society, the privileged cannot afford to close their eyes to the plight of the poor and sleep peacefully at night.

This is the time when we should actively work to build a fair and just country

In the South Africa that we all want, no man, woman or child will go hungry, because they will have the means to earn an income, and our social assistance programmes will be matched by efforts to enable communities to grow their own food.

In this new society, the provision of services to our people is the foremost priority of government.

The public servant understands that they are just that: a servant of the people.

Public representatives put the interests of the people ahead of their own.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Before this pandemic was visited on our country, we were deepening our efforts to address poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and a weak economy.

This pandemic could set these efforts back by many years.

It will take a great deal of effort and resources for our society and our economy to recover.

The challenges we faced before this health emergency remain.

Even as we turn the tide on the coronavirus pandemic, we will still have to confront a contracting economy, unemployment, crime and corruption, a weakened state and other pressing concerns.

We will have to find new, exceptional and innovative ways to overcome them.

This is not something government can do alone.

The collaborative spirit with which government, business, labour and civil society formations have worked to drive the national effort to combat the coronavirus is yet another affirmation of just how far we have come.

Robust engagement, strong institutions, social compacting and consensus-building are all the fruits of the national democratic project that began in 1994.

The business community has shown itself ready and willing to support the workforce and to rally its resources to combat this disease.

The labour movement has worked with its partners in government and business not only to protect its members from the worst effects of this pandemic, but to champion the interests of the poor and unemployed.

Across society, NGOs, non-profit organisations, community bodies, religious communities and individuals are working together to defend our people against this virus and its damaging economic and social effects.

In doing so, they have demonstrated the solidarity and compassion that is at

South Africans from all walks of life have been contributing to various organisations in order to alleviate the plight of the poor



the centre of the concept of Ubuntu.

As President Nelson Mandela said: ***“To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”***

Respect for the rights of others is the beating heart of freedom.

Violating the coronavirus response provisions and exposing others to a potentially fatal illness is the worst form of disrespect for others.

This pandemic has changed the face of humankind, not just our country.

It has reminded us of our own mortality, but also of how interconnected we are.

If we did not realise it before, we all know it now – that our interdependence is key to our very survival as a people.

This Freedom Day let us stand united against this disease.

Let us also stand united against poverty, inequality and hunger.

We can only overcome this crisis and rebuild our shattered economy if we work together.

Let the good that has come from this

experience – of collective action and unity of purpose – continue.

Let the generosity of spirit endure.

We owe it to the memories of those who came before us to live the values they cherished, of empathy, compassion and solidarity.

As we are reminded this Freedom Day, we have known far worse and we have prevailed.

Let us keep our arms locked together in a column of defence against this pandemic, a united people.

Let us use this crisis to reaffirm our resolve to fundamentally change our society.

Let us emerge from the coronavirus pandemic a better country, a more equal country.

This year, we are celebrating Freedom Day apart, each of us confined to our homes.

Next year – through your determination, through your courage and through your actions – we will once again celebrate Freedom Day together.

I wish you all a happy and, above all, a safe and peaceful Freedom Day. ■



COVID-19 AND THE NEW SOCIETY

Dear Mr President

THERE IS A school of thought that the latest coronavirus pandemic will change the world permanently. There is no doubt that a global crisis on this scale can reorder society in dramatic ways, for better or for worse.

The virus has already kept us confined to our homes and reoriented our relationship to each other and the outside world after countries declared lockdowns to contain its spread.

This health crisis also presents an opportunity such as more flexible use of technology, less polarisation, a revived appreciation of the outdoors and life's other simple pleasures. No one knows exactly what will come in our world After Corona (AC) as we hankered for our lives Before Corona (BC).

Mr President, a look back in history illustrates that crises and extreme threats can be useful for directing individuals, a country, and even the world to a solution if traditional approaches and paradigms are challenged. During a crisis, incentives and motivations change, potentially leading to new cooperative behaviours and to the creation of new systems or structures.

The advent of this global pandemic has already got our collective adrenaline flowing and focused our minds



By Pule Mabe

to solve the problem at hand. Ancient Greek philosopher, Plato is credited with coining the phrase "Necessity is the mother of invention", and often a crisis acts as forcing mechanism to compel innovation and lead to rapid advances in technology, policy and procedures.

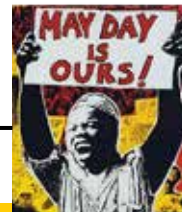
The fear generated from a crisis enables leaders to make bold and often difficult policy decisions. In the two months since the first Covid-19 infection case was identified in South Africa, we have seen an unprecedented marshalling of public and private resources in the fight to keep the virus at bay. Municipalities that are in the coalface of service delivery to communities on the ground, have been forced to shed their reticence and expedite pressing issues such as water provision, human settlements, sanitation and waste collection.

According to the president of the South African Local Government Association (Salga), Thembu Nkadi-meng, every cloud has a silver lining and the rollout of water tankers by the department of water and sanitation to rural areas to make water accessible has been remarkable. *"Ordinarily, this is what these municipalities should be doing on a day-to-day basis, but the silver lining is that we have been able to up our stake as government to make sure that we reach those areas,"* said Nkadi-meng.

The provision of water for everyone became crucial in the wake of the coronavirus as one of the most critical areas to combat its spread was identified as the need to wash our hands constantly. It is an open secret that some remote communities are not supplied with adequate and clean water. However, the arrival of the pestilence has left the authorities with no choice but to cut through the bureaucracy to provide this urgent life-saving commodity.

As our country buckles under a national lockdown that has worsened our economic situation, there has been a near consensus that the extraordinary decision to restrict the movement of people and goods was a right call made by the government to protect lives. Since the virus was a new phenomenon which originated in Asia, moved rapidly to Europe before it arrived in Africa, the solution to fight it were not obvious.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS



South Africa and the rest of the African continent have had the benefit of seeing the measures undertaken in the Asian and European continents to design her own strategies to flatten the curve of infections. Flattening the infection curve buys time for drastically raising the capacity of the health-care sector: more beds, more ventilators, more face masks, more tests, more medical personnel, more testing and tracing. Flattening the curve, however, inevitably steepens the macroeconomic recession curve and puts in danger all supply chains.

A modern economy is a complex web of interconnected stakeholders and supply chains – workers, businesses, suppliers, consumers, technology suppliers, civil society, financial institutions, policymakers and politicians. Strict isolation measures lead to the shutdown of this complex web and threaten to destroy the linkages that allow the socio-economy to function.

Mr President, patriotism has long and erroneously been equated with the armed forces, but you cannot shoot an invisible virus. Those on the front-line against the coronavirus are not conscripts, mercenaries or enlisted men; they are our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, caregivers, small business owners and employees. Many of them are suddenly saddled with

The coronavirus pandemic may cause pain and suffering, but it will force us to reconsider who we are and what we value. It could help us to rediscover the better version of ourselves.

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unfathomable tasks compounded by an increased risk of infection and death they never signed for. However, we recognise their sacrifice as true patriotism as we do for military veterans.

In your virtual address to the nation to commemorate Freedom Day this week, you spoke about the opportunity to emerge a new, better society: *“The true lessons will not just be the necessity of social distancing and proper hand washing. They will also be about whether we have the ability to turn this crisis into an opportunity to invest in a new society, a new consciousness and a new economy.”*

The coronavirus also marks the end

of our romance with market society and hyper-individualism. We are now seeing the market-based models for social organisation fail. When this ends, we will reorient our society and make substantial investments in the public good. A new consciousness that our fates are linked will nudge us to think for our fellow human beings.

It would not be surprising to see some analogous changes in the wake of the coronavirus. People are finding new ways to connect and support each other in times of adversity. Covid-19 will also sweep away many artificial barriers to moving our lives online. While not everything can become virtual at the same time, the regulatory bureaucracy that dragged its feet over digital migration will be forced to get into gear as a result of the latest crisis.

The coronavirus pandemic Mr President, may cause pain and suffering, but it will force us to reconsider who we are and what we value. It could help us to rediscover the better version of ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

ALERT LEVEL 4

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Public health guidelines should be followed at all times



Those **above the age of 60**, and those with **underlying conditions** should **remain at home** and take additional precautions to isolate themselves.



Social distancing should be maintained, and you should **keep a distance of at least two metres** from other people.



You should **wear a cloth mask** whenever you leave home.



You should **wash your hands regularly** for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water or sanitiser.



OUR PEOPLE MUST HOLD ON TO THE SPEAR

By Nomvula Mokonyane

THE 10TH OF APRIL 1993 is a day when almost all of us older South Africans can remember where we were, and what we were doing. The very moment when the news first spread, like wild fire, that comrade Martin Thembisile (Chris) Hani had been assassinated. For our country it was a deeply traumatic, watershed, moment.

Indeed, it was the day when many of us realized that there were deeply reactionary, and sinister, forces at work to prevent us as a nation from achieving our full liberation. Perhaps more than ever before, and since, it was a fateful day that brought the message home that there are those who were prepared to stop at nothing, including to kill our leaders, to defend their own power and privilege, and to keep the people subjugated, poor and exploited.

As the waves of anger of the people convulsed through the length and breadth of our country - in rural and urban areas, small towns and cities, it was evident that the people's anger

was driven by a deep sense of loss. The angry crowds that marched over that Easter weekend, throughout South Africa, in the drenching rain in Khayelitsha, and in the scorching Highveld sun to the Orlando police station, knew that they were robbed of hope, and were left exposed and vulnerable.

Comrade Chris Hani, combined in his warm and larger than life personality the passionate heart of a committed communist, with the strategical ability to carry his commitment for the empowerment of the poor forward within the context of our broad national Liberation Movement, the ANC. That ability made him the personification of how communism could be mainstreamed, instead of marginalized, and remain at the centre of our wide, and diverse, National Liberation Movement.

Comrade Chris' commitment to the national liberation struggle, and specifically his commitment, as a solid and long standing member of the ANC, could never be questioned. His discipline was legendary. Despite having had serious

concerns about the decision of the NEC of the ANC to suspend the armed struggle, he accepted it under protest but with remarkable discipline, and provided to all of us a lesson in the practice of what democratic centralism demands. This turned out to be comrade Chris' greatest strength, because in doing so he secured for himself a place at the critical centre of power among the leaders of the ANC.

A position that entitled him to ask the difficult questions about where the negotiations for the transition to our democracy were ultimately taking us. We all know how worried he was about the Sunset Clauses that was agreed to in the negotiations, and how those continue to haunt us to this very day. If only we had listened to him then ...

In the months before he was assassinated comrade Chris became increasingly vocal about his concerns that too much was possibly being given away, and compromised, in the negotiations with the apartheid regime. With the clear 20/20 vision of a true revolution-

CURRENT AFFAIRS



ary he saw De Klerk for the unrepentant scheming manipulator, and killer, that he was, when he said: *"I disagree with a lot of people who think that De Klerk, and others have changed, because De Klerk and others have done nothing about removing the [apartheid] forces that they created"*.

Comrade Chris was clear that the compromises that we had to make during the negotiations had to be temporary, and that ultimately the full economic empowerment of black South Africans, so that they could truly scale the commanding heights of the economy, had to be achieved. Being the people's leader that he was he expressed this commitment in straightforward, uncompromising language, that the poor masses of our people understood, and could relate to in their daily lives of deprivation and suffering.

Our national Liberation Movement, with its long history and the credibility that comes with it, and the deep love that our people have for the ANC, was the only force that could truly challenge the foundations of white monopoly capitalism in South Africa – and with comrade Chris' increasing popularity, and the growing influence that he wielded in the ANC the possibility that this could be achieved was real.

In the turmoil and chaos that followed in the aftermath of the assassination of comrade Chris, this is what the poor masses of our people instinctively felt, and what fueled their anger and sense of grave loss. It was only because of our people's love for the ANC, that Madiba was the night of the assassination able to make a national broadcast on all the SABC television and radio channels, and quell their legitimate anger. That night power shifted from De Klerk, who was helpless to control our people's anger, to Madiba and to the ANC.

It is with a deep sense of sadness and loss that we recall the sacrifices and commitment of comrade Chris. He was



the quintessential freedom fighter, who was prepared to sacrifice everything for the liberation of his people. When he left South Africa and went into exile, and joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, he threw his whole being into the liberation struggle. His own words describe that singular commitment best: *"My basic objective is struggle in South Africa. You know I could have left you see as others did to go and study, I had a degree from Rhodes University, but I felt that I was not going to go and study. It was my revolutionary duty to be part of the armed struggle of the revolution in South Africa"*.

It was this commitment to serve selflessly that saw comrade Chris rising through the ranks of MK, and the ANC in exile, to become the Chief of Staff of MK, and a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC. We remember how fearless he was. When he was managing MK operations from Lesotho, he placed himself in grave danger of cross border raids by the Boers. Comrade Chris always led from the front. He was a soldier's soldier. It was his ardent belief that you cannot expect your fellow comrades to face dangers, and make sacrifices, that you yourself as their commander are not prepared to face and make. He turned this belief into the guiding light of his life, and that is why our people instinctively believed in him and trusted him so much.

Comrade Chris was always a strong voice of consciousness in our Movement. In exile he was prepared to speak out, and be critical, about mistakes he believed the leadership were making – especially when they showed tenden-

cies of arrogance and elitism that distanced themselves from ordinary cadres. The well-being of rank and file ANC members, and the MK cadres in training camps, were always his greatest concern. However, in doing so he was never ill disciplined or factional - ultimately he always subjected himself to collective wisdom and discipline

of the ANC. Up to his dying day comrade Chris was first and foremost an exemplary cadre of the ANC. His blood was truly black, green and gold. He was the personification of the revolutionary heart of the ANC.

As a loyal, and committed cadre of the comrade Chris never faltered in his belief that only the ANC can be the leader of society. He knew that the ANC is second-to-none in its influence for radical transformation and revolutionary power to fulfill the historic liberation mission that it was founded for. Thus, to achieve what the longest serving President of the ANC, comrade OR Tambo, so clearly articulated: ***"To carry the historical revolutionary task on its shoulders to lead our people to achieve their own liberation"***.

On the 10th of April 1993, comrade Chris Hani lost his life because he was committed to the empowerment, and full liberation, of the majority of black poor South Africans. The bloodied hands of the assassins of comrade Chris, wrestled the fighting spear the ANC, and of MK, from his dying hands, but they never wrestled it from the hands of our people, and they will never succeed in doing so. Comrade Chris' life and unwavering trust in our people – even twenty seven years after his tragic death – reminds us that the future of our country ultimately lies in the hands of the people. ■

Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane is a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and Head of the Sub-Committee Committee, Organising. Cde Nomvula is a former Minister of Environmental Affairs.



THE TASK OF THE YOUTH AND INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSION

By Meekgo Matuba, Secretary General of the ANC Women's League

AS WE CELEBRATE the 26th anniversary of our Freedom Day, we should take stock of achievements and shortcomings in the advancement of our socio-economic and political agenda. The sacrifices and contributions by former ANC Youth League (ANCYL) leaders and activists cannot be underestimated and remains one of the hallmarks of our country's anti-Apartheid liberation struggle.

Launched in 1944, the ANC Youth League was led by a generation of leaders who played a key role in transforming the mother body through the adoption and implementation of what they regarded as radical political and socio-economic policies. The implementation of its programmes of action in the late 40's heralded a new chapter in the liberation struggle and transformed the ANC into one of the continents formidable liberation movement. It's for this reason that it has become more urgent that we leverage the talents and energies of our youthful population to breath in a new life into the ANC Youth League.

It is the ANCYL's duty to engage in the topic of Intersectional Oppression. We need to delve into the following:

Why the topic?

1. A lot of young activists in our movement have been politically schooled only on the theory of triple oppression. Thinking about oppression



only in terms of gender, class and race is insufficient.

2. We need to think about how multiple forms of women oppression manifest themselves in society: economy, politics, culture etc.
3. The focus should be shifted on what the role of young people should be in fighting all forms of oppression

Let's first look at the Preamble of the Constitution of the ANCYL. That will assist us to ensure that our discussion flows from the South African Constitution, ANC Constitution and the ANCYL Constitution as our marching orders.

Preamble of the ANCYL Constitution states that:

"The African National Congress Youth League was founded in 1944 as an organisation of the youth committed to the ideals of democracy, freedom and peace. It is governed by and adheres to the policies and programmes of the ANC, and its existence derives from the constitution of the ANC. The Youth League is a mass youth formation of

the ANC; it is committed to the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

Therefore, it shall rally all the youth of our country to play an active part in the struggle of the communities by building a defence of democracy. In doing so, the ANC Youth League shall strive to achieve fundamental

social change for the benefit of all young people and the working class. It shall endeavour to unite the youth of our country so as to take their rightful place in the affairs of the country."

From this preamble one can derive the following unambiguous marching orders:

1. Creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.
2. Rally all the youth of our country to play an active part in the struggle of the communities by building a defence of democracy.
3. Unite the youth of our country so as to take their rightful place in the affairs of the country.

In a nutshell, the ANCYL must aim to challenge oppression and inequality such as race, colour, age, social class, ethnicity, culture, history, geographic location, language, sexuality, and migrant status discrimination within the youth.



Young comrades attending a rally of the ANC Youth League



The ANCYL membership and its leaders must always be preoccupied by these three marching orders and nothing else.

The marching orders should not be derailed by often robust debates and fierce battle of ideas in the movement top structures like the National Executive Committee, but should be about uniting the youth of our country by way of leading and guiding them on how to take their rightful place in influencing policy decisions that seeks to drive the movements' transformational agenda. However, organisational discipline should be at the centre-stage of every effort to resuscitate the ANCYL using its own constitution to drive its mandate.

To reclaim its leadership and moral authority, the ANCYL should be programme driven and seized with addressing critical issues like Intersectional Oppression.

Intersectional oppression is the oppression that takes place on the basis of several characteristics/identities. Those characteristics include but not limited to Race, Class, Gender, Sexual orientation, Religion, Disability, Age, Nationality etc.

So, this begs the question: **In its current form, is the ANCYL ready to fight those forms of oppressions?**

Why not have the best amongst us lead us in the fight against these social ills which include:

- Youth unemployment, poverty, child headed families and teenage pregnancies.
- High rate of school drop-outs (i.e. between grade R and 12)
- The scourge of Gender-Based Violence affecting most women, young girls and children.
- Homelessness: Some of the great youth leaders are wandering around the streets without shelter.
- Teen violence and abuse. We cannot have great youth leaders when teenagers are culprits and victims of abuse. Dealing with matters that are troubling teenagers will build great youth leaders in future.

It's my view, that in answering these pertinent questions, we need to be very critical and objective in our analysis. After all, each generation must fulfil its mission to champion youth interests

as a means to lay a firm foundation for the nurturing of future leaders.

There is also no doubt that the youth can play a meaningful role in the transformation of our country's economy. Their participation in technology innovation, business, agriculture, sport, arts etc. The youth are well placed in contributing towards our government's goal to create an all-inclusive prosperous nation. Their exclusion and marginalisation will be detrimental to achieving our developmental goals as envisaged in the National Development Plan 2030.

The revived Youth League should, in discharging its mandate, lead efforts to ensure that young people access capital to establish small and medium enterprises which are major building blocks for any flourishing economy the world over. Young women should also be supported in their quest to participate in labour intensive sectors such as mining, agriculture and manufacturing.

The post-Covid-19 should serve as a catalyst to harness the youth's capabilities in how to utilize opportunities

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The Covid-19 outbreak and the case for data subsidy

THE OUTBREAK and spread of Covid-19 in virtually every part of the world has forced the somewhat delayed necessary re-examination of society. The current talk about the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its implications on social organisation of society has not entirely succeeded in forcing technological innovations for possibilities of accelerated inventions with the intention of improving economic performance within nation states and at global level, particularly in Africa. Notwithstanding its fatality, Covid-19 has necessarily upended operations at individual, organisational and societal level, consequently forcing companies to appreciate not only the efficiency, but also arguably the primacy of digitisation in this new spatial domain for humankind. For this reason, we argue that data should be significantly subsidised precisely because the internet is the highway to the future.

Nothing in the past century has ravaged the world much more than the Coronavirus pandemic has, with the exception of maybe World War Two. There is near global consensus that the death toll during World War Two was between 70-80 million, which at the time accounted for about 3-4% of the world population. The total number of civilians and military personnel who died directly from the war is estimated to be between 50-60 million from a little more than 30 countries, the remainder having died from war-related diseases and famine.

In 2019, the IMF had projected global growth to be around 3.4% given the



US-China trade war, the impact of Brexit on the world economy and US presidential elections. The emergence of the Coronavirus further strained the global economic outlook. As a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the global stock market shed an estimated \$6 trillion in value in the week beginning from the 23rd of February to the 28th of February 2020. The 10 largest corporations on the S&P 500 index lost a combined \$1.4 trillion in that same week

Governments of many countries initially imposed travel bans on non-essential travel in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus outbreak. In some instances, airports were completely shut down. The daily exponential increase of infections and deaths necessitated the imposition of lockdowns within countries, with South Africa's one kicking in on 27 March 2020. The imposition of lockdowns had immediate impact on the operations of all businesses regardless of size. Businesses that had

already digitalised their operations are least affected, at least from 'normal' operations perspective as employees would have already mastered the art of working remotely. On the other hand, businesses which have relied heavily on traditional mode are feeling the pinch. For instance, schools and universities in South Africa are currently grappling with a forced transition to online learning. Initially thought to be a panacea, stakeholders woke up to the realisation that digitisation has its complexities, including but not limited to the cost of data, reliability of connectivity and the number of students who have devices.

The pandemic came amid an accelerated changing world of work, transitioning towards digitisation and may hasten the rendering of certain jobs and industries obsolete. For instance, the World Economic Forum 2015 Future of Jobs report predicted that complex problem-solving, social and systems



skills would be far more in demand in 2020 compared to physical abilities or content skills. Given the existing unemployment crisis in South Africa, we urgently need measures that will help us to adapt to the new reality predicated by the pandemic. The pandemic has thrown the entire world into an abyss of red ocean. We argue that the clarity of thought and the quality of decisions on which factors to eliminate and reduce on the one hand, and which factors to raise and create on the other hand will strategically position South Africa to craft its reliable pathway to the desired blue ocean out of this crisis.

Although there has never been consensus since human civilisation on the best approach to economic development – and we opine there shall never be – different schools of thought seem to agree that the 21st century economy is bit-driven. Put simply, this means that value-addition and value-creation come from new ways of arranging information. The ability to arrange information stems from access to information. This is where our central occupation is: how do societies ensure that a majority of citizens have access to information they so need to enhance their quality of life?

Some authoritative voices on economic growth models such as Peter Evans have suggested that states that wish to register remarkable growth rates in the 21st century need to invest in human capabilities as growth has become more reliant on intangible assets in the era of digital economy. To the credit of the authors of the National Development Plan, they recognise the importance of human capabilities as critical enablers for development. Granted, the NDP does not list data as one of them. We argue that like land, capital and energy, data is now a non-negotiable cause (resource) for development in the context of access to information.

Expensive data and slow internet connection (higher “transaction costs”) lower the productivity of existing factors of production in the South African economy and serve as high barriers to entry.

”

#FREE DATA FOR LOCKDOWN



Chapter 2 of South Africa's Constitution embraces the 'rising floor' concept; that is to suggest that the state has a moral obligation to lift its citizens to a particular minimum level of survival. By now we know that South Africa is battling with what the NDP has described as the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Recent data available from the Statistics South Africa further shows that South Africa is a youthful country, and that over 40% of young people are neither in employment nor in training, effectively constituting over 58% of youth unemployment by the end of first quarter of 2020. We argue that young people are generally technologically savvy. As an advantage, the resolution to our resilient high unemployment partly lies in investing in cheaper access of data for access to

information since it (data) represents a factor of production in the digital economy. In this context, access to data is essentially a human right.

The General Household Survey released by Statistics South Africa in 2018 found that only 59.3% of South Africans have access to the internet. The whopping 53% of this 59.3% use mobile connections, thus underlying the importance of affordable and accessible data. Most troubling with the survey was the revelation that only 9.5% of the South Africans have a connection in their household, with only 1.6% of Limpopo residents having connection in their households. Only 2% of rural households were found to have internet connection, with the remainder being in metropolitan and urban areas. The

survey further found that many South Africans mostly use internet cafes, educational facilities and workplaces to get connected.

Following the inevitable losses of many jobs due to the pandemic, South Africa faces the risk of reinforcing existing inequalities and marginalisation of the vulnerable groups if no action is taken immediately to lower the cost of data. Lack of internet

access means reduced opportunities when it comes to the emerging opportunities for participation in the economy. Data serves as a capability for human beings to pursue their economic activities and realise self-actualisation.

It is well known and beyond doubt that digital technologies facilitate the creation, storage, analysis, and sharing of data and information which can be distributed and accessed effortlessly from anywhere. Access to data, smartphones and the internet has also led to a massive growth of locally grown entertainment content which circulates on popular social chat platforms like WhatsApp. This, therefore, shows the excellent potential of the internet as a catalyst for cultural development and entertainment.



Expensive data and slow internet connection (higher “transaction costs”) lower the productivity of existing factors of production in the South African economy and serve as high barriers to entry. Lower transactional costs would spawn new business models which can propel our economy into a localised digital economy and emergence of services that are better suited for our unique socio-economic conditions than the simple adoption of global solutions.

There is a need for increased government-industry collaboration in developing telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Government needs to fast track the release of the broadband spectrum while the private sector needs to come to the party as well. There should be clear indicators and milestones to measure progress in this regard, not the usual rhetoric.

Subsidy arrangements need to be considered for data especially for those in rural areas. While in urban areas there is limited free access to Wi-Fi, innovative ways need to be found to roll this out in rural areas. Alternatively, while government is still finding the best ways of lowering data costs, there could be “data grants” whereby young unemployed people are given monthly data allocations to use for commercial enterprises.

The “zero rating” of educational and government information sites seen during this pandemic and previously during the #Feesmustfall campaign should be sustained and even expanded to improve access to knowledge and information for the poor. South Africa has to accelerate social and economic inclusion by rapidly rolling out ICT infrastructure to all its citizens in order to fully exploit the digital economy. ■

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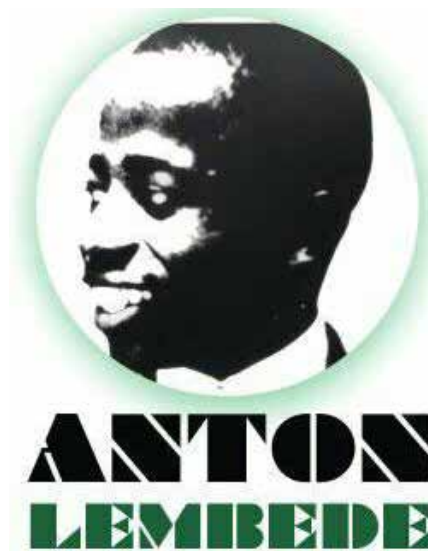
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THE TASK OF THE YOUTH AND INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSION

brought by the 4th Industrial Revolution to re-industrialize our economy and to create sustainable livelihoods for scores of young people. It is these youth who have the passion and energies to fully participate in government-led initiatives to modernize our economy.



As we strive to build a united and productive society, the ANCYL should also be at the forefront of leading by example in championing the national efforts to inculcate the spirit of patriotism. This is very important in a period where the issue of fostering social cohesion through the fast-tracked empowerment of the youth and equitable redistribution of resources has become critical.

We will continue to draw inspiration from the people of countries like Cuba, who despite decades-long economic blockages, have never given up, but remained united and resolute in pursuing a just struggle of self-rule and economic self-sustenance. There are many lessons to be learnt from the generations of Cuban youth who have surmounted economic hardships and remained loyal to the political struggle of their motherland. That’s why we welcome the spirit of solidarity displayed by the Cuban government to South Africa, through the dispatching of about 200 medical personnel to support our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

These doctors and health experts are drawn from some of the best Cuban young medical practitioners, who should also inspire our youth to embrace the spirit of patriotism and international solidarity – a key towards building a united and prosperous nation.

In his address on 27th of October 2002 at the reburial of Anton Lembede, the founding President of the ANCYL, a scholar, philosopher, lawyer and leader, President Nelson Mandela said *“At the house of Walter Sisulu, I met with many of those who would have such formative influence; amongst them was Anton Lembede whom I first met at Walter’s place in 1943. From the moment I heard Lembede speak I knew I was in the presence of a dynamic and original thinker and his ideas immediately struck a chord in me”*.

It’s against this background that we owe it to former generations of youth league leaders, who bequeathed a united and strong ANCYL led by energetic and visionary young lions to the current and future thought leaders, innovators, and global influencers.

By achieving this monumental task, we will re-affirm the ANCYL as what its founding leaders branded it from time immemorial as *“The preparatory school of the ANC”*. ■



COVID 19, ONLINE EDUCATION AND THE WAY FORWARD

By Luzulo Bashman

THE QUEST to proceed with academic year online is an inhumane punishment on the majority who fall on the rough side of our extremely unequal lived reality which is a product of our colonialisation.

Firstly, we must express our appreciation and support for the decisions of our South African government in enforcing a much needed lockdown to focus all efforts on tracing, arresting and treating the coronavirus outbreak in our country. It is our considered view that the virus is only moved by people. The halting of mass movement of people will aid efforts to deal decisively with the spread of this virus. However, with that said, in a country like ours,

where the majority live from hand to mouth, sufficient interventions need to be made by government, business and civil society to cushion the poor and vulnerable to survive this lockdown.

The interest that teaching and learning commences as in yesterday is shared by all South Africans, especially from within the liberation movement. Teaching and learning is a crucially important activity in the life of any society because it's the process in which skills and knowledge is transferred from one to another.

The coronavirus outbreak has placed this important activity on lockdown because schools, universities and colleges are

spaces where hundreds of our people share small spaces such as class rooms and lecture halls, making it impossible to practice physical and/or social distancing. Physical and/or social distancing is amongst the key preventative measures advised by government and the World Health Organization for all of us to practice in the fight against the spread of Covid-19.

This, therefore, leaves our basic and higher education system with very little options to use as a vehicle to ensure the commencement of teaching and learning. The popular choice being advanced by some in the basic and higher education sector is that of using online or vir-



tual mechanisation to roll out teaching and learning. This would obviously be a vehicle of choice had our South African society been adequately prepared for it or to be much clearer, had our societal inequalities not made this vehicle an impossible task to guarantee equal, equitable and fair access and success to ALL learners and students regardless of their social reality.

This renders the argument to commence with teaching and learning online a rather insensitive, exclusive and unethical idea, surfing in highest waves of privilege which blind its proponents from the daily lived experience of majority of South Africans. Our country's social reality is characterised by extreme inequality, dehumanizing poverty, disastrous unemployment and great underdevelopment. All of which are products of our Colonialisation of the Worst (Special) Type.

In our South African reality, online learning, tests and exams will only be enjoyed by the privileged few, whilst the overwhelming majority who don't have access, the infrastructure, resources and means for access will be eliminated from any genuine prospect of success. The careless notion that learners and students who fall in this unfortunate category will be assisted or provided with catch up classes would be to allow our education to unfairly punish those who are the have-nots. The majority of the have-nots are Africans in particular and Blacks in general. Our people cannot be spoken to in this careless fashion as if they are a by-the-way issue that must still be figured out whilst the academic year proceeds for others, online.

The notion that learners and students who feel they will not be able to succeed in this online teaching and learning being granted the option to be readmitted for their studies in 2021 when they don't succeed, or the option to deregister for the rest of the academic year is simply insulting to us, Africans in particular and Blacks in general. Mind you, the fact that we accommodate less than 30% of the South African learners and students in our schools and universities increases our problems.

All genuine revolutionary cadres and progressive activists in society have an interest that teaching and learning commences for all learners and students. But it's our duty to be very vigilant and safeguard

All genuine revolutionary cadres and progressive activists in society have an interest that teaching and learning commences for all learners and students.



the interests of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. It is against this understanding that we implore the proponents of the online education route to take a step back from their own individual privileges which may result in a better living reality than the daily lived experience of the overwhelming majority of South Africans whose existence is the following:

- More than 10 million are unemployed.
- More than 15 million are not economically active.
- More than 30 million are living below the poverty line of R992 per month.
- More than 5 million are living in informal settlement dwellings.
- More than 14% are living as three generations (grandparents, parents & children) in one household.

The above-mentioned quoted statistics are from the World Bank and Statistics South Africa. In addition, more than 19 million South Africans are living in rural dwellings according to the United Nations, where basic infrastructure is at its weakest and technology advancement is still a very distant reality compared to more urban areas.

It is, therefore, our considered view that schools, colleges and universities must work together with government, business, communities and other social partners to develop an inclusive amended academic calendar for 2020. This calendar should be slated to commence in June once we have been able to sufficiently ensure that no learner, student, teacher, lecturer, auxiliary worker and administrator in

the education sector will not be at risk of contracting this deadly virus. This will also give all these stakeholders ample time to order and procure all necessary protective gear such as re-useable masks and gloves, alcohol based sanitizers, soap and sanitizer dispensers in all bathrooms and classrooms/lecture halls throughout the education (basic and higher) sector.

This difficult but necessary academic calendar amendment will result in the 2020 academic year finishing, either, very late in December (provided the June and September holidays are eliminated) or in the first quarter of 2021 to give adequate time to cover all necessary activities in rolling out this year's curriculum. Furthermore, this will result in 2021 academic year commencing in the second quarter of the year.

The premise for the commencement of any teaching and learning for schools, universities and colleges should be based on the guarantee of an equal, equitable and fair chance for all learners and students to gain access and success in the academic experience of every learner or student in the 2020 academic calendar. None of proponents of the online route have been able to convince us that this would be achieved in their view. We implore national government to provide this necessary leadership we are articulating in this piece to safeguard the interests of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our country.

These challenges which COVID-19 has exposed in our country should be met with a deliberate and consistent programme to deal a decisively blow to inequality which affects every sector and section of our society. The call for Free Education has always been very much a call for the transformation and democratization of education from the clutches of the markets. This is in order to transform and democratize all commanding heights of the economy and in particular every sector and/or section of our country, in general, to realise the objective of the people governing and sharing this beautiful country of ours. Of course, we don't hold any monopoly of wisdom but this is our two cents contribution to this discussion. ■

Luzuko Bashman is a Former SASCO Western Cape Provincial Chairperson and ANCYL Dullah Omar Regional Chairperson



TWENTY SIX YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

By Sifiso Mtsweni

MONDAY, 27 April 2020 marked 26 years of our freedom and democracy. In 1994, on this very day millions of South Africans from all walks of life, mostly the black majority, got an opportunity to cast their votes for a Government of their choice. They got to participate in a democratic and free society in which all persons live in peace and in harmony. It was and remains an ideal which the first President of the Democratic South Africa said in the 1964 Rivonia Trial before his sentencing, that he was “prepared to live for and to achieve but if needs be, it’s an ideal for which I am prepared to die”

A child who was born on this day in 1994 celebrates 26 years of their life. By the age of 26, you have already come of age, you have grown to learn and appreciate the complexities of life. You have gone through your infancy, education at all levels, you have outgrown puberty and you are a fully fledged adult with responsibilities.

At midnight on this day, we witnessed a historic moment when a plane landed at Waterkloof airbase carrying over 200 medical doctors from Cuba. Our country and Cuba enjoy deep historic ties dating back to the dark days of Apartheid. Cuba, during the sixties, seventies and eighties sent its military to fight alongside our freedom fighters as well as the rest of the continent. Her only expectation, having assisted the continent to regain its sovereignty, was the remains of its fallen soldiers. Cuba never expected a single country that it assisted during the liberation struggle for access to its mineral resources or



even sought to interfere in the affairs of any country. It simply took its heroes and heroines back to its Cuban soil.

Our country, 26 years ago emerged from a very brutal and inhumane system that divided our society apart, shredded back families to nothing and reduced black people to sub-humans, stripped them off their dignity and left them in squalor. United, our people emerged stronger and defeated this evil system.

However, we did not, post 1994, and spend some time re-establishing what was fundamentally broken by the apartheid system. We urgently and correctly, attended to the social damage caused by apartheid by rebuilding our country’s damaged economy as well as restore the dignity of our people through provision of housing, water, sanitation, roads, electricity, schools, hospitals, clinics and a variety of other issues as well. We needed to build an inclusive economy that would create space for black people to operate in the economy and create jobs at a massive scale.

Despite a few upheavals there and

there, we continue to do well as a country. However, we are yet to pay special attention to social cohesion, nation building and patriotism! We need to create a patriotic society underpinned by values of humanity and solidarity. If we can build and achieve this, the success of our country will be far greater. We need to learn from the Cubans on how to instill a sense of patriotism and pride in being a South African.

We cannot be a country that complains forever, indeed we have challenges and these challenges are not insurmountable. We have demonstrated that together and united, we are even able to bring an evil system to its knees. This invisible global pandemic must be fought with the same determination and courage of our heroes and heroines of our revolutionary struggle, and, I am confident that we will defeat it, alongside our sisters and brothers – the Cuban revolutionary forces.

As Fidel Castro concludes *“The fact is, when men carry the same ideals in their hearts, nothing can isolate them - neither prison walls nor the sod of cemeteries. For single memory, a single spirit, a single idea, a single conscience, a single dignity will sustain them all.”*

We join the rest of the country in celebrating and commemorating the 26 years of our democracy and welcome our friends from the Cuban revolution.

Sifiso Tso Mtsweni is Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and a Member of the ANC Western Cape Interim Provincial Committee. This is an edited version.



My lens of solidarity focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

By Orapeleng Daniel Matshediso

A country of comrade Patrice Lumumba and many other revolutionaries is facing political, economic, and social uncertainties, as the power struggle between the former President Joseph Kabila and the current President Felix Tshisekedi is brewing in parliament and other state institutions. President Felix Tshisekedi was elected in December 2018, and his election was disputed and later the constitutional court declared him a duly elected president and thus results were declared valid, free, and fair.

Unfortunately, the former President Joseph Kabila's organisation, Common Front for Congo (FCC) got the majority in parliament. This situation forced President Felix Tshisekedi to enter into a government of coalition. It took almost seven months before the cabinet could be announced. It is also evident that President Tshisekedi's faction is not entirely in charge of its own political party, Union for Democracy and Social Progress. Therefore, there is no functional political system that could support him to effectively implement the manifesto of his own party, because coalition would mean an infusion of the manifestos of the two political parties.

Surprisingly, immediately after the constitutional court declared Tshisekedi a president, United Nations made a call

for the immediate announcement of the cabinet. This undermined the process of engagement between the two political parties. This call by the UN was meant to fuel conflict and collapse the unity government.

Now during the elections, the incumbent president promised the electorates many things, including fighting corruption, bringing peace amongst armed groups. Unfortunately, he is unable to move because he doesn't have a strong political organisation to back him up. In government, the former president Joseph Kabila's allies are in charge. To a certain extent one may say, President Felix Tshisekedi is a ceremonial president with extremely limited powers.

It is hoped that leaders of this country could surrender their individual and factional interests and be guided by the love and interests of their own people. This is a country that is presently facing two deadly diseases, Ebola and Coronavirus. In 2018, just five months before the presidential election, the DRC was engulfed by Ebola – "a tropical fever that could be transmitted from animals to human beings". Apparently, its symptoms are fever, bleeding, vomiting and diarrhoea. It was discovered for the first time in 1976 in Sudan and the DRC. This disease reared its head again in August 2018 and until the 10th April 2020, Ebola had claimed 2,276 lives in

DRC with 3,456 confirmed cases. With the assistance of the World Health Organisation (WHO), under the capable leadership of Tedros Ghebreyesus, two vaccines were developed for the Ebola disease.

However, due to the misunderstanding of the public and the threats from the armed forces in various communities, health workers were attacked and facilities destroyed. It became difficult for tracing other suspected patients of Ebola. After more than 50 days since February 2020, WHO, together with the government of DRC were preparing to announce that there were no new cases of Ebola. Unfortunately, at the beginning April 2020, the government was surprised to learn of the discovery of two new deaths, five new confirmed cases of Ebola to date. It is really disheartening to hear Dr Lusungi Mutuza, one of the Doctors who have been at the forefront of the battle to defeat Ebola saying: "It's very discouraging since we have worked a year and a half, two years, on this epidemic and when we were about to breathe, suddenly we have to start from zero again. It's a psychological blow".

This proves that, health workers have not been resting, and under a very constrained health system; they are now

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Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS EXCLUSIVE WITH COSATU PRESIDENT ZINGISWA LOSI

AS A LEADER YOU MUST STAY HUMBLE AND WORK HARD

1. Who is Zingiswa Losi?

Zingiswa Losi is a daughter, a sister, a mother and an aunt. I'm blessed with two beautiful daughters. I was born and raised in the Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth by a religious and very politically oriented family. Being raised in a family of activists, this led to my political activism, from my time in COSAS, ANCYL, ANC to the Trade Union Movement in COSATU.

2. You made history when you were elected unopposed as the first female COSATU President, how has the journey been thus far?

This has been a very interesting journey. The response and support I have received and continue to receive from women and men, both young and aged, in South Africa, in the continent of Africa and internationally has been remarkable.

This journey has brought affirmation to many women not only in the trade union movement, but with women across sectors of society.

3. We've seen you fighting day and night for the workers especially the working class. What drives your passion for workers rights?

My conviction and drive came from my exposure as a young woman when I got



Comrade Zingiswa Losi
COSATU President

my first employment in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1996 and when I was employed as a casual worker at Jet stores in 1999. I came face to face with racism and gender discrimination in the South African Air Force (SAAF) and as a casual worker at Jet stores. I had to deal with the uncertainty of job security, wage gap and racial inequality undertones.

4. The country is currently facing the coronavirus pandemic. How do you as a Leader in the Trade Union Movement approach and restore confidence in the union leadership and workers in general during these daunting times?

We have been keeping in constant contact with leaders of unions on a daily basis, getting to know what are the day to day challenges workers are facing. We have been engaging relevant government ministries, including engaging the business constituency in ensuring that those pertinent and urgent issues are being addressed adequately. We have remained an audible voice of workers.

5. The National minimum wage has been implemented. Do you think the current minimum wage has assisted the working class, especially the farm workers and the domestic workers?

Allow me to first acknowledge that more must be done and that we should address the question of the living wage. Covid-19 has made us realise the importance of these two sectors in our economy and that they are in essence essential services and therefore their remuneration must be aligned to that.

The National Minimum Wage has been of particular assistance in that it has laid a foundation of wage equity in



our country. More and more, greater equity will be achieved, and the distribution of income between the high paid and the low paid will be narrowed. Poverty will be reduced as the low paid gain more income and hopefully the unemployed will be encouraged to join the labour market.

6. We always learn about reports alleging violation of rights of employees such working in unsafe conditions, long working hours without proper compensation and racism. How do you as a trade unionist respond to such issues ?

While labour laws have formally given workers greater protection against unfair dismissal and discrimination, easier and faster dispute settlement, and more protection for trade union members, in some cases the lack of enforcement is noticed where labour laws are breached. The Department of Employment and Labour should be given more resources to implement its mandate to enforce workers' rights, including inspection and monitoring, in a bid to that employers are complying with the laws.

7. Being a leader in a big Trade Union is surely not an easy task. How would you motivate a young woman who shares the same ambition and wish to follow your footsteps?

As a leader you must stay humble and work hard. Dr John Tibane a leadership and health consultant, a medical doctor, writer and motivational speaker, has this to say about the leadership problem and the leadership solution:

"Leadership problem manifest itself in 5 ways

1. Zero leadership – this is a case of a sheep without a shepherd. People become discouraged, demotivated and unproductive

2. Ignorant leadership – when ignorant people are put in positions of power, they often become arrogant. Arrogant people reject knowledge and become more arrogant. Once ignorance is institutionalised, creativity and innovation escapes the organisation.

3. Blind leadership – a powerful leader with no vision will speedily lead you into trouble. We need visionary leaders

because vision helps us see the possibilities of tomorrow within the realities of today

4. Defective leadership – some leaders are so immature that they wake up in the morning to feast rather than to think and strategize

5. Pervetted leadership – leaders who preach what they can't practice, make promises they can't keep and are full of rhetoric than actions.

The leadership solution is Elightened leadership – it provides fast relieve from

the etiquette of inaction... It unlocks the power of great relationships. It restores sanity and clears confusion. It promotes effective communication. It releases trapped energy...it promotes high-performance team-work."

8. What's your motto?

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style.

Maya Angelou

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MY LENS OF SOLIDARITY FOCUSES ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

forced to roll up their sleeves and fight yet another two invisible enemies Ebola and Coronavirus. Today, the DRC has more than 280 cases and 20 deaths as a result of Coronavirus.

It is quite clear, that this unfortunate situation makes the ground fertile for the international donors and the western countries to lend their hands with the intention to loot the natural resources of our continent.

Apparently, there is also staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that is assigned to closely monitor the implementation, based in DRC, until May 2020. I doubt with a weak and indecisive government that the leadership would be able to rise to the occasion. Africa's Carthage continues to be destroyed in the post-colonial period. Our natural resources continue to be looted to develop and fatten our former colonisers.



Elderly Congolese couple met by a refugee official in Uganda

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



2–8 May 2020

Source: SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za)

2 May 1885

Leopold II of Belgium established Congo Free state

The Congolese people were forced to meet quotas of rubber and ivory; when they failed to do so they were tortured and killed by the Belgian guards. Estimates of the number of people killed during King Leopold's rule range from 5 million to 22 million. In 1908, the Belgian parliament annexed the Congo, as a colony of Belgium to be run by state rather than the King. In 1960, the region gained its independence. It was renamed the Zaire and is now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

2 May 1980

Pope John Paul II kicks off African tour

Polish born Pope John Paul II began his first tour of Africa, including visits to Zaire (now DRC), Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) and Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). The Pope called for the creation of a new world economic order, a guarantee of workers' rights and an end to the marginalisation of Africa.

3 May 1991

Windhoek Declaration on Press Freedom in Africa



World Press Freedom Day is observed on 3 May. This day was the culmination of a UNESCO seminar held in Windhoek, Namibia from 29 April 1991 to 3 May 1991. This declaration is a statement of press freedom principles put together by African newspaper journalists.

4 May 1925

Ruth First was born



Ruth First was a journalist, anti-apartheid activist, author, a member of the ANC and Communist Party of South Africa. Her political involvement started while she was still a student at the University of the Witwatersrand. She helped to establish the Federation of Progressive Students. Her fellow university students included Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo and Eduardo Mondlane, the freedom fighter and leader of FRELIMO, Mozambique.

4 May 1978

SADF massacre at refugee camp in Cassinga, Angola

On this day, the South African air force flew over Cassinga, a Namibian refugee camp in Southern Angola. They bombed the camp, followed by 400 paratroopers that completed the massacre. The day is a national holiday in Namibia.

8 May 1925

Afrikaans becomes an Official Language

According to Act 8 of 1925, Afrikaans became one of the official languages of the Union of South Africa, along with English. When the regime tried to force Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in the 70s, it sparked the 1976 student and youth uprising. Today 12.2% of South Africans speak it as a first or second, or third language (Stats SA, 2019). Afrikaans is recognised in the Constitution as one of the eleven official languages.

kaans is recognised in the Constitution as one of the eleven official languages.

6 May 1962

Landscape and still life artist Florence Zerffi dies

Florence Louise Josephine Zerffi was born in 1882, London, England. She came to Cape Town in 1916 after studying art in London and at the Arts and Crafts Academy in Berlin. In South Africa, Zerffi joined the South African Society of Artists (SASA). Not only did Zerffi paint, but she also used needle work as a medium. She loved colour and always used it to bring an expressive element in her work.

7 May 1987

COSATU Headquarters bombed by Apartheid regime



Since its formation in 1985, Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU) was viewed as a threat by the government. COSATU officials and members were subjected to physical attacks and arrests by the government agents. In the early morning of 7 May 1987, two large bombs ripped through the basement of COSATU House in Johannesburg. Although no one was killed, the badly damaged building was declared a health hazard and Cosatu and its affiliates were forced to vacate their offices. In 1998, the former Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, as well as 22 former members of the former security police appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to apply for the amnesty for their involvement in the bombing of COSATU House.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



8 May 1996

Constitution of a democratic South Africa adopted

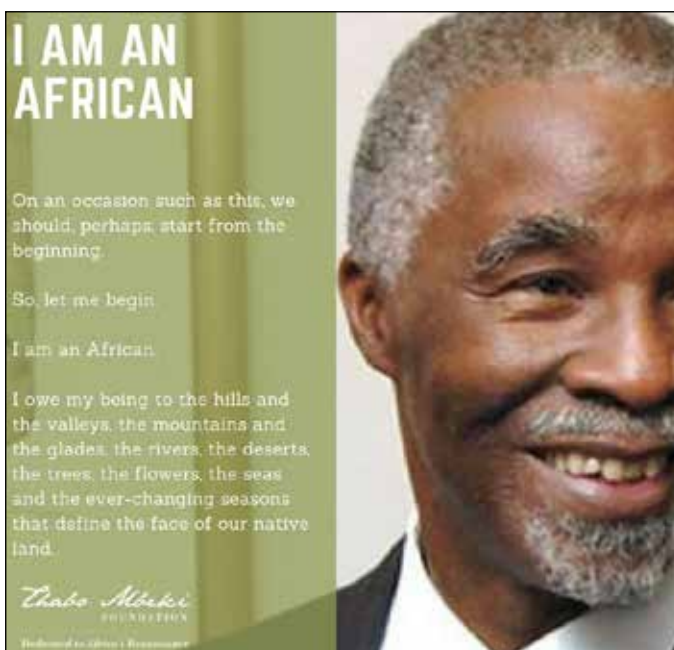


The adoption of the South African Constitution on 8 May 1996 was a turning point in the history of South Africa. The Constitution is considered by many as one of the most advanced in the world, with a Bill of Rights second to none. South Africa's Constitution was drafted by an all-inclusive constitutive assembly, which had representatives from all the major political parties and liberation organisations. The constitutional assembly sat between May 1994 and October 1996, drafting and completing the new constitution. The new Constitution was the embodiment of the vision that South African belonged to all, for justice, peace, non-racialism, non-sexism and the dignity and human rights for all who live in it.

8 May 1996

President Mbeki makes history with "I am an African" speech

On the occasion of the adoption of the Constitution, then Deputy President made a statement on behalf of the African National Congress, now known as 'I am an African' speech. It is regarded as amongst the iconic speeches of our times, for its Pan Africanism, its poetry, its sense of history and of hope and optimism.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2-7 May 2020

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

2 May World Tuna Day: The United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of Tuna fish and to promote sustainable fishing practices.

Most of the countries depend on tuna fish for food safety and nutrition, economic growth, employment, and livelihoods. There are more than 80 countries that have tuna fisheries and their capacity for fishing is constantly increasing, leading to overfishing and depletion of tuna stocks, using tuna nets.

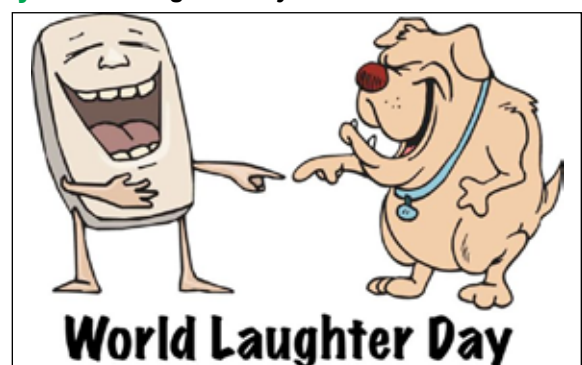
3 May World Press Freedom Day



The day focuses attention on press freedom and the challenges that journalists face. On World Press Freedom Day 2020, UNESCO is launching a global campaign on media and social media channels, with a focus on "Journalism without Fear or Favour" in an increasingly complex media landscape. The sub-themes are:

- Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers;
- Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence; and Gender Equality in All Aspect of the Media.

3 May World Laughter Day



The day is celebrated on the first Sunday of each May, and was started by the founder of the Yoga Laughter movement, Dr Madan Kataria. Laughter has benefits for mental health, and is said to "strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress." (www.helpguide.org/mentalhealth).



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

4 May World Coal Miners Day

Coal mines have been around for century, but mass coal mining increased exponentially during the industrial revolution, under very difficult and often dangerous cramped conditions. In 2019, China, India, US, Australia and Indonesia were the world's largest coal producers. Coal mining in South Africa accounted for 70% of electricity and 92,230 jobs in 2019.



4 May International Firefighters Day

Firefighters form an important part of disaster management response, fighting domestic, industrial as well as wild fires. On this date, you are invited to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all.

5 May World Asthma Day

Asthma is one of the most common lifelong chronic diseases. Asthma affect the lungs and causing repeated episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing. World Asthma Day is dedicated to increase awareness about asthma and improve the lives of all people with asthma.

7 May International Day of Vesak

'Vesak', the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak, in the year 623 B.C., that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and on this Day the Buddha in his eightieth year passed away. The UN General Assembly since 1999 recognized the Day of Vesak to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism, one of the oldest religions in the world, has made for over two and a half millennia and continues to make to the spirituality of humanity.

8 May World Red Cross Day



First celebrated in 1948, the day highlights the humanitarian work by the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement across the world. The Red Cross and Red Crescent societies encourage people to donate blood, and also provide first aid, emergency response, health and social care, preparing for disasters, refugee services and helping people find missing families. During times of war, the Red Cross helps to protect civilians and the wounded in armed conflict.



ANC STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF ISITHWALANDWE DENIS GOLDBERG

The African National Congress is deeply saddened by the passing of one of the foremost stalwarts of our struggle for liberation; a combatant of Umkhonto we Sizwe; Isithwalandwe, Seaparankwe Comrade Denis Goldberg.

Hamba Kahle Mkhonto!








#Lockdown **READING LIST 5**

Jazz and the Memory of Things Gone

Reviewed by F  b   Potgieter-Gqubule

30 APRIL is International Jazz day, and across the world, jazz musicians, producers and music lovers had to come to terms with this day, when over 60% of the world are under lockdown, and concerts to celebrate this day are cancelled. Instead, in the true innovative spirit of jazz, the concerts and tributes went virtual. Our own Cape Town International Jazz festival was cancelled (as a physical concert), but a virtual concert was held.

Jazz is an indelible and defining part of South African music history, and in our Lockdown Reading List this week, we pay tribute with a list of reading recommendations about jazz, and the pioneering musicians who lift up our souls. In the words of Louis Armstrong, *"the memory of things gone is important to a jazz musician"*.

1. ***The Story of South African Jazz, Volume 1***, by Struan Douglas (2019. Afribeat.com): The book is a series of interviews by the Durban born author with jazz greats, and through them telling the evolution and philosophy of African jazz. It includes interviews with amongst others Miriam Makeba, Louis Moholo, Hugh Masekela, Sathima Bea Benjamin, Carlo Mombelli, Claude Deppa, Lucky Ranku, Abdullah Ibrahim, Feya Faku, Carlo Mombelli and Marcus Wyatt.

2. ***Musical Echoes: South African Women Thinking in Jazz***, by Carol Ann Muller and Sathima Bea Benjamin (2011.) This is the story of jazz vocalist Sathima Bea Benjamin, born in Cape Town in the 1930s; leaving South Africa in 1962. "Benjamin established her own record company. "Musical Echoes reflects twenty years of archival research and conversation between this extraordinary jazz singer and the



South African musicologist Carol Ann Muller. The narrative of Benjamin's life and times is interspersed with Muller's reflections on the vocalist's story and its implications for jazz history."

3. ***Soweto Blues. Jazz, Popular Music, and Politics in South Africa***, by Gwen Ansell (2004.). "The remarkable story of how jazz became a key part of South Africa's struggles in the 20th century, Ansell illustrates how jazz occupies a unique place in South African music. Through interviews with hundreds of musicians, she pieces together a vibrant narrative history, bringing to life the early politics of resistance, the atmosphere of illegal performance spaces, the global anti-apartheid influence of Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba, as well as the post-apartheid upheavals in the national broadcasting and recording industries. Featuring an introduction by Abdullah Ibrahim, *Soweto Blues* is a fitting tribute to the power of music to inspire optimism and self-expression in the darkest of times." (Bollmsbury.com)

4. ***Still Grazing. The musical journey of Hugh Masekela***, by Hugh Masekela and Michael Cheers (2004.) The life

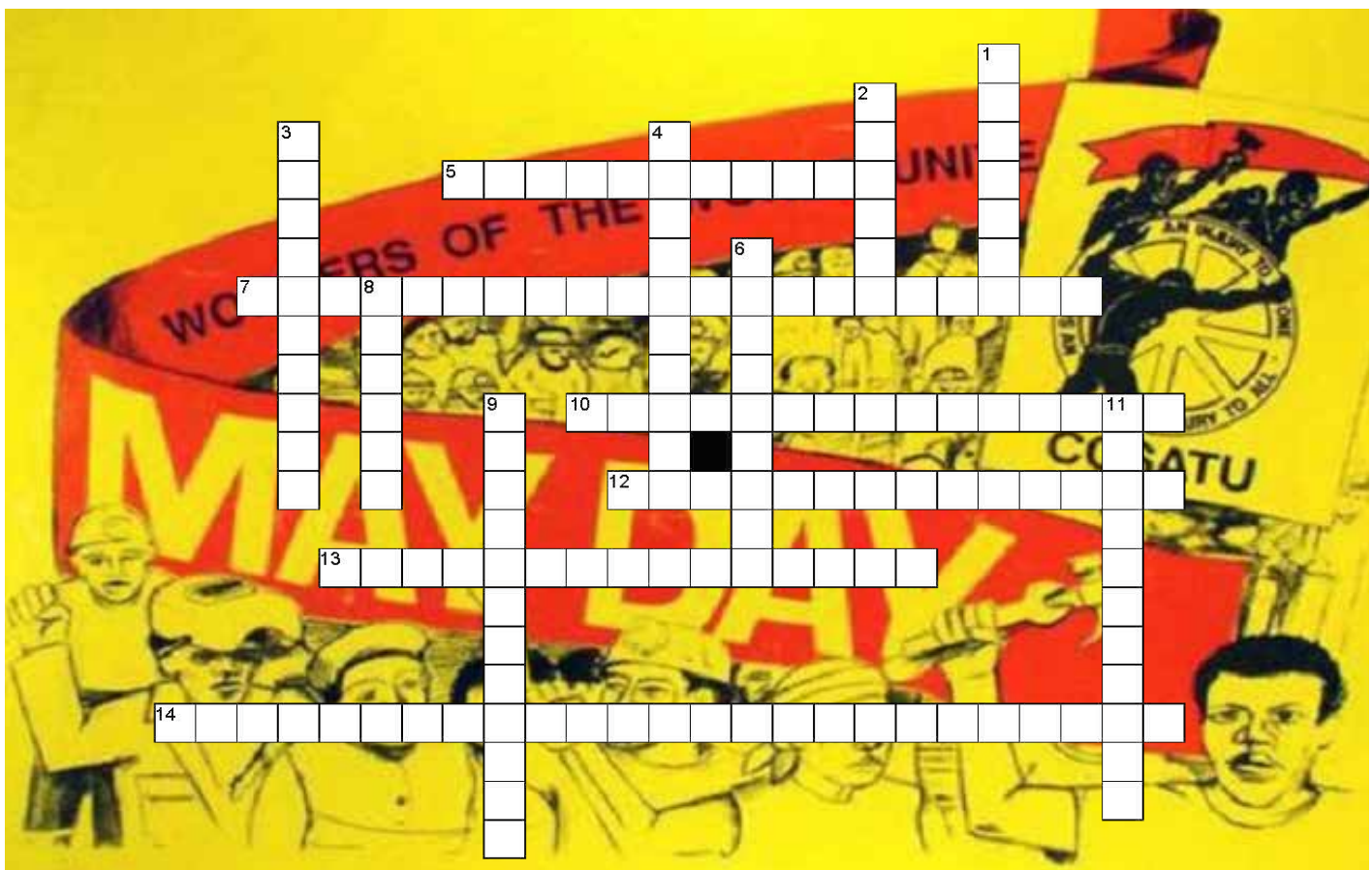
story of one of our greatest, from the dusty streets of Soweto, to all over the African continent, Europe and Jamaica and back home, and about the music he made. In his own words.

5. ***Making the Changes. Jazz in South African Literature and Reportage***, by Michael F Titlestad. (2004. UNISA Press). "Maps the representation of jazz and the occasions of its performance in South African literature and reportage, from King Kong reportage to the agonised poetics of exile, Soweto poets of the 1970s to the Staffrider generation of the 1980s. Argues that South African jazz has been formed from complex transactions with other black Atlantic cultures, identities and politics, and local contingencies have been managed through elaborating a relational history that has cut across the hierarchies of colonial and apartheid ideology." (books.google.co.za)

6. ***Marabi Nights: Jazz, 'Race' and Society in Early Apartheid South Africa*** (1993/2012. Ravan Press/UKZN Press): the collection of interviews and articles paints the socio-political history of jazz in South Africa. The new edition has a chapter on the Manhattan Brothers, and on gender in jazz.

7. ***Unsung. South African Jazz musicians under Apartheid***. (2007. African Sun Media). This book focusses on the many jazz musicians who didn't go into exile, and in their own way, across the country defied the restrictions of apartheid.

I am sure our readers have more titles to add to this list. And, as Herbie Hancock said: "...my hope is that .. music will serve as a metaphor for the actions taken by the inhabitants of this wonderful planet as a call for world harmony on all levels."

**Across**

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has a profound impact on ...
7. Social security benefit to protect workers in case of lay-offs.
10. Re-opening of businesses and production have to be accompanied by ... measures.
12. This is the worst global crisis since which war?
13. ILO calls for urgent measures to protect, especially ...
14. First progressive South African labour federation.

Down

1. 1.6 ... informal workers in the world according to the ILO.
2. Trade union federation launched in 1985 with Elijah Barayi as President.
3. The crisis must make us focus on Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 8 ... and Economic Growth.
4. Fight for such a wage to improve lives of the working poor.
6. Percentage of world's workforce under lockdown during height.
8. Workers Day also called.
9. COVID-19 has also disrupted global ...
11. Global celebrations of Workers Day heralded growth of labour movements and ...

WORD BANK

May Day
supply chains
small businesses
Industrial Commercial Union

billion
health and safety
Second World War
living wage

eighty one
unemployment insurance
Decent Work

livelihoods
trade unions
COSATU

write for us

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

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