



ANC TODAY

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15–21 May 2020

Conversations with the President



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

IT IS UPON THE CONDUCT OF EACH THAT DEPENDS THE FATE OF ALL

SINCE THE BEGINNING of May, when we began the gradual easing of the nation-wide coronavirus lockdown, many people have started returning to work. As part of the phased recovery of the economy, companies in certain specified industries have been able to resume part or all of their operations.

The national coronavirus alert level is now at 4, which means that ex-

treme precautions remain in place to limit community transmission. Our goal is to steadily reduce the alert level by keeping the rate of infection down and getting our health system ready for the inevitable increase in cases.

As the lockdown is gradually eased, life will slowly return. But it will not be life as we knew it before. While there is still much about the pandemic that is unknown, experts now agree that

the virus will remain a threat to global public health for some time.

We must therefore be prepared to continue to live with the coronavirus among us for a year or even more. We must be prepared for a new reality in which the fight against COVID-19 becomes part of our daily existence.

Our success in overcoming the coronavirus will ultimately be determined

A VERY DIFFERENT SOUTH AFRICA AND WORLD AWAIT US

4

Dear Mr President
COVID-19: SALUTE TO ALL IN THE FRONTLINE

8

ENGAGING BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

10

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



President Ramaphosa on a walkabout at the Agricultural Royal Showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal. The site has been designated as a quarantine/ isolation facility for COVID-19 patients.

by the changes we make in our behaviour. Even after lockdown – especially after lockdown – we will still need to observe social distancing, wear face masks, wash hands regularly, and avoid contact with other people. We will need to re-organise workplaces, schools, universities, colleges and other public places to limit transmission.

We will need to adapt to new ways of worshipping, socialising, exercising and meeting that minimise opportunities for the virus to spread. This is a reality that countries across the world are having to confront. Even those countries that have started easing their lockdown restrictions are doing so tentatively and with extreme caution.

Like we have done, many countries are implementing extensive stimulus packages to strengthen their respective health care sectors, support ailing industries and workers and provide relief to vulnerable households. Like us, they have had

The transition to the next phase of the coronavirus response, that of recovery, will be more difficult than the present one. The risk of infection outbreaks will increase. The demands on our clinics and hospitals and medical personnel will grow.

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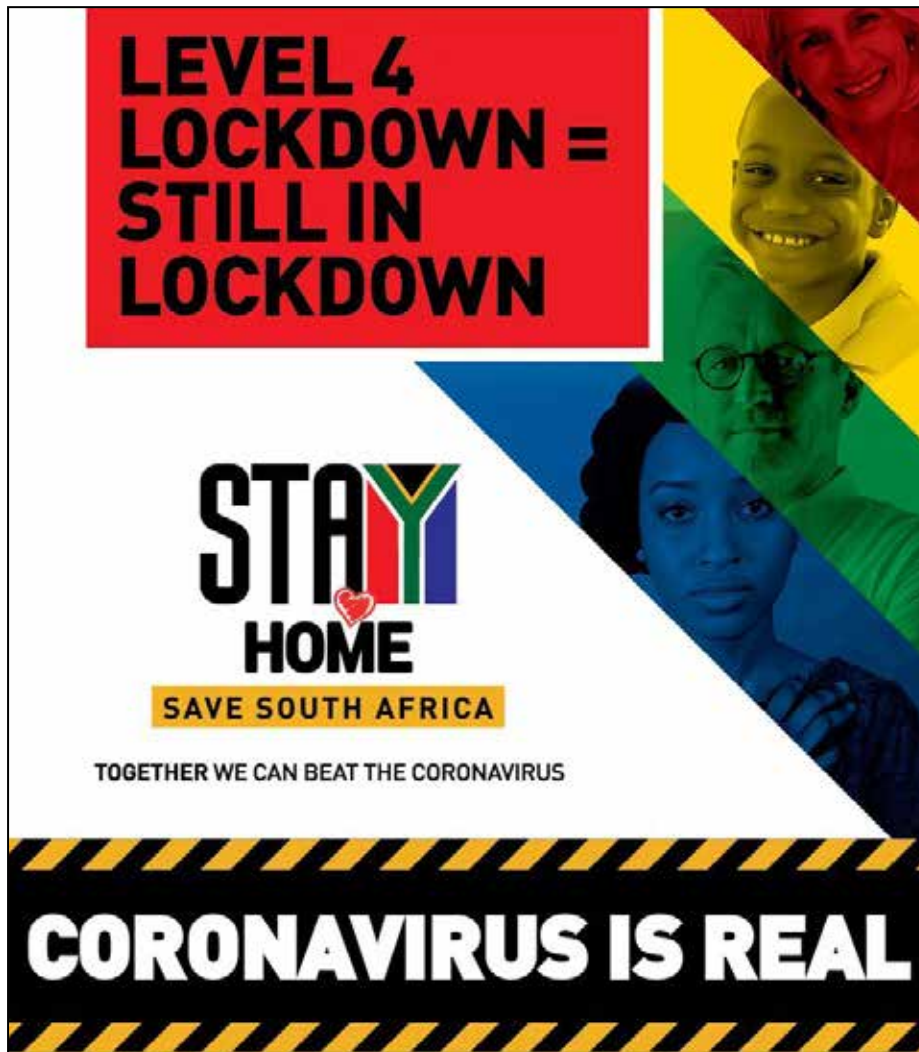
to heed calls for economic activity to resume. Like our citizens, their populations are restive and frustrated with the curtailment of personal freedoms.

At the same time, health experts around the globe are warning of a ‘second wave’ of infections as public life resumes. A number of countries including Germany, Iran and China have seen a rise in new infections since they relaxed certain restrictions. We will be no different. We can and must expect infections to rise as more people return to work. We must accept the reality, prepare for it and adapt to it.

The next phase of our national response is as much about continuity as it is about change or innovation. We will step up our intensive screening, testing and case management programme. We will introduce new measures to make contact tracing more effective. We will need to implement mass sanitisation of workplaces, public transport and other spaces.

Since the nationwide lockdown began, most South Africans have observed the regulations that are in place for their own health and safe-

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Imposing a nation-wide lockdown gave our country a strategic advantage. It bought us valuable time to prepare our health system and put in place containment measures. This has slowed transmission and saved lives.

The transition to the next phase of the coronavirus response, that of recovery, will be more difficult than the present one. The risk of infection outbreaks will increase. The demands on our clinics and hospitals and medical personnel will grow.

That is why easing the lockdown restrictions must not result in careless behaviour by individuals or reckless practices by businesses keen to resume activity at the cost of human health.

The coronavirus crisis will pass. But for as long as it remains a threat to the lives of our people, we must remain vigilant, diligent and responsible.

Now, more than ever, it is upon the conduct of each that depends the fate of all.

ty. They have made an informed decision to do so, understanding it is necessary for their own lives and for the lives of those around them.

As the restrictions on economic activity and daily life are eased, it is vital that all South Africans maintain that firm sense of personal responsibility. In all that we do, in every sphere of life, we must take care of our own health and the health of others.

Whether as individuals, employers, employees, government, civil society, trade unions or businesses, we will all continue to have a role to play in fighting the pandemic. In the same way that we had to change our behaviour to prevent the spread of HIV, now we need to change our behaviour to stop the coronavirus.



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

A VERY DIFFERENT SOUTH AFRICA AND WORLD AWAIT US

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ON SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, 13 MAY 2020

THIS WEEK, our country reached a sad moment in the progression of the coronavirus pandemic, as we recorded our 219th death from the disease. Every life lost is a tragedy.

These 219 people who passed away had families, they had dependents, friends and colleagues. Their lives were cut short by a virus that has caused human and economic devastation across the world.

In recording and reporting on the daily figures of new infections, deaths and recoveries — we can too easily lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with human lives.

This coronavirus is taking a heavy toll not only on the health of our people, but also on our people's ability to earn a living, to feed themselves and their families, to learn and to develop, and to enjoy many of the basic freedoms that we daily take for granted.

It is nearly 7 weeks since we implemented a nation-wide lockdown. During this time, South Africans have demonstrated great courage, resilience and responsibility.

I once again thank you for the sacrifices you have made thus far.

I would like to say, as I have said before, that despite its duration and its severity, the lockdown was absolutely necessary.

Without the lockdown the number of coronavirus infections would have soared uncontrollably, our health facilities would have been overwhelmed and many thousands more South Africans would have died.

From the very beginning, our response has been guided by advice from world-leading experts from our own country and across the globe. We have also benefited from the guidance from the World Health Organisation.

The experiences that other nations have been through have also given us invaluable insights.

We should never forget that the purpose of the lockdown was to delay the spread of the virus and prevent a huge surge of infections.

So far, we have been successful in the manner we as South Africans have responded and dealt with this virus.

By delaying the spread of the disease, we have been able to strengthen the capacity of our health system and to put in place wide-ranging public health programmes to better manage the inevitable increase in infections.

We now have nearly 25,000 additional beds available for quarantine.

We have been able to source and produce substantial quantities of personal protective equipment for health





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We will spare no effort to ensure our most vulnerable citizens are supported and protected during this difficult time. We are determined that our response matches the proportions of the crisis, and will ensure that the foundations of our economy are protected.

- President Cyril Ramaphosa
 13 May 2020

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

workers, vital medical equipment and other supplies.

Using the valuable time which the lockdown gave us, we have managed to significantly expand our screening and testing programme.

In all, our field workers have now screened over 9 million people, and we have conducted nearly 370,000 coronavirus tests.

This is the largest and most extensive public health mobilisation in the history of our country.

It has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of thousands of community workers, nurses, doctors and other health workers.

They made enormous sacrifices to ensure the success of the lockdown.

By answering the call to stay at home and stay safe, you, the people of South Africa, have helped us to save many lives.

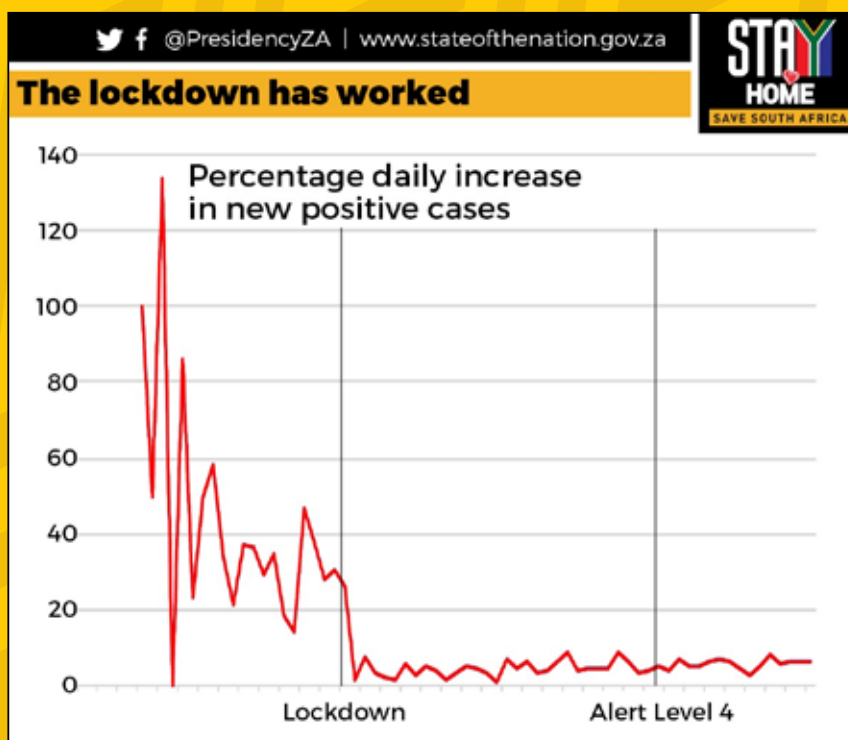
As we have strengthened our public health response, we have introduced several vital measures to support the companies, workers and households that have been severely affected by the lockdown.

We have introduced an economic and social relief package worth over R500 billion to help companies in distress, to save jobs and to provide some income to informal workers and poor households.


Since it was established, the special COVID-19 relief scheme of the Unemployment Insurance Fund has paid out over R11 billion to 2 million employees employed by over 160,000 companies in distress.

This will help to keep companies afloat and save millions of jobs.


At the beginning of this month, government paid out an additional R5 billion to social grant recipients to assist poor households at a time when other sources of income have been disrupted.



We have built the capacity of our health system



- Daily testing has increased from below 4,000 tests per day to between **10,000 and 15,000 tests per day**
- We have screened over **9 million people** in communities across the country
- We have established **354 quarantine sites** with over **25,000 beds**
- We have conducted **simulations and training** in hospitals, and have **procured medical supplies** and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers



- South Africa acted **swiftly and decisively** to halt the spread of the virus while the epidemic was at an **early stage**
- If we had not imposed the lockdown, the number of cases **would have increased rapidly** and exponentially
- This spike in infections would have occurred **before our health system was adequately prepared** to respond, resulting in a significantly more deaths
- The lockdown **allowed us to slow down the spread** of the virus and gave us time to **build the capacity of the health system**

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19



We have opened applications for the special COVID-19 grant of R350 a month for unemployed South Africans who receive no other form of assistance from government.

We are determined that our response matches the proportions of the crisis and helps to ensure that the foundations of our economy are protected.

There have been very disturbing reports of increased levels of gender-based violence since the lockdown started.

The scourge of gender-based violence continues to stalk our country as the men of our country declared war on the women.

We have developed an emergency pathway for survivors to ensure that the victims of gender-based violence are assisted.

One of the interventions we have made is to ensure lockdown regulations be structured in a manner that a woman can leave her home to report abuse without the fear of a fine, intimidation or further violence.

Now, two months after we declared a national state of disaster, we are ready to shift to a new phase in our response to the coronavirus pandemic.

On the first of May, we moved to Alert Level 4 and began the phased easing of the national lockdown. This was in line with our risk-adjusted strategy

through which we sought to slow down the rate of infection and flatten the curve.

We are now preparing for a further easing of the lockdown and a gradual opening of the economy.

I will repeat what I have said before: **if we lift the lockdown too abruptly and too quickly, we risk a rapid and unmanageable surge in infections.**

We will therefore continue to proceed cautiously, informed by the best available evidence and guided by the advice of local and international experts.

Our goal is to steadily increase economic activity while putting measures in place to reduce the transmission of the virus and provide adequate care for those who become infected and need treatment.

When I last addressed you, I outlined the five level alert system that we have introduced to guide this process.

At the time, the country was at alert level 5, which has the most stringent restrictions on movement and economic activity.

Alert level 4 – which is the current level across the country – retains most of the lockdown regulations but permits the gradual opening up of certain parts of the economy.

Alert levels 3 to 1 allow a progressively greater relaxation of restrictions.

As I indicated then, some areas of the country may be designated at a particular alert level, while others may be designated at other levels.

This would be done according to the rate of infection in an area and the state of readiness and the capacity of its health facilities to cope with treating infected people.

For now, infections are mostly concentrated in a few metropolitan municipalities and districts in the country. It is important that we maintain stringent restrictions in these areas and restrict travel out of these areas to parts of the country with lower rates of infection.

We will immediately begin a process of consultation with relevant stakeholders on a proposal that by the end of May, most of the country be placed on alert level 3, but that those parts of the country with the highest rates of infection remain on level 4. We will make further announcements after the completion of the consultations.

Some have questioned whether our approach in dealing with the coronavirus has been at the expense of the livelihoods of our people.

Our strategic approach has been based on saving lives and preserving livelihoods. Our key objective has always been to slow down the infection rate through a number of interventions in our coronavirus prevention toolbox.

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

Each of these prevention measures are crucial and non-negotiable. They are:

- **Lockdown (to achieve extreme social distancing).**
- **Social distancing.**
- **Adopting hand hygiene practices by washing hands regularly with water and soap or sanitiser.**
- **Cough etiquette including coughing into your elbow or a tissue.**
- **Wearing cloth masks whenever you are in public places.**
- **Use of personal protection equipment by all health workers**
- **Frequent cleaning of the work environment and other public spaces.**
- **Symptom screening.**
- **Testing, isolation, quarantine and contact tracing.**

It is in the implementation of all these preventative measures that we will overcome this disease.

Most importantly, this new phase will require each of us to change our own behaviour in profound ways.

There needs to be a fundamental shift in our thinking and our way of life. We need to take personal responsibility for our own health and the health of others.

Let us remember that although the lockdown has slowed down the rate of transmission, the coronavirus is very much still present – and will be present among us for a long time to come. We have been warned that infections will inevitably rise as the lockdown measures are eased, as has happened in many countries. We also know that the coronavirus will continue to be a global health threat for some time to come, and that the fight against COVID-19 needs to become part of our daily lives.

On more than one occasion, I have stood before you and asked you to accept stringent restrictions on your daily lives, knowing that these will bring great hardship. You have heeded these calls, firmly convinced that

these measures are necessary for the health and the well-being – indeed the survival – of our young nation.

In return for everything that is being asked of you, there are a few fundamental things that you ask of us, your leaders. And that is why we must acknowledge that as we have confronted this unprecedented challenge, there may have been times when we have fallen short of your expectations.

Some of the actions we have taken have been unclear, some have been contradictory and some have been poorly explained. Implementation has sometimes been slow and enforcement has sometimes been inconsistent and too harsh.

As your President, as this government, we are firmly committed to meeting the expectations you rightly have of us. Where we have disappointed, we will continue to make amends. Where we make mistakes, we will continue to correct them.

Our collective struggles over the past months have taught us much about ourselves and about each other. We have also learnt a lot about this virus.

Although there may have been differences and disagreements, there has also been kindness, empathy and compassion. There has been courage and solidarity.

A very different South Africa and world awaits us. The greatest test will be our willingness to embrace change. Let us rise to meet this challenge. Let us stand as one family and one nation to build a new and stronger society.

The days before us will be difficult. But we will draw strength from what we have achieved.

We should recall the words spoken by President Nelson Mandela 20 years ago when our country was being devastated by another pandemic.

He said:


“In the face of the grave threat posed by HIV/AIDS, we have to rise above our differences and combine our efforts to save our people.


“History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so now.”

As I end, let me offer the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, delivered at a difficult time in the life of his own country:

*The state of this nation is good.
The heart of this nation is sound.
The spirit of this nation is strong.
The faith of this nation is eternal.*


May God bless South Africa and protect her people.


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A Differentiated Approach

The next phase in our response will focus on saving lives while protecting livelihoods.



- A **differentiated approach** will allow **economic activity to resume** in many parts of the country, so that people can get back to work as quickly and safely as possible
- **Some areas** of the country, where the infection rate is low, will return to a **lower alert level**
- More **stringent restrictions** will apply in **hotspot areas**, where the infection rate is increasing

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

COVID 19: SALUTE TO ALL IN THE FRONTLINE

Dear Mr President

ALL OUR earthly endeavours and material possessions count for nothing when we do not enjoy good health.

As the whole world is engulfed by the threat of the novel COVID-19, we paused briefly this week to acknowledge the role played by the health-care workers in the front line of fighting this pestilence.

The International Nurses' Day which falls on May 12 was an auspicious day as it came when these unsung heroes and heroines were poised to risk their own lives in the quest to heal the world.

The coronavirus pandemic has magnified the role played by the nurses in ensuring that we receive proper care. We are all exposed and threatened by its venomous intent. It has already infected commoners and royalty, the rich and the poor, the famous and the ordinary.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came out of hospital during his spell in the intensive care (ICU) after a bout of COVID-19, singing praises of the nurses who cared for him. In a video message, the prime minister thanked several medical workers who tended to him while he was in a London hospital last month, but he singled out two nurses – Jenny McGee from New Zealand and Luis Pitarma from Portugal who stood by his bedside for “48



By Pule Mabe

hours when things could have gone either way.”

Indeed Mr President, the coronavirus has shown that things would go either way for any one of us who come into contact with it and many lives have already been lost across the world.

For those who develop severe respiratory syndrome which requires hospitalisation, contact with their next-of-kin has been out of the question to avoid further infection. Fortunately, they have nurses by the bedside to comfort them on top of administering medical care required by their career choices.

These brave nurses live with the fear of bringing the virus home to their families when they return from work. The coronavirus has placed an added burden of having to keep a safe

distance from their loved ones.

The healthcare workers also bear the brunt of the coronavirus and many have laid down their lives after being infected in the line of duty.

Closer to home, we have lost scientist and researcher, Professor Gita Ramjee to COVID-19 related illness in March. Ramjee felt unwell on her return from London where she delivered a lecture at the London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine.

This week, the chairman of the Council of Medical Schemes, Dr Clarence Mini succumbed to COVID-19 related complications after spending a month in hospital.

South Africa also lost Josephine Manini Peter to coronavirus while on duty at Southport Hospital in London last month. Peter, who left the country 18 years ago, had bought a ticket back home before COVID-19 started. Health Minister Zweli Mkhize commended the nurses for remaining steadfast in the fight against COVID-19 at the commemoration in KwaZulu Natal and added that the nursing profession needed to be prioritised by strengthening education and training in the field.

The minister further announced the “**Caring for the Carers**” programme which seeks to protect healthcare workers’ mental and physical wellbeing both during and beyond the coronavirus.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

While the nurses have always worked under intense psychological pressure, the current pandemic is making an extraordinary demand on them. The Minister said the contribution made by the nurses to the fight against COVID-19 was “immeasurable”. Amid the worldwide shortage of protective equipment at this time, the Minister made a commitment that no nurse would be allowed to care for patients without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

In celebrating their unwavering commitment, Minister Mkhize offered a moral bolster: *“For most of our communities, the nurse is the first to be seen at the time of birth; the heartbeat of the health system throughout the lifespan....and often the last to help them close their eyes at the end of life,”*

Mr President, the dedication of nurses to their profession is a defining character and commitment to their cause that even when they are asked to come out of retirement, they do not hesitate. After working as a nurse for 30 years and 14 years at a hospital in Saudi Arabia, Baronice Andrews retired to her hometown in Cape Town. But after her arrival at Kuils River in March, a lockdown was declared and she promptly responded to a plea by the health minister to retired medical professionals to rejoin the health service.

We salute Andrews and many of her colleagues, who remind us of the dedication of Cecilia Makiwane, the first African to be registered as a professional nurse in South Africa in 1908. An activist for women's rights, Makiwane took part in what was probably the first women's anti-pass campaign in 1912.

In the fight against the coronavirus, the world needs as many masks and ventilators as it needs nurses and other healthcare professionals. After



INTERNATIONAL NURSE DAY

12 MAY 2020

The **ANC** joins the global community in commemorating the International Day of Nurses. Nurses are at the forefront of fighting epidemics as well as pandemics across the globe and continue to be an important pillar of our healthcare system. The Covid-19 pandemic is yet another reminder of the vital role nurses play in our lives. Without nurses and other health workers, we will struggle to battle against outbreaks of such nature.

STAY HOME

Protect Yourself.
Defend Each Other.
Let's Do It Together.

#Khawuleza
#BeTheRenewal
#BuildingtheSouthAfricaWeWant

a slow start, South Africa has registered more than 12 000 infections and, while the national lockdown bought us the time to prepare facilities and equipment to deal with higher infections, the healthcare sector requires qualified personnel to deal with the expected peak.

Mr President, we join you and the rest of peace loving South Africans in expressing our gratitude to the Republic of Cuba for their humanitarian action – deploying a brigade of 217 medical doctors to bolster our efforts to fight and defeat the Coronavirus. After the mandatory quarantine upon their arrival on our Freedom Day, the Army-in-White has been cleared to resume with the most daunting task of saving humanity.

While the whole world faces the shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals and the first world countries have often enticed them

with better pay and working conditions, the coronavirus has demonstrated that we all need one another.

Mr President, the coronavirus can only be defeated if all nations act in concert and none hog equipment and poach medical personnel the others require at crucial moments in the battle against COVID-19.

To all those in the forefront of fighting this global threat, we owe a debt of gratitude. We salute their bravery and commitment and we believe that with them by our side, we will triumph over this pandemic.

Long Live the Nurse!

Yours sincerely,

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

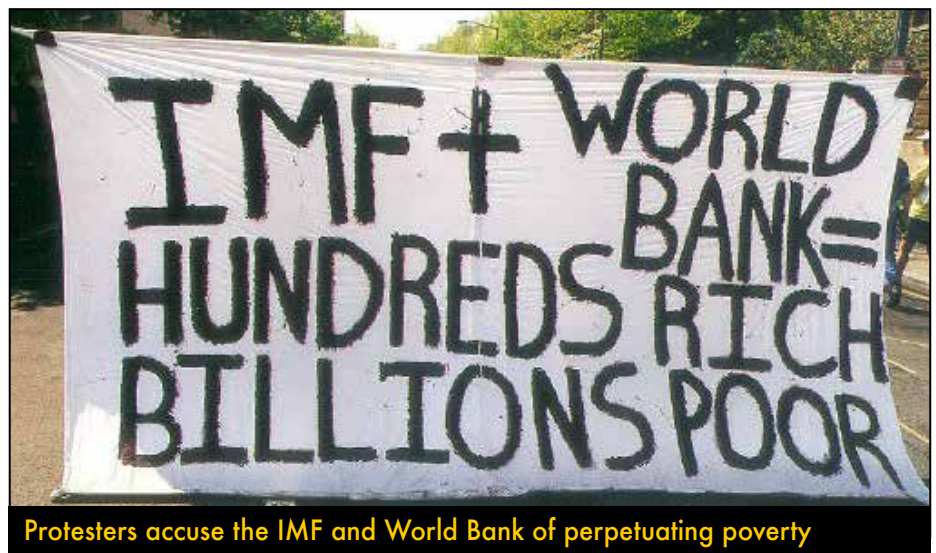
Engaging Bretton Woods institutions is in line with ANC policy, but struggle for reform must be intensified

By Zamani Saul, ANC Provincial Chairperson, Northern Cape

THE RECENT REMARKS by the South African government and the subsequent ANC National Executive Committee decision to approach the Bretton Woods financial institutions for funding of the extensive COVID-19 responses in the country ignited intense debate about the political correctness or otherwise of such a move. The government announced R500 billion to be used for various programmes, which are meant to sharpen the approach of the government in addressing the pandemic. This includes funding for public health care, rescue for small businesses, and socio-economic programmes to cushion the poor.

The virus found its foothold in the country at a time when it is struggling to come to terms with a runaway budget deficit, a technical recession, junk status downgrade and increasing sovereign debt. These economic terms have a human face for those who care, which translate into high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is commonplace politics that the government needs money to fight the virus and alleviate its devastating socio-economic impact.

Various measures were announced to mobilise for the R500 billion which includes reprioritisation of the 2020/21 budget, state capital and global financial institutions. The African Development Bank developed a COVID-19



Protesters accuse the IMF and World Bank of perpetuating poverty

response facility and is amongst the global financial institutions to be approached, but it is important to note that the quantum of the facility is limited and will be unable to cover the extensive cost of South Africa's response package. Similarly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (Bretton Woods institutions) have introduced COVID-19 emergency response packages and for obvious reasons, the maximum amounts the country can access here are quite substantial and at more favourable funding costs.

Considering the ravages of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) during the latter half of the 20th century, this decision by the ANC and the South African government has understand-

ably attracted scathing criticism. Some critics argue that this decision will compromise national sovereignty and goes against the character of the African National Congress as an anti-imperialist movement.

Such attacks are based on the fact that the evolution of the Bretton Woods institutions, since their establishment in July 1944 by representatives from 44 nations was enmeshed in controversy; hence, the agitated response in South Africa about the political correctness of this decision. The controversy is mainly generated by the loan conditionality which was introduced by both institutions in the late 1960s. Such conditionality gave rise to the SAP, which sharpened the controversies on the purpose

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

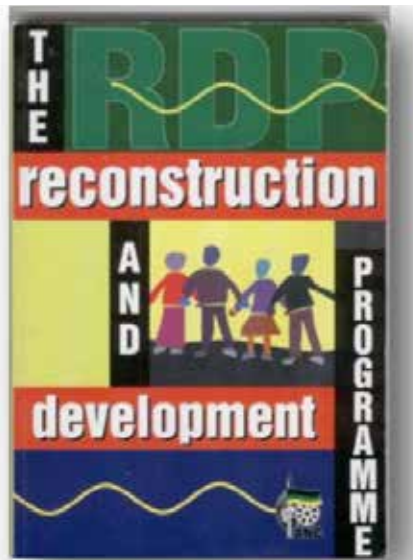
and legitimacy of these Bretton Woods institutions to the extent of threatening their existence.

During the early 2000s, the crisis of legitimacy resulted in declining demand for loans from the Bretton Woods institutions, supported by the increased availability of funds from private international markets and the accumulation of large foreign exchange reserves by emerging economies. At present 189 countries, including South Africa, have membership with Bretton Woods institutions.

The policy position of the ANC on the relationship between the ANC-led government and the Bretton Woods institutions is abundantly clear and easy to comprehend. The **1992 Ready to Govern** Policy Document and later the **1994 RDP** do not preclude building relationship with international financial institutions and utilizing their loan facilities, but prescribe four stringent conditions for such engagements, which are:

1. Protection of the integrity of the domestic policy formulation (sovereignty);
2. Promotion of the interest of South African population;
3. Protection of the economy; and
4. Pursuance of policies that enhance self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on international financial institutions.

The legitimacy of Bretton Woods institutions has been challenged on four fronts: loan conditionality, governance, dominance, and quota system. This article focuses on loan conditionality. The Bretton Woods institutions were established to shape the post-war global financial system, and initially there was no conditionality attached to the loans. However, over the years, loan conditions became more onerous, especially after the Extended Fund Facility was set up in 1974. In the late 1970s, only 26% of the IMF loan disbursements involved substantial conditionalities, but the Latin American debt crisis and the expansion of lending to Africa increased that figure to 66% in the 1980s.



The 1992 Ready to Govern Policy Document and later the 1994 RDP do not preclude building relationship with international financial institutions and utilizing their loan facilities, but prescribe four stringent conditions for such engagements.

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The conditionality measures of the Bretton Woods institutions undermined the sovereignty of the borrowing countries, and the “straitjacket” macroeconomic policies that were imposed failed to address the economic challenges confronted by the emerging economies, and in some countries even exacerbated the economic challenges. The Bretton Woods institutions were severely criticised for applying a “one-size-fits-

all” approach to macroeconomic policy prescriptions. The criticisms from emerging economies, including democratic South Africa, resulted in the introduction of some loan facility reforms.

The IMF introduced reformed loan facilities with low conditionality. The Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) is one such loan facility introduced by the IMF to provide emergency assistance to member countries facing the economic impact of the pandemic. The RCF has limited conditionality attached and is tailored to country needs, with access being determined on a case-by-case basis. It is important to note that the RCF support is provided without ex-post programme-based conditionality or reviews, and this means that it is substantially different from the SAP. Unlike the SAP, the RCF is a concessional lending facility with very low cost of funding; it also supports the country’s poverty reduction and growth objectives without imposing “one-size-fits-all” policy prescriptions.

In turn, the World Bank launched the Contingency Emergency Facility and expects to deploy up to \$160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect their poor and vulnerable citizens and develop health responses to the COVID-19 challenges. This facility is available to countries under more favourable conditions, and with a greater level of transparency.

The loan conditionality framework for both these Bretton Woods institutions continues to evolve, not due to gratuitous favour by these institutions, but rather as a product of pressure by global progressives, although this pressure needs to be consolidated and intensified.

Taking into cognisance the precarious financial position of the country, to approach the Bretton Woods institutions for loans with flexible conditions is understandable. This will help to strengthen the country’s response to the pandemic and the vast socio-economic challenges. Already, an immediate debt service relief to 19 African countries has been approved and more than \$9,5

continues on page 16

IN MEMORIAM

ANC VETERANS LEAGUE MOURNS THE UNTIMELY PASSING OF COMRADE DR BOY CLARENCE MINI

THE ANC Veterans League is saddened by the passing away of Cde Boy Clarence Mini.

Cde Bizzah as he was affectionately known in our political circles was a calm, compassionate, dedicated and selfless cadre of the African National Congress. Cde Bizzah was part of the June 16 detachment.

He received his military training from the ANC's Umkhonto We Sizwe in Angola between 1976 and 1977. Initially he was based at Benguela Camp but was later sent to Novo Catengue in Angola. Cde Bizzah played a leadership role when he helped more than 500 cadres of uMkhonto we Sizwe who were poisoned by counter revolutionary elements on 28 September 1977 in Novo Catengue camp.

Cde Bizzah later went to study medicine in Varna in Bulgaria. This is where I first met, interacted and shared ANC political work with him. Together, with more than 150 ANC students, we mobilised students from Bulgaria, Greece, Palestine and Latin America's communities to stand side by side with us in support of our struggle against apartheid.

In Varna, Cde Bizzah was responsible for counselling emotionally distressed ANC students. *"When I joined Cde Bizzah in Varna, I was distraught and down emotionally. He received me like an elder sibling. He had a rich political outlook and stature,"* says Cde Sandile Mfenyana.

Upon completing his medical studies in Bulgaria, Cde Bizzah was deployed in Harare, Zimbabwe and worked as

a medical doctor at Parirenyantwa Hospital. He assisted and treated our comrades who were injured during military operations, especially in the then Northern Transvaal.

Back in South Africa Cde Bizzah Mini was fully involved in the medical field and served our communities and restoring their dignity.

In 2010, he was appointed by the then Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi as the head of the medical schemes regulator a position he held until his untimely death.

Comrade Boy Mini was developing a concept document of establishing a Health Desk for the ANC Veterans League. He was concerned about the healthcare care of veterans as they are the most vulnerable, especially now during the COVID -19 pandemic.

Like a committed cadre of the movement, Cde Bizzah was concerned about how the ANC lost the confidence of society and how we veered off track.

Cde Bizzah did not tolerate mediocrity and took action against those who were involved in corrupt activities.

He was committed to renewing and rebuilding the ANC and the Veterans League to be the leader of society again.

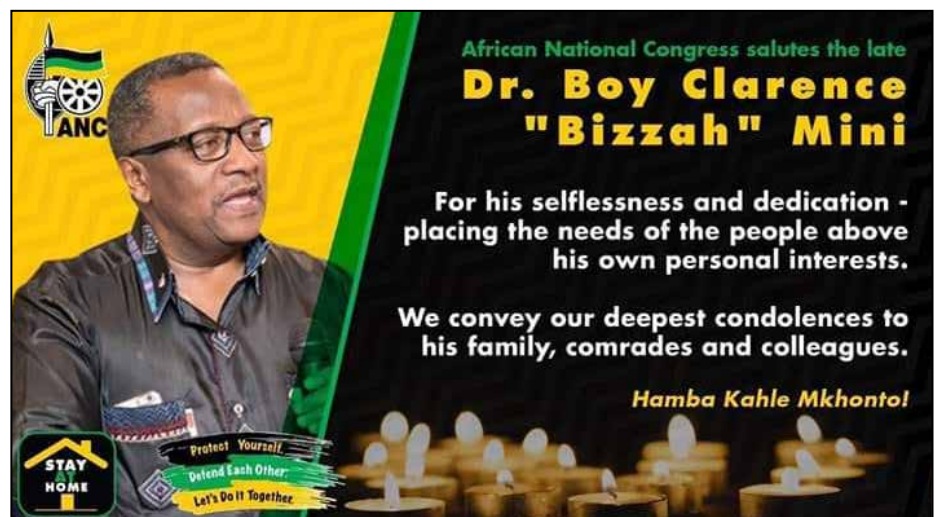
Comrade Bizzah, as the Veterans League we will not disappoint you as it is our responsibility to reinforce the values, traditions and policies of our glorious movement.

We will ensure that our glorious movement strengthens governance and tackles corruption, and that all appointees are fit for purpose, demonstrating the highest levels on integrity.

As the Veterans League we would like to send our condolences to his family, the ANC community and friends.

**MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN
INTERNAL PEACE.**

Lala Ngoxolo Cde Bizzah.



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

THE FACE OF COVID-19, JUST LIKE POVERTY, IS A WOMAN

(PART 1)

By Precious Banda

“OUR REVOLUTION is not a public-speaking tournament. Our revolution is not a battle of fine phrases. Our revolution is not simply for spouting slogans that are no more than signals used by manipulators trying to use them as catchwords, as code words, as a foil for their own display.

Our revolution is, and should continue to be, the collective effort of revolutionaries to transform reality, to improve the concrete situation of the masses of our country.”

Thomas Sankara

I will be showing how pandemics have a general effect to exacerbate the pre-existing inequalities. This means even with COVID-19 it will surely amplify the gender inequality in the world including in South Africa.

Towards the end of 2019, StatsSA released its inequality trends report that confirmed what we have generally referred to as the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment

which affects black, poor, working class and rural women in a particular manner. So before Covid-19 arrived in South Africa, the working class whose majority are women were already pre-disposed to bearing the brunt of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The hierarchy of vulnerability places the poor, especially women at the tail end of all these, thus the most exposed. It is important for me to acknowledge that women of the bourgeoisie (white and black) may be at the tail end in relation to their male partners, but are not at the tail end in relation to working class men.

ECONOMIC AND LABOUR DIMENSION

Working class women faced with lockdown and economic slowdown find it even more difficult to get a job. Those who qualify remain condemned to social grants, but for those not on social grants it is worse. Many women survive on scouting for daily piece jobs of washing and cleaning, and will no longer be able to do such jobs. These are the women who cannot afford to panic buy

and stock up no matter how threatened they are.

The women who sell food, fruit and vegetables at taxi ranks and along the streets usually target commuters who use public transport. Their biggest cash in time is during the social grant payment. While formal business and supermarkets were allowed to sell food, including fruit and vegetables, no one thought about the informal traders until after five days or more into the lockdown. The sad part is that they lost out from the recipients of the social grant this month who usually buy from them. The worrying factor is that there was inadequate thought of safety measures that must be implemented in informal business without disrupting their trade.

Most people who sell fruit and vegetables and cook by the streets are single mothers who carry the burden of feeding their families from hand to mouth through the very business activities that were disrupted. Though we are facing a serious economic crisis as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on capitalist productivity and sustainability, the capi-

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

talist retail sector continued to thrive and benefit from panic buying

The sex workers who are mainly women are another sector that has not been considered or catered for during the lockdown. They live from hand to mouth and also have to provide for themselves and their families. With the lockdown, their activities have been suspended and it means no income to sustain and feed their families.

In defining interventions for different sectors, the government must consider allocating a grant that must benefit sex workers. Such an intervention will also show our commitment to decriminalising sex work. To allocate a grant to sex workers will affirm that sex work is indeed work.

The general skills profile in South Africa shows a narrow percentage of skilled workforce with majority unskilled and low skilled workers being women (QLFS of StatsSA). This means that in the non-essential services, labour as declared by National Command Council, the unskilled and low skilled who are not essential workers are the primary victims of being locked down. With the lockdown being extended, they may be the first to lose their jobs with companies restructuring their operations due to the strain imposed by the lockdown.

The majority of essential services workers in the supermarkets and in health are women especially nursing services. They are exposed to the virus as frontline staff and may be required to work extra hours, and institutions, due to pressure, are unwilling to give leave. They are stretched to physical and emotional limits, still with additional burden of women duties in the home front. There should be an equal gender division of labour in the household to address this.

Others have young children, and employers may resist to give them family responsibility leave during this time arguing legalities. Other employers,



whose services are not essential, have forced their employees to take leave despite announcements made by our ministers on behalf of the National Command Council. No mechanism has been put in place to ensure that workers are not being compromised. We need more vibrant and unflinching trade unions to be firm to respond to all these challenges because the future of work as we know it is at stake. Moreover, it is at times like these when industries may resort to using machines and robots for production to continue while the human workforce is still dealing with COVID-19.

COVID-19 has exposed the unequal society we live in. It has posed a serious threat in informal settlements and townships where the poor and the working class live in crowded and hungry homes. The child-headed households whose daily struggle is to at least have bread have had to consider buying soap and bleach in order to prevent infection from this virus. The face of poverty is still a woman, meaning it is women that will have to oversee majority struggling families during this pandemic.

HEALTH DIMENSION

In South Africa, the source of the virus has been from those that travel or are from other countries where infection has been high. This has led to local infections that place an extreme health burden on women especially working class women. A case in point in that of a positive 28-year old in Khayelitsha who works in the suburbia. When she

came back home in contact with her family, her mother, child and helper were found to be infected. She stayed for more than 24hrs in a local District Hospital where the hospital didn't want to treat nor help her, claiming that they were not trained to treat COVID-19 patients. As a consequence of her infection, all of them had to be tested after a long wait and struggle, notwithstanding the stigma in the Community.

Most of these women do not have medical aid and will have to rely solely on the services of the public institutions that are overburdened, and despite the efforts of the Department of Health, are slow to test and respond to the pandemic. The case for the National Health Insurance (NHI) has never been more relevant than now. COVID-19 is a compelling case for the urgent and swift implementation for NHI in the interest of poor women of our Country.

Until the 7th of April 2020, baby clothes were not regarded as an essential need. Expecting women mostly buy baby clothes after they have delivered the baby. This is a reality of working class mothers. But when planning for the lockdown conditions, the NCC never thought about this or reimagined this critical reality that becomes a burden on women as they nurse their newly born. We came across new mothers and those who were due reaching out to express this frustration. It was only attended to 12 days into the lockdown. I appreciate that South Africa has never had a lockdown and so this is a massive learning curve. These are the lessons we learnt and were responded to. Going forward, the relevant departments like the Department of Women and Social Development should be better equipped to look after the interests of women throughout their life cycle, more especially during this pandemic.

Precious Banda is Convenor of the ANC Women's League Young Women Desk.

Q & A

Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Sisi Ntombela

MOTHERING OUR NATION DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

1. Comrade Sisi Ntombela, you wear many and varied hats, but the biggest hat is that of being a mother. How does it feel being a mother and its challenges?

Being a mother has been the greatest joy of my life. I have four beautiful children, and many other children that I hold dear to my heart. The biggest challenging has been not always being physically there for them because my work keeps me away from home. In the meantime, they are growing and sometimes face challenges. I often wonder if I have guided and supported them enough to overcome the never-ending tsunamis of life.

2. There are a lot of women out there who are struggling to conceive and, as a result some feel inadequate as women. What would you say to them?

I have so much empathy for women who are not able to conceive, but they can take courage. Children do not necessarily belong to us. They come from God, through us. Our only job is to love, protect and guide them. There are so many children who need mothers. Those women who can't conceive can surely create hope and fashion love for them.

3. We know the love and affection you have for the women of your



ANC Women's League Deputy President and Free State Premier

country, especially young women. Where does this compassion come from?

I have seen so many young women destroyed because they did not know their own strength. Women must be guided and steered towards the right path while they are still young so that they reach their full potential with ease, and contribute towards building our society. Young Women need to get an education, follow their passion and appreciate the fact that they have

a special purpose in society. Nothing brings me greater joy than seeing young women succeed.

4. As we celebrated Mother's Day this past Sunday, what would you say to single mothers who are raising kids alone?

I encourage them to be strong and courageous because they are the leaders of tomorrow and the future is in their hands. Also, they must lean on upright men of integrity in their families and communities for support, so that their children can have good male role models e.g. grandfathers, uncles, neighbours.

5. To some children this day brings nothing but tears into their eyes because they have lost their mothers recently. As a mother what would you say to them?

Losing a mother is very difficult, especially at a young age. One must try and seek professional assistance to help process the grief in a healthy manner. It takes a village to raise a child, so reach out to the mother figures in your family and community for motherly support. I would also like to urge women to reach beyond their own biological children. Our hearts have the capacity to love more. Let's be mindful of all types of mothers: the ones who cannot conceive, who have miscar-

ried, who have lost their children, the stepmothers, the foster mothers - all these women are part of a beautiful ecosystem of what keeps our society together.

6. In some cases there are mothers who did not receive any gifts or even a call from their children because of family issues and fights. What would you say to such a situation?

Family is the cornerstone of our society. We need to nurture our families, and learn to resolve conflict and move forward. Let us not allow wounds to fester in our families because they can create permanent rifts. As mothers, we need to always remember to be the adults in the situation even if we did not create the problem.

7. Your messages to all the mothers in our country?

I hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day last Sunday filled with love and joy. We work so hard for our children and we deserve a day to sit back, put our feet up and be honoured. Women always put their best foot forward, and so much rests on our shoulders. A lovely message to help unwind seems fitting! But most of all, at a time when we are faced with this faceless monster called coronavirus, I wish all women of our country long life, to stay home and stay safe.

8. If it wasn't for the lockdown, what would you have done for mothers during Mother's Day?

My greatest preoccupation as you know is women. I would have arranged a special day where the mothers in my community could come together to celebrate each other through song and dance. I want to see mothers uniting. Women of 1956 had a common purpose when they marched in unison against the hated pass laws. They united and won. We have contemporary challenges of COVID-19 and Gender Based Violence. **We need to assume our natural purpose of mothering our nation during this difficult time. We will win this war. For now, we stay home in fighting this pandemic and we will win.**

continued from page 11

ENGAGING BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS IS IN LINE WITH ANC POLICY, BUT STRUGGLE FOR REFORM MUST BE INTENSIFIED

billion in emergency assistance loan applications has been granted to 26 Sub-Saharan African countries.

Considering the policy position of the ANC, it is quite evident that the utilisation of the reformed emergency funding facilities offered by the Bretton Woods institutions cannot be construed, even at a distance, as a shift in the ideological outlook of the ANC as an anti-imperialist movement and a disciplined force of the left. The way the government intends to engage the Bretton Woods institutions does not threaten to compromise any of the prescribed policy conditions. South Africa will not lose its sovereignty by accessing these emergency flexible loan facilities as they do not accompany the same conditionality as SAP.

Furthermore, these loan facilities are procured to protect South Africans, particularly the poor, by increasing the capacity of the public health care facilities and cushioning the poor from the devastating impact of COVID-19.

In line with the **Ready to Govern** and the **RDP**, the country's dependence on international financial institutions was significantly reduced in the past 26 years as we are striving towards self-sufficiency. Therefore, procuring these loan facilities is strictly in line with the ANC policy.

The flexible loan facilities by the Bretton Woods institutions are as a result of fierce struggles for reforms that would benefit poor and emerging economies. But these reforms should not make the global progressive forces complacent, as the struggle for substantive reform of these Bretton Woods institutions remains relevant and must be intensified. This would be the only way to bring to an end the superficial "one-size-fits-

Considering the policy position of the ANC, it is quite evident that the utilisation of the reformed emergency funding facilities offered by the Bretton Woods institutions cannot be construed, even at a distance, as a shift in the ideological outlook of the ANC as an anti-imperialist movement and a disciplined force of the left.

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all” policy prescriptions which are not sensitive to the context of borrowing nations, but are more concerned with promoting the interests of major shareholding countries at the expense of poor nations.

At the heart of the intensification of the struggle for reform is a shift in the governance structures as well as the composition of the Executive Boards of the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure equitable participation in their affairs. These reforms should also be buttressed by a transparent process of expanding IMF lending facilities to less developed countries on conditions which are sensitive to their developmental needs. Of equal importance is the need to embark on intensive work to strengthen the loan disbursement capacity of both the African Development Bank and the BRICS Bank.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

16–21 May 2020

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



16 May 1977 *Winnie Mandela banished to Brandfort*

On this day, Mam Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, was banished to the dusty town of Brandfort in the Free State where she was unceremoniously dumped at house 802 in Majwemasweu township with her youngest daughter, Zinzi. There was no running water or electricity and the house had no floors or ceilings. She spent nine years in Brandfort with continuous harassment by the security forces, and she could not practice as a social worker. The banishment of Mam Winnie to Brandfort by the apartheid regime sought to silence one of their most potent threats but instead ignited the resistance movement in the forgotten dusty town. When the Security Branch exiled the revered freedom fighter, it had no idea she would recruit dozens of activists for the liberation struggle. As the years passed, the ANC's support in the area grew. Through her influence, Mam Winnie established the township's first Congress of South African Students and ANC Women's League branches.

16 May 1976

Pupils boycott classes in defiance of the use of Afrikaans in their schools

Pupils at Phefeni Secondary School started boycotting classes in protest against the use of Afrikaans as medium of instruction in certain subjects in schools. The unrest spread to Belle Higher Primary School, Thulasizwe Higher Primary School, and Emthonjeni Khula Ngolwazi Higher Primary School. These boycotts were daily occurrences until the ultimate breaking point on 16 June 1976, when the Soweto uprising took place that caused uproar in South Africa and abroad, where it became the most talked about South African event internationally since the Durban Strike of 1973.

16 May 1992

CODESA II Talks end in deadlock

The second Convention for a Democratic South Africa, or CODESA II, ends in a deadlock. The negotiating parties ie. The South African Government and the country's liberation movements including the African National Congress (ANC) fail to reach agreement on certain key issues. CODESA was a negotiating forum created to facilitate a new constitutional dispensation for a post-apartheid South Africa. Established by the end of 1991, it included diverse political representation.

17 May 1995

Parliament establishes Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The South African parliament approved legislation to set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995. The Commission, based on the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No 34 of 1995, investigated what happened under apartheid between 1960 and 1994. Archbishop Tutu was appointed as TRC Chairperson and Dr Alex Borrairie as vice-chairperson.



18 May 1899

Van Riebeeck Statute unveiled by Cecil Joh Rhodes in Cape Town

On 18 May 1899, a statue of the first European to settle at the Cape, Jan van Riebeeck, was unveiled. The statue stands on Heerengracht Street in Cape Town. It was sculpted in bronze by John Tweed and donated to the city by Cecil John Rhodes, a politician and financier of the late 19th century. Near this statue, at the bottom end of Adderley Street, are statues of Bartholomew Dias, a Portuguese explorer who was the first European to reach the Cape of Good Hope in 1487, and Maria van Riebeeck, wife of Jan van Riebeeck. These statues were donated by the Portuguese and Dutch governments respectively in 1952, for Cape Town's tercentenary celebrations.

18 May 1912

Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Walter Sisulu born

Walter Ulyate Max Sisulu was born in the village of Qutubeni in the Engcobo district of the Transkei on 18 May 1912. Sisulu joined the African National Congress (ANC) at the age of 28. An active trade unionist, he was fired from his job in 1940. In 1944 Sisulu attended the ANC annual national conference in Bloemfontein as a delegate of the ANC Orlando branch. It was at this conference that Leslie Gama pro-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



posed that the ANC should establish a Youth League. Walter Sisulu, along with William Nkomo and Lionel Majombozi, both active members of the Communist Party, were responsible for mobilising others to give effect to the conference resolution and establish a youth wing of the ANC.

Walter Sisulu, along with Lembede, Mandela, Oliver Tambo, and Ashley Mda, was elected to the executive committee of the newly established ANC Youth League in 1944. He served as Secretary General of the ANC from 1949 to 1954. Along with Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada and other Rivonia Trailists, he was sentenced to life imprisonment at Robben Island. In October 1989, he was released after 26 years in prison, and in July 1991 was elected ANC deputy

president at the ANC's first national conference after its unbanning the year before. He remained in the position until after South Africa's first democratic election in 1994.

19 May 1930

White women gain the right to Vote

White women suffragette campaigns is traced back to the formation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1899, who campaigned against alcohol, but later formed a department on women's right to vote because they realise that only through political power could they influence this. The Women's Enfranchisement Movement of the Union was formed later, along the line of the British Suffragette movements. The issue of votes for women was delayed, because it became linked to votes for all South Africans, black and white, men and women. In his 1930s campaign, JB Hertzog promised to support white women's suffrage, in exchange for support on removing the remaining black and coloured voters from the voters roll. Hertzog made good on his election promise and on 19 May 1930, white women were granted the vote. It was only sixty four years later, in 1994 that South Africa had a true universal franchise, where all adult women and men, irrespective of race could vote.

20 May 1916

Huisgenoot magazine founded

Huisgenoot (meaning companion) is

a weekly Afrikaans-language general interest magazine. It was founded in 1916 as De Huisgenoot, then a monthly magazine, to financially support the newspaper, Die Burger. It appeared just ten months after Die Burger. Today, the weekly magazine, it has the highest circulation figures of any South African magazine. It has also acquired two sister magazines, YOU, its English version, and Drum, which is targeted at the black market.

21 May 1946

Women Lead Food Raid

In the 1940s, as a result of the Second World War, the economy was in a dire state, with the working and lower classes being the most vulnerable. There were major food scarcities and the cost of living became a heavy burden. Community based organizations grew as people mobilised for the provision of basic needs.

In 1946, a non-racial Women's Food Committee was formed, with a strong working class leadership. On the 21st of May 1946, women decided to take action against hoarders. They went to wholesalers and shops that were suspected of hoarding food – in the end these entities gave up bags of rice and sugar to the protestors. The raids continued into the week. The motto of the Women's Food Committee was "Today we fight for food, tomorrow for the vote, and then freedom for all."



THE PEOPLE ARE OUR STRENGTH. IN THEIR
SERVICE WE SHALL FACE AND CONQUER THOSE
WHO LIVE ON THE BACKS OF OUR PEOPLE. IN
THE HISTORY OF MANKIND IT IS A LAW OF LIFE
THAT PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN THE CONDITIONS
ARE THERE FOR THEIR SOLUTION.

WALTER SISULU

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

16–22 May 2020

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

16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace

Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. *"In a world in which we regularly witness tensions, acts of hatred, rejection of others and discrimination, the pursuit of peace and the will to live together harmoniously is more crucial than ever."* Audrey Azoulay UNESCO Director-General



16 May International Day of Light

Light plays a central role in our lives. On the most fundamental level, through photosynthesis, light is at the origin of life itself. The day celebrates the role light plays in science, culture and art, education, sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy.

16 May World Plant a Lemon Tree Day

The day was established to help bring lemon trees to communities everywhere, it is a nutritious and multi-purpose food, good for health, fresh smells and can also be used for cleaning. Lemon trees are amongst the most popular fruit trees sold in South Africa today and are easy to grow.

17 May World Telecommunications and Information Society Day

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. The origins of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day date back to the signing of the First International Telegraph Convention on 17 May 1865, which marked the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The theme for 2020 **"Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"** highlights the ICT advances for transition to smart and sustainable development.



18 May International Museums Day

International Museum Day was celebrated for the first time, 1977, 42 years ago. The objective of International Museum Day (IMD) is to raise awareness of the fact that, *"Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."*

18 May International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

The day raises awareness of the realities of discrimination against the LGBTQI+ communities and to help erase these phobias through understanding.

20 May World Bee Day

Scientists, farmers and gardeners have been raising concerns about bee populations becoming endangered. World Bee Day is to educate people about the importance of bees and how we can protect them, for the sake of our future. The theme for 2020 is **"Save the Bees."**

21 May International Tea Day

Kenya is the largest tea producer in Africa, whilst Malawi has some of the oldest tea plantations. South Africa is a major exporter of Rooibos tea; whilst Morocco is known for its mint tea blend and Ethiopia for its moringa tea. Other tea producing nations on the continent are Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, DRC, Mauritius, Zambia, Madagascar, Mali and Seychelles.

21 May Global Accessibility Awareness Day

The day is dedicated to raising awareness on making the web accessible for people who are blind, deaf or living with other disabilities that makes access to information on the internet difficult.

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

The World Day promotes cultural diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change. It celebrates culture's manifold forms, from the tangible and intangible, to creative industries, to the diversity of cultural expressions. The day is used to reflect on how cultural diversity contributes to dialogue, mutual understanding and the social, environmental and economic vectors of sustainable development.



22 May International Day for Biological Diversity

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for this year is **"Our Solutions are in Nature."**

#Lockdown **READING LIST 7**

FOOD AND SPICE

Reviewed by Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule



THE Coronavirus lockdown across the world has seen food security come into sharp relief, with people queuing for food from Geneva in Switzerland to Pretoria in Mzansi, and neighbourhoods organize soup kitchens. For those who are lucky to have access to sufficient food, the issue is often a longing for take aways (now available under lockdown level 4) and favourite restaurants. Bottomline, we all have to spent more time cooking meals.

Whilst in today's connected world you can go online, search for recipe and any dish or ingredient, difficult or easy, meat, vegetarian or halaal, the history of recipe books is an interesting story. The oldest known recipes, according to Dana Staves (Book Riot, 2018) are the Yale Tablets, for clay tablets dated around 1700 BC, which contain a recipe

for *sikbāj*, a meat and herb dish from Mesopotamia. There is also the medieval 13th century Egyptian cookbook, with a fish recipe using flour.

Although recipe books often focus on 'authentic' cooking from one culture or the other, it also shows how interconnected our world is. South Africa has its own collection of recipe books, with a growing number published by black chefs and cooks. Here is a collage of some of them, including a few from other parts of the continent, now available at good bookstores near you!

Featured in the pictures are *Simply Delicious* by Zola Nene; *African Cookbook: Recipes from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya* by Rachel Pambrun; *Beautiful Foods. The Art of African Catering* by Carol Bimbo Afolalu; *My Cape Malay Kitchen* by Cariema

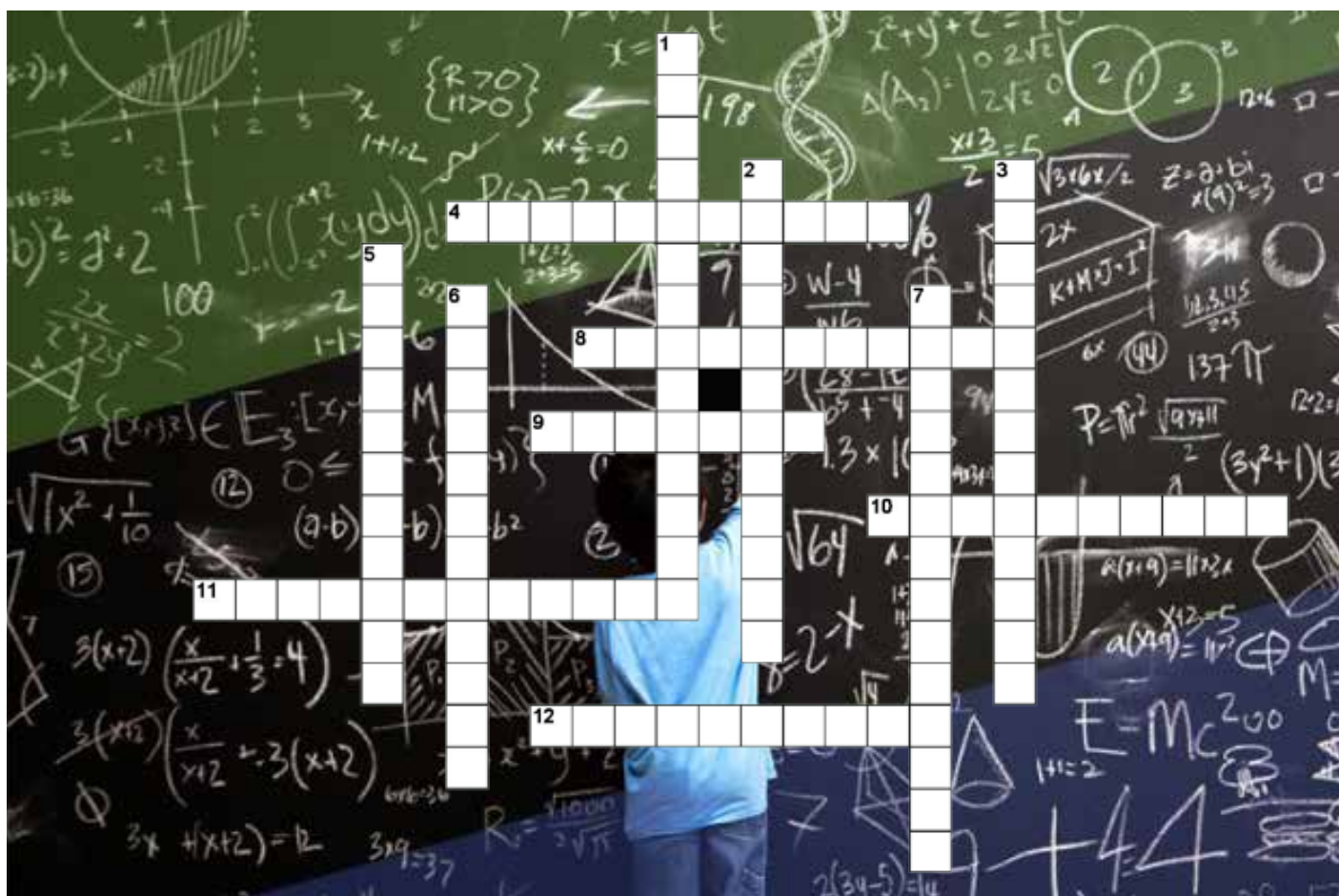
Isaacs; *Traditional West African Recipes*; *Gogo's Kitchen* by the SA Embassy in Poland; *Indian Delights* by Zulekha Mayat (Ed); *Johanne 14* by Hope Malau; *Cape Cookery*, by C Louis Leipoldt; *Sugar & Spice* by Heilie Pienaar; *The Complete South African Vegetarian Cookbook* by Tilda Cahill; *Cooking the West African Way* by Bertha Montgomery and Constance Nabwire; *Kook saam Kaaps* by Koelsoem Kamalie and Flori Schrikker; *The Lazy Makoti's Guide to the Kitchen* by Mogau Seshoene; *A Slice of Africa* by Chidi Asika-Enahoro; *Cooking African* by ME Chidiac; *Ethiopian Feast* by Mulunesh Belay; *The Ghana Cookbook* by Fran Osseo-Asare and Barbara Baeta; *Jan Braai Shisanyama* and *Through the Eyes of an African Chef* by Nompumelelo Mowebu.

POETRY**TO ALLAH**

*From your humble citizens of MZANSI
You have shown us compassion
To be a God of mercy
The poor, the downtrodden
You have shown compassion,
empathy
For 46 years of toiling by us,
suffering
and towards that end
We noticed a flickering
Light at the end of that tunnel
arriving there
Looking back
We perceive
A countless number
Of crude mutilated bodies
of those in the bloody struggle
We hoist the
MZANSI FLAG
Bearing the colours
Of all in
For granting us a respite
To reduce the sentence
To 27 years from life imprisonment
You are surely a God of Mercy*

AMEN*by Sol C. Rachilo**Poet | Author | Publisher*

X-WORD | World's Women in Mathematics Day 12 May



Across

4. Tunisian applied maths professor who introduced concept of Reciprocity Gap.
8. English mathematician and programmer.
9. Greek mathematician who lived 1500 years ago in Egypt.
10. Self taught Chinese astronomer, wrote over ten books on astronomy and mathematics.
11. First Association for Women in Mathematics established in 1971 in which country?
12. 12 May is also the birthday of this Iranian mathematician, Maryam ...

Down

1. First African-American woman awarded PhD in Mathematics.
2. Author of isiZulu Mathematical Logic.
3. Book and movie about women mathematicians and programmers role in NASA space missions.
5. Italian who wrote text book on calculus in 1748, first female professor of mathematics in history, University of Bologna.
6. First woman to be a professional academic mathematician, Russian Sofia ..
7. First woman elected as fellow of Cambridge Royal Society, but not deem worthy of a professorship!

WORD BANK

United States
Hidden Figures
Mary Cartwright

Mirzakhani
Maria Agnesi
Wang Zhenyi

Hypatia
Kovalevskaya
Euphemia Haynes

Ada Lovelace
Amel Ben Abda
Makhosi Khoza

Sources: *"Women in Mathematics. The history behind the gender gap"*, by Dr. June Barrow-Green, Open University and *"Why are there so few women in Mathematics?"* by Jane C Chu, The Atlantic, 4 November 2016.

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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