



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

AFRICA TAKING CONTROL OF ITS DESTINY



THE 25th of May marks 57 years since the leaders of 32 independent African nations met in Addis Ababa to establish the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the precursor to the African Union.

The preamble of the OAU charter is a rousing call to unity, cross-cultural understanding and solidarity. Like the Universal Declaration of Hu-

man Rights, the UN Charter and the South African Constitution, it affirms the inalienable right of all people to control their own destiny.

We mark Africa Day this year just over three months since the first case of coronavirus on the continent was confirmed. This pandemic has been a stark reminder that regardless of whether we are born into wealth or indigence, we are all mor-

tal, and can succumb to disease.

As countries around the world battle to turn the tide against the pandemic, Africa has taken firm control of its destiny, by developing a clear strategy and raising financial resources from its member states.

The African response to the coronavirus pandemic has received widespread praise. Despite the multitude

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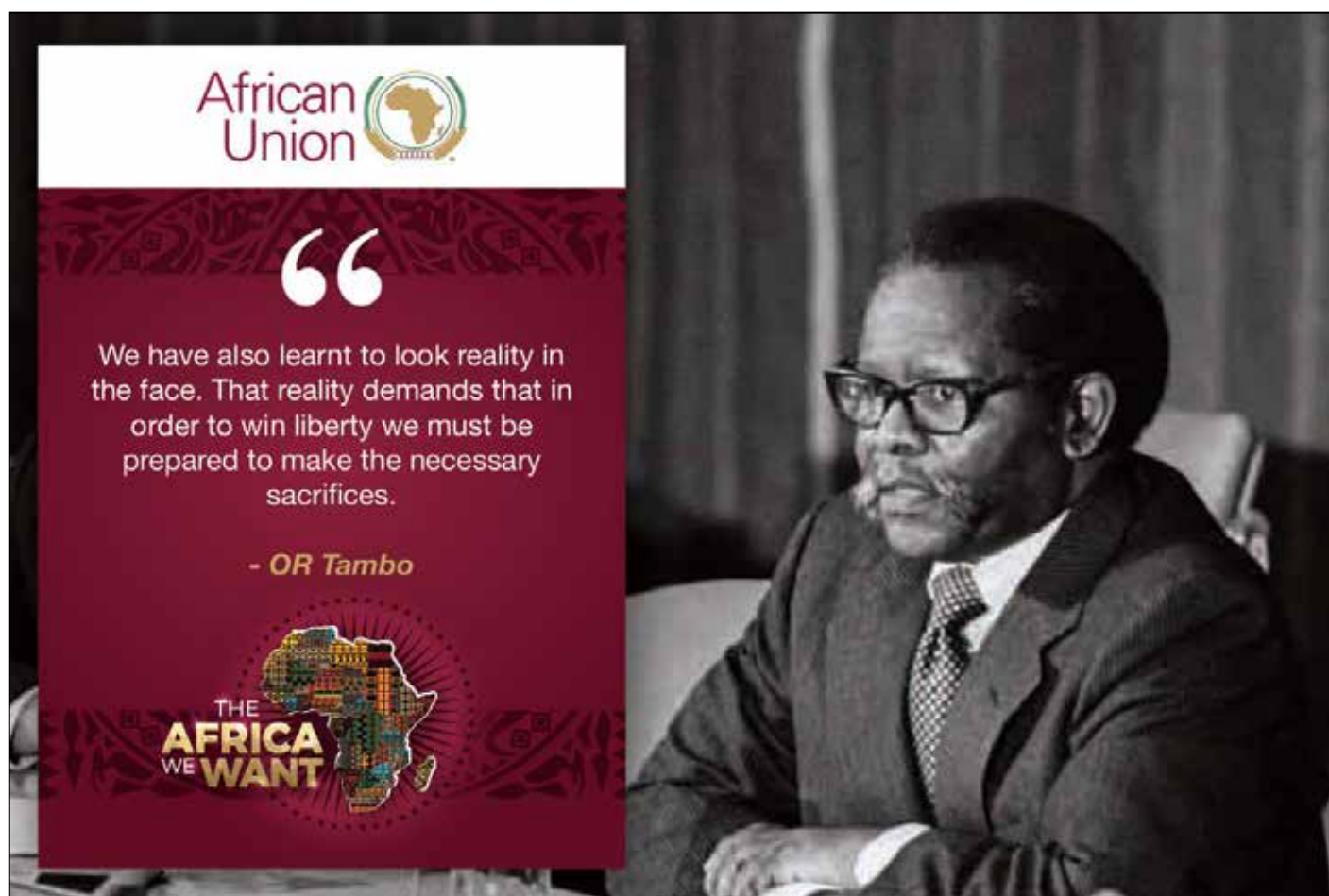
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of resource challenges they face, African countries have come together in remarkable ways, united by a common purpose.

The countries of the Global South are more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 because of low levels of development, insufficient resources and weak health systems. Countries ranking low on human development indices, many of which are in Africa, are less capable to manage the fallout of a global health emergency of this kind on their own.

Yet at the same time, some of the very health challenges African countries have wrestled with for decades have given us a clear understanding of what needs to be done, and how to do it.

The unprecedented nature of the pandemic caught many countries both unaware and unprepared. Much of what we witnessed in the

early days of the outbreak was governments in western countries struggling with containment because so much about the virus was unknown. It was not something the world has experienced for over a century.

African countries have been able to use their experience in managing outbreaks of malaria, cholera, HIV, TB and hemorrhagic viruses like Ebola and Lassa. Our understanding of communicable diseases and how to manage them has put us in good stead when it comes to coronavirus. African governments have been swift and proactive in implementing measures to flatten the coronavirus curve.

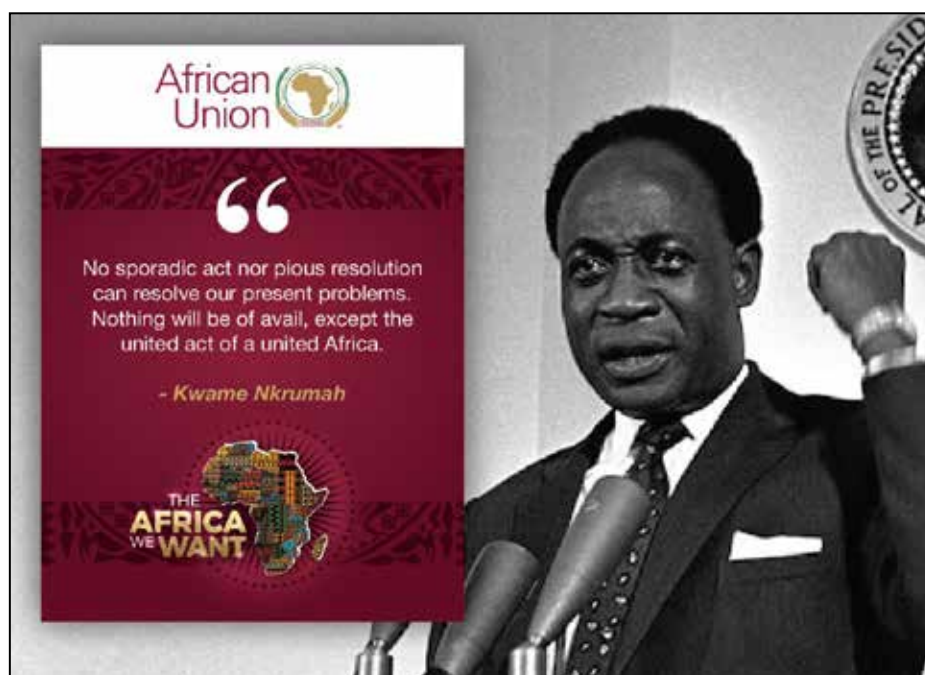
By early May, 43 African countries had full border closures, 53 had closed institutions of learning, 54 had limited public gatherings, 26 had instituted the compulsory use of face masks, 32 had instituted night-

time curfews and 18 had imposed nation-wide lockdowns.

The African Union developed a comprehensive Joint Continental Strategy to guide cooperation between member states and set up a COVID-19 Response Fund. A number of countries, including South Africa, have rolled out massive food relief and social assistance measures to support the vulnerable during this time.

Although there have been severe shortcomings and constraints, such as the shortage of personal protective equipment, testing kits and ventilators, there have also been stories of excellence and intercontinental collaboration. One such example is the work of the African Centers for Disease Control (ACDC) and prevention, a world-class institution with capabilities for disease surveillance and intelligence and health emergency preparedness and response.

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African countries have scaled up their respective capacities for screening, testing and isolating. In April, the AU and the ACDC launched the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing to strengthen testing capacity in vulnerable countries, with the aim of testing 10 million people over the next six months.

Through this partnership, warehousing and distribution hubs are being set up across the continent to distribute medical supplies. The aim is to pool the procurement of diagnostics and other medical commodities.

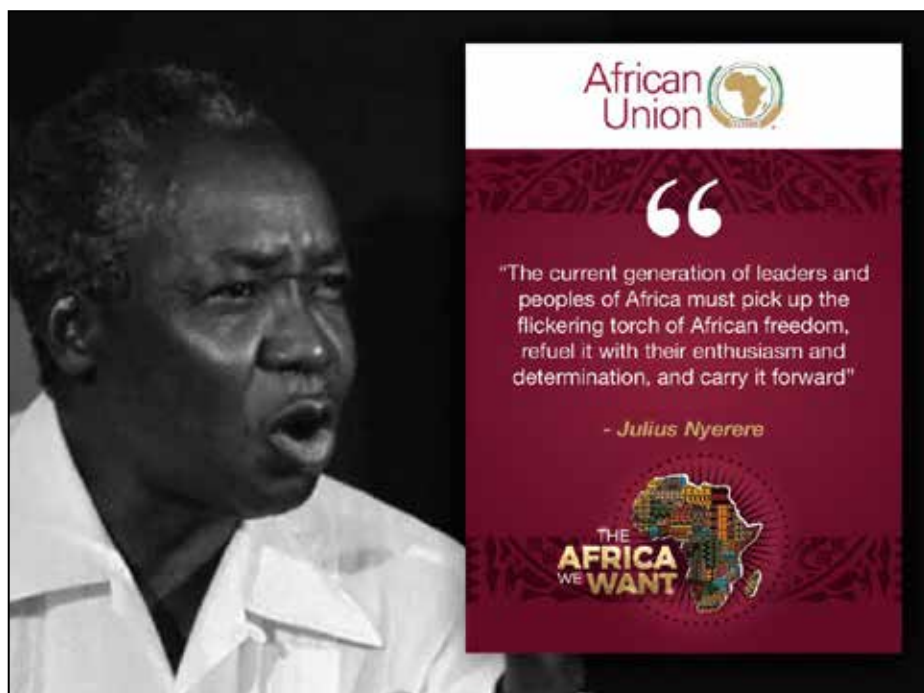
The deployment of community health workers to do screening, testing, contact tracing and case management is happening in many African countries, and draws heavily on our experience with HIV and TB.

African nations have also joined the race to produce test kits, with Senegal in an advanced stage of developing a low-cost testing kit.

At least 25 African countries have registered clinical trials for possible COVID-19 treatments, including for the BCG vaccine, hydroxychloro-

quine, antiretrovirals and Remdesivir, and as part of the global Solidarity clinical trials.

Whether it is in repurposing health protocols used with other infectious disease outbreaks, rapidly deploying health care workers to communities, or in launching mobile COVID-19 testing labs to improve national testing capacities, Africa is working proactively to overcome this global threat.



Though it is clear we will continue to rely on the support of the international community and international financial institutions to bolster the existing continental effort and build economic resilience, African countries are holding their own.

This Africa Day we are reminded once again that the solutions to Africa's problems, be they overcoming disease or eradicating poverty and underdevelopment, reside within Africa itself.

Although the coronavirus pandemic is not an African problem alone, we have shown ourselves capable of agility and ingenuity. The work being done to defeat the coronavirus is evidence of a continent determined to leverage its strengths and capabilities to resolve its own challenges. This is the premise on which the Organisation of African Unity was founded and it continues to guide and inspire us as we strive to build a better life for all of Africa's people.

Wherever you may be at this time, I wish you a happy Africa Day.

THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

JOURNEYING TOWARDS A POST COVID-19 ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

**EXCERPTS FROM AN ADDRESS BY ANC TREASURER GENERAL PAUL MASHATILE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHATHAM HOUSE ONLINE DISCUSSION ON
THE OUTLOOK FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY POST-COVID-19
27 May 2020**

WE ARE having this conversation at a time when the rest of the world, the continent of Africa and our country, South Africa, is engaged in a titanic battle against an invisible enemy that is destroying lives and livelihoods: the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has changed the way we live, the way we work and the way we interact with one another. Despite arriving late on the African continent, the COVID-19 virus has spread rapidly.

It is impacting on our region's three largest economies – Nigeria, South Africa, and Angola – in a context of persistently weak growth and investment, as well as declining commodity prices. With limited public resources and overstretched health systems, Africa faces a particularly daunting task in mitigating the effects of the pandemic.

The World Bank projects that growth in Sub-Saharan Africa will decline from 2.4 % in 2019 to between negative 2.1% and negative 5.1% in 2020. It is further projected that, this year, the pandemic will cost African countries between US\$ 37 billion and US\$ 79 billion in terms of output losses. South Africa's GDP is expected to contract by 6.4% in 2020, with more than 1.8 million potential job losses. It is estimated that Africa will require more than US\$ 100 billion to adequately respond to healthcare and social safety needs as a result of the pandemic.



The South African government has acted swiftly, boldly and decisively to put measures to curb the spread of the virus and to cushion its economic impact on the poor and vulnerable. These measures include a nationwide lockdown that began on the 26th of March. The nation-wide lockdown is currently being eased to enable the resumption of economic activity and to avert further erosion of livelihoods, while at the same time saving lives. Government has announced a more than US\$ 27 billion social and economic stabilization package, intended to flatten both the curve of the pandemic and the economic downturn.

This package is equivalent to 10% of South Africa's GDP. It includes addition-

al spending to increase the capacity of our public health care services to deal with the pandemic; direct cash transfers to distressed households and firms; an increase in social transfers and grants; as well as extended credit lines and guarantees backed by Government.

The South African Reserve Bank has also acted decisively to support the real economy, households and firms by, among others, easing monetary policy and providing extra liquidity to capital markets. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the South African economy was already in a recession; trapped in a cycle of low growth and high unemployment. It recorded an average growth of 1.5% over the past five years.

A number of international credit rating agencies had lowered our long term foreign and local currency debt ratings to below investment grade. In response to this reality, government implemented economic structural reforms aimed at reducing the cost of doing business and unlocking growth.

Poverty, unemployment and inequality of income, wealth and opportunity based on race, gender and geographic location have once more asserted themselves as our country battles with COVID19. The poor and the vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic. They also bear the brunt of most of the measures put in place to curb the spread of the virus. For South Africa as with the rest of the world, COVID-19

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should serve as a reminder that none of us can afford to turn a blind eye on poverty and under-development.

COVID-19 has also exposed gaps in the provision of infrastructure to meet basic needs such as health care, education, public transport, roads, water, sanitation and housing. Accordingly, we in the African National Congress have begun reimagining and planning towards a post COVID-19 South African economy. Our point of departure is that the new economy we are building must be more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. We have taken the view that in building a post COVID-19 economy, we need to go back to the fundamental insights contained in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) of the early 1990's.

The RDP envisaged building a new economy by, amongst others, implementing effective programmes to address the basic needs of the people. Guided by the RDP, we are of the view that through urban expansion and renewal as well as the provision of infrastructure and services to historically excluded communities in rural and urban areas, conditions would be created to repair the broken structure of the South African economy, by stimulating broad-based growth and job creation to reduce inequality, poverty and unemployment. We are also determined to ensure that the goals of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 to reduce inequality, poverty and unemployment find practical expression in the new economy we are building. Of importance to us is the need to sharpen the implementation of our policies and programmes.

Some of the key elements of our plan for a Post COVID-19 South Africa economy will include:

- massive expansion of social and economic infrastructure to meet basic needs;
- investment to improve the performance of network industries as part of implementing structural reforms;
- strengthening local manufacturing and local content, while at the same time enabling the participation of South African firms in continental



and global value chains;

- strengthening trade and investment linkages with other countries on the African continent, and the world;
- mounting a skills revolution to build the right know-how required for the jobs, industries and economy of the future;
- greater focus on mineral beneficiation, the green economy and green industrialisation;
- empowering small business, cooperatives and informal enterprises, and;
- promoting the objectives of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment to ensure inclusion and redress.

To fund our interventions during and after the pandemic, we will continue with efforts already underway to stabilise our public finances and reprioritise government spending. We will also mobilise local private sector funding and technical expertise. Government is already in discussion with international partners such as the IMF, the World, the New Development Bank and the African Development Bank to raise US\$ 27 billion as part of our immediate health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We estimate that South Africa will require more than US\$ 100 billion for the post COVID-19 reconstruction to succeed. One of the consequences of the pandemic has been that trust in public institutions and governments has risen.

As is the case elsewhere in the world, the state is required to assume greater responsibility and role in the economy and society. Nevertheless, we are also aware that the capacity of the South African state has been significantly

weakened over the years. This underscores the need to urgently rebuild an efficient, ethical developmental state, capable of responding to the challenges of our time. The ANC is working hard to build a social compact to mobilise all stakeholders in support of interventions aimed at building a post COVID-19 economy. This we are doing because we are aware that none of us acting alone can deliver what is required to build a new Post COVID-19 economy and to manage all the social and political consequences of the pandemic.

As we build the social compact, we are inspired by the tremendous solidarity and compassion that has characterised the South African response to the pandemic. For instance, the Solidarity Fund created to augment public funds in the fight against the pandemic continues to receive generous contributions from individual South Africans and the private sector. Similarly, individual South Africans and companies continue to assist the poor and vulnerable during this difficult period. All these acts of goodwill, compassion and solidarity form the basis for an enduring social compact that is necessary in building an inclusive economy post COVID-19.

In the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa: ***“Our economic strategy going forward will require a new social compact among all role players – business, labour, community and government – to restructure the economy and achieve inclusive growth.”***

I trust that we can also rely on the support of our friends internationally, as we journey towards a post COVID-19 economy in South Africa. **To all of you we say; South Africa is open for business!**

NOURISHING OUR SOULS TO DEFEAT COVID-19

Dear Mr President

AS THE COUNTRY hurtles towards the unknown in our fight against the deadly COVID-19 coronavirus, our arsenal against this invisible enemy requires a dollop of faith.

It was faith which stood us in good stead during the dark days under apartheid rule when the might of the racist regime seemed unassailable. South Africans have always been a spiritual people during the best and the worst times.

Faith is the fuel that kept our anti-apartheid machinery going when all seemed bleak. It was the religious leaders who kept the faith among our oppressed communities when our leaders were in jail and in exile. The anti-apartheid struggle was blessed with religious communities who chose the side of the oppressed against the evil supremacist regime. We can count stalwarts such as the Reverends Frank Chikane, Beyers Naude, Allan Boesak and Isithalandwe/Seaparankoe Father Trevor Huddleston to mention but a few who waged the struggle alongside our people.

It was also Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu who provided succour to our communities when the apartheid regime went on a rampage to kill our people in the townships. The South African Council of Churches (SACC) was also aligned with our liberation movement during the days of the struggle and beyond.



By Pule Mabe

The founding president of the ANC, John Langalibalele Dube was also a pastor, educator, editor, essayist, novelist and poet. The ANC was also blessed to have Nobel Peace laureate, Inkosi Albert John Luthuli, who was a lay preacher of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in Stanger, KwaZulu Natal, as our president during the struggle.

Mr President, another president of our beloved ANC who was a Methodist pastor was the Reverend Zachariah Richard Mahabane, who led our movement from 1924 to 1937 and again from 1937 to 1940.

To this day, the ANC enjoys overwhelming support from the religious communities and many pastors are proud and staunch members of our political movement. No conference or rally of the ANC commences without

a moment of reflection and request for grace from the Almighty by a pastor, rabbi and moulana.

Mr President, serial social entrepreneur and development mentor, Ndidi Nwuneli advises the religious against using God to outsource responsibility for what happens in their lives. To the non-religious, she asks that they keep an open mind and work with faith-based organisations, especially on issues like health care and education. The churches, temples and mosques have always been in the forefront of accommodating the weary and the hungry and their role in offering the moral compass of our nation is beyond reproach.

Mr President, the churches, synagogues, temples and mosques were ordered to close to observe the national lockdown in March in order to avoid large gatherings and events which could fuel the spread of the coronavirus. Upon being consulted, the religious fraternity co-operated with the government in order to protect the health of their members and society at large.

This onerous but bold decision led to the observance of Easter behind closed doors for the first time in living memory. Our Muslim communities also observed Ramadan between 23 April and 23 May remotely as they understood that the safety of the people came first. With few exceptions, they understood that the national lockdown was important to slow down the spread of the coronavirus to al-

low the state to build capacity to deal with rising infections. The government promised that when the state had sufficient health resources to deal with the surge in transmissions, the movement of people would be eased and a semblance of normality allowed. As the country prepares to move to Alert level 3 of the lockdown, the religious sector has been given the green light to hold services under strict conditions of only 50 people. Religious leaders have already been administering the last rites to the departed during the lockdown where the numbers were curbed at 50 mourners and thus will be familiar with the regulations.

This decision recognises and acknowledges the vital role played by faith and spirituality in our lives at a time when anxiety is gripping our communities as a result of the deadly coronavirus.

The souls of our people require spiritual nourishment and places of worship are best placed to provide this service.

Prayer has always been a powerful weapon to connect with our Maker and inner being, and religious leaders are best placed to guide the nation in this regard.


As we move into the new normal in our quest to contain the spread of COVID-19, the religious leaders can help the government and society in ensuring that the health of our people is prioritised. The hygiene protocols recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and our health experts remain in place during Alert Level 3.

Our people should never deviate from wearing their masks, washing their hands and keeping a physical distance of one and half metres as they flock to their places of worship. Mr President, although South Africa

The entire country will move to Level 3 from Monday 1 June 2020

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS


ALERT LEVEL 3



MOVEMENT BETWEEN PROVINCES

Movement between provinces is prohibited, except for:

- Carrying out **work responsibilities** or performing any service permitted under Alert Level 3, where a permit has been issued
- Moving to a **new place of residence**
- Moving to care for an **immediate family member**
- Members of Parliament performing **oversight responsibilities**
- Learners commuting to **attend schools or institutions** of higher learning
- Attendance of **funerals**, and transportation of mortal remains
- Obtaining **medical treatment**
- Persons who are **returning to their place of residence** from a quarantine or isolation facility
- Transportation of **fuel, cargo and goods**



FUNERALS

You may travel to attend a funeral if you are a:

- Spouse or partner** of the deceased
- Child** of the deceased, whether biological, adopted or stepchild
- Child-in-law** of the deceased
- Parent** of the deceased, whether biological, adopted or stepparent
- Sibling**, whether biological, adopted or stepbrother or sister of the deceased
- Grandparent** of the deceased

Attendance at a funeral is limited to 50 people, and a permit must be obtained from a magistrate or police station

During a funeral, all hygienic conditions and distancing measures must be followed to limit exposure of persons at the funeral to COVID-19

Mr President, as the country navigates uncharted territory in our battle against the virus, we cannot afford to falter.

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is a secular state, the right to freedom of religion is enshrined in the Bill of Rights of our constitution. Section 15 states that everyone has a right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion. This section also allows religious observance provided they follow public authority rules, they are conducted on an equitable basis and attendance is voluntary.

This simply means the right to freedom of religion is not absolute and its scope may be limited by other rights or by-laws in pursuit of a legitimate government purpose.

In the wake of the coronavirus which threatens lives and livelihoods, the government has gazetted rules and regulations which seek to balance the enjoyment of rights guaranteed by the constitution with the legitimate purpose to protect human lives threatened by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr President, as the country navigates uncharted territory in our battle against the virus, we cannot afford to falter. The lifting of restrictions that allow the places of worship to open under strict conditions offers the opportunity to lift the morale of our people. However, churchgoers need to remain vigilant and starve the virus of human contact by strictly adhering to the regulations. Our faith cannot be unshaken.

Yours sincerely,

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AMONG THE PAUCITY OF REALISTIC INTERVENTIONS

(PART 1)

By Masoga Lehlogonolo

SINCE THE beginning of 2020, humanity was thrown into a tinderbox of tension characterised by anxiety, fear, frustration, agony, pain, anger and hopelessness. Status and class are unable to provide a shield to protect the elite and privileged and the working class and the downtrodden masses are as hard-pressed as ever. The game of numbers and statistics, globally and nationally has lost effect as daily shocks have become an integral feature of the new normal.

The invisible enemy has struck again indiscriminately across the globe, affecting all nationalities, races, gender and classes. The fear of an imminent apocalypse as a consequence of climate change and natural disasters has been superseded by the catastrophe of a novel pandemic. This is a pandemic that has sent the globe to repairs as almost all major economic activities were ground to a halt. The demand for the most sought after commodities and precious metals in the world such as oil, diamonds, gold, platinum, etc. has been replaced by personal protective equipment's (PPEs) and ventilators. Production lines in factories have been retrofitted to produce these new precious commodities which remain high in demand across the globe.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in South Africa



PARADIGM SHIFT

We have observed, for the first time in decades airplanes grounded at airports across the globe, boats and oil tankers stranded outside harbours, the finest hotels deserted, and yet hospitals are overflowing and body bags are used at an alarming rate. The historical year 2020 will go down in annals of history as a year wherein different religions across the globe could not observe Holy Festivals in the traditional way over centuries. No philosopher, soothsayer nor magician could foretell that after the

Spanish Flu of 1918, mankind would be confronted by yet another pandemic nearly a century later during the era of modern society and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Humanity has entered a new paradigm, a world of pre and post COVID-19 dichotomy has come of age. Life as we know it has drastically changed and the darkest hour before dawn has befallen the human race. The age of the new normal has extended morning greetings quicker than expected. It is now common cause that almost all facets of human life have been af-

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affected negatively by this invisible monster. Economic engines across global metropolises have taken an involuntary break and social distance separates families and prevents general human contact.

A NEED TO RE-INTERPRET THE WORLD

One of the most quoted phrases by Karl Marx from his seminal work *The Communist Manifesto* was the magisterial catchphrase “*philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways, the point is to change it*”. Interpreted differently by various scholars and philosophers, these historic words are best described by Cornel West in the book *The Ethical Dimension of Marx Thought* who argued that Marx’s use of the phrase was an attempt to locate philosophical thinking about social problems “*within history rather than outside it*”.

Perhaps the time has come for modern philosophers to re-interpret the world concomitant with the inevitable process of changing it. In the year 2020, we have seen military and nuclear power taking the back bench with “*white coat brigades*” from different nations becoming an army of international solidarity to save lives. We have seen the East and the West extending a caring hand of friendship to each other and health workers from the Southern Hemisphere caring for the sick and the weak in the North metropolises.

The pandemic disrupted many industries, some beyond repair, yet creating a new window of opportunities for innovation and alternative strategies for economic growth and development.



GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN



Some economic commentators have asserted that the impact of COVID-19 on the world economy may be worse than the 1929 Great Depression and the 2009 Global Financial Crisis. According to Golding and Muggah (2020), it is estimated that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to losses exceeding \$9 trillion or 10% of global GDP. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) predicts that global trade will fall between 13% and 32% in 2020 (WTO, 2020).

On the other hand, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is of the view that over 200 million full-time workers will lose their jobs within a period of three months (ILO, 2020). As for the

African continent, UNECA estimates that the continent’s growth is expected to drop from 3.2% to 1.8%. They also estimate a 48% decline in employment. The time for planning for a repackaged modern “*Marshall Plan*” for the new economic recovery plan is now during this period of unfolding uncertainty. Post the 2009 global economic meltdown, the South African economy contracted by 1.8%. Currently (May 2020), the South African Reserve Bank is projecting a potential real contraction of 6,1% of GDP during 2020. In view of these foregoing statistics, the worst is yet to come, so it seems.

Nobody knows when, but the inevitable reality is that in the months to come, COVID-19 will become a common feature of our lives. Subsequently, in a few years, we will start to talk about it in the past tense. Life has to return to normal, although the new normal of social distancing, bereft of warm and firm African handshakes, casual hugs and kisses. Countries need to recharge and embark on a new trajectory of normalizing life and rebuilding their economies. The pandemic disrupted many industries, some beyond repair, yet creating a new window of opportunities for innovation and alternative strategies for economic growth and development.

Certainly, a country such as Saudi Arabia will undoubtedly begin to think about economic development beyond oil. Similarly, tourism based and hos-

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“Our understanding of communicable diseases and how to manage them has put us in good stead when it comes to coronavirus.”

- From the Desk of President Cyril Ramaphosa
25 May 2020

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pitality driven economies will be forced to think outside the box. Countries endowed with natural resources such as South Africa should consider strongly accelerating the pace of industrialization through the production of value added products for export. With the benefits of mineral resources, agricultural sector, marine economy, tourism sector, financial services and industrial hubs, the economy must be propelled on a growth pedestal to compensate for the losses suffered during the lockdown season.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY THROUGH FISCAL AND REGULATORY INCENTIVES

Amongst a plethora of potential economic recovery strategies and a paucity of realistic interventions is the phenomenon of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Special Economic Zones are geographically delimited areas wherein governments facilitate industrial activity through fiscal and regulatory incentives and infrastructure support. SEZs can make important contributions to growth and development by attracting investment, creating jobs and boosting exports. SEZs can build forward and backward linkages within the broader economy and support Global Value Chain (GVC) participation, industrial upgrading and diversification (UNCTAD, 2019). Globally, there is a booming wave of SEZs with over 5400 operational in 147 countries and over 500 in the pipeline (UNCTAD, 2019).

According to Bernard Hoekman, Director of International Trade Department World Bank (2011), China's astonishing economic growth can be attributed to the use of SEZs. One of the striking examples is the transformation of Shenzhen, a former small fishing village in the 1970s, into today's city of over 9 million people which is an illustration of the effectiveness of the SEZ model within the Chinese context. Hoekman asserts further that SEZs offer a potentially valuable tool to overcome some of the existing constraints to attracting investment and growing exports for many

African countries that continue to struggle to compete in industrial sectors and to integrate into the global value chains that generate goods and services for global markets.

ACCELERATING THE PACE OF INDUSTRIALISATION

The South African Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) recognises the SEZ programme as one of the critical tools for accelerating industrialisation. As a result, eight special economic zones were designated in six provinces as follows: Saldanha Bay (Western Cape), Dube Trade Port (KwaZulu-Natal), OR Tambo (Gauteng) Coega (Eastern Cape) East London (Eastern Cape), Richards Bay (KwaZulu-Natal), Musina-Makhado (Limpopo), and Maluti a Phofung (Free State). By 2019, the number of operational investors in designated SEZs in the country increased from 72 to 85, with a total investment value of over R9 billion. The number of direct jobs created currently stands at 13,561; but this is expected to increase substantially as the new investments come on-stream (DTI, 2019).

Growing industrial capacity has become a priority for the South African government to grow the economy in the face of massive global competition,

high unemployment, low investment rates, a commodity market in the doldrums and a weak global growth outlook. Industrialisation in this case refers to the overall processes of increasing manufacturing output and expanding the manufacturing sector through targeted interventions across the value chain. It is evident that in South Africa, out of the nine provinces, the top four, being Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and the Eastern Cape enjoy the highest rate of industrial activities while the others, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Limpopo and Free State experience relatively low manufacturing capacity (Stats SA). This is in contrast with the latter category's endowment with various primary resources such as minerals and agricultural produce which are supposed to be the bedrock upon which industrialisation rests.

Lehlogonolo Masoga is Former ANCYL Provincial Chairperson, Current ANC PEC Member in Limpopo and Chief Executive Officer of the Musina Makhado SEZ (MMSEZ) SOC.

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this article is solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy and position of the African National Congress.



10 special economic zones

What do they offer?

- preferential corporate tax regime
- building support
- employee tax incentives
- favourable customs regulations
- support for capital investment and training

Investors are able to produce and export value-added products in strategic locations around the country.

SOUTH AFRICA | 2019
Investment Conference | #BeTheRenewal

DA'S CALLS FOR ENDING THE LOCKDOWN ALL ABOUT POLITICS

By Sthembiso Khanyile

DESPITE the public agitation by the rightwing Democratic Alliance (DA) to end the lockdown abruptly, it is being gradually phased out. At least this is the expressed position of government.

Consequently, even if this materialised, threats of court action intended to force the government's hand are likely to amount to nothing more than an academic exercise of little if any practical value.

As repositories and sticklers for rationality, the courts would likely insist on a government plan to mitigate the potential for widespread public health dangers before returning the country to "normality." However well intentioned, an unplanned end of the lockdown is not desirable.

Which begs the question: why the frenzied appeals to the hearts and minds of South Africans for the immediate end of a lockdown which is inevitably coming to a close? Certainly, the numbers of people infected by the Coronavirus has risen substantially since the lockdown began with the expressed support of the DA among other political parties.

One plausible cause is that the party may have been initially petrified by the demographic profile of those infected before the lockdown. By then, the virus



was largely concentrated among the affluent – the DA's core constituency.

But calls for ending the lockdown informed by the virus' migration out of suburbia are foolhardy for the virus respects neither class nor racial divides.

Another plausible explanation for the DA's posture is that the socio-economic effects of the lockdown pose dangers for the stable exercise of political power by governing parties across the world in the short to medium term. From the point of view of a poor- visioned

opposition, dramatising the governments' real and perceived weaknesses as much as possible is considered a politically profitable venture. What more with an election (local government) around the corner as in the South African case?

Especially in polarised societies, opposition parties including those that supported lockdowns in part or in whole will have a field day scavenging governments over the socio-economic ramifications. Even as governments draw them to a close, calls for the end of the lockdowns as the DA is doing, provide a good launch pad for roasting governing parties in the immediate aftermath of the lockdowns.

The DA's calls have, therefore, nothing to do with getting the economy back on an even keel. They are intended to bolster its political standing within its constituency while at the same time attempting to endear itself to those who stand to lose the most from the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The governing African National Congress (ANC) must anticipate voluminous outpours of such machinations, lest it find itself unprepared and thus run from pillar to post at the instigation of the opposition.

continues on page 15



By Yonela Diko

THE BATTLE against the Coronavirus for South Africans began with a classic tragedy of the commons. As soon as the President announced a 21-day national lockdown on Sunday, 21 March 2020, effective Thursday 26 March 2020, the entire middleclass went on a bulk buying tailspin preparing for Armageddon.

Retail stores were bursting at the seams and queues were going around the blocks. If the intention of the lockdown was to keep people away from one another and from meeting in large groups, the 4 days of panic buying before the lockdown had the opposite effect.

Tragedy of the commons is when people take decisions independently, in their own individual self-interest, and end up congesting in one place, to devastating consequences both for themselves and others. There is a reason to believe that such congestion only served to multiply the rate of infection, especially because back then there were no measures in stores to observe social distancing and sanitise trolleys and hands etc.

The only way to resolve the tragedy of the

commons is through coordination and co-operation. Of course, getting coordination and cooperation from 57m people is near impossible.

This was the first challenge for both the President and Dr Mkhize, how to communicate to our people in a way that could persuade them to take a different set of decisions, strategic and mutually beneficial decisions with the best outcomes, even as such decisions seemed like sacrifice and delayed gratification.

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

The real work of the country, in its efforts to curb the spread of the virus began on the 5th of March when South Africa reported its first Coronavirus case. According to the World Health Organization, once a notifiable medical condition has been identified, immediate public health communication must kick in and this is exactly what Dr Mkhize and the department of health did.

Dr Mkhize immediately took the public into his confidence and outlined the nature and the scale of the threat. The public needed to know whether we were

facing a public health crisis, whether we were ready to cope if it became a national crisis, and how long was the outbreak expected to last. Most importantly, which population groups will be most at risk? Dr Mkhize immediately filled those information needs with great skill and precision.

Dr Mkhize understood clearly that during a Pandemic, the most important thing is providing timely and accurate information on the effects of an outbreak in order to manage the nation's disposition.

Unlike similar pandemics over a century ago, where a Minister could go to a radio booth and share his updates in the outbreak, today, there are multiple platforms that citizens use as their primary sources of information. In fact, in many countries, 4 in 10 residents receive their news from online sources and social media. Again the National Health department has been quick to produce social media packages, with online information pamphlets, graphs and charts for social media usage. Social Media however, has its own narrative drivers, so it has not always been clear if the Ministry is partnering with these narrative shapers in order to manage the country's mood and quell the

PERSPECTIVE

power of fake news, but social media has been a great source of information although not always used optimally by the Department of Health. As important as online media is, it's important to keep an eye on it regularly, particularly social media, to identify and dispel myths and misperceptions as they can be very harmful in a pandemic. Again the Department of Health has not always been there on social media to dispel untruths and fake news.

The state has also had to quickly firm up its Communication toolkit, Webinars, videos for online clinical communities, a Digital press kit for the news media etc. The latest data or information (e.g., graphics, charts, or maps), along with videos and pictures have become great tools of communication in a world that must maintain social distancing. Again the department of health has had great success in this regard.

RICK PERCEPTIONS AND RICK-BENEFITS ANALYSIS

Despite this logistical and infrastructure readiness, Mkhize and his team have had to face an insurmountable challenge of converting all this information into tangible references for people to know just what they are up against.

Unfortunately, as has been the case throughout history, persons most affected by a disease outbreak or health threat perceive the risk differently from the experts who are leading its prevention and mitigation.

This is a critical point that requires a deeper thinking on the risk perceptions in various communities and how these might influence the affected populations. In this regard, it's been important to localize the battle strategy against the virus so that local communities can build approaches informed by understanding their local risk perceptions. Church leaning communities for example, or very traditional communities, would have different risk perceptions than more scientific driven communities and different strategies must speak to this. Hence, we have seen more defiance in church and traditional communities as people live within their perceptions on risk and safety.



More importantly is how we reposition the risks scale vis a viz the general risks people face on a daily basis. People may view risks of an outbreak no different to their daily risks, affecting their willingness to follow public health recommendations. Again we have seen poverty, cigarettes and other risks people already face being contrasted, ill advisedly, with the COVID-19 risk and riskier demands and decisions being made.

We have seen people walking their dogs, jogging and making outdoor braais and parties, a revelation of the risk-benefit view people have of the virus. Of course, until one of them contracts it and then make videos warning people not to take the virus lightly. This requires multiple components to be in place to reach and influence people's behaviour during an outbreak of a pandemic.

The Ministry has had to identify behavioural factors that are placing persons at risk. Whether we are looking inside hospitals or in the streets, a behavioural change has had to happen in order to minimize the risk of infection.

COLLABORATIONS

In order to be effective in persuading people to respond to the immediate risks posed by the virus, the ministry has had to foster collaboration and coordination between provinces, between medical agencies and Healthcare organizations and all other stakeholders responsible for

handling the pandemic. Unfortunately, it does not seem these collaborations cascaded down to lower levels of government.

So, beyond the work of Healthcare professionals under the guidance of the national minister to identify who was most at risk or what section of the population was most at risk by the outbreak or public health threat and how they will be reached, the Minister has to also look deep in behavioural patterns of various local communities.

Relationships with partners who might be able to reach affected persons or populations have not always been exploited and optimized. Ideally, such relationships must be community leaders who have high levels of influence and favour in communities in order to use their voice to help the communities appreciate the level of risk the community is facing.

Over all, it's always important to listen to concerns, critiques and fears of communities. Working with local communities should help with understanding the language, culture, and socioeconomic factors that they must negotiate with as they navigate the risk posed by the virus.

CONCLUSIONS

What has been lacking has been the strategy and resources developed and tailored for various communities and populations groups. This may include community focused messaging carved in billboards and posters for wider reach.

Overall, the President and his Minister of Health have been very successful in leading the nation in the battle to contain the spread of the virus. All the challenges faced along the way are to be expected and are not too insurmountable to rectify.

I congratulate them and ask them to carry on!!

DISCLAIMER

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Q & A

Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Refilwe Mtshweni- Tsipane

1. Who is Comrade Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane?

I am a mother, a wife, a sister and a daughter. I am a community activist with a keen interest on ensuring the restoration of the dignity for our people. I am also an emissary of the African National Congress deployed to improve the quality of life for the people of Mpumalanga Province.

2. You made history when you became the first female Premier in Mpumalanga Province, How has the journey been?

As with any journey in life, it has had its fair share of ups and downs, but I consider myself blessed to be afforded an opportunity to lead a collective that is driven by the singular and tireless commitment to ensure a better life for all the people of Mpumalanga.

3. As we celebrated Africa Day on Monday, we were reminded of how African countries were united in their resolve to help rid the continent of the system of apartheid. What is the role of African Union today in developing Africa?

I think it is imperative to gauge the progress and achievements of African unity in phases. The first phase of priority for the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was to break the chains of colonialism in the broader African context and eliminate the crime against humanity that was apartheid in the South African context whilst maintaining continental peace and ending the scourge of civil wars across the continent. I think it is safe to say that these goals have been achieved.

The second phase of the work of the African leaders and the African Union



Comrade Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane is the Premier, Mpumalanga Province

is to work tirelessly for the economic emancipation of the continent. It is a well-established fact that African economies have been on an upward trajectory in the past decade. This growth however, has not resulted in concomitant declines in poverty levels across the continent. This anomaly can be attributed to the low levels of intra-African trade, coupled with the limited economic integration.

In order to emancipate the continent economically, it is imperative to ensure that economic growth is inclusive, sustainable and is driven by the primary commitment to the creation of employment opportunities. Our generation must also ensure that we achieve the economic integration of Africa in our lifetime. Through economic inte-

gration and the continued investment in infrastructure, we shall improve the overall global competitiveness of the African economies and gradually eliminate the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

4. Is Africa doing enough in empowering women in business and in leadership such as senior positions in the African Union?

In its agenda 2063 strategic framework, the African Union set a target of ensuring gender parity through a 50% representation of women in decision making. That target was set for the year 2020 and to date, sadly, the AU has not achieved that target.

Notwithstanding the excellence with which Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma executed her responsibilities during her tenure as Chairperson of the African Union Commission, it is important to ensure that more women are entrusted with the responsibility of leadership. I am encouraged by the stance undertaken by His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Africa who, upon South Africa's assumption of the chairship of the AU, indicated that South Africa's agenda during its African Union (AU) chairship will focus, amongst others, on the financial and economic inclusion of women.

I also support the commitment that AU member countries apportion a minimum of 30% of governmental expenditure to entities owned by women.

5. What do you like about being an African and what would you change about Africa and why?

I love the unity in diversity of all Afri-

cans. I love the fact that regardless of our various creeds, the spirit of Ubuntu is inherent in all Africans.

I believe we still have a relatively long way to go to dismantle entrenched patriarchy within the continent, but I am encouraged by the gradual steps we are taking towards gender parity as a continent.

6. Next year it's the local government elections. What is the ANC Mpumalanga doing to make sure that we win and how are you as the Premier ensuring that there is indeed service delivery to our people?

The ANC is a unique political party in the sense that it is the only political organisation with a presence in virtually all wards across the community. This puts us in a unique position to listen and know what our people want from grass-root level.

This presence, coupled with the strategic coordination of the work of government at local and provincial level, as well as the application of the district based model of service delivery, makes us the only political organisation that can optimally deliver services to the people.

7. How is the ANC in the Province working with Government in fighting COVID-19?

The ANC in the Province has utilised its presence in every ward of the Province to advance the message of the Provincial Government on the importance of, among others, hygiene and social distancing in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. What's your motto?

I am driven by the words of uMama Winnie Mandela who stated that:

"If you are to free yourselves, you must break the chains of oppression and indignity yourself. Any acceptance of oppression is an acceptance of humiliation, indignity and ultimately an acceptance of inferiority."

continued from page 11

DA'S CALLS FOR ENDING THE LOCKDOWN ALL ABOUT POLITICS

For one thing is clear – the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak will all conspire to produce a challenging social and political reality. The country will require an effective response to the multiple challenges and problems that will inevitably arise. However, the DA and the similarly minded point to the fact that whereas the COVID-19 crisis initially showed signs of our collective capacity to harness national unity and social cohesion, this was a short lived affair.

The enormity of the challenge before us requires South African statespersons – nation builders – more than (career) politician whose sights are permanently fixated on the five year electoral cycle at the end of which their employment contracts are renewed or expired by an electorate whom the politician can be contemptuous of by churning out hyperbole.

The DA's superior deportment in communicating its demand for the end of the lockdown has not escaped the notice of an overwhelming majority of South Africans. That none of the apparatchiks of the essentially white party has as yet seen the need to intervene to tone down what are increasingly becoming scenes of whites yelling at supposedly obtuse natives illustrates the illiteracy of some of our white compatriots to forms of behaviour that are steeped in whiteness and therefore deeply offensive.

The post COVID-19 era will also require business leaders to be alive to the dangers of an economy which leaves millions as mere spectators while only a few reap its fruits. What do people who have nothing but their poverty to lose do when faced with despair and starvation?

One of South Africa's most distressing social features which the COVID-19

crisis has accentuated is our unacceptably high levels of poverty and social inequality. In the swathes of South Africa's informal urban settlements, the lockdown as with physical distancing have not entirely succeeded to a large measure because of poverty and inhospitable living conditions.

Poverty should therefore concern the poor as much as it does the well to do not only for moral reasons. It can easily fan and fuel disease; causing multiple human security dangers for citizens across the racial and class divides.

A war on poverty should advisedly feature prominently in the country's post COVID-19 developmental agenda. Undoubtedly, the successful weaving together and implementation of such an agenda will be contingent upon the unity of purpose and sense of urgency among the three social partners – government, business and labour – and the broader society. The government's intellectual and political leadership in this enterprise will be absolutely crucial.

One thing is almost certain: failure to conceive a post COVID-19 development agenda runs the risk of alienating millions of people, black and white, as well as exacerbating our historical fault lines.

Hopefully, our experience in handling the COVID-19 will help the country and humanity more broadly to respond better to diseases and disasters' outbreaks in future.

Sthembiso Khanyile is the Convenor of the ANCYL in Buffalo City. He writes in his personal capacity.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

30 May – 4 June 2020

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

30 May 1983

Landmark judgement gives black permanent urban status



The Appeal Court handed down a landmark decision in the case *Rikhotso v. East Rand Administration Board (ERAB)*, granting him the right to permanent urban status. The ruling was likely to affect about 150, 000 Black contract workers in urban areas who could apply to have their families living with them. The case sought improvements in “influx control” or the freedom of movement of Black South Africans. These cases contributed to the gradual dismantling of apartheid laws regulating movement and torture, and became part of the process of chipping away of apartheid policies.

30 May 1942

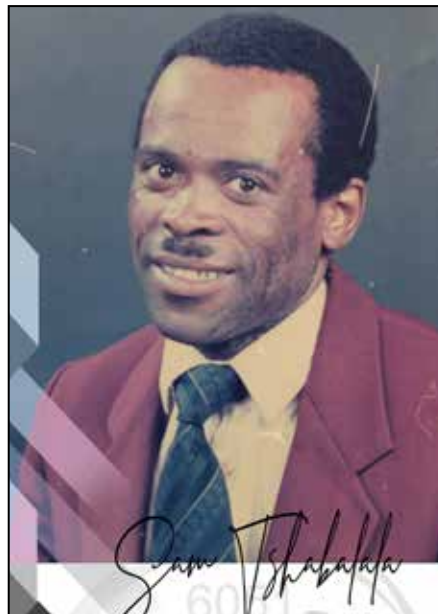
Japanese attacks Madagascar

On 30 May 1942, Japanese submarines launched an attack on the Diego Suarez naval base off Madagascar. This attack was in support of the beleaguered Vichy French Forces that were attempting to repulse a combined invasion by British and South African troops. During the attack on the naval base, the Japanese managed to severely damage the British warship *Ramillies* and sink the oil tanker *British Loyalty*. It was feared that Japan would overrun all the allied colonies in the Indian Ocean, and use these colonies as bases to launch at-

tacks on India and Africa, as well as deny the British access to the Indian Ocean. Fortunately, Japan decided to direct their war effort toward the Pacific Ocean and put pressure on Australia and the United States Navy. Had they persisted in their course in the Indian Ocean, the outcome of the Second World War could have been very different.

31 May 1989

Tshabalala first black athlete to win Comrades Marathon

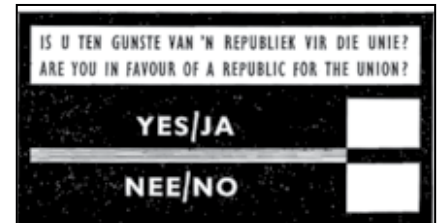


The grandest marathon in the world, athletes flock to South Africa from all over the world every year to take part in the 90 kilometre race between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The first comrades took place in 1921, with only 34 entrants. In 2008, more than 10 000 athletes entered the race. In 1989, Sam Tshabalala made history when he became the first black athlete to win the Comrades. Initially, black athletes were barred from participating in the race, but the ban was lifted in 1975. Unfortunately, Tshabalala was injured in a car accident in 1991. He however, returned to the race in subsequent years and man-

aged to achieve four silver medals. In 1998, Tshabalala was awarded the prestigious Platinum Medal by the Comrades Marathon Association in recognition of his contribution to the Comrades Marathon.

31 May 1961

South Africa becomes a Republic



Two years after taking office, Verwoerd realised his republican dream, when a White-only referendum supported his plea for a republic. This was also the first time in 12 years of government that the National Party (NP) was able to gain a majority in parliament. Given this mandate, Verwoerd went to London in March 1961 to give formal notice to the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers that South Africa was changing from a monarchy to a republic and to argue his case to remain within the British Commonwealth. This request for a constitutional change would normally have been granted, but because of South Africa's apartheid policy, it was vehemently opposed. Verwoerd then withdrew his application for membership of the Commonwealth. On 31 May 1961, the Republic of South Africa was established. It ushered in a period in which grand apartheid was consolidated and expanded, until its end in 1994.

1 June 1926

Artist Cecil Skotness born in Eastern Cape

Cecil Edwin Frans Skotnes, a muralist and graphic artist, was born on 1 June 1926 in East London, Eastern

**02 June 2011 *Mama Albertina Sisulu passed away in Johannesburg***

African National Congress (ANC) stalwart, Albertina Sisulu, died at her home at the age of 92. Often referred to as the 'Mother of the Nation', she was a nurse and one of the most important leaders of anti-Apartheid resistance in South Africa. It was with husband Walter that she attended the first conference of the ANC Youth League where Albertina Sisulu was the only woman present. In 1948, she joined the ANC Women's League and in the 1950s she began to assume a leadership role – both in the ANC and in the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW). She was jailed and banned several times for her political activities and she was constantly harassed by the Security Police. Ma Sisulu was elected as UDF Patron in the 1980s and served in the first democratic Parliament as an ANC MP. She was buried next to her husband, Walter, at Newclare Cemetery, Johannesburg on 11 June 2011.

Cape. In 1946 he studied drawing under Henrich Steiner in Florence, Italy. He also attended classes at what was called Wits Technical Art School in Johannesburg. Skotnes served in the South African forces in Italy. On his return to South Africa, he joined the Polly Street Art Centre in Johannesburg that led him to a lifelong career in the art world. Skotnes produced many drawings, paintings and woodcuts. He was a great inspiration to young Black artists, who he trained. The most successful series he did for his portfolios was The Assassination of Shaka and The White Monday Disaster based on a text by the poet Stephen Gray.

4 June 1986***First Legal Photo of Mandela released***

On 4 June 1986, the first photograph of Mandela was released since 1964, when he was convicted and jailed

on Robben Island after the Rivonia Trial. The name of Nelson Mandela was well known, but most people had never seen him as after 1964 it was illegal to have his photographs or to photograph him for the 22 years that he had been in prison. Mandela's reproduced photograph appeared on a Booklet titled 'Talking to the ANC'. The booklet was produced by the Bureau of information, revealing all the political prisoners and the banned African National Congress literature.

5 June 1981***First recognised AIDS cases reported in the USA***

On 5 June 1981, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (USA) reported that 5 men in California were suffering from a rare pneumonia (Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia or PCP). This strain of pneumonia was found in patients with weakened immune systems. These were the first 'recognised' cases of what became known as AIDS. Therefore, 1981 is often referred to as the beginning of the HIV/Aids epidemic in the USA, and at this stage doctors believed that the disease only affected gay men.

Although politics have given me a rough life, there is absolutely nothing one regrets about what I have done and what has happened to my family throughout all these years. Instead, one has been strengthened and feel more of a woman than I would otherwise have felt if my life was different.



- Albertina Sisulu -

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

31 May – 5 June 2020

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

31 May World No-Tobacco Day



There are 1.3 billion tobacco users worldwide. That number would be even larger if tobacco didn't kill half of its users. Every four seconds, tobacco takes another life. Decades of the tobacco industry's deception and devious tactics have hooked generations of users to nicotine and tobacco, driving this global epidemic. The multi-billion-dollar industry recruits new tobacco and nicotine users to reward investors with as much profit as possible and keep its business alive. Tobacco and related industries have increasingly preyed on children and adolescents, employing advertising tactics and targeting them directly with a new portfolio of products that threaten their health. Tobacco and related industries continue to oppose evidence-based measures, such as increases in excise taxes and comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and have threatened legal actions against governments that try to protect the health of their citizens. Smoking tobacco damages your heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular system), increasing your risk of heart disease and stroke. It's a major cause of coronary heart disease, which can lead to a heart attack. Smoking causes high blood pressure, lowers your ability to exercise, and makes your blood more likely to clot. It is the cause of 9 out of 10 cases of lung cancer. It remains amongst one of the leading causes of preventative deaths in the world. (Sources: WHO, www.cdc.gov)

1 June International Childrens Day Dedicated to the issues and well-being across the world. In 1925, International Children's Day was first proclaimed in Geneva during the World Conference on Child Welfare. Since then, it is celebrated on June 1 in most countries. Children's Day is celebrated by the UN on November 20

1 June Global Day of Parents Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. It recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, and that children should grow up in a family environment and atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Global Day of Parents appreciates all parents for their *"selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship."*

3 June World Bicycle Day Regular physical activity, such as walking, cycling, or doing sports, has significant benefits for the health of persons of all ages. For the poorest, who often cannot afford private vehicles, walking and cycling can provide a form of transport while reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke, certain cancers, diabetes, and even death. Accordingly, improved active transport is not only healthy; it is also equitable and cost-effective. The bicycle is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable transport and it can serve as a tool for development and as a means not just of transportation but also of access to education, health care and sport.

4 June International Day of Child Victims of Aggression



It is a sad reality that in situations where armed conflict breaks out, it is the most vulnerable members of societies – namely children, who are most affected by the consequences of war. The six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. Its work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

5 June World Environment Day The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature. For instance, each year, marine plants produce more than a half of our atmosphere's oxygen, and a mature tree cleans our air, absorbing 22 kilos of carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen in exchange. Despite all the benefits that our nature give us, we still mistreat it. That is why we need to work on that. The theme for 2020 is Biodiversity.

5 June International Day against Illegal Fishing

Fish and seafood are important sources of protein for local communities in the 34 coastal and island African states. Illegal fishing, mainly by nations outside of Africa, has decimated African fish stocks, impacting on the livelihoods of coastal and island communities. The AU Pan -African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy, aims to get countries to work together to discourage and lobby against this practice.

#Lockdown **READING LIST 9**

2020 AFRICAN READING LIST

Reviewed by Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule

DESPITE the fact that since March 2020, the world we know it has changed, publishers despite very difficult situations have continued to publish. As schools were closed, many writers and publishers also went e-book, reduced the prices of books or temporarily waved copy rights to make books available free to children.

Publishers at the beginning of 2020 announced the books planned for this year, some did and others were delayed. Here are some recommendations:

- **Nairobi Noir**, by edited Peter Kimani (2020). “Nairobi is a city of 3 million souls, so it makes sense as a setting of Akashic Books’ famed noir series. 14 new stories fill a collection with Nairobi old and new; authors range in age from 24 to 81, and many layers of the city and its complex subcultures will be revealed as the reader makes their way through. Perfect for the armchair traveller!” Nairobi Noir is included in CrimeReads’ Most Anticipated Crime Books of 2020. Kenyan Peter Kimani also wrote *Dance of the Jacaranda* (2018)
- **A Song of Wraiths and Ruin**, by Roseanne A. Brown (2020). “In a world inspired by West and North African mythology, where magic and spirits lurk behind every corner, two teens on opposite sides of a thousand-year-old conflict must kill each other to save the ones they love – even if it means fighting the blossoming connection that ties them together.”



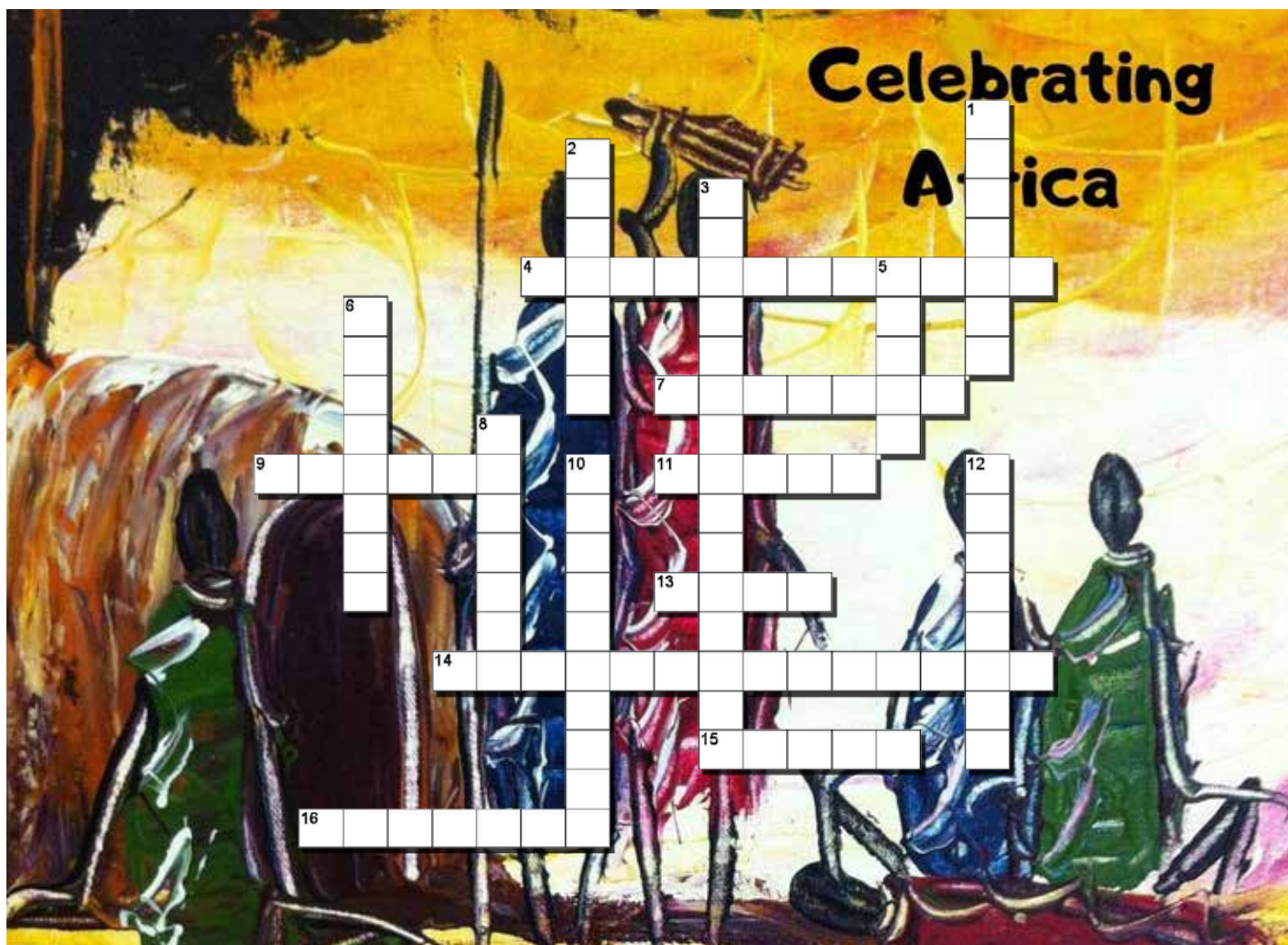
- **My Mother's House**, by Francesca Momplaisir (2020). A thriller by Haiti-born Momplaisir, it's described as a “A shockingly original exploration of class, race, and systemic violence”. In a Q&A about the book, which is set in the USA, she recalled: “It was not by accident that I chose to write about Haitian culture, my culture. That was the easiest part. How I write about immigrants – Haitian, Latino, and Caribbeans, in particular – might be seen as exposing the secrets of the many ways immigrants navigate life in America – the hustling of hardworking, often desperate immigrants, the intricacies of trying and sometimes failing at obtaining legal status in this country. And then there is this awesome sense of community and how places they create, the niches they carve out for themselves inform this nation and the world.”
- **We are all Birds of Uganda**, by

Hafsa Zayyan (2021). “You can’t stop birds from flying can you, Sameer? They go where they will..” This book spans several generations over a difficult century in the history of Uganda. It starts with Hassan in 1960s Uganda, struggling to keep the family business afloat after the death of his wife, and as regimes change in his native land, to the present day, when Sameer, a young London city lawyer gets a call back home.

- **The Waiting**, by Martin Egblewogbe (2020). A collection of short stories by the co-founder of the Writers Project of Ghana, and editor of the Ghanaian Book Review, explores “the loneliness of an existence based on an alien world-view. The Waiting is a collection rooted in metropolitan Ghana, but its primary territory is the human mind.

Stay Safe.

X-WORD | African Renaissance



Across

4. Wrote Regeneration of Africa in 1906.
7. Advocate for a United States of Africa.
9. Ancient Benin sculptures made of this metal.
11. Self-reliance at the heart of this OAU Plan of Action from 1980.
13. Country of Timbuktu libraries and university.
14. Modern day eco-warrior and Nobel laureate.
15. Ex Africa semper ali quid novi.
16. Sculptures of Tanzania and Mozambique.

Down

1. Elite group of women soldiers from this kingdom.
2. Early inhabitants of the Sudan.
3. Anthropologist, historian, African Renaissance intellectual.
5. Egypt has pyramids and so does.
6. Country of the obelisk of Aksum.
8. Legendary female warrior and independent minded.
10. Old Southern African civilization.
12. Tunisian historic city.

WORD BANK

Wangari Maathai

Nubians

bronze

Ethiopia

Mapungubwe

Dahomey

Lagos

Nkrumah

Cheickh Anta Diop

Carthage

Yennega

Pixley ka Seme

Pliny

Mali

Makonde

Sudan

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.

info@anc1912.org.za