



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

12–18 June 2020

## Conversations with the President



## THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

*As we watch the coronavirus infections continue to rise*

# DON'T BE ALARMED. BE PREPARED.

**M**OST PEOPLE will have noticed that the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in South Africa has been rising fast. More than a half of all cases since the start of the outbreak were recorded in the last two weeks.

During the course of this coming week, we can expect that the total number of cases will pass the 50,000 mark. Sadly, we are also likely to re-

cord the 1,000th death from this devastating disease.

Like many South Africans, I too have been worried as I watch these figures keep rising. While these numbers are broadly in line with what the various models had projected, there is a big difference between looking at a graph on a piece of paper and seeing real people becoming infected, some getting ill and some dying.

We can draw some comfort from the knowledge that the nation-wide lockdown in achieving the objective we had of delaying the spread of the virus and that it gave us time to prepare our health facilities and interventions for the expected spike in infections.

The lockdown was not only necessary but it has also given us all time to adjust to living with the virus. Various surveys show that South Africans

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## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

**President Ramahosa and Health Minister Mkhize guided by Western Cape Premier Alan Winde on a tour of the province's Hospital of Hope, an 850-bed COVID-19 facility established at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.**



have come to know a lot about the virus and are taking the necessary precautions to prevent its spread. I have been pleased to realise that a high percentage of South Africans wash their hands regularly, avoid contact with other people and wear face masks whenever they go out in public. I should however say that social distancing in public places is still a major challenge for us. We need to focus our attention on ensuring that we adhere to social distancing practices because it is through close contact between people that the virus will be spread.

It is pleasing to realise that businesses, government departments, schools and other institutions have used this time to get themselves ready for a gradual return to more-or-less normal activity. They have been putting stringent health protocols in place, thoroughly cleaning and sanitising their premises and are ensuring that people are regularly screened for COVID-19 symptoms. This is all necessary to ensure that we save lives and protect livelihoods.

Last Friday, I spent the day in Cape Town to get a better sense of the work that is being done to manage the disease there. The Western Cape is the epicentre of coronavirus infections in South Africa, with around two-thirds of all confirmed cases.

I was impressed by the preparations the Western Cape is making to contain infections and to ensure that there are enough beds, staff and medical supplies to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of people needing hospitalisation. They are increasing the number of beds by setting up field hospitals, including at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

Yet, even with the preparations they have made, they will need more bed capacity as the disease reaches its peak. They need help from outside the province, including additional funding and health personnel.

This provides the clearest evidence yet that we are correct to treat coronavirus as a national disaster. We must mobilise and deploy all the necessary resources we have in the country.

We need an integrated strategy that brings together the national, provincial and local spheres of government.

After the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape is the province with the fastest-growing proportion of people infected. And we know that some of the infections in the province were the result of people travelling from the Western Cape. What this tells us is that no part of the country is an island and that all South Africans, no matter where they live, need to remain vigilant and prepared. It is for this reason also that people are not permitted to travel between provinces while the country is at alert level 3, except under specific circumstances and with the necessary permits.

As we watch the number of infections rise further – probably far faster than most of us imagined – we should be concerned, but not alarmed. That is because we have the ability, as individuals, communities and as a country, to limit the impact of the disease on our people.

As we have shown, we can slow the

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

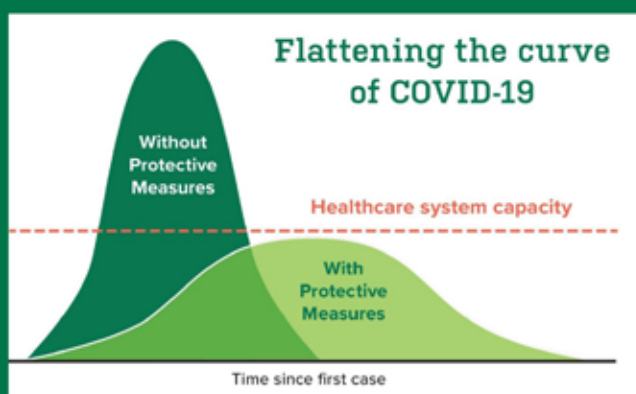
spread of the disease, and we should continue to take all measures possible to continue to flatten the infection curve. Most importantly, we must be prepared to reduce the number of deaths by implementing the necessary health measures.

Working with our social partners, we in government are working hard to prepare for the increase of infections. We have been buying personal protection equipment from across the world and supporting local companies to produce them here. We have been improving the infrastructure in hospitals and setting up temporary hospitals and finding more beds for COVID-19 patients. We have deployed tens of thousands of community health workers to detect cases in areas where people live. We are intensifying the programme of screening, testing, contact tracing and, where necessary, isolation.

Although we have made progress, we still need to do much more in the

### Why do we need to flatten the COVID-19 curve?

If South Africa did not implement early protective measures, the number of COVID-19 cases would have overburdened our healthcare system's capacity.



coming weeks to meet the expected demand.

You can also do much to prepare as individuals and families. Already many have made the effort to learn as much as they can about the disease, how to identify the symptoms and how to avoid getting infected or infecting others. Many people have


thought about how they can go to school or work safely, and how they can change their shopping behaviour or how they worship to minimise the risk of infection.

Each household should look at how they can protect elderly people and those with underlying conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, TB or HIV. Do plan for the possibility that someone in the family may become infected and whether you will be able to isolate them from family members until they are better. If not, find out where the closest government quarantine site is. You

should also plan ahead for what to do if someone gets sick.

Over the coming weeks, as we watch the coronavirus infections continue to rise, we must remember that we are not helpless.

And we should remember one simple, but fundamental, message: **Don't be alarmed. Be prepared.**



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**STAY SAFE**  
 PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

“As we watch the number of infections rise further ... we should be concerned, but not alarmed. That is because we have the ability, as individuals, communities and as a country, to limit the impact of the disease on our people.”

- From the Desk of President Cyril Ramaphosa  
 08 June 2020





# TOGETHER WE SHALL TRIUMPH

**REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
CDE ELIAS SEKGOBEL MAGASHULE DURING THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE CPC-ANC WEBINAR IN THE PRESENCE OF  
THE CHINESE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, CDE SONG TAO**

**W**E TAKE this opportunity to express our comradely gratitude to you, Comrade Song Tao, other members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and all other high ranking officials present. On behalf of the leadership of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress, we convey our revolutionary greetings to you, to the entire leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and the entire great Chinese nation.

With take this opportunity of the opening ceremony of the CPC-ANC Webinar to congratulate the Communist Party of China on the year of the anniversary celebrations of its 99 years of existence. The birth of the Communist Party of China, on the 1st of July 1921, was of great historic significance not only to the people of the

great Chinese nation, but the whole world.

It was during the same month, and actually the same year that our own party, the South African Communist Party, which is part of the contingent of the revolutionary forces of our Alliance partners, was born. Our aspiration to achieve a shared community of nations resonates in this deep history of heroic struggles by our people against imperialism and colonialism.

We are looking forward for the centenary anniversary celebrations of the glorious struggles of our two Communist parties, which we truly regard as the vanguard parties of the struggle of the suffering people of the world. We are confident that with the solidarity of the Alliance of revolutionary forces across the world, we shall ultimately achieve our principal strategic task of building a better world for all.

The opening ceremony of the CPC-ANC webinar is taking place at the time that our mother earth is confronted by the outbreak of one of the most unprecedented calamities in the history of the existence of human society, which is the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. This is a devastating pandemic, and its impact continues to threaten the very existence of human society.

We take great enthusiasm and are indeed inspired by the decisive leadership role of the Communist Party of China and its glorious guidance to have taught many countries of the world how to combat this deadly disease. We are inspired by the far reaching and comprehensive measures adopted by the revolutionary government of the People's Republic of China to combat the spread of the disease throughout the world.



This great determination by the leadership of the Communist Party of China to share both its material and Human Resources, has been a most remarkable gesture humanity shall forever embrace. This is indeed the true meaning, and our understanding of the building of socialism, with Chinese characteristics.

We are appreciative of your great feats of human solidarity and internationalism, and confident that together we shall triumph over these difficulties, and that we shall always be determined to work together to achieve our aspirations to build a better world for humanity. This is a task we have to accomplish during our lifetime.

The only way to achieve this is to assemble a powerful and formidable army of men and women to take forward the task build on our political and ideological foundations. The present complex world, of the modern era of capitalism, needs the most advanced caliber of cadres of revolutionary consciousness.

Therefore, the ongoing exchange program for political education between our two parties, the CPC and the ANC, and also between the other components of our revolutionary Alliance is a heritage we have to pre-

**The ongoing exchange program for political education between our two parties, the CPC and the ANC, and also between the other components of our revolutionary Alliance is a heritage we have to preserve.**

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serve. Our revolutionary programme for the rejuvenation of a new world social order can only be fulfilled by the most advanced elements in our society, who are vested in the most advanced theory of our liberation.

We shall indeed be expanding our programme of exchange to accommodate many of our cadres. While some will continue to visit some of your prestigious institutions, we shall also request some of your political

Commissars to come and conduct political education in our country in partnership with our Oliver Reginald Tambo Political School. The primary focus is to intensify this programme in order to produce thousands of our best cadres who will continue to carry the baton of being custodians of our revolutionary struggles into the future.

The task of our shared future is to transform our mother earth into a true home for all of humanity - a home free of underdevelopment, disease and poverty. This is the task before us, and indeed, it is a task that all of us have to carry forward in order to achieve the fruits of our magnanimous future, a future of true human solidarity and internationalism.

Again, on behalf of the leadership of the African National Congress, on behalf of the leadership of our revolutionary Alliance and all the people of our country, we convey our condolences to those families, friends and relatives throughout the world, who have lost their loved ones as a result of the devastating coronavirus pandemic. We stand side-by-side with them during these difficult times, and we are equally confident that together in solidarity and shared purpose, we shall triumph.

# YOUTH DAY: LET A THOUSAND FLOWERS BLOOM

Dear Mr President

**T**HE MONTH of June is one of the important ones on our national calendar with a focus on the youth and future of our country.

As has already happened with other key dates and holidays, when the country commemorate Youth Day on the 16th, it'll be a virtual event with no gatherings as has been the tradition in the previous years.

Despite the restrictions placed on the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the coronavirus, events like Youth Day remain crucial to commemorate.

With the majority of young people now sitting at home during the lockdown, this year's Youth Day offers the opportunity to reflect on the brave actions when schoolchildren confronted the apartheid regime in 1976 and paid dearly with their lives.

Lest we forget, Mr President, it was in 1975 that protests started in African schools after a directive from the then Bantu Education Department that Afrikaans had to be used on an equal basis with English as a language of instruction in secondary schools.

The protests culminated in the June 1976 uprisings that began in Soweto and spread throughout the country. By imposing Afrikaans on black schools, the apartheid regime had gone too far and this fuelled the resistance in a manner hitherto unseen



*By Pule Mabe*

and hastened the demise of the oppressive regime.

The heavily armed police who met the marching students on that morning precipitated mass mobilisation of young people when they fired teargas and later live ammunition on demonstrators. Images of the police firing on peaceful students led to an international revulsion against South Africa as its brutality was exposed to the world. The uprisings tragically ended with hundreds of young people killed and many more left the country to go into exile.

The supreme sacrifice made by the 1976 generation is a guiding light for today's generation as they navigate different challenges of the day.

In our battle against Covid-19 raging on, the world has been forced to

make fundamental changes to the way we interact with ourselves and our environment.

The advances in technology have become pivotal to refine how we go about our business and work. In the forefront of this technological progress are the savvy young people who are best placed to propel this revolution further.

Whereas the youth of 1976 confronted bullets to resist their oppression, today's generation is confronted by an invisible enemy of a pandemic that is no less fatal than the apartheid state ammunition.

Mr President, young people have proven adept at the application of mobile technology and at ease with their usage, whether with a TV remote control, game console or smartphones.

The places young people at the apex of being able to adapt rapidly to a changing world. The internet of things is fast becoming a reality and only the savvy will survive.

While our country has more cellphone and smartphone connectivity and coverage on the continent, there is still disparities of a digital divide and access to technology.

This digital divide came into sharp focus during the lockdown with students having to stay at home. Efforts and attempts to continue learning online came unstuck as it became clear that not everyone had the resources to study online.



As the young people of today confront an invisible enemy in coronavirus, the time to reimagine what their future will look like is now.

Importantly, now is the time for the youth to arm themselves with the knowledge, technology and the tools to design their post COVID-19 future.

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This lack of resources exposed the cracks of inequality which has always held our country back.

For students from poorer backgrounds, a computer and free wi-fi are the luxuries they would only access at varsity. This made it difficult for those institutions that planned to migrate the curriculum online during the lockdown.

Mr President, these fissures have made it even more urgent for digital migration to take off in this country. The almost ten-year delay in failing to allocate spectrum has left South Africa behind.

This country ought to have long established a Silicon valley wherein tech start-ups are incubated and nurtured. As a consequence, we have lost the ground to fellow African countries such as Kenya and Rwanda, who have faster internet speeds and incentivise technological initiatives.

As the advent of Covid-19 has shown, working from home has become the new normal and to do so requires technological literacy, which is enjoyed by young people in large quantities.



The devastating effects of Covid-19 on economic growth of countries, including our own are well-documented. Youth unemployment was already too high even before the coronavirus. However, this is no reason to despair and give up.

Now is the time for young people to innovate and germinate ideas and solutions. Ours should be a country that encourages and enables innovation. It is a fellow South African, Elon Musk who is on the forefront of pioneering electric cars in America, where he is based. Through his company, Tesla, he is leading the charge in finding battery technology that lasts for longer.

Mr President, there are many Elon Musks hidden in our country by lack of opportunities. These rough diamonds need a spit and polish to unleash their true potential.

South Africa has never been short of innovators and stories abound even in the far-flung areas of young people who design and create but are denied the necessary support and tools to take their talents forward.

As the young people of today con-

front an invisible enemy in coronavirus, the time to reimagine what their future will look like is now. Importantly, now is the time for the youth to arm themselves with the knowledge, technology and the tools to design their post-Covid-19 future.

The triumph over the supremacist regime silenced the apartheid guns but today's enemy is even more fierce in the form of hunger, poverty and backwardness that must be confronted with vigour and tenacity.

Let this year's Youth Day commemoration serve as a launching pad for thousand flowers to bloom.

As people keep adhering to the hygiene protocols to protect themselves from infections, a better use of our time during the lockdown would be to germinate those world-class ideas while sitting at home.

**“Vuka’ibambe”.**

Yours sincerely,

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

## IN MEMORIUM

## *Tribute to the late Thabo Lucas Makunyane*

# FAREWELL FELLOW FREEDOM FIGHTER!

*By Chupu Mathabatha*

**T**HE Provincial Executive Committee of the ANC in Limpopo salutes and bids a revolutionary farewell to Comrade Thabo Makunyane, an outstanding freedom fighter, a patriot and a life-long commissar.

We mourn his untimely passing and celebrate his life, which was a life well lived. We salute Cde Thabo Makunyane for his sterling contribution to our liberation struggle.

We pay tribute to this brave son of the soil, a martyr who has made unparalleled sacrifices in the service of his people and country.

Today Cde Thabo sits comfortably amongst other titans of our liberations struggle, luminaries such as Peter Magano, Andrew Mashaba, Melifi Makinta, Peter Nchabeleng, Morris Matsimela, Lawrence Phokanoka, Elias Motswaledi, Mark Shope, Flag Boshielo and Nelson Diale.

Indeed, the democracy and freedom that we celebrate today did not come free. This democracy is paved on the blood, sweat and toil of many of the combatants of our glorious movement, cadres such as the late Cde Thabo Makunyane.

As some, both deliberately and conveniently forget, we refuse to forget that this democracy and freedom was born out of the suffering, the service and sacrifices of many of our people.

Those who wish to forget this reality, do so simply because it serves their narrow ideological agenda to undermine the contribution of cadres such as Cde



Thabo to the democratic order we are enjoying today. But for us as those of the struggle, we have always said that *"our struggle is also a struggle against the memory of forgetting."*

For as long as we live, martyrs and warriors such as Cde Thabo Makunyane cannot and should indeed not be forgotten.

Cde Thabo always reminded us of the position of the ANC in relation to the masses of our people. He did this

through the words of President OR Tambo when he said that:

*"Even as we provided leadership, we were always conscious of the fact that the ANC was the people's parliament."*

*"In this context, we considered it important that decisions of the ANC were to be shaped by popular mass endorsement at all times. Even if such decisions were acceptable within the Movement,*

*continues on page 11*



## IN MEMORIUM

# In Memorium

**DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE 2020, SOME ANC HQ STAFF LOST MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES.**

■ **Cde Khawulezile Noruka** lost his **UNCLE Mr. Sipiwo Headman Matoto**

■ **Cde Tshepiso Nkayinkayi** lost her **MOM Ms. Thandiwe Gladys Nkayinkayi**

■ **Cde Ephenia Lerutle** lost her **GRANNY Ms. Manoko Mokoena-Lerutle**

**We also bade farewell to the following comrades:**

**Cde Solly Malete**

Former North West PEC head of Mobilisation,  
former Coordinator of By-Elections and  
Provincial Transport Coordinator.

**Cde Kwanele Gugushe**

Member of ANC Regional Task Team in Boland,  
Western Cape.

**Cde Themba Nobatana**

Former HQ Employee (ANC Education Desk and ANC Youth League Policy Unit)

Even though we are not able to pay our respects in person due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Condolences and strength to your families.

May their souls rest in peace.

With much love

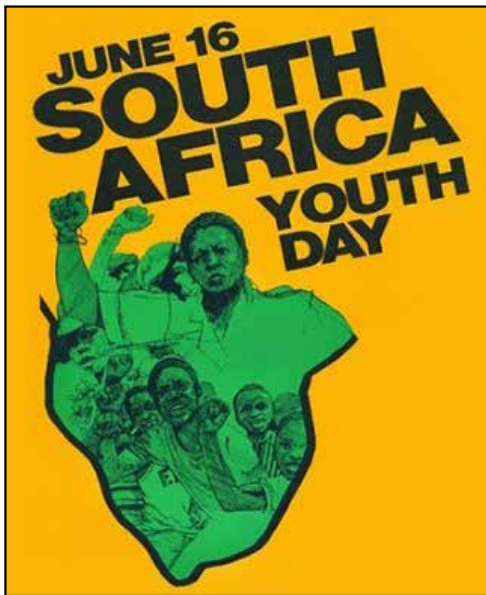
ANC Headquarters



**protect Yourself.**

**Defend Each Other:**

**Let's Do it Together.**



# YOUTH CAN BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE

*By Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim*

**A**S WE CELEBRATE Youth day on June 16th, we are reminded that this is a month of historical significance for the liberation movement. The history of our struggle is written in historical dates and months. The youth uprising which began on June 16th was a turning point in our struggle for liberation, and we correctly marked it as youth day and declared it as a holiday. June 16th saw the mobilisation of the youth, and it became a great inspiration to us who were incarcerated on Robben Island. We witnessed many youth flooding into Robben Island prison, who received political education and imbibed revolutionary theory. Many youth went into exile and swelled the ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe and the youth wing of the ANC. Some of them returned as trained combatants and carried out important military and political missions in the country.

The whole month of June has historical significance for our movement. It was on June 26th 1950 that the ANC, in support of the workers killed by the apartheid regime on May 1st 1950, called for a national strike. The workers were protesting against the Suppression of Communism Act, which outlawed the Communist Party of South Africa. The movement correctly stated that this draconian Act was aimed not only at Com-

munists, but the entire liberation movement. It was no accident that both the ANC and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC) chose June 26th 1952 to launch the historic Defiance Campaign which saw 8,000 volunteers defy unjust laws and court imprisonment. It was also June 26th 1955 that was chosen to hold the historic Congress of the People assembly in Kliptown, an assembly which I attended.

There is an anecdote that I recollect from 1960 which is particularly relevant for our youth today. I had gone to see Chief Albert Luthuli in Stanger with a youth delegation from the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress. We met Chief Luthuli in a bus, which was because he was under a banning order. He related a story to us about a village in which the youth were frustrated with their parents and elders. They felt restrained and wanted to be more revolutionary. Then one day they decided to exile all their parents and elders. Having taken over the village they were confused and didn't know what to do, and the village was in a state of chaos. There happened to be one bright boy who said he knew what was to be done.

The boy very effectively guided them on all matters regarding the village and other issues. One day they confronted this boy and asked him how it was that

he was so clever, because without him they were paralyzed. The boy replied, *"When you exiled your parents and elders I did not do the same. I hid them there in a cave."* The message Chief Luthuli was giving us was clear: that no matter how enthusiastic we are, we need the wise guidance of our elders.

Our youth have played a critical role in the struggle for liberation. We remember people like Solomon Mahlangu and other young fighters for liberation who were prepared to challenge the apartheid regime. We honour the youth today for the heroic role they played in challenging the brutality of the apartheid police and army. They led the way for the unfolding mass revolutionary struggle of the 1980s, which resulted in the collapse of apartheid, and the installation of a democratic South Africa.

Many of our young people who went into exile found their home in the Solomon Mahlangu School (SOMAFSCO) in Tanzania, and got the necessary education they were deprived of in South Africa.

What is the position of our youth today? Many of our youth today are gravitating towards populist movements, and away from their natural home – the ANC. This is an indictment of our ANC Youth League. The abject failure of our youth



league to mobilise the youth behind the ANC is in part due to the infighting between factions, and the lack of leadership by the parent body. If our parent body is paralysed by factional fighting, it obviously rubs off on our youth today. Let us remember June 16th 1976, and the sacrifices made by our youth. To honour the youth of June 16th, we need to put an end to the divisions, factional fighting and corruption in our organisation. President Cyril Ramaphosa has correctly called for the unity of the organisation, and to restore our movement to its past glory.

Today our youth are once again becoming militant as seen in the Fees Must Fall movement. It is the youth who are leading the demands for socio-economic change in our country, as many of them are affected by unemployment. They could, if properly mobilised, become an important motive force for real transformation. We need to give the correct revolutionary leadership to our youth today as we fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, which greatly affect the youth of today.

**Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim** is the former Deputy Minister of International Relations, former Robben Island political prisoner, and was among the first members of MK in Natal.

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## TRIBUTE TO THABO LUCAS MAKUNYANE

*they would have come to naught unless they enjoyed popular support beyond the bounds of the ANC itself”.*

The Cde Thabo Makunyane I knew was himself a personification of organisational unity. It is against this background that we believe that a living tribute to Cde Thabo is the unity of his movement led by the African National Congress.

Unity is the foundation on which our Movement is anchored. In the words of OR Tambo we must be *“determined to achieve a much higher level of unity through action and unity in action. This means we are recapturing our glorious past.”*

These words must at all material times be instructive to us on how best we execute the key tasks of the revolution.

As we mourn the death and celebrate the life of Cde Thabo Makunyane, Che Guevara says to us that: *“whenever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear and another hand reaches out to take up our arms.”*... *“We cannot be sure of having something to live for unless we are willing to die for it”.*

The lessons from Cde Thabo Makunyane’s life are a task for those of us who remain.

The success of our revolution requires men and women of Cde Thabo’s qualities. Our revolution demands from us nothing less than honesty, integrity, commitment and absolute love for the people in whose names we are called revolutionaries.

You can’t be a revolutionary if you don’t love the people.

You can’t be a revolutionary if you tolerate corruption or have a selective approach to fighting corruption, depending on who is involved.

You can’t be a revolutionary if you lack

**You cannot be a  
revolutionary if you  
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commitment to our  
revolution.**

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the attributes of honesty and personal integrity.

You cannot be a revolutionary if you have a part-time commitment to our revolution.

A revolution, as Cde Thabo understood it, is indeed a full-time calling.

Cde Thabo Makunyane was prepared to die for our freedom and democracy; he died fully engaged with the task of reconstruction and development of the post apartheid South Africa.

We pay a deserved tribute to this humble political giant, outstanding son of the soil, great revolutionary and patriot. He is hero of heroes who served our people to the best and the last of his energies.

Indeed for as long as the ANC lives, Cde Thabo will never die.

**Farewell Fellow Freedom Fighter!**

**Farewell Son of the Soil!**

**Long live the fighting spirit of Cde Thabo Lucas Makunyane!**

**AMANDLA!**

**MAATLA!**

**Chupu Mathabatha** is ANC Limpopo Chairperson.



# THE CANCER OF HOUSE EVICTIONS IN WARD 47 EKURHULENI



By Morgan Mathebula, Ishmael Mukhari and Makhosi Sigabi

IT IS NOW 24 years since the then Housing Minister Joe Slovo and the Botshabelo Housing summit in October 1996 formed a private-public partnership to solve the housing crisis at the time. Township residents who, for one reason or the other could not afford to continue with their bond repayments, were to be downsized often from houses of 90 m<sup>2</sup> to a house of 30 m<sup>2</sup> (popularly known as an “RDP” house). In its pure form, the idea was meant to once and for all deal with the rent/bond boycotts of pre-1996. The pre-1996 bond boycott saw hundreds of thousands township dwellers who heeded the call to boycott their bonds facing the prospect of mass evictions in the new dispensation following 1994. The implementing agency was Servecon, an agency which, in cooperation with banks, facilitated the downsizing of defaulting bondholders. At the time, Servecon held 33 000 properties to be rehabilitated (worth an estimated R1,28 billion rands), with more properties added as the programme unfolded.

The latter gesture was in itself commendable and solved a pesky political problem. However, as the years went by, it soon became apparent that ‘there is more than meets the eye’ in the downsizing of the project. Greedy opportunists realised that they could take advantage of uneducated and ill informed township residents to literally “hijack” houses that



An RDP house

could legitimately be passed on to the occupants. The occupants would then be tossed onto the streets and/or downsized, and the house would be sold to the highest bidder.

This became a free for all, whereby unregistered “estate agents” joined the fray and the problem became so chronic that Chief Justice Dustan Mlambo in 2018 was compelled to put a stop to this by calling for a moratorium on evictions in Gauteng. The moratorium effectively put a stop to evictions in Gauteng until an amicable political solution could be found.

We present three case studies that show how uninformed residents in Vosloorus are being taken advantage of:

tage of:

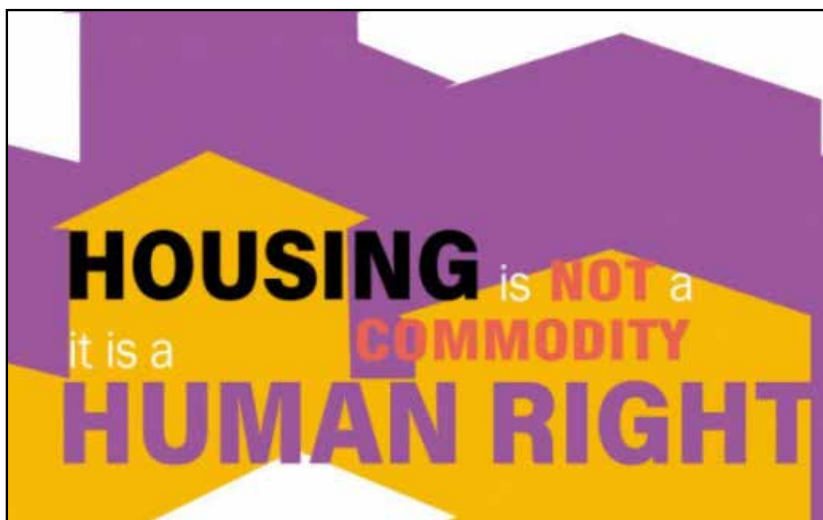
## Case Study 1: 1525 Mapogo Street, Mailula, Vosloorus

The Erf 1525 belonged to a South African Railways (SAR) worker, Freddy Baloyi. The now defunct SAR, built its workers homes near where they lived at subsidised bond rates. Mr Freddy Baloyi was one such beneficiary.

In 2012, the SAR acting as Transnet, underwent a process of transferring to its workers all the properties they were occupying. Sadly, Mr Freddy Baloyi missed out on the process as he died in June 2012. Unfortunately Mrs Baloyi had also passed away. Their only child, Nkosinathi Baloyi, aged 16 years at the time was left

to fend for himself with the assistance of caring neighbours.

Rogue estate agents soon pounced on the Erf, and the young Nkosinathi Baloyi turned to the ward Councillor at the time and all papers about the Erf were handed to the Councillor. Sorrowfully, Nkosinathi was evicted soon after into the care of neighbours. Nkosinathi Baloyi is now 24 years old and is still living with the neighbours.



Greedy opportunists take advantage of uneducated and ill-informed township residents to literally “hijack” houses, toss legal occupants into the street or down-size them and sell these houses to the highest bidder.



### Case Study 3: The Saga of 100 properties in Thekwane Street, Mailula, Vosloorus

The tenants in these 100 houses say the houses were originally built by the Boksburg Transitional Local Council (TLC) as rental stock for the unemployed. The building contractor was McCarthy. Some occupants were given permits to affirm that they were permanent dwellers of the households.

Later, a company, Thubelisha Homes, came and took the residents to the Boksburg housing department where there were made to sign consent forms that they each lived in a “bonded” house worth R7,800 and must

make monthly repayments of at least R70 a month directly to Thubelisha homes. Most residents agreed that they would make monthly repayments of R200. Later the residents were informed that the properties they were occupying were now transferred to Khayaletu and the “bond” amount was

valued at R21,500. Later still, the properties were transferred to Bambanani properties and more recently the residents are paying a rental and/or bond to Hlanu properties.

Ward 47 Housing Committee investigated and found that all the properties at the municipality offices were still classified as municipal property. The Ward 47 Housing Committee went to Hlanu properties to seek clarity as to why houses that were built by the municipality were converted into “bonded” houses. However, no clear answers could be elicited.

### Conclusion

The story of Nkosinathi Baloyi clearly shows the hand of mercenary ‘estate agents’ who are quick to swoop on orphaned children and evict them. These evictions often take place with the assistance of fraudulent “court orders” and falsified municipal documents. In **Case Study 2**, we can see how some rogue elements in the SAPS, often using fraudulently obtained “court orders” often evict unsuspecting residents. In **Case Study 3**, we see how unscrupulous housing companies and their agents cash in on ignorant township residents.

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

### Case Study 2: Erf 3427

#### Mazibuko Street, Vosloorus

Mr Walter Magangane bought a vacant Erf 3427 from Mr C Mothibedi, an estate agent, for which he paid R13 000 through Standard bank. His building went through the normal process of approval from the Ekurhuleni municipality, and he started building a 5-roomed house with an estimated value of R800 000. After 5 years of living in the house, he was approached by another individual who told him that he was occupying the Erf illegally and a police case of trespassing had been opened against him. Mr Magangane approached the local Ward 47 Housing Committee who found that the police case was indeed opened by unknown persons. Mr Magangane was subsequently evicted by SAPS and not the Sheriff of the court. A foreign national now “owns” the property.

The matter was referred to the local Parliamentary Constituent Office (PCO) and the Station Commander of the Vosloorus Police Station to no avail. The commander of the Police Station could also not explain why police officers of the SAPS conducted the eviction instead of the Sheriff of the court.

# Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Thandi Moraka

### 1. Please tell us very briefly about yourself.

Thandi Moraka is a young woman who is a mother of two children and passionate about contributing to the development of our society both politically and economically.

### 2. When did you join the ANC Youth League and what motivated you to do so?

I joined the ANC Youth League in the year 2000 when I was still in high school doing Grade 9. I have also served as a learner representative councillor for my school advocating for the rights of learners back then. The motivation had always been to serve my community and also to help disseminate information about programs of our democratic government in my rural village where I grew up.

### 3. As a country we are celebrating youth month, what does the month of June mean to you as a young person of this country?

June month in our political calendar signifies a historic moment where a lot of historic events occurred against what the unjust apartheid regime was doing with the intention to side-line the African black majority members of society from achieving certain goals in life. I remember the resilience of the youth of 1976 who took it upon themselves to confront the brutal apartheid government that wanted to introduce Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools. The 1976 generation knew exactly what



Comrade Thandi Moraka

they were faced with and they knew the consequences of their decision in the process of the attainment of equal education.

### 4. As we celebrate youth month, we are facing a high rate of unemployment especially of young people. Do you think youth is empowered enough to make their lives better?

There are legislative frameworks that give rise to opportunities for our youth to enter into the previously excluded areas of the economy. We have seen our ANC-led government coming up with programmes to help young people in our country to be independent economically. We now have policies geared towards the empowerment and development of

our young people. We have the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) that is charged with a mandate to champion issues of youth development. Other government sectors are coming up with policies that are specifically advocating for the development of our young people.

We also need to address the issues of high unemployment levels that are affecting mainly our youth. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether our education system in terms of the curriculum content is aligned with the current needs of the economy in-terms of skills that we impart to our young people. Those skills must be aligned with the current needs of the economy. We need young people of today to take advantage of the programmes that our ANC-led government has introduced in order for the youth of today to be innovative and help our government to create jobs for other young people.

### 5. June 16 1976, is a very historic day and very emotional for all the South Africans, with many people having died fighting against the apartheid system.

The only way for young people of today to be able to honour the selfless contribution of the 1976 generation is when the current generation of the youth identify its own mission and work towards achieving it. We can do it. Young people must also redirect their energies and make things like education, business and economic



participation fashionable. We have everything in our disposal to achieve a future society free from want.

**6. Clearly, with the lockdown in place, we can't have rallies and other events to commemorate this day as we used to in the past. What will you do on this day to commemorate this emotional day?**

Lockdown imposed a new paradigm in our lives to innovatively move forward with online and other modern technological digital platforms. To commemorate this youth day and month, I will be hosting an online presentation on **Global Youth Development in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution**. The world is coming together as one to build a global community and this will require global citizens, particularly the youth to actively participate in this paradigm shift. I will also form part of some of the youth activities and initiatives in the province.

**7. The ANCYL finds itself in a leadership crisis. What are young people doing in your province to revive the Youth League to what it used to be in order to improve the lives of young people?**

In our province, young people are going to high schools and educational institutions to mobilise in these areas because this is where the future of the ANCYL rests. We have no reason to abandon the historical objective of the league. We should explore the riches of our province to build an economy that will absorb our youth. Young people are also busy with online lectures and political activities about the history of June 16 and that of the ANC Youth League to help impart knowledge to other young people in the province.

**8. What is your Motto?**

My motto is: **Never give up in life, no matter the prevailing material conditions you may find yourself in.**

# THE MURDER OF AHMED TIMOL

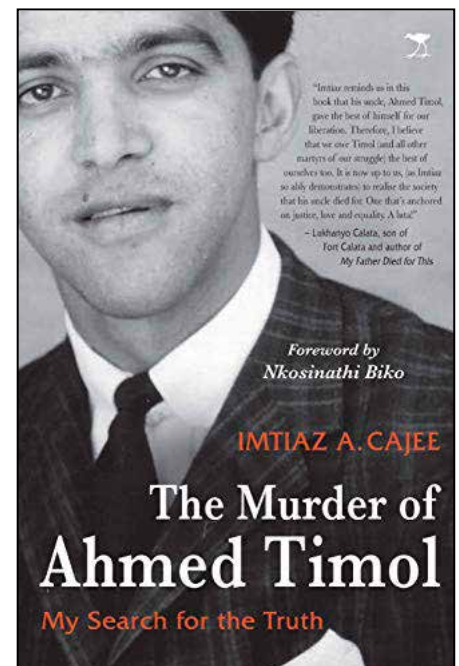
## - My Search for the Truth

By Imtiaz Cajee

*The harrowing story of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe Ahmed Timol has been told many times by journalists and other writers from different angles. His brutal murder at the hands of the hated apartheid police left the world in shock and incredulity. In his book, "The Murder of Ahmed Timol – My search for the truth", Timol's nephew, Imtiaz Cajee (a regular contributor to ANC Today), lays bare the lies and deceit surrounding the unfinished story of this great patriot. The following is an extract from his book:*

**S**IMILAR TO the 19 days of the inquest, I arrived at court early on judgment day. I met veteran freedom fighter Comrade Laloo "Isu" Chiba, who had provided an affidavit to the inquest about his own ordeal of torture in police custody. He complimented me for preserving my uncle's legacy and for my efforts to reopen the inquest.

The public gallery was packed to the rafters. My thoughts throughout the inquest had been of Ma and Papa. I wondered how they had survived sitting through the 1972 inquest listening to the security police witnesses fabricating evidence, which was ultimately unequivocally supported by Magistrate De



Villiers. There was a large contingency of media, local and international, eagerly awaiting the judgment, taking pictures and filming the court gallery.

In his judgment, Judge Mothle very graciously acknowledged my work and remarked that it was through my persistent efforts that this historic sitting of the inquest had taken place. My efforts, he said, should be emulated as an example of how citizens have to assert their rights.

He said that the evidence placed before the inquest revealed the complicity of certain prosecutors, magistrates and medical doctors in the declaration

*continues on page 19*

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

13–19 June 2020

Source: SA History Online ([www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za))



### 16 JUNE 1976

#### *Students in Soweto march against imposition of Afrikaans*

The Soweto uprising began when more than 20 000 learners marched peacefully against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in Black secondary schools. The uprising then escalated into a nation-wide revolt, revitalising the struggle for liberation in South Africa. Apart from the language issue, students also demanded an end to Bantu Education. Police used teargas to disperse the crowd and students started throwing stones in retaliation. Police then responded by firing live bullets, also killing thirteen year old Hector Petersen.

### 13 June 1923

#### *Reg September born*

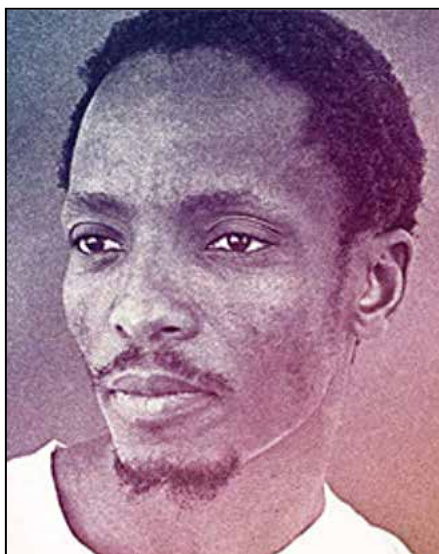


Reginald 'Reg' September was a prominent trade unionist, the leader of the South African Coloured People's Organization and an executive member of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. He was born in Wynberg in Cape Town on the 13th June 1923, the son of Florence, a housewife, and Nicholas September, a carpenter. He attended Cape Town's Trafalgar High School where his opposition to white racism was formed by his teachers who encouraged political debate on the inequalities suffered by black people.

### 14 June 1985

#### *Thami Mnyele, Artist and MK cadre assassinated*

Thamsanqa 'Thami' ka Mnyele was a talented graphic artist and a political activist.



Due to his political activities, Mnyele was forced to leave his family in Alexander, becoming exiled in Botswana. He became very active in the African National Congress' (ANC) military wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK). On June 14, 1985, Thami Mnyele was shot dead by South African Defence Force (SADF) soldiers outside his home in Gaborone. He was due to move to Lusaka the next day and large collections of his works that were packed into a portfolio were taken by the SADF. A week later, Security Police Major Craig Williamson displayed the portfolio and the works in it on SABC television, as evidence of Thami's 'terrorist' activities. To date, these works have not been recovered from the security police.

### 14 June 1982

#### *Fifth banning order against Mama Albertina Sisulu*



Stalwart anti-apartheid campaigner of South Africa, Albertina Sisulu, wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Walter Sisulu, was placed under a banning order for the fifth time since 1963. She is the person in South Africa who has served the longest under banning orders by the regime.

### 14 June 1996

#### *GEAR unveiled*

In a long anticipated move, the recently appointed Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel announced the government's macro-economic strategy, called Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR), which committed the government to tighter fiscal policy and the steady liberalisation of foreign exchange controls. GEAR



targeted the creation of 400 000 jobs by the year 2000, reduce the budget deficit from 4.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 4.0 per cent GDP in the fiscal year 1997-98.

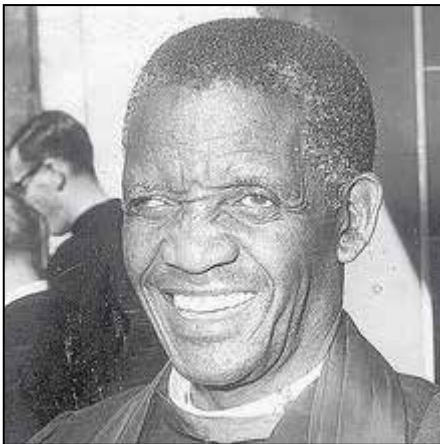
### 15 June 1960

#### **Independent African states imposed sanctions on Apartheid South Africa**

During the Second Conference of Independent African States held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a resolution calling for sanctions against South Africa was passed on this day. The Conference called upon its members to cut diplomatic relations or refrain from establishing diplomatic relations, as the case may be, to close African ports to all vessels flying the South African flag, to enact legislation prohibiting their ships from entering South African ports, to boycott all South African goods, to refuse landing and passage facilities to all aircrafts belonging to the Government and companies registered under the laws of the Union of South Africa and to prohibit all South African aircraft from flying over the airspace of the Independent African States. The history of international pressure for sanctions against South Africa dates back to December 1958 when the All African Peoples' Conference in Accra, Ghana called on all countries to impose economic sanctions against the Union of South Africa in protest against apartheid.

### 16 June 1983

#### **ANC Secretary General Calata passed on**



African National Congress (ANC) leader and Anglican clergyman, James Arthur Calata, died in Cradock, Eastern Cape. He joined the ANC in 1930 and rose to become its secretary-general. In this ca-

capacity, Calata was signatory of the 1949 Programme of Action, though he found the proposal of the Youth League too extreme. During the Defiance Campaign of 1952, he was banned from attending gatherings but was eventually allowed to carry on with his church work, although not without government harassment. In 1960, Calata was given a six months suspended sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act. He continued serving the ANC's structures both nationally and provincially until his death.

### 17 June 1959

#### **Cato Manor protests begin**

Under the Group Areas Act, a proclamation was made in 1959 that "In Cato Manor, Natal; 25,798 Indians, 2,107 Coloureds and 28,298 Africans would be shifted. Indians will lose 2,891 acres of land and 2,444 dwellings valued at £1,685,350. Coloureds and Africans will lose over 70 acres of land and 133 dwellings valued at £25,940". The protests in Cato Manor began on 17 June 1959, when a demonstration of African women forced their way into a beer hall, destroying beer and drinking utensils and beating men who were drinking there. The women were led by Florence Mkhize and Dorothy Nyembe, and were dispersed by the police. It spread to become long months of protests against the forced removals.

### 17 June 1992

#### **Boipatong Massacre**

As part of the third force violence, sponsored by the regime at the time, approximately 300 armed residents of the Inkatha-aligned Kwamadala hostel shot and hacked their way through the Black township of Boipatong (Johannesburg), leaving forty-six people dead and scores injured, including women and children. At the time, it was said that the attack was organised by the Third Force, a conservative element of the police force and government colluding with members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to destabilise the country and disrupt the Convention for Democratic South Africa (Codesa). The ANC suspended its participation in the negotiations indefinitely and withdrew from CODESA, blaming FW. De Klerk, for not doing enough to stop the violence.

### 19 June 1904

#### **Arrival of Chinese workers in South Africa**

A labour shortage at the gold mines on the Rand resulted in the importation of Chinese labour in 1904. This situation, in part, was the result of the Anglo-Boer War (South African War) of 1899-1902, that had displaced large numbers of the indigenous population. The development of the Gold mining industry was also one of Milner's plans to further development in South Africa in the post Anglo-Boer War years. On the 19 June 1904, the first Chinese labourers thus arrived at the Witwatersrand. Between 1904 and 1910 there were almost 64,000 Chinese working on the Witwatersrand gold mines near Johannesburg. This measure was very successful in increasing the production of gold from mining, but in the long run it faced stiff resistance from White labour that considered the Chinese unfair competition in terms of skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

### 19 June 1913

#### **1913 Land Act Passed**



The Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913) was passed to allocate only about 7% of arable land to Africans and leave the more fertile land for whites. This law incorporated territorial segregation into legislation for the first time since Union in 1910. The law created reserves for Blacks and prohibited the sale of territory in white areas to Blacks and vice versa. An annexure designated the territory initially allocated to Blacks, with a provision that a commission was to investigate the matter further for a more realistic delimitation. In effect, over 80% went to White people, who made up less than 20% of the population. The Act stipulated that Black people could live outside the reserves only if they could prove that they were in employment.



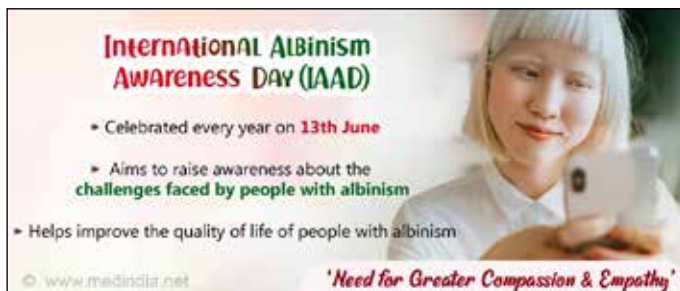
## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### INTERNATIONAL DAYS

13–19 June 2020

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

#### 13 June International Albinism Day



This day effort to stop the brutalities against people with albinism. "Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and/or eyes. Albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world." In South Africa, the condition affects one out of 20,000 people. In some parts of the country and East and Southern Africa, its belief that the parts of people living with albinism hold magic power, and they are therefore killed, in addition to discrimination and harassment they face. The UN Human Rights Council has assigned special group status to people with albinism.

#### 14 June World Blood Donor Day

The day serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood and also to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe and quality-assured blood and blood products, as an integral part of universal health coverage and a key component of effective health systems. (WHO)



#### 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The theme for this year is "Safeguard Older Persons during Covid-19". The message from UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres: "The COVID-19 pandemic is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world. Beyond its immediate health impact, the pandemic is

putting older people at greater risk of poverty, discrimination and isolation. It is likely to have a particularly devastating impact on older people in developing countries."

#### 16 June International Day of Family Remittances

Globally, there are over 200 million migrant workers who send home remittances to over 800 million families. In the African continent, remittances in 2019 amounted to more than what the continent received in Aid. The AU has formed the African Institute for Remittances, to "implement concrete strategies and

instruments to use remittances as development tools for poverty reduction." In Covid-19 impact on this much needed income to families in developing countries, as the pandemic impacts on economic activities and jobs.

#### 17 June

##### International Day of Desertification and Drought

The International Convention on Desertification, define desertification as "the degradation of the land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities." Many African countries are affected by desertification and therefore drought, and for this reason the AU started the Great Green Wall of the Sahel/Sahara, to plant trees and restore ecosystems over 8000 km stretching from Senegal in the West to Somalia in the East, to stop the southern creep of the Sahara desert. Southern Africa is also a desert and semi-arid region, and issues of desertification and its contributions to drought is also an issue for this region.



#### 19 June

##### International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Rape and sexual violence are tools used in war and conflicts against civilian populations, with women and children seen as part of the spoils of war. However, when talking about crimes against humanity and gross abuse of human rights, sexual violence in conflicts has not been included. The women's movement has been lobbying for a UN resolution declaring this day and included it in the crimes against humanity. The African Union in 2013 appointed a special envoy, Mme Bineta Diop on Women, Peace and Security, to highlight this issue and to ensure women have a voice in peace processes.



continued from page 15

## THE MURDER OF AHMED TIMOL

### - My Search for the Truth

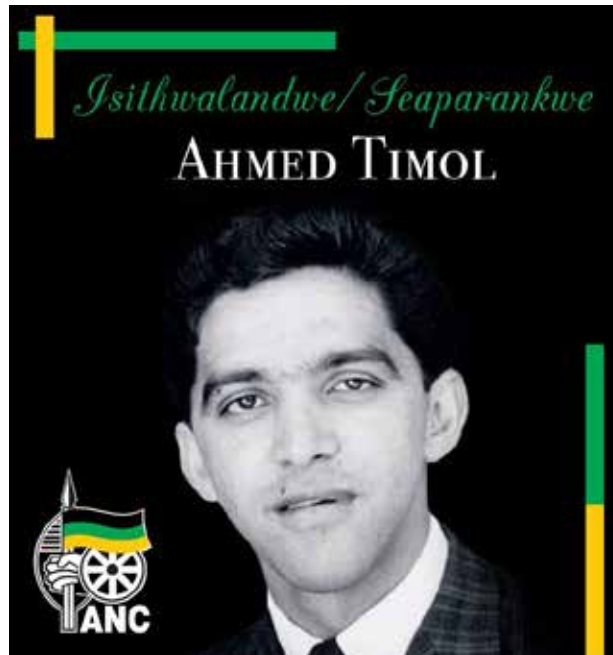
of the so-called war against the anti-apartheid movement. "These persons betrayed and demeaned their respective oaths of office by participating in inquest proceedings that became a sham; concealing the atrocities committed by the Security Branch and ensuring that the judicial system finds no one to blame," he said.

Judge Mothle rejected Rodrigues's evidence as lacking merit and credibility. In one of his criticisms of his testimony, the judge said it was "strange" that of the approximately 20 police officers who testified in the 1972 inquest, or who had provided it with affidavits, only five had mentioned Rodrigues. "The mystery around the presence and role of Rodrigues at John Vorster Square at the time Timol fell supports the contention that his version has been conjured up to conceal the truth," he said.

This, and other evidence, supported the view that the statements of members of the Security Branch, the police officers investigating the death of Timol and the proceedings in the 1972 inquest were all part of an attempt to cover up or conceal the truth concerning his death. This view was supported by the evidence of Dutton and Erasmus as well as the contradictions and improbabilities appearing in Rodrigues's version.

Evidence placed before the reopened inquest had unmasked the cover-up, he said:

*"But due to the absence of the interrogators who had all passed on, the real events leading to the push could not be established. However, the evidence prima facie and logically points out that at the time Timol was pushed either out of the window of Room 1026 or from*



*the rooftop, he was in the company of members of the Security Branch in charge of his interrogation. He could obviously not have been in a cell. These members were at least Gloy and Van Niekerk, as their police file records show and the evidence of Bouwer and Louw confirms. They were on duty at that time. The Court is unable to establish on the evidence whether there was anyone else with them.*

*"It is the Court's prima facie view that the push occurred during interrogation under circumstances where the Security Branch involved, resorted to torture. The torture on Timol was applied with a view to extract information. Counsel for the family of Timol submits that the Security Branch is guilty of murder. Murder is committed intentionally (direct intent) or through dolus eventualis. There is no evidence supporting the view that the Security Branch had direct intent to commit murder. There are theories suggesting that possibility but no evidence to back that up. However, the evidence supports murder through dolus eventualis. Dolus eventualis is present in in-*

*stances where 'the perpetrator foresees the risk of death occurring, but nevertheless continues to act appreciating that death might well occur, therefore 'gambling' as it were with the life of the person against whom the act is directed.'"*

Judge Mothle concluded that as with all the others arrested with him and detained at John Vorster Square, my uncle was tortured by the interrogating members of the Security Branch. The torture included physical assaults which resulted in severe injuries. The injuries he referred to were those sustained before the fall and were distinct from those he sustained in his fall.

Magistrate de Villiers's conclusion that my uncle had been treated in a civilised and humane manner was not correct, Judge Mothle ruled. The trajectory evidence excluded the possibility of his having either dived or jumped from the window of Room 1026 on the day he fell. Instead, it supported the view that the cause of the fall was that Timol was pushed either from the window of Room 1026 or from the roof of the John Vorster Square building. Three independent witnesses had put the time of my uncle's fall as mid-morning on 27 October 1971. This directly contradicted Rodrigues's evidence that the fall took place between 3.45pm and 4pm. The court accepted that my uncle fell in the mid-morning and that Rodrigues, if ever he was in Room 1026 later in the afternoon, was brought there to legitimise the cover-up narrative; and that the substandard and sloppy manner in which the investigation of his death was conducted by Buys and his team, supported the view that there was a clear intent to cover up the incident through a fabricated version of suicide.



# X-WORD | Youth Unemployment in the time of COVID-19



## Across

3. Pandemic led to school and university ...
5. Youth unemployment rate... that of the adult unemployment rate.
8. Africa is the world's ... continent.
10. Greater focus on this form of learning during pandemic.
11. Large scale youth unemployment can lead to social ...
12. COVID-19 affected sector with high youth employment.

## Down

1. Children of today also referred to as the ...
2. South African youth unemployment rate according to StatsSA.
4. Number of people mostly African youth involved in small scale farming.
6. Many young people across Africa also work in the ... sector.
7. ... out of 10 young people work in four most affected sectors in the world.
9. Sector with high youth employment hit by COVID-19 pandemic.

## WORD BANK

lockdown generation

four

unrest

tourism

fifty eight percent

nine million

hospitality

twice

closures

informal

youngest

online

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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