



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

26 June – 2 July 2020

## Conversations with the President



## THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

# LET US PUT SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL

**M**ORE than 100 days after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in South Africa and after two months of a nation-wide lockdown, our economy is in the throes of the anticipated fallout from this global crisis. The predictions of businesses shutting down and jobs being lost are materialising.

Last week, a number of companies announced plans to retrench staff. From aviation to construction, from entertainment and leisure to hospitality, companies have indicated their

intention to retrench staff because of heavy losses incurred over the past three months. In other cases, businesses are closing permanently. Small businesses whose turnover has been wiped out will be even harder hit.

As a country, we have all been keenly aware of the consequences of shutting down economic activity during the lockdown that was absolutely critical to save the lives of our people.

South Africa is not alone. In Italy, the UK, the US, Germany, India, China and nearly every country that had im-

posed some form of lockdown, jobs have been lost or hours of workers reduced. It is being spoken of as a *'job loss tsunami'*.

In April, the International Labour Organisation forecast there would be around 305 million job losses worldwide. The situation of workers in the informal economy is even worse, with an estimated 1.6 billion workers in danger of losing their livelihoods.

For a country such as ours, which was already facing an unemployment crisis and weak economic growth,

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## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



The Inaugural Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium in session

difficult decisions and difficult days lie ahead. We would urge that the difficult decisions to be taken, are taken with care and with due regard to balancing the sustainability of companies and the livelihoods of workers. It is important that whatever is done is underpinned by ensuring a just transition to all concerned.

The measures we put in place to protect local businesses during the lockdown in the form of loans, tax relief, debt restructuring, extended credit lines and retail rental exemptions are continuing to provide vital support. Temporary social assistance to poor households is gathering pace and providing vital relief. However, these measures can only go so far.

This week, the Minister of Finance will table a revised national budget in Parliament. Revenue has plummeted and difficult decisions will be made in the coming weeks and months as we seek to reprioritise our programmes, manage public spending and scale back on projects where necessary.

The economic hardship that has been forced on a number of companies in the private sector will be forced on a

Let us reimagine  
and repurpose our  
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sustainable path.

”

number of entities in the public sector as well. The government, business, labour and civil society will have to deepen their collaboration as never before in driving the national recovery effort.

As more economic activity resumes, struggling businesses will be *'playing catch-up'* to recoup lost productivity and revenue for some time to come. As much as we seek to protect current jobs, we also need to create new ones, and attract new, greater levels of investment. It is imperative that we open avenues for self-employment

and entrepreneurship, especially for young people.

In the past two years, the business community has made commitments to invest in various businesses in our country. It is our hope that our business community and international investors will honour the investment commitments made in a number of forums such as the South Africa Investment Conference.

Coronavirus has resulted in companies around the world re-evaluating their investment and expansion plans, and we must anticipate that some of these commitments may be scaled back and even cancelled. South Africa still has great investment opportunities and assets to invest in.

We remain optimistic that as we gradually return to normalcy, and as we forge ahead with the economic reform measures embarked upon earlier this year, that the growing investment levels we were seeing before coronavirus hit will slowly but surely return.

The announcement last week by Amazon that it is on a drive to hire up to 3,000 South Africans for a variety of



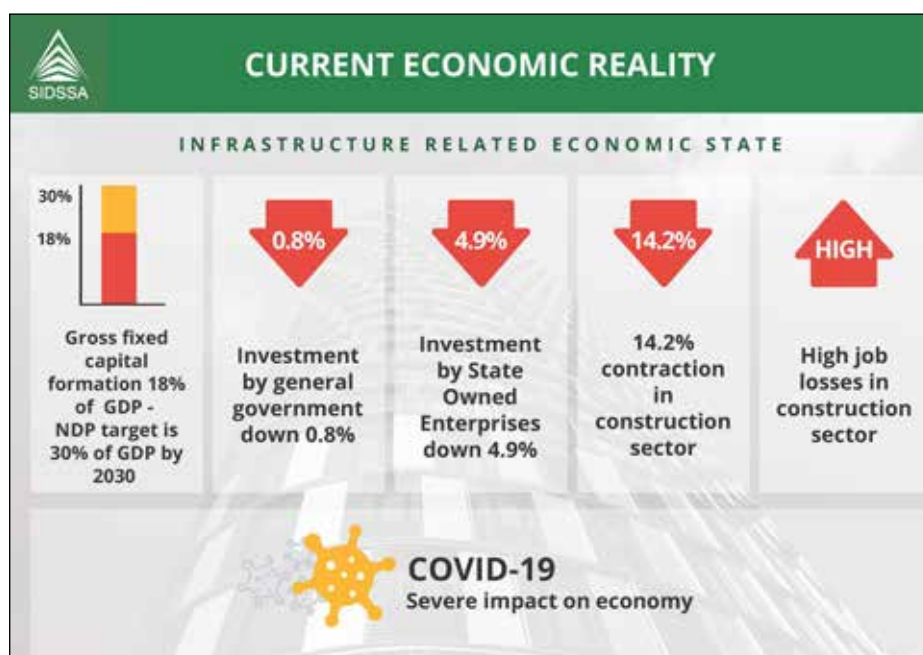
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positions is a welcome signal, as is the announcement that a local energy storage company Metair has secured a number of contracts from the Ford Motor Company, and that the pan-African cloud and data solutions entity Africa Data Centres has acquired a hi-tech data centre in Johannesburg.

Tomorrow, the inaugural Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium of South Africa will take place. A number of catalytic infrastructure projects in water, transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, human settlements and agriculture will be showcased. Project sponsorship has been sought from the private sector, multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, asset managers and commercial banks.

Through the delivery of sustainable and fit-for-purpose infrastructure, we are able to meet our developmental aspirations and revive economic activity, while also creating jobs at scale at a time when they are needed most.

This infrastructure investment forms



an integral part of our recovery effort. This will be bolstered by the reduction of interest rates by the South African Reserve Bank, support extended to businesses during the pandemic and regulatory relief for the financial sector, among others.

The job creation efforts we began in

early 2020, such as the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, and the existing ones such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and Community Works Programme, will be scaled up. The job-creation initiatives and programmes that the private sector began before coronavirus must resume, and new ones should be designed and implemented.

There are tough times ahead. There are no quick-fixes and we have to be realistic about our prospects, especially about the time it will take for our economy to recover. Even the advanced economies will contract substantially because of COVID-19, and it will take a long time for economic output to return to pre-pandemic levels.

At the same time we remain optimistic.

We will keep trying, because we understand that despite the hardship it has caused, the lockdown was necessary and has saved lives. No price can be put on human life.

Let us put shoulder to the wheel and turn this adversity into opportunity. Let us reimagine and repurpose our economy and put it firmly on a solid and sustainable path.

### South Africa needs R1.5-trillion for decade-long infrastructure boom



# THE FREEDOM CHARTER AND COVID-19

Dear Mr President

**I**T WAS ON this exact day in 1955 that one of the most seminal documents to shape our history was adopted by our congress movement. The Freedom Charter was in part a response to an increasingly repressive government which was bent on stamping out dissent.

The ANC sent 50 000 volunteers into townships and the countryside to collect “freedom demands” from the people of South Africa. This system was designed to give all South Africans equal rights at a time when the rights of the oppressed majority were denied. Demands such as “Land to be given to the landless people”, “Living wage and shorter hours at work”, “Free and compulsory education, irrespective of colour, race or nationality” were synthesized into the final document by Congressite leaders, including Z.K. Mathews, Dr Lethleby, Lionel “Rusty” Bernstein, Ethel Drus and Ruth First to mention but a few.

The Freedom Charter was officially adopted on Sunday, 26 June 1955 at a gathering of about 3000 people, known as the Congress of the People in Kliptown, Soweto. The meeting was broken up by police on the second day, although by then the Charter had been read in full. The crowd had shouted its approval of each section with cries of “**Afrika**” and “**Mayibuye**”. The great Nelson Mandela escaped the police by disguising himself as a milkman, as his



By Pule Mabe

movements were restricted by banning orders at the time.

The Freedom Charter signified a major break with the past traditions of the struggle as it called for a fundamental restructuring of all aspects of our society. The document is notable for its demand for and commitment to a non-racial South Africa, which has remained a platform of the ANC.

As a result, members of the ANC who held pro-African views left the ANC to form a splinter party called the Pan African Congress.

The Freedom Charter also calls for democracy and human rights, land reform and labour rights. When the ANC finally came into power after the democratic elections in 1994, the new Constitution of South Africa included many demands of the Free-

dom Charter.

Mr President, we the People of South Africa declare for all our country and the world to know that South Africa belongs to all those who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people.

That opening line from the Freedom Charter captures succinctly the state of affairs as our country grapples with the threat of a pandemic that has wreaked havoc throughout the world.

The coronavirus, which has forced nations and countries across the world to impose restrictions on the movement of people, has temporarily brought life as we know it to a standstill.

Since March, when the virus was first detected on our shores, the country has been under national lockdown which had curbed a lot of freedoms our people enjoyed and even took for granted since the dawn of democracy.

Workplaces, schools, sport, churches, entertainment and others were forced into a screeching halt as people were urged to stay at home to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By and large, our people understood that this infringement of their liberties were for the greater common good,



more so since the government had taken them into confidence about the reasons.

The South African response to the coronavirus is hailed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the best in terms of the timing of the lockdown while beefing up the healthcare capacity to cope with the onslaught.

Mr President, as we cast our eyes back and commemorate the codification of the Freedom Charter by the bravest of comrades, we do so with a full understanding that 2020 has been a year like no other in living memory.

Whereas the year started conspicuously like any other, few if any could have predicted the disruption the invisible virus would cause throughout the world.

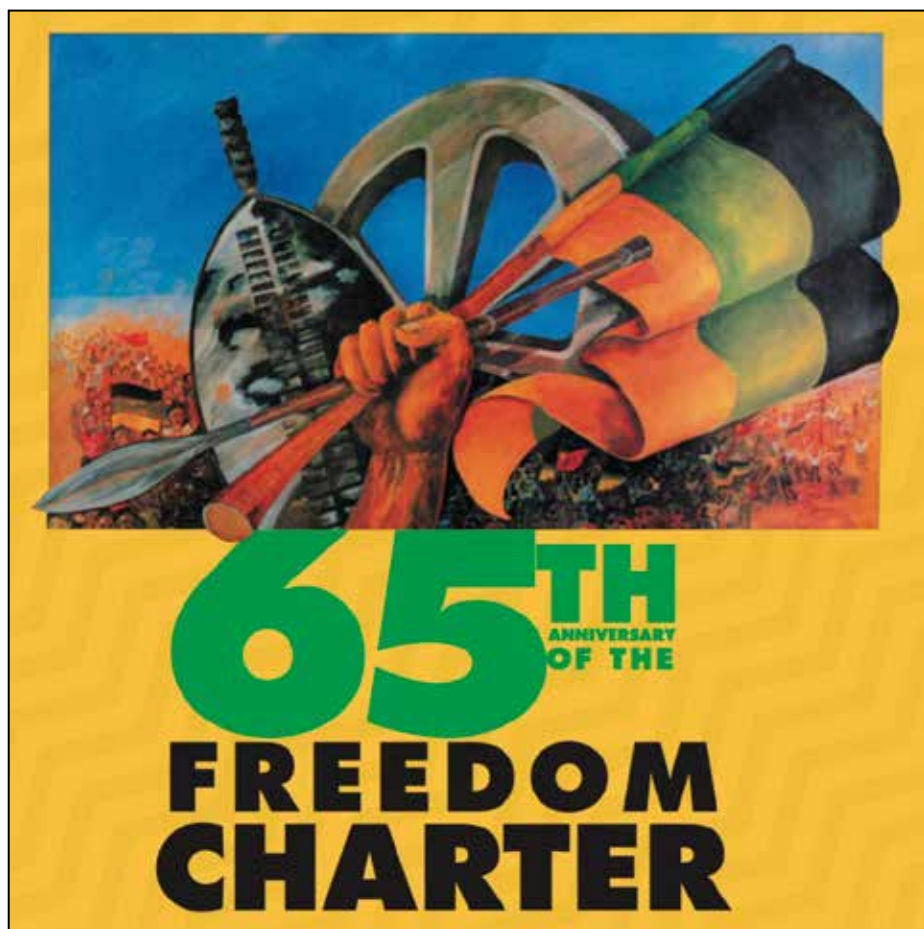
In a globalised world, countries were forced to shut down their borders and economies. To all intents and purposes, countries announced relief measures to mitigate the impact of economic stagnation and consequent inactivity.

South Africa marshaled resources to ensure that every corner of the country is covered and shielded from the impact of the virus.

As the virus continues on its path of destruction, our people have had to learn to live in a new normal which requires them to observe strict hygiene protocols of washing their hands, wearing face masks and observing physical distance from others in public.

The lockdown is being eased in phases to allow the partial reopening of schools and sectors of the economy.

Pundits have differed on whether further curbs on some sectors of the



economy were necessary even as the government made sure that lives and livelihoods took precedence above any other consideration.

Indeed, Mr President, South Africa has defied many predictions from the experts whose trajectory of the virus havoc did not materialise.

While it is scientifically recognised that in the absence of a vaccine or cure, we are angling towards a peak of viral transmissions never before experienced in our country, we are conscious of immense responsibility we bear as citizens in our democratic country to protect ourselves and one another.

When you confided in our people last month and cautioned them of their civil responsibilities when you announced the movement of the national lockdown to alert level 3 and what it meant in terms of halting the spread of the virus, others miscon-

strued your words that it was now in their hands to mean the government had disengaged on the fight against the pestilence.

Mr President, as you've observed, the battle against the coronavirus is far from over. If anything, the battle needs to be intensified because the virus has shown no signs of fatigue or slowing down. The coronavirus continues on its destructive path.

The virus has robbed us of freedoms that many fought for and died for. However, like the chants of those who gathered in Kliptown, we are certain that we will triumph.

**"Mayibuye!"**

Yours sincerely,

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

# NO MORE SILENCE!

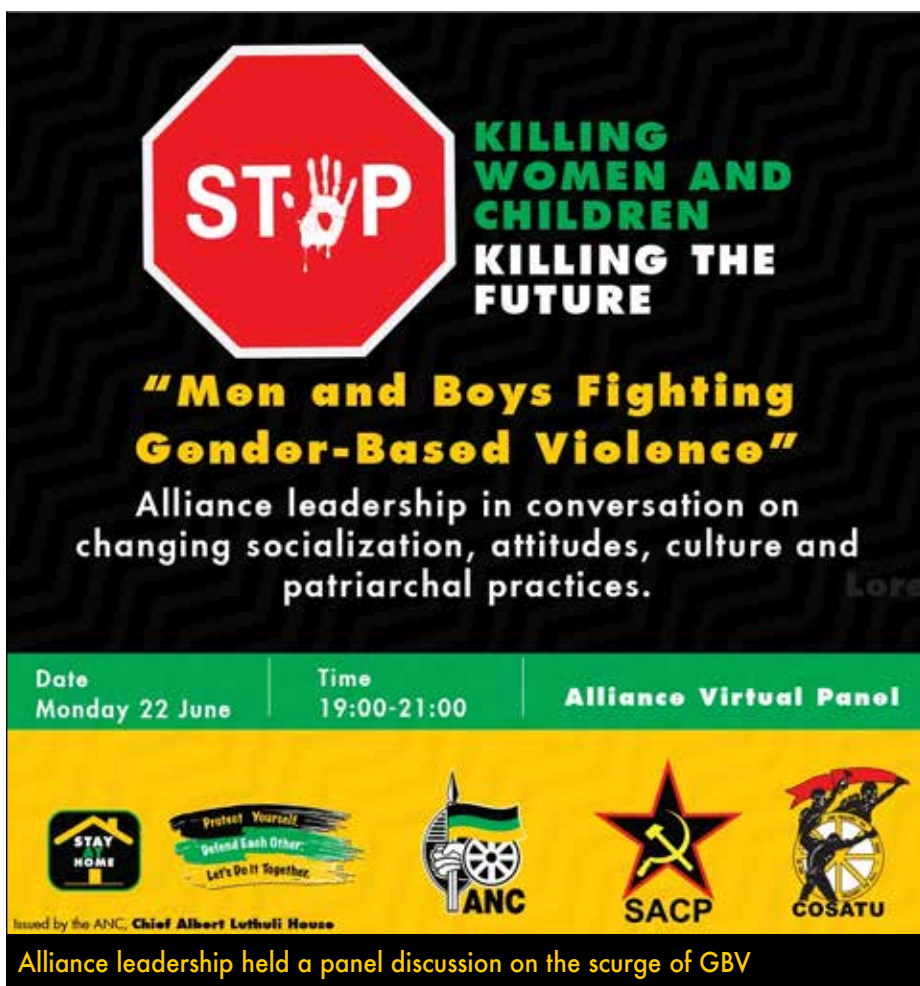
## Men unite against gender-based violence and femicide

*By Lulama Ngcukaitobi, ANC ECape Provincial Secretary*

**A**S THE ANC, we pride ourselves of being the leader of society. So, it is only natural that when society is engulfed by a cloud of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) we take a stand and play our leadership role to help society navigate these challenging times. The fight against GBV can no longer be the responsibility of women alone or the ANC Women's League. Structures of the ANC and civil society at large from the ground up must be mobilised to lead an active campaign against GBV.

As the ANC, we have extensive organising and mobilisation experience that we have gained from the different successful election campaigns. It is time we use this experience to lead a massive and active campaign against GBV. We must lead a house by house, street by street campaign, using our election campaign experience from street committees to sub branch to branch level. We must reactivate our organs of people's power such as SGB, CPF, Clinic Committees, Hospital boards, Ward Committees, CDWs etc. We must specifically mobilise men within the ANC and society at large to play a bigger role and take more responsibility in the leadership of the campaign against GBV and Femicide.

Men of this country and the world, we have been silent for too long or even worse, when we are not silent we make excuses, explanations and try to rationalise acts of gender-based violence.



**STOP**

**KILLING WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
KILLING THE FUTURE**

**"Men and Boys Fighting Gender-Based Violence"**

Alliance leadership in conversation on changing socialization, attitudes, culture and patriarchal practices.

Date: Monday 22 June | Time: 19:00-21:00 | Alliance Virtual Panel

STAY HOME | Protect Yourself Defend Each Other Let's Do It Together | ANC | SACP | COSATU

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House

Alliance leadership held a panel discussion on the scourge of GBV

Some will ask why specifically we are targeting men when gender includes all genders. Well, for any campaign to be successful, it has to be targeted and specific. Firstly, statistics tell us that in the majority of GBV cases men are the perpetrators. Secondly, we live in a highly patriarchal society with high levels of inequality between men and women, with most power concentrat-

ed in the hands of men. Lastly, women have been leading campaigns on GBV and Femicide (GBV/F) for years but men are yet to take a stand.

It has thus been necessary that organised spaces of men should be used to break the fundamental condition of gender inequality against women, and the violent, harmful and controlling as-

pects of masculinities which are the result of patriarchal relations of power must stop. An example of this is the invention of initiation school for boys which requires us to bring new content that takes into account the scourge of GBV/F and patriarchy.

They must speak to the role of men in the modern society. By doing so, the idea is not only to educate them about GBV/F but to address issues of LGBTQI+ and to break the outcry of trans-boys in such platforms. The idea is to utilise the school to bring new male graduates with instilled values and morals. We condemn the emerged forms of harassment, stalking and outright abuse on women.

Men should accept and endorse the LGBTQI+/Queer community and should in public platforms encourage the society to accept them and that no one must seek to change who they are as female, lesbians and gay men are sexually violated, raped and killed by men.

The campaign will be organised around three key pillars, 1) social mobilisation and civic education, 2) Renewal and reactivation of existing institutional mechanisms, 3) Institutional and Policy Reform.

The campaign will be ANC-led but will incorporate a broad front across civil society. Secondly, the underlying message of the campaign will be for men to take responsibility. The messaging of the campaign will target all acts of GBV, including acts against members of the LGBTQI+ community. A detailed programme of action will be developed around each pillar:

### **1) Social Mobilisation and Civic Education**

This pillar will focus on mobilising a broad front against GBV, encouraging behavioural change and change in social culture through civic education.



Setting up of organising structures:

- Street Committees( Or VD based Committees)
- ANC Structures – designating all ANC Secretaries/Chairperson as GBV Champions and Campaign Coordinators (Specifically designate men);
- Civil Society Organisations (NGOs, CBOs etc);
- Target sections of organised men
  - o Traditional Leaders
  - o Church and Faith Based Organisations
  - o Sports
  - o Arts and Cultural organisations
  - o Youth and students
  - o School learners;
- Target lawyers to take a stand on GBV;
- Other Political Parties (Broad Front against GBV).

### **2) Renewal and Reactivation of existing institutional mechanisms**

Current institutional mechanisms on GBV like the Police, Courts, Thuthuzela Centres etc have proven to be ineffective and dysfunctional. This part of the campaign will focus on auditing and revitalising mechanisms that are already in place to ensure that they are effective and are functioning optimally. This includes ensuring that Police Stations are adequately equipped to deal with cases

of GBV, that cases of GBV are given priority in Police Stations and Courts, and that Thuthuzela Centres and other support mechanisms are functional.

We also need to transform critical sites of influence on the orientation of the Boy-child.

### **3) Institutional and Policy Reform**

It is clear that the current measures and institutions are inadequate in the fight against GBV. What new institutions do we need, what new laws and policies should we develop?

We must welcome the progress made by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services on the efforts they are making in the fight against GBV/F. As such, we note the Bills that are being processed, for example the Criminal Matters Amendment Bill, Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bills. These Bills must ensure that GBV/F cases are categorised as serious crimes and that bail must not be granted unless on exceptional circumstances.

We must also call and mobilize all sections of society to comment on the amendment bills so that we are found in all sites of struggle and terrains of influence.

We need to ensure that a list of GBV/F offenders should be compiled and be published in all the media spaces.

This concept note introduces the No more silence campaign, an ANC-led campaign targeting men and intended to be rolled out across ANC structures and society at large. The campaign aims to be a systematic intervention in the fight against GBV through fostering culture change and institutional reform. The ANC, through this campaign will take up its leadership role of society and ensure that the scourge of GBV/F is completely defeated.



# Prevent Gender-based Violence before it happens

By Thabile Dlamini, SASCO Treasurer General



I would like to introduce a book by Pumla Gqola that deconstructs the idea that rape culture within South Africa is merely a post-Apartheid issue in her book *Rape: A South African Nightmare*. Gqola states that in order to fully comprehend and tackle rape culture, we must first acknowledge that it existed prior to South Africa becoming a democratic country. Rape was a central facet of colonialism which resulted in enslaved women of colour being forcefully impregnated and systematically subdued.

South Africa's history of brutality has become entrenched within society, resulting in hyper masculinity. The ideas of masculinity are still preached in churches, social groups, the schools and at home, where there are clearly defined and marked gender roles which further feed on patriarchy and create the social gap when it comes to gender equality and the freedom of expression. This

issue is so pervasive within society that 41% of people raped are children and only one in nine rape cases are reported. Of those reported, only 4% result in prosecution. This can be attributed to an inept justice system and a culture of denialism and rape culture, which protect perpetrators and vilify survivors for being victimized.

Unfortunately, many experts state that the rates of sexual violence in South Africa are higher than what has been statistically recorded as underreporting skews the figures, hence even if you can Google the statistics of rape in SA you will not find a conclusive answer. Rape is an "assertion of male power," states Armstrong. The solution to South Africa's gender based violence crisis is not to task women with the responsibility of arming and protecting themselves, but rather to change the societal narrative around women and their bodily autonomy.

*"The best protection is to teach nonviolence and respect for women,"* only then can we create a safer society for marginalized identities, so that they don't have to protect themselves in the first place. Gender based violence is both a human rights and public health issue which not only affects the individual but has an impact on families and communities both in the short and long term. Violence drains women's energies and confidence, thereby undermining their full economic and social development and participation.

Violence against women is a persistent and universal problem occurring in every culture and social group, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime – most often by someone she knows, including a member of her own family, an employer or a co-worker. Violence against women has been called *"the most pervasive, yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world."*

Our society and more especially the perpetrators of GBV still do not understand that the act of GBV is a violation of human rights. Women are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights free from discrimination, and all workers, regardless of immigration status, have the right to protection and redress from sexual harassment and other workplace abuses. Crucial to addressing these issues in the workplace are a range of international labour standards that are relevant to preventing and eliminating gender-based violence at work.



The effects of violence can remain with women and children for a lifetime, and can pass from one generation to another. Studies show that children who have witnessed, or been subjected to, violence are more likely to become victims or abusers themselves.

Countries that enact and enforce laws on violence against women have less gender-based violence. Today, 160 countries have laws to address violence against women. However, in too many cases enforcement is lacking.

For an effective response to this violence, different sectors in society must work together.

A rape survivor must have rapid access to a health clinic that can administer emergency medical care, including treatment to prevent HIV and unintended pregnancies and counseling.

A woman who is beaten by her husband must have some place to go with her children to enjoy safety, sanity and shelter.

A victim of violence must have confidence that when she files a police report, she will receive justice and the perpetrator will be punished.

And an adolescent boy in school who learns about health and sexuality must be taught that coercion, violence and discrimination against girls are unacceptable.

South Africa is becoming an increasingly unsafe place for women to live in. The Crime against Women in South Africa Report by Statistics SA shows that femicide is 5 times higher than the global average. This means that in South Africa, women are 5 times more likely to be killed due to gender-based violence committed by men.

Horrendous tales of young girls and women going missing make the rounds on social media daily, with the occasional story catching media attention and becoming a national news story.

This shows that any type of woman's



life is threatened, the perpetrators have waged a war on women bodies and daily, women are being killed, go missing or fall victim of abuse. *"The reason why I'm so vocal about the protection of black femme bodies is because in our country specifically, we are seeing a rise in gender-based violence,"* Treyvone says (A protestor during the AM I NEXT protest in 2019). *"It's clear that anything femme is seen as weaker. And when you are born in a cis-male body and present yourself in a more feminine or as a Trans human, your body is as equally under threat. It is almost as if masculinity and patriarchy*

**Women are entitled  
to the full and equal  
enjoyment of their  
human rights.**

*see you as an existential threat to the ideals that they've built over hundreds of years. And it's just not the case. All we want is to live. All we want is to exist."*

What is to be done?

- How do we reduce GBV incidence? We improve the breadth and quality of our services for survivors.
- Resource wise? We increase funding for the national response (GBV prevention fund).
- Accountability? improve reporting and performance management systems.
- Expand training resources and accountability to ensure that SAPS, the Department of Health and the NPOs fill the unacceptable gaps between the law and its implementation.
- Improve and expand comprehensive services for survivors, expanding investment in and institutionalisation for survivors services including psycho social care.
- Prevent GBV before it happens, by significantly increasing investment in evidence-based prevention interventions on both community and structural level.
- The government and involved sectors must commit the funding, and the accountability mechanisms required.
- Expanding training for street level bureaucrats on comprehensive rape response and on department specific policies and guidelines.
- Currently, the lack of systematic data collection inhibits proper assessment of service delivery and intervention.
- Information integration across departments makes it difficult for victims and service providers to track a case through the system. We need a single integrated information system between police, health, facilities and courts need to be used for tracking cases
- South Africa needs to focus on implementation of laws and policies.
- Government must reflect and prioritize GBV.



# NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR ENERGY SECURITY

*By Athini Pantshwa and Avuyile Xabadiya*

**T**HE Republic of South Africa continues to pursue alternative energy production and stabilization as part of governments broader mandate. This is a done through the implementation of a just transition, where all energy sources are simultaneously given space for the benefit of the country and its people.

The sources in the energy mix are highlighted according to their strength and contribution in the developmental agenda of the country.

Following consultative public engagements with various stakeholders, government produced the National Development Plan (NDP 2030) and the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). These policy guiding documents pro-

vide the necessary guidance on the trajectory that government should follow to cater to the needs of South African people and grow the economy.

The fruitful collaboration between the South African government and some private sector partners has been tested heavily during the recent energy impasse in South Africa.

The ANC led government should strive towards implementing measures that will lead to real economic growth. It needs to respond to the negative economic decline induced by the economic downgrades, recession, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Energy instability has been attributed to the slow economic growth the country has been experiencing even

pre-COVID-19. Comprehensively addressing it will significantly create a better environment for businesses and all electricity consumers in South Africa at large. In addition, it is estimated that for the country to recover from the economic decline brought about by COVID-19, a real growth of 3-4.5% over the next decade would have to be achieved, with stable energy being one of the contributing factors to that alongside infrastructural development.

In line with the Paris agreements, the South African government is acting in accordance by introducing a significant number of renewable technologies without undermining the country's strength on other energy source endowments and their economic contributions such as wind, photo-



voltaic, gas and coal induced energy amongst others.

It is worth noting that the stabilization and sustainability of energy in South Africa seems to be at the epicenter. Increased energy blackouts and slow economic growth pre-COVID-19 necessitated drastic changes in the implementation of policies and changes to fulfill the mandate of the electorate.

Evidently, the request for information on nuclear energy without any doubt is an indication that government acknowledges and understands the role nuclear energy played in South Africa since its first commercialization in 1984 and 1985, unit 1 and unit 2 respectively of Koeberg Power Station.

The introduction of Koeberg Power Station played a pivotal role in terms of economic spinoffs in the Cape area, such as employment creation and skills development and transfer. Furthermore, nuclear installation has significantly contributed in stabilization of the ESKOM transmission grid, in particular, its balance as it opposes the flow of energy in South Africa that literally flows from north to south as more than 85% of the energy source is from coal.

Undoubtedly, the current administration seemed to be following the precedent of other developing countries and of cause they are doing that in a way that is underpinned by South African material condition which considers the fiscal strength and weaknesses of the country. Developing countries approached a just energy transition without overlooking their resources base whilst at the same time embracing new technologies that proved to be stable and environmentally friendly.

Nuclear energy, when built at a pace and amount that the country can afford, will inevitably continue to contribute in many ways in the economic development path which government seeks



**Nuclear and renewable energy can compliment one another**

to achieve. A development that is underpinned by massive industrialization and manufacturing will surely need a stable and reliable energy sources that have proven over time that they can stand the test of times which are also environmentally friendly.

Nuclear technology will continue to play its internationally recognized contribution in the medical space. In addition, the nuclear technologies have over the years revolved into a much safer energy source. The development of generation IV technology and the smaller scale type version of the nuclear power production effectively known as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) comes with quite a number of advantages including but not limited to the following:

- Because of their small size and modularity, SMRs could almost be completely built in a controlled factory setting and installed module by module, improving the duration of construction quality and efficiency.
- Size, construction efficiency and passive safety systems lead to easier financing compared to that for larger plants.
- There is less reliance on active safety systems and additional pumps, as well as AC power for

accident mitigation.

- The compact architecture enables modularity of fabrication (in-factory), which can also facilitate implementation of higher quality standards.
- Lower power leading to reduction of the source term as well as smaller radioactive inventory in a reactor (smaller reactors).
- Potential for sub-grade (underground or underwater) location of the reactor unit providing more protection from natural (e.g. seismic or tsunami according to the location) or man-made (e.g. aircraft impact) hazards.
- The modular design and small size lends itself to having multiple units on the same site.
- Lower requirement for access to cooling water – therefore suitable for remote regions and for specific applications such as mining or desalination.
- Ability to remove reactor module or in-situ decommissioning at the end of the lifetime.

In conclusion, the demonstration of alternative means of strengthening, stabilizing and sustaining energy in SA without comparing and ranking the different available energy production

technologies is prescribed. Due to renewable and nuclear energy being retrieved from non-carbon sources, they are particularly attractive due to the posed reduction of emissions, which at present is highly attributed to fossil fuels. Moreover, not only are the majority of energy sources fossil fueled, the vast majority of end user systems such as transportation, thermal heating, hot water heating, industry, agriculture are entirely depended on the support of energy from coal as it still constitute a large percentage of energy worldwide. The energy policy of South Africa however, supports the energy mix; their approach is informed by testing all great technologies and move South African economy forward.

In these trying times, the country needs to review and ask itself on how not implementing government policies works against the powerless. We should also remember the famous quote by the former president of the Republic of South Africa, the late Dr. Nelson Mandela: *"I do not care whether the cat is black or white as long as it catches the mouse". Therefore, to achieve a low-carbon future in South Africa, which is the world's biggest challenge, the argument about one non-carbon energy source is better than another non-carbon energy source should be discarded and it is baseless and dishonest.*

**Athini Pantshwa** holds a Masters in Electrical Engineering (NMU, SA) and a Masters in Nuclear Management and Technology (Tsinghua University, China, Beijing).

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*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.*

## Tribute

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ALFRED BAPHETHUXOLO NZO

By Mluleki Ndobe

**A**S thousands and millions of our people in South are still celebrating and commemorating the selfless contribution of the Youth of 1976, I was reminded that it was in the same month on the 19th of June 1925 when one of the finest leaders our revolution has ever produced was born, Cde Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo.

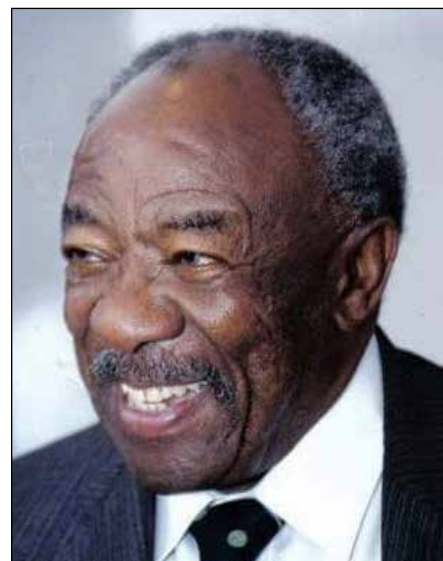
He was born and grew up in the struggle, only 15 years after the formation of the Union of South Africa that excluded the majority of our people from the right to govern and chart their own destiny.

Alfred Nzo was born only 13 years after the formation of the South African Native National Congress that was later called the African National Congress (ANC).

Alfred Nzo was born only 12 years after the passing of the inhumane and racist 1913 Land Act where the majority of the indigenous people were robbed official of the Land of their birth.

Alfred Nzo was born only 6 years after the formation of the then trade union and mass based popular political movement in Southern Africa, the Industrial Commercial Union (ICU) that was formed in 1919.

So, Alfred Nzo was born and grew in the struggle.



Being born in the remote Bundu rural areas of the then Transkei in Matatiele, Alfred Nzo knew the hardships and marginalisation of our people. I have no doubt in my mind that all these material conditions and others influenced and shaped his political and ideological thinking.

As Karl Marx once said *"It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness"*.

Alfred Nzo, when he left the country to exile in the 1960s, never imagined that his home region, the then Transkei, would one day be condemned into a



Bantustan, a reserve for cheap labour for the colonialists and the apartheid regime under the false pretence of independence in 1976.

This is the same region where many leaders and freedom fighters originated such as President Cde O R Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Robert and Margaret Resha and many others.

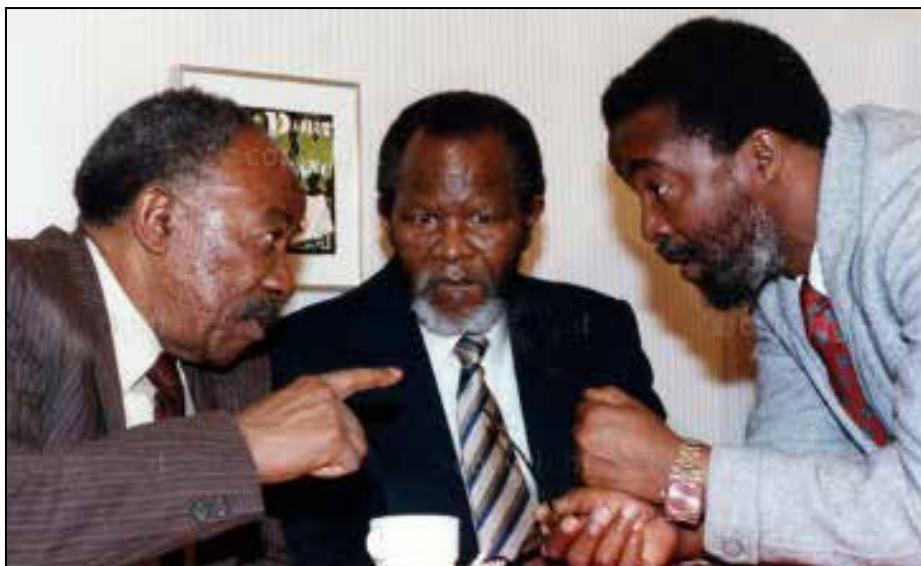
Alfred Nzo grew organically within the ranks of the Liberation Movement until he was elected the Secretary General in the Morogoro Conference in Tanzania in 1969.

The Morogoro Conference is one of the watershed Conferences of the ANC as a liberation movement as it took place under extreme conditions, in exile outside the country, just few months after the Wankie and Spolilo Campaign where the liberation movement's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe engaged with the evil forces of the Rhodesian and South African regimes in fierce battles for the first time ever since the banning of the ANC. Some cadres of the MK lost their lives and some were arrested, leading up to the Morogoro Conference. There was already a lot that the leadership of the ANC in exile was dealing with.

Cde Alfred Nzo and O R Tambo merged in the conference as leaders of the ANC. This meant that they possessed almost all the ethos of a true leader that was required in that epoch of the revolution at the time to take the struggle forward. Both Cde Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo led the movement from 1969 to the first conference of the ANC within the Country in 1991.

It is in the same Conference (1969) where ground breaking resolutions in the life of the ANC were taken, hence it is called a watershed conference. Resolutions such as the adoption of the strategy and tactics document of the ANC for the first time as an ANC official document as well as the adoption of the four pillars of the struggle:

- Armed struggle
- Mass mobilisation
- Ideological struggle
- International solidarity



## The younger generation can learn a lot from the life of Cde Nzo



So, effectively Cde Alfred Nzo and his colleagues OR Tambo and others were called upon to drive and wage this difficult revolutionary mission of which they executed with excellence and distinction.

We cannot there forget leaders of this calibre and stature. Some of the values he and his generation possessed were:

- Selflessness
- Courage
- Bravery
- Honesty
- Humility etc.

Only if we the younger generations can learn and internalised some of those values, our country and the world would be a better place to live in and we would defeat the demon of factionalism that continues to confront our glorious movement today.

Even though Cde Alfred Nzo was a National Leader and internationalist, he was more concerned about the persisting appalling and horrendous conditions

in his home region. Even 26 years after our democratic breakthrough, there are still very bad and poor road networks, no running potable water in some communities, no electricity, poor state of public facilities such as schools, clinics, hospitals and police stations. He would have been equally concerned about the state of the country as a whole in terms of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

Comrade Alfred Nzo would have been disturbed by the level of perceived or real corruption that has paralysed many state owned entities and derailed the economy.

Cde Alfred Nzo fought for equal rights, better access to dignified services, a better life for all and a just society embracing universal human rights.

As we remember and celebrate the life and times of Cde Alfred Nzo those of us who have been given a responsibility to lead our people in this new dispensation at all levels of governance must only do what is right to serve our people with honesty and dignity. That would be a great tribute and honour to Cde Alfred Nzo and his generation of leaders.

Happy 95th birthday Cde Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo. You may be gone but definitely not forgotten. Your brave revolutionary work will always be engraved in our hearts.

**Mluleki Ndobe** is a PEC member of the ANC in KZN.

## – PART 2 –

# THE BOLIVARIAN STATE OF VENEZUELA IS THE FULCRUM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS

By Phatse Justice Piitso

ON THE 06th of July 1816, Simon Bolivar read his famous proclamation, decreeing the abolition of slavery in Spanish America, in which he said:

*“Our unfortunate brothers who are under the bondage of slavery, are from this moment declared free. The laws of nature and humanity and the government itself proclaim their liberty. Henceforth, there will be in Venezuela, only one class of inhabitants, all will be citizens”.*

This was a most revolutionary act. Sadly, it was an act which made the Generals he trusted betray him. This was a terrible betrayal by those whom he thought were part of the core of his great vision of liberating the Americas.

As he continued with his long victorious march for the liberation of his great homeland of Latin America, on the 9th of October 1816, he wrote another letter of appreciation to President Alexander Pétion, in which he stated:

*“Your Excellency possess a quality which is above empires, namely altruism. It is the President of Haiti alone who governs the people. It is he alone who leads his equals... Your Excellency has all to conquer, enemies and*



Simon Bolivar

*friends, foreigners and countrymen, the fathers of the country and even the strength of his brothers. This task will not be impossible for your Excellency, who is above his country and his epoch”.*

It is in this letter that he referred to the trials and tribulations that his dear brother, and comrade, President Pétion, had to endure for his countrymen, praising him as a man of complete and rare character, of tolerance and unselfishness; a man with a deep love for ordinary people, who also loved him, and in return called him *Papa boncoeur*.

The most hurtful moment of truth for him was when he came to the realisation that his own generals were opposed to his idea of the liberation of the enslaved people, and therefore the same noble idea of bringing total liberation for the people of Latin America, and the creation of a new social order. This was the reality he had to face. At the same time he had to appreciate that the poor are the custodians of poverty, and the rich the custodians of greed.

These are also the harsh realities the people of the great nation of Haiti, who had to grapple with having achieved the unimaginable in their lifetime. For, they not only led the struggles which ushered in the first independent slave Republic in the history of humanity, but also more importantly, they challenged the power relations of the cohorts of imperialism.

...At the Balcony of the Revolution, the crowd kept on chanting, *“Go ahead Maduro, Go ahead Maduro. We are here to defend our motherland, We are here to defend our motherland”*. President Maduro told them that the opposition in Venezuela is not celebrating anything, and that the right-wing counter revolution cannot be celebrated, and what they can only celebrate is the failure of the Ameri-



can Empire to undermine the Bolivarian revolution.

It was during this occasion that President Maduro enumerated the achievements of the Bolivarian Revolution. It was a comprehensive account of how the revolution, after centuries of oppression and exploitation by colonial forces, qualitatively improved the living conditions of the overwhelming majority of the people of Venezuela.

These far reaching socio-economic achievements include, among others, the eradication of illiteracy, a comprehensive free primary health care system, free education, free housing, the creation of sustainable job opportunities, and nationalisation of the productive relations of the economy. This was achieved against the backdrop of the efforts by the Empire to exploit the rich natural resources of the country, which include one of the biggest oil reserves in the world, and rare precious metals.

It is in this regard that we declare the unilateral economic sanctions against the people of Venezuela a crime against humanity, and therefore condemn the continuous efforts by the empire to consolidate its stranglehold over the economy of a peaceful nation.

It is equally worrisome that in the midst of the huge challenges posed by the

deadly coronavirus pandemic, the US Empire continues to impose heavier sanctions on the people, and are also sending mercenaries of war to destabilise the democratically elected government, led by President Nicholas Maduro. The recent attempts by the US sponsored mercenaries to invade Venezuela must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The unspeakable truth is that the raging war by the cohorts of imperialism, against the people of Venezuela, is not just an ordinary war, but a deep seated ideological war against a nation which has overwhelmingly declared that socialism is the future for humanity. This is part of the broad strategy by the imperialist forces to liquidate progressive forces, and liberation across the world.

It is for this reason that we are making a call to the President of the USA, Donald Trump, and his cohorts to reverse themselves, and to stop being imperialist oppressors and stop trying the people of the world to obey them, but instead to make it possible to govern the affairs of the universe equally. It may have been centuries ago, or it may be in centuries to come, but the struggle for the creation of a new equilibrium for the universe, will continue.

In his much publicised book 'Mother' Maxim Gorky says:

*"But as a witness of the crime, I can still bring good to the people. Look at me, I am twenty-eight years old, but I am dying. About ten years ago, I could lift five hundred pounds on my shoulders without an effort. With such strength, I thought I could go on for seventy years without dropping into the grave, and would have lived for only ten years, and can not go on any more. The masters have robbed me, they have torn forty years of my life from me, they have stolen forty years from me."*

This is what imperialism is destined to achieve. What they want to do, is that the imperialist 'master' wants to continue to rob the suffering people of the world for many years to come. The intention of the master is to rob us of the years of our freedom and equality. It is enough, it cannot continue! Now is the time that the empire must respect the sovereignty and independence of other nation states.

The founder of the Venezuelan nation, Simon Bolivar taught the world that to practice justice is indeed to practice liberty.

**Phatse Justice Piitso** is Chief of Staff in the office of the Secretary General of the ANC. He writes in his personal capacity.

*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.*



I give you a replica of liberator Simon Bolivar's sword. For you who, like Bolivar, took up arms to liberate your people. For you who, like Bolivar, are and will always be a true freedom fighter. continues, alongside his people, to confront the pretensions of new imperialists.

(Hugo Chavez)



# Will the Coronavirus downgrades come back to haunt Rating Agencies

By Yonelo Diko

**O**N FRIDAY, 27 March credit rating agency Fitch downgraded the United Kingdom Sovereign credit rating from AA- to AA, citing budgetary challenges of the Coronavirus and the uncertainty that remains over BREXIT. Fitch said it was concerned by UK's 'Fiscal Loosening' stance.

A day before, 26 March 2020, another rating agency, S&P downgraded Mexico's credit rating from BBB+ to BBB amidst the Coronavirus and its impact on oil demand and economic outlook. Part of the concern about Mexico is its government's change of position in reopening up its oil and gas sectors through its State Oil Company Petrolios Mexicanos.

Late Friday 27 March, the third rating agency, Moody's downgraded South Africa's credit rating to Ba1 from Baa3, citing deteriorating Fiscal strength and weak growth prospects amidst the Coronavirus. Electricity challenges, weak business confidence and what it called labour market rigidities were cited. South Africa now faces the likelihood of being excluded from the FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI).

According to the Wall Street Journal, by S&P's own tally, they have now made over 100 Coronavirus credit downgrades, from airlines to oil companies to hotels, even Shopping Malls.

The Fiscal Loosening of Britain is supposedly referring to their new exchequer,

Rishi Sunak's financial package to tackle the Coronavirus which will inevitably increase governments' debt in the short term. That is, of course, the point that the Chancellor pointed out. The current expansionary fiscal measures, which are described as correct measures by all experts, are to fight the Coronavirus and are by default temporary and when the pandemic is over, the UK will be able to tighten its fiscal strength and scale down on the fiscal spend.

The same happened in both South Africa and Mexico where both countries announced huge stimulus packages to cushion businesses and protect livelihoods, particularly small businesses from the economic effect of the virus, along with record decreases in interest rates. All economies have effectively been engaged in expansionary policies amid the economic fallout of the virus.

It is quite clear that the Rating agencies are not downgrading countries for their fiscal Loosening measures or a revival of unprofitable state entities, which are necessary and wise by every other expert's analysis but are downgrading these countries for their policies. Rating agencies have always preferred conservative economic policies. They have always smiled at countries slashing their government spending, from the fat to the bone and then some. The idea that economies could be stimulated through government spending has always been a heretic idea. The rating agencies have always bullied

countries into austerity and conservative policies and countries have always obliged, but when the wealth of the wealthy is threatened, countries always remembered that governments have a critical role to stimulate the economy and protect wealth.

The rating agencies' historic insisting of slashing government spending, which has crippled most countries' ability to respond to the crisis; hence the excessive spending is coming home to roost. The stratified nature of our economies has always been as a result of deficient demand and it has never made sense to keep cutting government spending right at the time private sector investment has shrunk by more than half globally. The extremely weak demand and low-interest rates have always been a signal for governments to increase spending to augment the private sector shortfall and Kick-start economies.

Credit rating downgrade makes it more expensive for a country or company to raise new debt or finance existing bonds. Junk status is, of course, considered the worst rating, indicating a higher risk of default and forces many assets to manage to disinvest because many investors cannot hold junk-rated investments.

Given that even the most neoliberal thinkers have questioned the reasoning behind Coronavirus downgrades, the question then will be, will institutional Investors continue to listen to rating agencies, do





they still listen to them now or in the once powerful agencies that could decide fates of countries, no one is listening.

Credit rating agencies have been heavily criticised by incumbent governments for placing an unnecessary costs and burden on countries amidst an existential crisis that requires a more human cost than an economic one.

Of course, there is a feeling that Credit ratings are overcompensating for their 2008 blunder where they called the crisis too late and lost a huge chunk of their credibility with it.

Unfortunately, it seems even this time around, rating agencies are taking wrong decisions, for completely different reasons, which most likely will come back to haunt them as they did in 2008.

Firstly, many experts have said that Governments today are selling their bonds to more sophisticated investors. Investors themselves have come to rely less on rating agencies than on their own close relationships with governments and their ability to assess governments by themselves. Management, economy, budgetary flexibility, governance, liquidity and debt/ liabilities, these are matters investors themselves keep pace with.

This means the rating agencies' assessment has to speak directly to institutional investors' own assessment about that particular government or state entity.

Secondly, attached to the first concern is

the issue of how each of the rating agencies contrasts to Institutional Investors' own assessment of government bonds. There has been a worrying phenomenon of three agencies, looking at the same information and coming with heavily differing ratings. For example, Fitch had the City of Chicago at A-, Moody's at Baa1 and S&P at A+. These were worryingly so vastly different, not just one notch up or down differences, that Chicago could just choose which agencies to believe and go with and which ones to ignore. This means one Agency sees great financial stability and others see a heavily weakened financial position.

This had also been South Africa's case where the difference between how Fitch, S&P and Moody's look at South Africa has been so vastly different that South Africa has just had to go with Moody's and treat others as by the way. By the way, Fitch also downgraded us one of these days that I can no longer remember.

Many analysts have said such divergence in views underscores great subjectivity in rating agencies.

The other worry has also been how rating agencies have a different scoring scale for the Superpower and have been bullied into silence. Trump has literally opened the floodgates of the US Treasury and is literally sending trucks of money on every street corner to give to people to spend and sustain the economy. No rating agency has spoken about fiscal loosening and rising US debt, which is higher than all developed countries combined.

In 2011, when rating agencies dared to downgrade America's Treasury bonds from the golden AAA to AA+, they revived their heaviest backlash from Obama's government. The very idea of a few analysts in some ivory tower deciding on their own the fate of the American economy was too much for American sensibilities. The US Treasury was scathing in its response, calling the rating agencies political analysis flawed and its Maths full of numerical errors, among these a \$2trillion overstating of the country's debt. Even in Europe, credit ratings are always met with great disdain and the credibility of rating agencies themselves questioned.

Giles Wilks, former advisor to Theresa May is correct that Fiscal policy is more a political decision than many people would like to admit. Whatever the rating agencies may desire, bond markets may seek to dictate, cutting government spending, and especially capital expenditure of departments has proven unwise especially when the state is required to respond to a crisis. Government spending is a critical tool to sustain demand and to develop critical areas of state capacity.

These decisions by rating agencies to punish governments for their expansionary fiscal policies is politically flawed and biased, subjective, rushed, polemic and less about countries' debt servicing capacity than about rating agencies protecting their own reputation in yet another crisis that could call their pre COVID-19 Judgements.

Credit rating agencies' views do not matter now as all countries are fighting a deadly health crisis with everything they have.

It may well be that credit rating agencies will not matter even in the medium-term and long-term.

The once-powerful agencies that could decide fates of countries are talking.

No one is listening.

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# Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Criselda Kananda

**1. People only know the radio and television Criselda Kananda, they don't know the other side of you in Politics, tell us more about Comrade Criselda?**

Briefly, I was raised by politically savvy grandparents. My grandfather Mr Daniel Benjamin Ntandabuzo Kananda was a teacher but later became a principal who secretly used his classes to teach politics. As students in Sebokeng in the late 80's, we decided to join the Boipatong student protests. Those were terror-filled days of my youth in Sebokeng. Going to school passing armored cars, the smell of teargas, and the bullets from trigger happy armed forces. To date I believe the country needed to debrief and truly reflect on the well orchestrated evil system that was apartheid. Many of today's social ills in my view are the after effects of Apartheid. Sadly as we became exposed to better living and better education, we pretended things were ok, yet that is further from the truth.

**2. You're an ANC member in good standing and a branch leader in Midrand. When and why did you join the ANC?**

I've never consciously regarded my activism as doing politics. I've always seen it as a responsibility, as a concerned citizen. Our political system makes it difficult to have a voice without a formalised structure and for me the African National Congress founding principles made



*Comrade Criselda Kananda*

perfect sense in redressing the ills of the oppressive system. So in my way I decided that even the types of shows I'd host are educating.

My interest is more in liberating the minds of both the people who were oppressed and those who continue to benefit. And, serving humanity is at the core of my existence. I've been living in Midrand for more than 20years, served in branch 112 and was elected as Counselor candidate. However, at the time I felt I'm of better use in educating citizens about living wholly and being responsible for their rights as enshrined in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

**3. As we celebrate youth month, The youth of today no longer commemorate June 16 with respect and the honour it deserves, instead they view it as an excuse to get intoxicated or refrain from work or school. Can you clarify the importance of youth day?**

First of all I think I need to apologize to young people, apologize for the parents who never grew up and took on the responsibility of parenting their children. For adults who prey on the vulnerable children and use them for sexual pleasure, for the adults who refuse to seek help to heal the apartheid scars and as a result they have become troubled elders, for not capturing the essence of what students went through during those days leading to us using words like "Celebrating June 16".

In January of 1976, the then government mandated that school subjects would be taught in Afrikaans. The then government recognised only English and Afrikaans as official languages, and all indigenous languages were banned. It was law that at work, in school and other public spaces you could not speak in your mother tongue.

The decision caused an uproar amongst parents, teachers and students, so on the morning of June 16 1976, 16-year-old Antoinette Sithole ( how many young people

today even know that Antoinette existed) and an estimated 20,000 students from Soweto and the surrounding secondary and high schools, planned to PEACEFULLY protest Afrikaans as the primary language of teaching in schools.

**4. The 1976 youth exercised their right for better lives and equal education, in the process they sacrificed their lives in which we should honour not with a celebration but in ensuring that their dream becomes a reality. What do you think is expected from the youth of today to ensure that somehow they live the dream of the youth of 1976?**

Aspire for greatness, believe you are worthy of better, borrowing from an incredibly inspirational Miss Universe Ms Zozibini Tunzi; take up space in the universe. The world, especially the “developed” countries”, is interested in African innovators and not a replica of what already exists in their countries. Uniqueness and authenticity is going to set you apart. Be interested in your history and contribute to the betterment of fellow citizens. Seek to liberate your country from the shackles of a system designed to make lose sense of self.

We are not there yet and this means it's your turn to lead South Africa to greater heights. This will be difficult to achieve when you don't know who you are? Without acknowledging the sacrifices of those who came before you, without inter generational conversations. In a relay your chances of winning are influenced by those who started the race. The current arrogance, populism, materialism and ageism is standing in the way of advancing the country to the next level with authentic leaders who are about citizen service not self service.

**5. As we are still celebrating youth month, we've seen young women and children being raped and brutally killed in the month of June,. What's your take on this ?**

This just rips my soul apart. Government can have laws in place but without law enforcers, responsible and willing citizens, it just becomes words. There's a lot that I can mention that has gone horribly wrong in our communities, a few that I can mention now is the strengthening of the moral fibre of our society, strengthening family values, enabling present parenting and instilling patriotism amongst the country's citizens.

**6. What are you doing or have done to commemorate this historic month in our country to empower young people especially young women?**

I made a conscious decision to never celebrate the day but use platforms accessible to me to enlighten those interested. The past years I have participated in an annual march in Soweto through SABC's MetroFM, retracing the steps of the youth of 1976. Reliving that fateful day and this has ensured that I don't forget. Connecting with the youth of June 16 as a constant reminder and using the information to share on my social media platforms, sharing with friends relatives. Lest we forget.

**7. The ANC Youth League finds itself in crisis leadership, what advice would you give these young lions to revive and rebuild what the league used to be?**

This for me is most painful to watch. The battles in the ANCYL today mimics the destructive elements within the mother body the ANC. There's a concern spoken only in corridors of men and women

who benefit from the divisions in the organisation, and for whom a strong and united ANCYL is a legitimate threat. They have introduced foreign cultures in the ANCYL, including but not limited to the use of money (brown envelope phenomenon) to influence elective congress processes, and the use of the ANCYL vehicle to fight factional battles of the ANC. This needs bold leadership to acknowledge and eradicate. Failing to do this will be the death of our glorious movement. Young people should never allow themselves to be used for factionalism, they have a bigger mandate – that of truly liberating the children of Azania.

**8. What's your motto?**

I live by the principle of the words spoken by The late President of Woman's League Mama Nomzamo Zanyiwe Winfred Madikizela-Mandela in 1976. **“If you are to free yourselves you must break the chains of oppression yourselves. Only then can we express our dignity, only when we have liberated ourselves can we co-operate with other groups. Any acceptance of humiliation, indignity or insult is acceptance of inferiority.”**

And therefore I echo the late President Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela's sentiment that, **“It is in my hands”.**



27 June – 3 July 2020

Source: SA History Online ([www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za))**27 June 1977*****Djibouti gains Independence***

Djibouti is a very small country located on the Horn of Africa. It has an estimated population of less than a million, one of the least populous in Africa. France, which had colonized the country, had named it French Somaliland. On 27 June 1977, Djibouti gained its independence from France. At the time, it was the last of France's colonies in Africa. The country changed its name to Djibouti, after its biggest city, and it became known as the Republic of Djibouti. Hassan Gouled Aptidon became the country's first president. Djibouti is on the Red Sea, and shares borders with Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

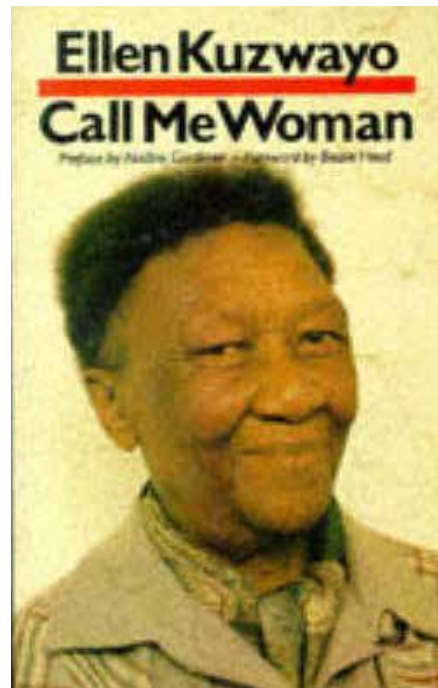
**28 June 1984*****Jeanette Schoon and daughter killed by letter bomb***

Former member of South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), Jeanette Schoon, and her six-year old daughter, Katryn, were killed by a letter bomb at Lubango, in northern Angola on 28 June 1984. The letter was delivered by Craig Williamson, a spy for the security police who pretended to be a family friend. The explosion occurred in Schoon's kitchen. Jeanette's three-year-old son, Fritz, was also in the kitchen at the time but he was not hurt. The perpetrators Craig Williamson and Jerry Raven, who manufactured the bomb, appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

to apply for amnesty. The TRC granted amnesty to the applicants.

**28 June 1995*****Three Provinces renamed***

After the first South African democratic election, the country was demarcated into nine provinces. Some of these provinces were given geographical names, like Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal. In 1995, the names of three of these provinces, PWV, Orange Free State and Northern Transvaal, were changed to Gauteng, Free State and Limpopo, respectively.

**29 June 1914*****Author Ellen Kuzwayo born***

Dr Nnoseng Ellen Kate Kuzwayo, ANC member of parliament and noted writer of *Call me Woman* (winner of CNA Award 1985, translated into six European languages) and other books, was born in Thaba-Nchu in the Orange Free State. She was principal actor in a documentary, *Tshiamelo - Place of Goodness*, that received first prize at the Creteil Film Festival in Paris, France. Kuzwayo was awarded a DLitt by the University of Natal in 1996. Mam Kuzwayo passed away in April 2006.

**30 June 1921*****SA Reserve Bank established***

The South African Reserve Bank was established in terms of the Currency and Banking Act, 1920 (Act No. 31 of 1920) in Parliament. This came into being after a Gold Conference was held in October 1919. Prior to its establishment, South African commercial banks issued banknotes to the public. These banks had to convert the notes from the public in to gold. Subsequently the gold was sold to London. Moreover, the gold had to be re-imported into South Africa and then be converted into banknotes again. The commercial banks requested the government to release them from the obligation to convert their banknotes into gold on demand. For this reason, the Gold Conference was convened to discuss South Africa's currency. In the course of the conference, a Select Committee of Parliament recommended the establishment of a central bank to take over the gold held by commercial banks and the issuing of banknotes. The recommendation was accepted by the South African Parliament. The South African Bank opened its doors for business on 30 June 1921.

**1 July 1960*****Ghana Declared a Republic***

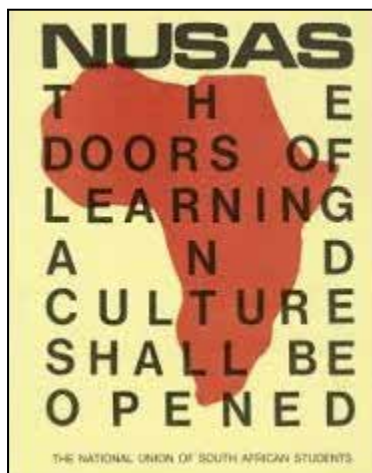
Ghana became the first country in colonial Africa to gain its independence on 6 March 1957. On 1 July 1960, Ghana was declared a republic, with Kwame Nkrumah as its first President. Ghana remained part of the British Commonwealth of Nations and was a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) formed in 1963.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**2 July 1992**

**NUSAS disbands**



The National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) elected to disband on this day. Founded in 1924, the aim of the organisation was to represent and promote the various interests of tertiary education learners. It was open to members of all races; and also called for the end of apartheid and all discriminatory policies. In 1969 Steve Biko and others walked out of the NUSAS congress to form South African Students Organisation (SASO). NUSAS adopted the Freedom Charter and developed a relationship with the Azanian Student Organisation (AZASO) and the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), and affiliated to the UDF.

**3 July 1992**

**South Africa re-admitted to FIFA**

Thirty-one years after being expelled, South Africa had its membership of the Football International Federation Association (FIFA) reinstated on 3 July 1992. In 1956, the South African government introduced its first racist policy on sport. Previous to this, in keeping with pre-apartheid segregation, leagues had been divided according to race. Now Black-owned football clubs were officially not recognised as equal members with White-owned clubs. Earlier, in May 1955, a FIFA emergency committee had ruled that the South African Football Association (SAFA), representing only the White minority, was not a 'real national association'. After the united non-racial South African Football Association (SAFA) was formed, the country was readmitted and hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS

27 June – 3 July 2020

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

**27 June International Small Business Day**

Small businesses account for most new jobs created in the world, and therefore make an important contribution to growth and development across the world. South Africa has an estimated 250 000 small businesses.



**29 June International Day of the Tropics**

The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. It accounts for 40% of earth's territory and has unique ecosystems that are being endangered by human production and consumption.

**30 June International Day of Parliamentarism**



The day celebrates the role of Parliaments in democracies across the world. Strong parliaments are a cornerstone of democracy. They represent the voice of the people, pass laws, allocate funds to implement laws and policies, and hold governments to account. They work to make sure that policies benefit all people, especially the most vulnerable.



**ANC Chief Whip Pemmy Majodina addressing Hybrid session of the Youth Parliament, 26 June 2020**

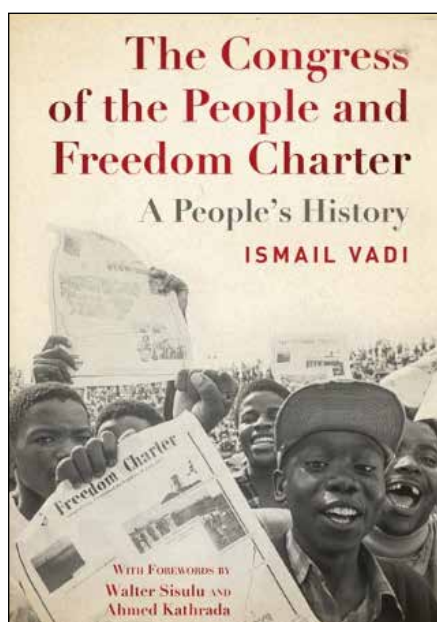
## Reading List:

# BOOKS ABOUT THE FREEDOM CHARTER

ON 26 JUNE 2020 we celebrate 65 years since the historic Congress of the People held in Kliptown, where delegates from across the country, men and women, black and white gathered to craft their vision of the future. Historian Luli Callinicos, in ANC Umrabulo session this month reflected on some of the influences on the Freedom Charter, its content and tone. These include the African Claims (1943), the 1949 Programme of Action Advocated for by the ANC Youth League, and the Women's Charter drafted by the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) in 1954.

The two books, one by Ismail Vadi and the other by Raymond Suttner and Jeremy Cronin provides an important background to the campaign that led to the Congress of the People (proposed by ZK Matthews) as well as background to the various clauses.

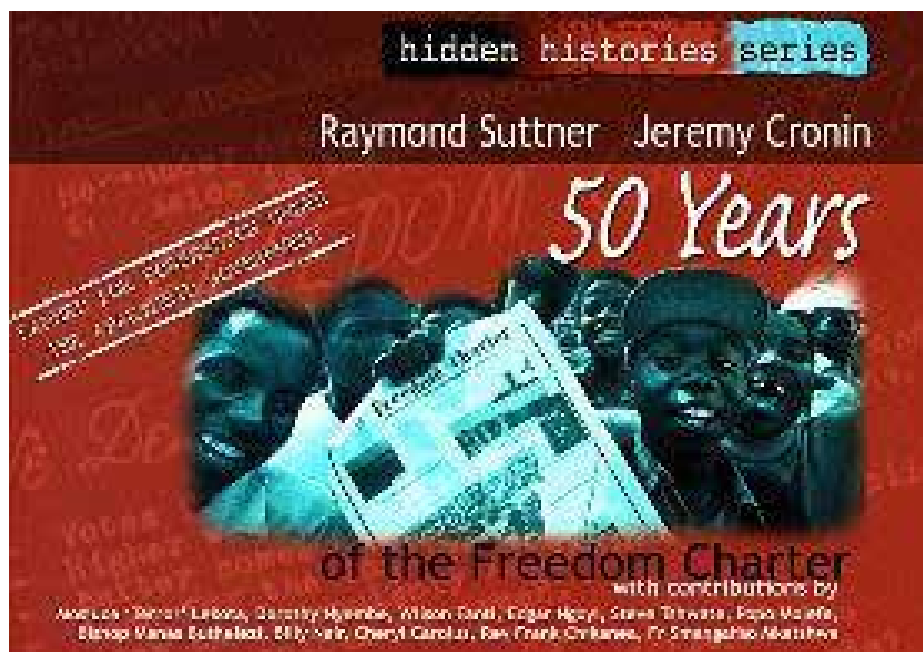
***The Congress of the People and the Freedom Charter***, by Ismail Vadi (2015). *"The Congress of the people – where the freedom charter was formally approved by several thousand delegates – was held over the weekend of 25–26 June 1955 in an open field in Kliptown, south of Johannesburg. It was a colourful and dramatic affair."* For Ellen Lambert the CoP was seen as "the day of liberation like Martin Luther's meeting where he gave the 'I have a dream' speech. The official report of the National action council that coordinated the entire campaign stated that there were 2 844 delegates



representing all the most important urban centres, with approximately 300 delegates from Natal, 250 from the Eastern and Western Cape, 50 from

the OFS and the rest came from the Transvaal, mainly from Johannesburg. The CoP opened under the chairmanship of Dr W Conco with a prayer by Reverend Gawe and a speech delivered on behalf of Chief Albert Luthuli, who could not attend because of his banning order. This was followed by the presentation of the Isithwalandwe to Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr Yusuf Dadoo and Father Trevor Huddleston *"in recognition of their work to build a better life in our country, founded upon democracy and equality"*.

*After this, each clause of the Freedom Charter was motivated by various speakers as listed below; limited discussion and comments were elicited from the delegates, and the clause was adopted by a show of hands: Preamble of the Freedom Charter – Alfred Hutchinson; The people shall govern*

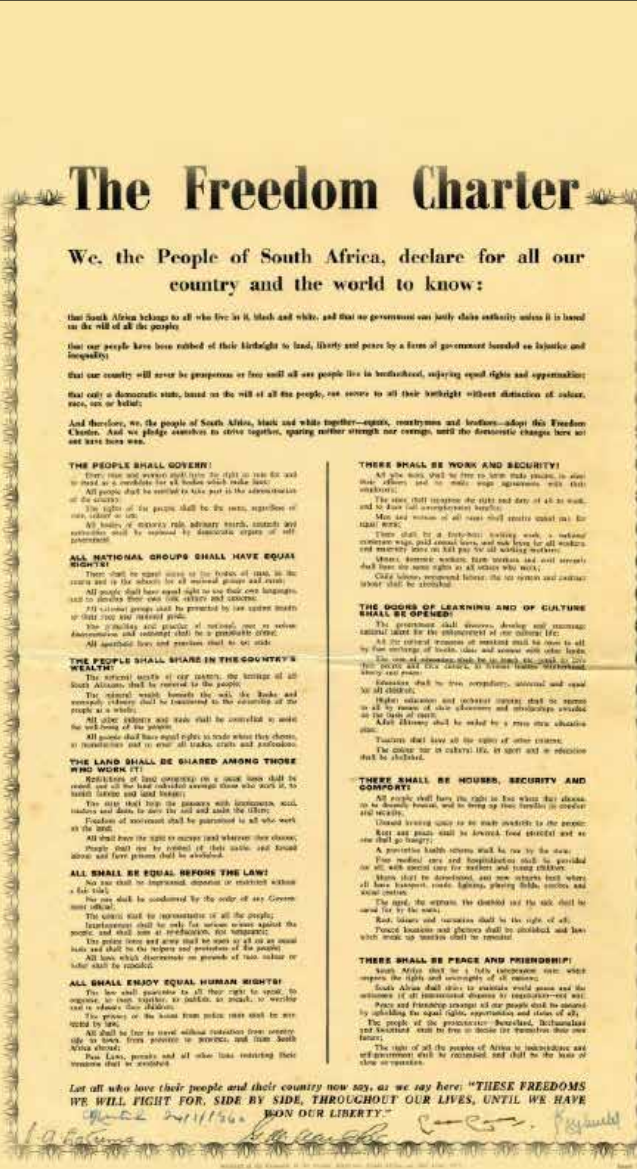




– NT Naicker; All national groups shall have equal rights – Dr Letele; The people shall share in the country's wealth – Ben Turok; The land shall be shared amongst those who work it – TE Tshunungwa; All shall be equal before the law – Dr A Sader; All shall enjoy equal human rights – Sonya Bunting; There shall be work and security – Leslie Masina; The doors of learning and culture shall be opened – Es'kia Mphahlele."

**50 Years of the Freedom Charter**, by Raymond Suttner and Jeremy Cronin (2007. Unisa Press): "50 Years of the Freedom Charter is a new edition of a classic work, banned for possession under the apartheid government. The main body of the text, prepared initially in 1986, has been left unaltered, but the authors have added a substantial new introduction and a bibliography of some of the literature that was not then available within the country

or emerged after publication of the book. This book offers an elaborately illustrated and fascinating account of the making of the historic Freedom Charter in South Africa in 1955. The material is presented largely through the words of actual participants, as recorded in interviews with the authors. It includes a significant section on the contemporary relevance of the Freedom Charter today." (<https://www.bookdepository.com>)



**The Freedom Charter**

We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justify its authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government based on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together—against, countrymen and brothers—adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic change here set out has been won.

**THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!**

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws. All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country.

The rights of the people shall be the basis, superior to any other, of all laws.

All bodies of executive, administrative, judicial and legislative power shall be subject to democratic control by the people.

**ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!**

There shall be equal access to the fields of work, to the courts and to the schools for all national groups and races.

All people shall have equal rights to own land, to own property, and to develop their own culture and customs.

All national groups shall be permitted to use their own languages in their own national schools.

The principles and practice of national unity and brotherhood shall be the basis of all laws.

All people shall live and develop as one people.

**THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!**

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be reserved for the people.

The national wealth, namely the soil, the banks and minerals, shall be reserved for the benefit of the people as a whole.

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to meet the welfare of the people.

All people shall have equal rights to work where they choose, to own property and to own all banks, mines and industries.

**THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!**

Production of food, clothing and other goods shall be reserved for the people who produce them.

The state shall help the peasants with land, tools, seed, and other necessities.

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work the land.

All shall have the right to occupy and wherever they choose, people shall not be limited by their race, and houses, land and farm property shall be available.

**ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!**

No law shall be made, nor shall any be enforced, which is based on race.

No one shall be punished by the law of any Government.

The courts shall be independent of all the people.

Investment shall be only for the benefit of the people, and shall not be for the benefit of any individual.

The police and the army shall be used to all as an equal and shall be to the respect and protection of the people.

All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be abolished.

**ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!**

The law shall guarantee to all their rights to speak, to assemble, to join together to publish, or speak, or write, or to change their religion.

The privacy of the home from police entry shall be inviolable.

All shall be free to travel without restriction from country to country, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad.

Peace, law, justice and all other things necessary for the freedom shall be secured.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here: "THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY."

**THIS DAY**

**CELEBRATING**

**26 JUNE 2020**


**65 years of the Freedom Charter**

**1955 - 2020**

**#Khawuleza**

**#BeTheRenewal**

**#BuildingtheSouthAfricaWeWant**



Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House



## X-WORD



### Across

2. A flourishing SME sector is also good for social ...
3. Governments must support SMEs by facilitating the ease of doing ...
8. Also need support to basic.
11. Another key SME challenge.
12. SMEs face higher ... costs and need special financial products.

### Down

1. Small, medium enterprises are business with less than ... employees
4. Complex and unpredictable ... limits SME growth.
5. Important for all SMEs is access to ...
6. They contribute to ... growth.
7. One of the key challenges for SMEs.
9. SMEs today are the major creators of ... in the world.
10. Because of limits to promotion and scale, SMEs also suffer from skills ...

### WORD BANK

two hundred and fifty  
development  
business  
regulations

new jobs  
productivity  
transaction  
infrastructure

economic  
innovation  
shortages  
markets

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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