



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

UNTIL WE HAVE OVERCOME THIS PANDEMIC, WE ALL HAVE TO PLAY IT SAFE

FOR THOSE fortunate enough to have an elderly parent or grandparent still alive, not being able to spend time with them has been one of the most difficult parts of the lockdown.

For millions of senior citizens, social activities like meeting friends and family and attending religious services and stokvel and burial so-

ciety meetings are the mainstay of their lives.

Because of social distancing regulations, most of these activities have been curtailed, potentially leaving them feeling socially isolated and lonely. And leaving their loved ones anxious for their well-being.

The reality however is that in keep-

ing our distance from our elderly parents and grandparents at this time we could be saving their lives.

Coronavirus can infect anyone, but older people are among those at highest risk of getting severely ill and possibly dying. Sadly, there have been a number of coronavirus outbreaks at old age homes and care centres, resulting in a number of deaths.

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COVID-19

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE ELDERLY AND/OR PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING CONDITIONS LIVING ALONE



-  Check on them frequently, preferably by phone given the risk of transmission.
-  If you visit them, maintain a distance of at least 1 meter and avoid physical contact (handshakes, hugs).
-  Buy groceries, supplies and medicines for them.
-  Make sure they have at least a month's stock of all their regular medicines in case they need to stay home.
-  Help them connect with doctors, neighbors, friends and family if needed.
-  Remind them to wash their hands frequently, keep objects and surfaces clean, and avoid physical contact with those who are sick.
-  Make a plan in case they fall ill and decide how transportation will be arranged to seek health care.
-  Encourage them to maintain a healthy lifestyle: eat nutritious foods, get enough sleep, don't smoke, stay active and limit alcohol use.
-  Be kind and show empathy. Talk and listen to them. Help them cope with stress. Once the pandemic is over, you will hug again!
-  If your loved one is in a home for the elderly, avoid visits. Use phone, video chat or email to keep in touch.

Coronavirus can infect anyone, but **older people are among those at highest risk of getting severely ill and possibly dying.**

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In a number of our provinces, including Gauteng and Western Cape, testing is being offered to people with co-morbidities such as diabetes whether they show coronavirus symptoms or not. This smart approach to screening and testing is part of our effort to limit infections among those most vulnerable.

We will continue to be led by scientific evidence and adapt our strategies where necessary.

As part of the national effort to contain coronavirus, protecting the general population from becoming infected must be matched by efforts to protect people who are at greater risk.

Throughout the nationwide lockdown period, we have taken measures to ensure that those who rely on chronic medication or treatment are able to visit health facilities.

The Department of Social Development has set dietary standards on the food provided to communities during lockdown to ensure they are of nutritional value, which is particularly important when managing diabetes. Companies can play their part by keeping ba-

In addition, data released by the Department of Health indicates that people with underlying medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, renal disease, asthma and chronic respiratory disease are more vulnerable to developing severe complications and dying from coronavirus.

According to new research published by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, a third of patients admitted to hospital

with COVID-19 had at least one co-morbidity.

This is a significant concern in a country such as ours that also has high prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis, the leading cause of natural deaths in South Africa last year.

Additionally, more than 4.5 million South Africans have diabetes, a figure that has doubled since 2017. In the Western Cape alone, diabetes is a co-morbidity in over half of all COVID-19 deaths.

sic food prices down, which means that people don't need to seek out cheap processed foods of poor nutritional value.

Among the many cases being made for the National Health Insurance is that we will be able to mobilise the necessary resources to overcome the burden of these non-communicable diseases and improve the health outcomes of all our people, not just those who can afford to pay.

Until we have overcome this pandemic, we all have to play it safe, for ourselves and those around us.

Difficult though it may be, we should not expose our elderly mothers and fathers to the virus through social visits. Let us keep in touch with them by phone or video messaging.

If they live with us, let us ensure we observe proper hygiene at all times by washing and sanitising

our hands. Frequently touched surfaces, including equipment used by our parents and grandparents like walkers and canes, should be frequently cleaned.

We should limit our shared spaces where possible and wear a mask when around our elderly relatives. At the same time, we must be led by common sense and not isolate elderly or sick relatives at a time when they need us most.

People with underlying medical conditions like diabetes and hypertension should be extra cautious. They should observe social distancing, stay home if possible and stay away from crowded places. Like everyone else, they should practice good hygiene and continue to take their medication.

One of the lessons from this pandemic is that we need a holistic approach to health. Anecdotal evidence suggests many of our people have used the lockdown period

to make positive lifestyle changes like doing more exercise or quitting smoking. Such developments should be welcomed. If some of us have become healthier during the lockdown, we should continue in this vein.

Reducing the burden of lifestyle-related diseases on our health system is ultimately in the best interests of our health, our economy and our own personal finances.

While the COVID-19 fatality rate is low in South Africa compared to the rest of the world, the rising number of infections is a caution against complacency.

If we follow all the prevention measures we will be able to protect ourselves. We will also, through our everyday actions, protect and keep safe those who are most vulnerable.

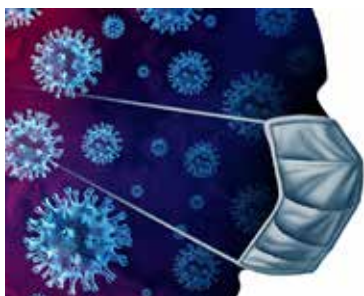
Let us remain cautious. Let us remain vigilant. Let us stay safe.



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

STAY AT HOME

Difficult though it may be, we should **not expose our elderly mothers and fathers to the virus** through **social visits**. Let us keep **in touch with them** by phone or video messaging.



COVID-19 IS REAL AND IT KILLS

Dear Mr President,

THE RAIN clouds are gathering and now is the time to tell nothing but the truth. The coronavirus has a name and the pestilence has our address.

The peak that was predicted by the mathematicians, statisticians, scientists, epidemiologists and vaccinologists is now on our doorstep.

Our people are seeing the Grim Reaper at work and it is not a pretty sight. COVID-19 is wreaking havoc that we witnessed in Europe, the Americas and China.

Our country is under siege from this invisible enemy. The lockdown bought us time to prepare ourselves but nobody could have foreseen the black swan.

It has been 126 days since Patient Zero checked in from Italy and tested positive for the dreaded virus which first emerged from China at the tail end of 2019.

When that first case of infection was confirmed, it would be only a matter of time before the virus was seeded in our communities at an exponential rate.

The virus, which turned our world upside down, necessitated the unprecedented lockdown to slow down its spread.



Comrade Pule Mabe

South Africa was lauded for instituting one of the earliest lockdowns in order to ensure that our healthcare systems were ready for the surge.

**We are fortunate,
Mr President, that we were
able to buy some time
because of the quality of the
leadership in place during
this pandemic.
It could have been
worse.**

We mobilised medical equipment and healthcare workers at an impressive rate in order to ensure our systems were ready.

Field hospitals were booked and ventilators procured in anticipation of the onslaught. Our people were orientated and prepared for the worst because we could not afford to rest on our laurels.

The government of the African National Congress (ANC) marshaled a buffer to shield our people from the effects and after effects of the ongoing lockdown.

The storm has finally arrived and it is a sore sight. The well-considered decision to ease the lockdown even as the virus went on a rampage was not taken lightly as livelihoods were at stake.

Mr President, the rates of transmissions are soaring and the COVID-19 mortality is rising.

All the measures put in place to ensure that our people revert to the new normal have borne fruit.

The surge in the rate of transmissions has resulted in the hotspots in the Western Cape, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape.

In the absence of a vaccine and cure, our people are succumbing to COVID-19, leaving destruction in its wake.

The reality of the coronavirus has now hit home for South Africans, many of whom had thought of it as only as a distant threat.

The clouds have gathered and the storm is imminent. The experts told us that those with co-morbidities were vulnerable and would suffer its severe effects.

Mr President, our people were advised to wash their hands regularly with soap, maintain physical distance and restrict unnecessary movement in order to protect themselves and their next of kin.

Be that as it may, this has not proven enough in terms of ensuring that lives are saved.

We have now entered the phase wherein the virus rages mercilessly and mows down vulnerable people in equal measure.

The people are dying, Mr President, as the virus makes its intentions known.

The pandemic that brought our world to a standstill is showing its true intent and is testing our resolve as a country and the world.

Even as the lockdown was eased to allow a modicum of economic and academic activity, the coronavirus is on a rampage.

Whereas some of our countrymen resorted to the courts to loosen the lockdown stranglehold, it has now come to pass that we are dealing with a monster that no one could have adequately prepared for.

COVID-19 is real and it kills. The path of the coronavirus is merciless and nobody is spared from its fury.

It is a sad spectacle to behold as the hard-hit provinces scramble to find more beds and medical equipment for the critically ill. The affluent



This message on the wall is a stark reminder of what we are facing

provinces of Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape bear the burden of transmissions.

These three virus hotspots, plus the mainly-rural Eastern Cape have brought a spectre of death and destruction we have never witnessed as a country.

We are fortunate, Mr President, that we were able to buy some time because of the quality of the leadership in place during this pandemic.

It could have been worse and we have witnessed how some first world countries buckled under the strain of the pestilence.

The World Health Organisation has flagged us as one of the top countries that went the extra mile to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

Mr President, we are proud that our country is one of the sites for the trials of the latest and novel coronavirus. We joined this global expedition because we realised that as one of the most industrialised countries on the African continent, we had a crucial role to play.

As the oldest liberation movement in Africa, the ANC has always been on the forefront of pushing for the development of Africa and the need to lead by example.

Africa has long borne the brunt of

preventable tropical diseases because the first world was reluctant to invest in preventative measures where profits were slim.

Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity have been on the rise as a result of poverty and the expanding middle class.

However, COVID-19 has shown itself to be disrespectful of borders and economic resources.

This battle is a test for all of us and a better world must emerge from the ashes of this epic war.

Mr President, now is the time to tell nothing but the truth. The intentions of the virus are laid bare and so we should show our resolve to overcome.

We mourn for every life that we have lost but we must remain resolute that we shall overcome.

The peak of the virus requires all of us to take precautions and adhere to the now well-known hygienic protocols.

United, we are mightier than the coronavirus.

Let's do it together.

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

FROM THE DESK OF THE



- PART 1 -

Business in the time of COVID-19

Measures to combat the impact of COVID-19 on SMMEs and to break down barriers impeding small business from reaching its full potential are crucial to the economy's relaunch, writes **Joanmariae Fubbs**

IN FACT, SMALL BUSINESS IS THE FUTURE!

THE far-reaching lockdown measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) are having a significant impact on the economy of South Africa. All businesses are facing rigorous challenges as society reorders itself, but it is the SMME sector that is more vulnerable and is experiencing the greatest pressure from the pandemic. Yet this sector is critical to our economic revival once the Covid-19 crisis subsides.

Globally, more than 95% of operational enterprises are SMMEs employing between 60-70% of the working population. In Africa, small businesses contribute up to 60% of all employment. Indeed, the National Development Plan (NDP) identifies small, medium and micro enterprises as the vehicle to create 11 million jobs, thereby contributing 60-80% of our GDP.

That Covid-19 has been devastating to the economy is without question. Statistics South Africa has just released the results of a rapid response survey conducted in the two-week period from 30 March to 13 April 2020. A total of 707 businesses in the formal sector responded to the survey, outlining the pandemic's impact on turnover, trading, workforce, imports and exports, purchases, prices and business survival.

According to the report, five in six busi-



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STAY SAFE
PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOWNSHIP ECONOMIES

"The best thing that the government could do is invest directly in the youth of South Africa's townships and villages. The black society is where there is buying power that directly leads to the economy as they spend on domestically produced and run small-scale transactions. Investing directly to the youth (and not organisations that represent the youth) will reignite the interest and passion of young drivers of change and reduce what is a brain drain."

Shaun

nesses experienced a drop in turnover over the reference period. Eighty-five, or 4% of businesses reported turnover below the normal range. Respondents in the construction, real estate and other business services as well as the transport industries were the most affected by lower than expected turnover. At least 42,2% of respondents indicated they are not confident that they have the financial resources to continue operating through the Covid-19 outbreak.

When asked how long business can continue without turnover, 54% of respondents indicated that they could survive without turnover for one to three months. Half of the businesses surveyed have temporarily closed their doors – the industries reporting the highest percentages of temporary closure or paused trading were construction, manufacturing, trade and mining.

A second survey covering the period 14-

30 April 2020 includes additional questions that provide further insight into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the survey scope was also expanded by including the agriculture and hunting sectors. However, one of the limitations of this qualitative survey is that micro businesses are excluded.

Nevertheless, it found that 89.6% of respondents reported that business turnover was below the normal range:

- 47,9% indicated temporary closure or paused trading activity;
- 508 of responding businesses with annual turnover less than R2-million indicated that they have temporarily closed or paused trading;
- 8,6% have permanently ceased trading;
- 36,4% reported the laying off of staff in the short term;
- 45,6% expected their workforce size to decrease in the two weeks following the reference period;
- 32,9% indicated that prices of materials, goods or services purchased increased more than normal;
- Access to financial resources: 38,3% indicated a decrease, while 37,7% indicated access to financial resources remained the same;
- 30% of businesses responding to the survey indicated that they have applied for financial assistance using government relief schemes;
- 29,7% indicated they can survive less than a month without any turnover, while 55,3% can survive between one and three months;
- 50,4% of the workforce were unable to meet business demands, and 35,7% of the workforce were able to meet business demands (the rest reported "not sure");
- A majority of respondents (56,3%) indicated that their businesses would be operating during the level 4 lockdown period.


Despite these depressing statistics, Government had already laid out plans to energise the SMME sector.


In the State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ramaphosa commit-

COVID-19 SMME intervention measures by the Department of Small Business Development

SMME RELIEF FINANCE SCHEME

This facility is a Soft Loan Facility, aimed at assisting existing businesses in order to keep them afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of 6 months, from April 2020.





BUSINESS GROWTH AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

This facility will fund SMMEs who Produce or Supply health care and related products that are required to combat the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

ted the Presidency to drive a comprehensive plan to create two million jobs within the next ten years.

All businesses are facing rigorous challenges as society reorders itself, but it is the SMME sector that is more vulnerable and is experiencing the greatest pressure.

Noting that young people must be prepared for the jobs of the future, he confirmed that the private sector has committed to invest R840-billion in 43 projects over 19 sectors, with the resultant creation of 155 000 jobs in the next five years.

During the Second Investment Conference in November last year, President Ramaphosa reiterated his call for the upscaling of SMMEs to diversify South Africa's economy. The President emphasised the need for access to finance, information and infrastructure and the revitalisation of the township economy.

Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni echoed this view. In his paper titled **Economic transformation, Inclusive Growth and**

Competitiveness: Towards an Economic Strategy for SA, he called for the critical role of SMMEs to be acknowledged as the immediate goal for the country and not as a medium term goal.

At the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos in February this year, for the first time a white paper was tabled in support of SMMEs. The paper titled Toward Common Metrics and Consistent Reporting of Sustainable Value Creation champions the small player and attempts to shift the big boys away from shareholder capitalism towards stakeholder capitalism.

In South Africa, small businesses generated more than a quarter of total turnover in business services, trade and community, social and personal services in Q1 2019. Examples are dry cleaning services, veterinary clinics and hairdressers which are part of community social and personal services.

Then there are the business services which include lawyers and estate agents. Trade includes local corner cafes. Tourism also offers small business

COVID-19 SMME intervention measures by the Department of Small Business Development

BUSINESS GROWTH AND RESILIENCE FACILITY



This facility will fund SMMEs who Produce or Supply health care and related products that are required to combat the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

RESTRUCTURING OF SEFA-FUNDED LOANS

A payment moratorium/holiday will be given to sefa funded SMMEs for a period of a maximum of six months to reduce the instalment burden of loan obligations on clients during the COVID-19 period.



a variety of opportunities which include tourism guiding, retail products, laundry and cleaning services and rentals. Less complex sectors such as transport and tourism have considerable scope for business start-ups and growth. They also have enormous potential for job creation.

South Africa has the largest tourism economy in Africa – this sector having indirectly contributed 1.5 million jobs (9.2% of South Africa's employment) and R425.8-billion in 2018. Tourism contributes more than 20% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It also pays about 6% of corporate taxes.

SO, WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Barriers to entry must be lowered to address the distorted patterns of ownership through increased competition and small business growth. If we pursue this, then disclosure guidelines under the Companies Act should be reviewed to ensure larger businesses disclose the time it takes to pay small businesses in the supply chain. The innovative Companies Act mechanism, namely the Social and Ethics Committee, should have

mandatory reporting requirements related to this.

One way to overcome the failure of both the public sector and the private sector to settle invoices within 30 days of being submitted, is the automatic addition of interest on outstanding invoices after, say, 30 to 60 days. This would help overcome the high failure rate of SMMEs arising from this problem. Especially now under the pressure of Covid-19 on SMMEs, public sector departments and entities are called upon to monitor the payment cycle to businesses. The office of the Auditor-General's compliance audits of government departments and entities will ensure sufficient oversight of such payment periods.

Until now, businesses could respond to these queries under the confidential or proprietary section. This would also address one of the major challenges small business faces, namely poor cash flow, which is listed by several agencies including the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and the Small Business Institute (SBI).

Given the shift away from corrupt questionable behaviour of both the public and

the private sector and towards ethical, efficient and effective business practices, then the Metrics of Consistent Reporting of Sustainable Value Creation would be a sharp instrument to bring about accountability and good governance. The SMMEs would be a major beneficiary of such changes in business behaviour. The rigorous and robust oversight by Parliamentary Portfolio Committees is especially important, given the increased challenges from Covid-19 facing SMMEs.

According to the survey by the Small Business Institute, as many as 40% late payments were written off as bad debt, given the reality of being paid on average 101 days after the 30-day government target. This further demands the modernisation of network industries to promote competitive and inclusive growth.

The implementation of a focused and flexible industrial and trade policy to promote competitiveness and facilitate long-run growth is vital to such economic fervour. This will all be underpinned by promoting export competitiveness and harnessing regional growth and opportunities. This policy also implements our African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) commitments.

The government and the private sector have both responded positively to the impact of Covid-19 on the survival and viability of SMMEs, through tax relief measures, grants and low-interest loans as well as deferrals.

Tax relief measures that will directly benefit SMMEs from May 2020 include a four-month skills levy development holiday, which will provide relief estimated at R6-billion. The fast-tracking of value-added (VAT) refunds will give temporary relief from the benefits that arise from unlocking the tax refund faster, immediately easing cash flow. Instead of monthly filing, SMMEs will file every second month, cutting administration costs.

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.

The ANC led Alliance must be cautioned against the consideration of **AMALGAMATING ELECTIONS**

By Ondela Sokomani

AT THE CENTRE of the view to amalgamate the Local Government Elections and National Government Elections is the argument that “elections are expensive”, and so I ponder with myself, expensive in what sense?

1. Is the IEC Bill of managing Elections too high?
2. Are they expensive politically considering the internal party politics and fractures?
3. Are they financially hefty for political parties?

1. The IEC

The manner in which the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), as a chapter 9 institution that has been executing its mandate, has been thus far exceptionally well for our maturing democracy, and so the bill for this work is acceptable.

There are however three areas in which government needs to make the mandate of the IEC easier:

- The **allocation of addresses** to informal settlements and rural communities. This is critical as urban migration increases the emergence of new informal settlements.

Government has the obligation to



ensure that conditions and systems are put in place for the protection of the constitutional rights to access of basic services and the right to vote.

- The **demarcation of wards** contributes immensely to the work of the IEC, as residents tend to be unaware of the changes in demarcation or are opposed to the proposed demarcation based on subjective service delivery expectations. Political activism is another factor, as you may find yourself (if politically active) in a different branch or municipality and this has direct effect on your activism and leadership ambitions.

Demarcation often weakens branches due to internal conflict which en-

sues as a result of conflicting interests in Interim Branch Committees; the fighting capacity of the organisation is highly compromised during this period as infighting is rife.

The fundamental prerequisite for a smooth demarcation is of course the promotion of public participation and intensive awareness by the local authority, in order for the ordinary citizens to be abreast with the continued developments.

- **Civic Education.** This is one critical aspect of an electoral democracy such as ours which seems to be gradually regressing. The consequence of this is voter apathy which gives rise to low voter turnout and lack of consciousness on the im-

portance of voting, and for whose ideas should one vote for. This is highly evident among the cohort we refer to as 'Ama 2000's, as they subscribe to different styles of messaging and are highly influenced by social media and catchy hashtags.

2. Party Politics

Perhaps the cost is too high due to internal party fractures which are often as a result of factional purging which ensue ahead of and post elective conferences.

The above appears unavoidable, as the ANC's unity and renewal programme seems not to be able to solve "conference hangover" which leads to factional purging, ravaging organisational structures often unleashed by those aligned with the leading faction. The ANC Chairperson of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul wrote an extensive piece on this titled "*The anatomy of a Faction*".

The point is that the ANC is in constant internal election mode which makes it prone to the institutionalization of factions and factional purgatory which comes with that.

So, amalgamation of elections is not a guarantee for solutions that would strengthen its fighting capacity for contesting elections. The ANC's political education programme should entail sound political rehabilitative strategies on how to demobilise the culture of institutionalised factionalism and subsequently deal decisively with political careerism. This is often underpinned by crass materialism fuelled by corrupt tendencies. Thus, those who often leave the ANC do so out of bitterness of having lost positions of leadership and by virtue of proximity to resources rather than ideological orientation.

3. The Financial Cost of Campaigning for Elections

It is no secret that contesting elections is expensive. This would be even worse for the ANC as it must defend the gains of the democratic state through which it



has advanced the plight of the working class and the poor.

The cost however, would be much greater for smaller parties as they must at each election attempt to set up new infrastructure, often without even actual branches in most wards.

Their campaign messaging relies heavily on mainstream media, propaganda machinery and the agitation of the electorate's dissatisfaction with service delivery which often results in trust deficiency in the party leading the ward, municipality or province. The evidence of this is low voter turnout and close margins with which organisations retain or lose certain constituencies.

The two-year cycle between the Local Government Elections and National General Elections allows the ANC-led alliance time to reflect on research, voting trends and service delivery interventions. This, therefore results in mitigating the risk of campaign with incorrect messaging which might not speak to the electorate of a particular district or

metro. The ANC received a substantive research report ahead of the 2016 Local Government Election which entailed proper data and forecast on what would be our performance, particularly in the metros. We all know what happened with the metros.

Basically the two-year cycle allows for the movement to feel the pulse of its structures and electorate, and strengthen its machinery where necessary.

Lastly, the recent constitutional court ruling on contestation of public office by independents poses a greater risk to the ANC. This is because recent breakaways which led to the formation of political parties have taught us that those breakaway parties campaign using policy positions which often times the ANC has either neglected or indecisively implemented; The resolutions on Free Education, Land Expropriation and Economic Freedom (The Transformation of the commanding heights of the economy) are among the most popular and vulgarised by those who chose to part ways with the movement, simply

It is no secret that **contesting elections is expensive.**

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because of our indecisiveness in implementing our own resolutions!

So, we are likely to see in the near future the emergence of candidates whose campaigns would be issue based. Take for instance a rural ward wherein the most contentious issue is water scarcity or electricity. A populist independent will campaign using issues which appear to be overlooked by municipalities and departments led by mainstream political parties.

We are also likely to start seeing the resurgence of Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's) which will be funded to execute their work whilst ensuring that certain leaders and individuals are profiled as beacons of hope for communities as part of the preparation for contesting as independents. We have seen how NGO's, under the guise of 'foreign aid' have been used to attempt to influence regime change in other parts of the continent.

We all know that the movement has its fair share of populists who always seek personal gratification and glory through helping others. Thus, we have those who even use food parcels as a tool to influence balance of forces.

The movement must therefore draw, with clear consideration of its collective wisdom, a clear path on how the amalgamation of elections would contribute positively to the strategies and tactics of advancing the plight of the working class and the poor as a fundamental objective of the National Democratic Revolution.

Ondela Sokomani is an ANCYL RTT Member of DR WB Rubusana Region. 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.

IN CELEBRATION OF

NELSON MANDELA MONTH

WE PUBLISH EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF TATA NELSON ROHLIHLAHLA MANDELA'S SPEECHES

“ *The complaint of Africans ... is not only that they are poor and the whites are rich, but that the laws which are made by the whites are designed to preserve this situation. There are two ways to break out of poverty. The first is by formal education, and the second is by the worker acquiring a greater skill at his work and thus higher wages. As far as Africans are concerned, both these avenues of advancement are deliberately curtailed by legislation.*



...Above all, we want equal political rights, because without them our disabilities will be permanent. I know this sounds revolutionary to the whites in this country, because the majority of voters will be Africans. This makes the white man fear democracy. But this fear cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the only solution which will guarantee racial harmony and freedom for all. It is not true that the enfranchisement of all

will result in racial domination. Political division, based on colour, is entirely artificial and, when it disappears, so will the domination of one colour group by another. The ANC has spent half a century fighting against racialism. When it triumphs it will not change that policy. This then is what the ANC is fighting. Their struggle is a truly national one. It is a struggle of the African people, inspired by their own suffering and their own experience.

It is a struggle for the right to live.

During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

STATEMENT FROM THE DOCK AT THE OPENING OF THE DEFENSE CASE IN THE RIVONIA TRIAL, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, 20 APRIL 1964

Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Thulani Mabena

1. Please tell briefly about yourself.

I am Thulani Mabena and my home province is Mpumalanga, eMalahle-ni. I am a socialist at heart; I am a servant the people and a defender of the poor and downtrodden.

2. You are a branch leader in the ANC in your province. What motivated you to join the ANC and when did you join the ANC?

In 1986 during the apartheid years, I witnessed apartheid brutality when the apartheid police came to arrest my father. My father and his friends would always gather around discussing political issues on how to bring down the apartheid government and to mobilize the society behind the banner of the ANC. This influenced my political outlook. Then in 1990, after the unbanning of the ANC, I continued to participate and took up ANC membership.

I had been a Branch Executive Committee member in Bronkhorstspuit and Secretary of the ANC Youth League in Standerton. I am currently a member of the ANC in Midrand, Ward 112 and was a Voting District coordinator during the 2019 elections. I continue to serve in community structures to fight for the empowerment of small businesses in our Region.

3. Do you think President Mandela would be happy to see how the*Comrade Thulani Mabena***present South African Government is doing today to make this country a better place to live in?**

Generally we are doing a good job. We are tackling the three challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment which continue to plague our people. Our president is an outstanding leader, a man of principle and I believe uTata would be happy to see the efforts to make this country a better place for all. I don't think Madiba would be happy with the high levels of rampant corruption, but we are doing something about it and we see more people standing before the courts to answer to allegations against them. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is other issues that I honestly believe he would definitely

not be happy about. We don't sleep peacefully at night with this violence. As leader of society we must come up with a very strong fight back strategy. Specialized investigation units are in place but more needs to be done. The ANC Women's League has made very decisive contributions to this debate and they have my full support. I believe uTata Mandela would be happy that we are united in the struggles against the challenges that we face today.

4. As a South African, what changes would you like to see during this Mandela Month?

We live in unprecedented times and COVID-19 has made this year the most challenging year in the life of this generation. I would like to see all South Africans standing united against any violence on anyone. I would like to see more lives being saved from Covid-19. More importantly, we need peace and prosperity for the whole of AFRICA.

5. While we are experiencing the deadly coronavirus, how are you planning to celebrate Mandela Month?

Undoubtedly, we are going to have to adjust to the new normal. We will not mark the commemorations like we do every year. However, we will initiate dialogue webinars to educate society more on issues pertaining to GBV. We will support our government on the ground to spread

the word on the fight back strategy against COVID-19. We will help needy families with food hampers and we will lend a hand to those in need. We will commit ourselves to serve our people and more importantly, we will provide care and support to the Gogo and Mkhulu who, for instance can't walk to the shops.

6. What do you wish young people can learn from former Mandela, to further his unblemished legacy?

Ubuntu! Always respect your elders, for one to love their people and to be willing to pay the ultimate price. Also, we wish that the young should learn to be servants of those that can hardly stand up for themselves.

7. What is the ANC doing in your community to improve people's lives and making sure that there is service delivery?

We love our people. We make sure that we are the link between those that occupy political office and the ordinary Gogo who is selling fruit and vegetables by the street corner. We want them to know that this is their government. We workshop them on how government works, their rights and privileges and more broadly, the constitution.

We are very committed to making sure that we are always visible to those that need help. We are helping small business to have create a space in the mainstream of our economy. We are assisting in the fight against crime. We make sure that we participate in all community structures and support them as the ANC is a leader of society.

8. What's your motto?

Nothing is more powerful than love for your people and your country.

IN CELEBRATION OF

NELSON MANDELA MONTH

WE PUBLISH EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF TATA NELSON ROHLIHLAHLA MANDELA'S SPEECHES

SPEECH ON RECEIVING THE FREEDOM OF DURBAN, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 16 APRIL 1999

“Many people have been sceptical of our capacity to realise the ideal of a rainbow nation. It is true that South Africa was often brought to the brink of destruction because of differences. But let us reaffirm this one thing here today: it is not our diversity which divides us, it is not our ethnicity, or religion or culture that divides us.

Since we have achieved our freedom, there can only be one division amongst us: between those who cherish democracy and those who do not!

As freedom loving people, we want to see our country prosper and provide basic services to all. For

our freedom can never be complete or our democracy stable unless the basic needs of our people are met. We have seen the stability that development brings. And in turn we know that peace is the most powerful weapon that any community or nation can have for development.

As we rebuild our country, we should remain vigilant against the enemies of development and democracy, even if they come from within our own

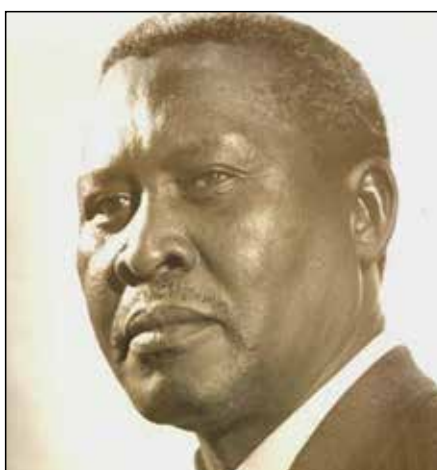
ranks. Violence will not bring us closer to our objectives. All of us should ask ourselves the question: Have I done everything in my power to bring about lasting peace and prosperity in my city and my country? ...



11–17 July 2020

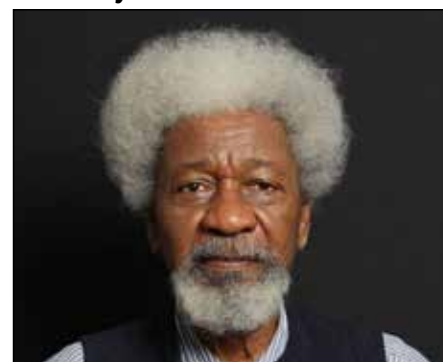
Source: SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za)**11 July 1963*****Liliesleaf arrest of Umkhonto High Command***

South African police raided the African National Congress (ANC) underground headquarters, the Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, just outside Johannesburg. Virtually the entire leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe(MK), armed wing of the ANC, were arrested on this day. This moment came as a terrible titanic dream in the history of the ANC. Amongst those arrested were: Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada, Lionel Bernstein and Bob Hepple. Nelson Mandela, the commander-in-chief of MK, was not arrested at the time as he was serving a five-year prison sentence for leaving the country illegally in 1962. The farm was privately owned by Arthur Goldreich, but bought with funds from the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA). At the farm, police found documents relating to the manufacture of explosives, Mandela's diary of his African tour and copies of a draft memorandum, 'Operation Mayibuye'. More arrests followed shortly after this incident, including Arthur Goldreich, Andrew Mlangeni, James Kantor, Dennis Goldberg, Harold Wolpe and Elias Motsoaledi. Goldreich and Wolpe later managed to escape from prison. Mandela and his co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia trial that ended in June 1964.

12 July 1954***Nkosi Albert Luthuli, ANC President banned***

In 1954, the Minister of Justice C.R. Swart issued African National Congress (ANC) President Chief Albert Luthuli with two banning orders. One prohibited him from attending public gatherings and another confined him to the magisterial district of Lower Tugela, Natal. He was to report frequently to the SA Police in the area. After his part in leading the 1952 Defiance Campaign, a non-violent, national, anti-pass protest, the apartheid government summoned him to Pretoria. Here he was challenged to denounce the ANC or be removed for his chieftainship, involving a loss of power and salary. He chose the latter.

On 12 July 1954, Chief Luthuli was scheduled to address a group protesting against forced removals of Black people in Johannesburg and the Minister served him with the banning notices under the 1950 Suppression of Communism Act.

13 July 1934***Wole Soyinka born***

The Nigerian novelist, playwright, actor, scientist and poet, Wole Soyinka, was born at Abeokuta, near Ibadan in western Nigeria on this day. Soyinka became the first African to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature from the Nobel Prize Committee in 1986. Soyinka's body of work include *The Lion and the Jewel* (1959), *The Trials of Brother Jetro*.



13 July 1980***Botswana President Seretse Khama passed on***

Botswana President, Seretse Khama died on 13 July 1980 in Gabarone, Botswana. He was born on 1 July 1921 at Serowe, Botswana. His grandfather was Kgosi (King) Khama III, (also known as Khama the Good) of the Bangwato people. Under his rule and with his approval, Bechuanaland had been put under British protection in the 19th century. Seretse's name means 'the clay that binds', and referred to the reconciliation after a rift between his father and grandfather. In 1925, Khama succeeded his father to the throne, but his uncle Tshekedi Khama became the new four year-old Kgosi's regent and guardian. In 1944 he was sent to study in South Africa, where he graduated with a BA degree from Fort Hare University College (now University of Fort Hare). He was the first President of Botswana, serving in this position from 1966-1980. Khama was succeeded by Quett Ketumile Masire. Khama's son, Ian, succeeded Festus Mogae as president of Botswana in 2008 after the latter stepped down at the end of his second term.

14 July 1965***Journalist and author Nat Nakasa passed on***

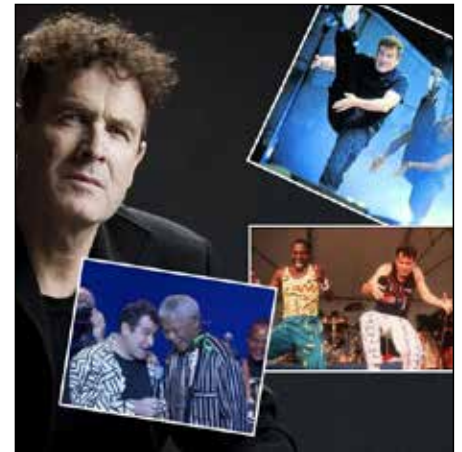
Ndazana Nathaniel Nat Nakasa was part of a group of journalists, many working for Drum Magazine, associated with the vibrant, violent and somewhat romantic culture that characterised Sophiatown in the 1950s. While Nakasa worked for the Rand Daily Mail, he is often associated with legends like Can Themba, Arthur Mai-

mane and Bloke Modisane. Nakasa was also the first black columnist at The Rand Daily Mail. He was awarded The Niemann Fellowship to study journalism at Harvard University in the US but the government rejected his application for a passport. This forced him to leave the country on an exit permit. Leaving in that manner meant he would never be allowed to return to South Africa. While in America, Nakasa became lonely and home sick. Knowing that he could never return home, it is alleged that he committed suicide by jumping from a high-rise building in New York on 14 July 1965. An annual award for courageous journalism has been named after Nakasa. A book of his writings, *The World of Nat Nakasa*, edited by Essop Patel and his biography, *A Native of Nowhere* by Ryan Brown was published after his passing.

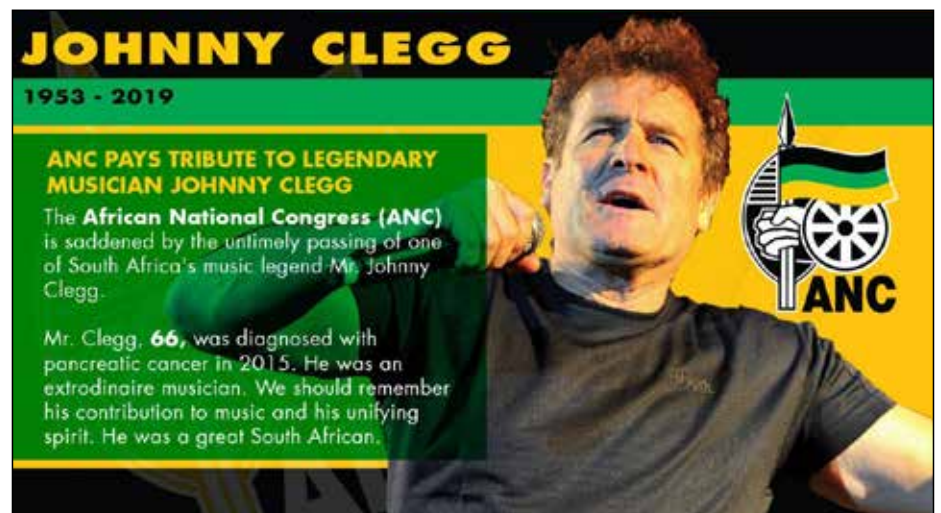
15 July 1916***Battle of Delville Wood begins***

South Africa entered WWI on 8 September 1914, on the side of the Allied Forces. On 15 July 1916, the S.A. Infantry Brigade under Major-General H.T. Lukin was ordered to clear the wood at d'Elville, north-east of the village of Longueval, France, thereby covering the flanks of the British Brigade. The South Africans occupied the wood on that day, but the problem was not so much to take the wood, than to hold it. Despite fierce counterattacks and artillery bombardments from German divisions, the SA

brigade refused to surrender. The brigade was relieved on 20 July after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting. Only 750 soldiers remained of the Brigade's 3 433 soldiers, the rest had either been killed or wounded. 146 000 Whites volunteered for service in WW1, while altogether 83 000 Blacks and 2 000 Coloureds did service in non-combatant capacity.

16 July 2019***Legendary musician Johnny Clegg passed on***

On 16 July 2019, Johnny Clegg died at the age 66 years at his home in Johannesburg, Gauteng after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2015. He is known as a songwriter, a dancer and an anthropologist. Clegg's music touched so many souls with its vibrant blend of Western pop and African Zulu rhythms. Clegg's unique music style had an impact by embracing different cultures, contributing to social cohesion.



17 July 1950.

First SABC news bulletin broadcast



Broadcasting in South Africa can be traced back to 1923, when the first wireless broadcast was made in Johannesburg. By April 1927, an hour of Afrikaans programming and one daily news bulletin in Afrikaans was broadcast. Insufficient funding began to hamper the progress of the broadcaster and an investigation into all aspects of broadcasting in South Africa was launched by the Prime Minister of South Africa, JBM Hertzog. This resulted in the establishment of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and by 17 July 1950 a commercial radio service was established, with daily news bulletins in both English and Afrikaans – this radio service was popularly known as Springbok Radio. Broadcasts were initially limited to the Johannesburg area, but soon became available in most major centres in South Africa. The SABC grew in the 1960s and 1970s as more radio stations, broadcasting in selected African languages, were established.



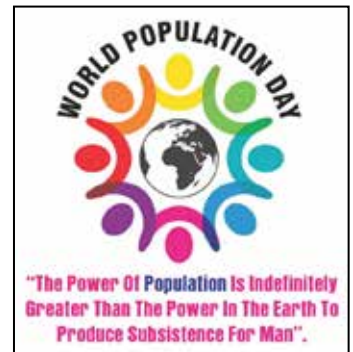
INTERNATIONAL DAYS

11–17 July 2020

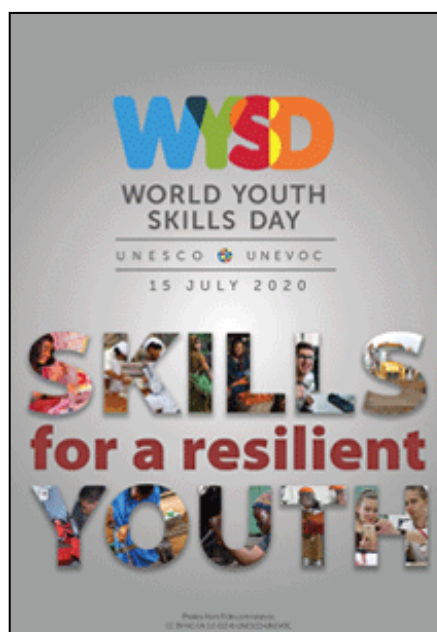
Source: <https://www.un.org>

11 July World Population Day

World Population Day focuses on population issues, especially the effect of overpopulation on the environment and development. As we celebrate the 2020 edition of this day, there are 7.8 billion people on the planet. Statistics South African a few days ago released its Mid-year Population Estimates 2020 indicating that South Africa now has 59.62 million people, with births as the main driver of population growth. Gauteng remains the most populous province, with 15.5 million people, 26% of the total population. Children (0-14 years) and youth (14-34) account for more than 60% of the population, with youth numbering 20.7 million. Although the elderly (+60s) constitutes 9% of the total population, they make up over 11.4% of the population of the Eastern Cape. The population by national groups are as follow: African (81%), Coloured (9%), White (8%), and Indian/Asian (3%). The median age in South Africa has changed from 23 in 2002, to age 27 in 2020.

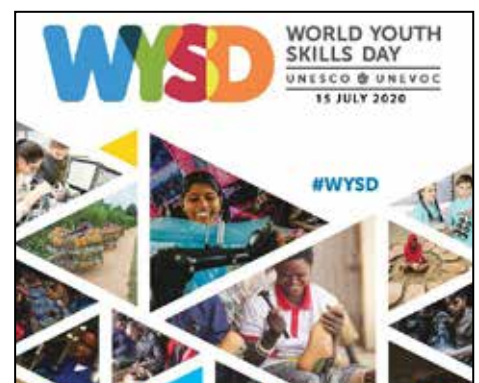


"In the context of a global pandemic, sustained access to maternal and reproductive health services, including family planning, are of paramount importance. This year the focus of World Population Day is on safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls during the Covid-19 pandemic"



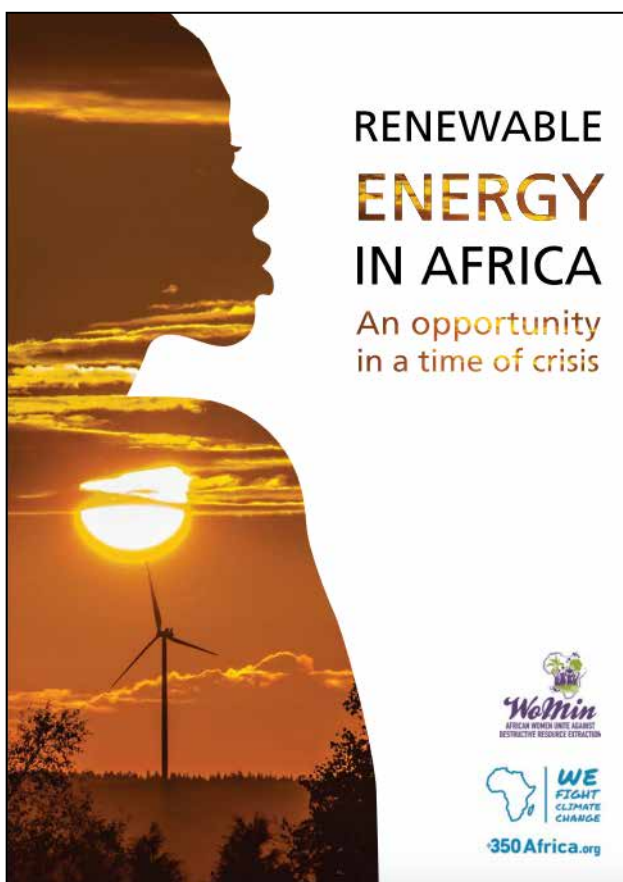
15 July World Youth Skills Day

The day focuses attention on the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. The 2020 theme is **Skills for a Resilient Youth**. UNESCO estimated that globally, over 70% of the world's learners are affected by school or institutional closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Renewable Energy in Africa. Opportunity in a time of crisis

report published by WoMin Africa Alliance and 350 Africa (2020)



renewable energy on the continent, and the opportunities it provides for inclusive and people-centered development. It does however warn, that it is not without its problems, especially “if it is implemented using the same profit-oriented logic that has guided the development of fossil fuels” and therefore looks at how to include women as users, and producers of energy.

The report does this by looking at the state of renewable energy in ten African countries: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Ugan-

da. In addition, it includes “case studies of renewable energy projects in the countries studied, to gain a better understanding of how these projects were being implemented, how accessible and affordable the energy generated was, who was benefiting, and who was carrying the costs.”

The report gives a useful overview of the energy mix of the continent, already operational, under construction and planned (see table). This shows the dominance of fossil sources of energy (coal, oil and gas) accounting currently for 173 737 megawatts of electricity, as against 14 454 MW in renewables. Renewables include the full gamut ranging from biogas, biomass, geothermal, hydro, ocean, solar and wind. The latter two (solar and wind) accounts for the largest sources of renewables, as well as of future projects.

The report is a useful contributor to the debate about not just increas-

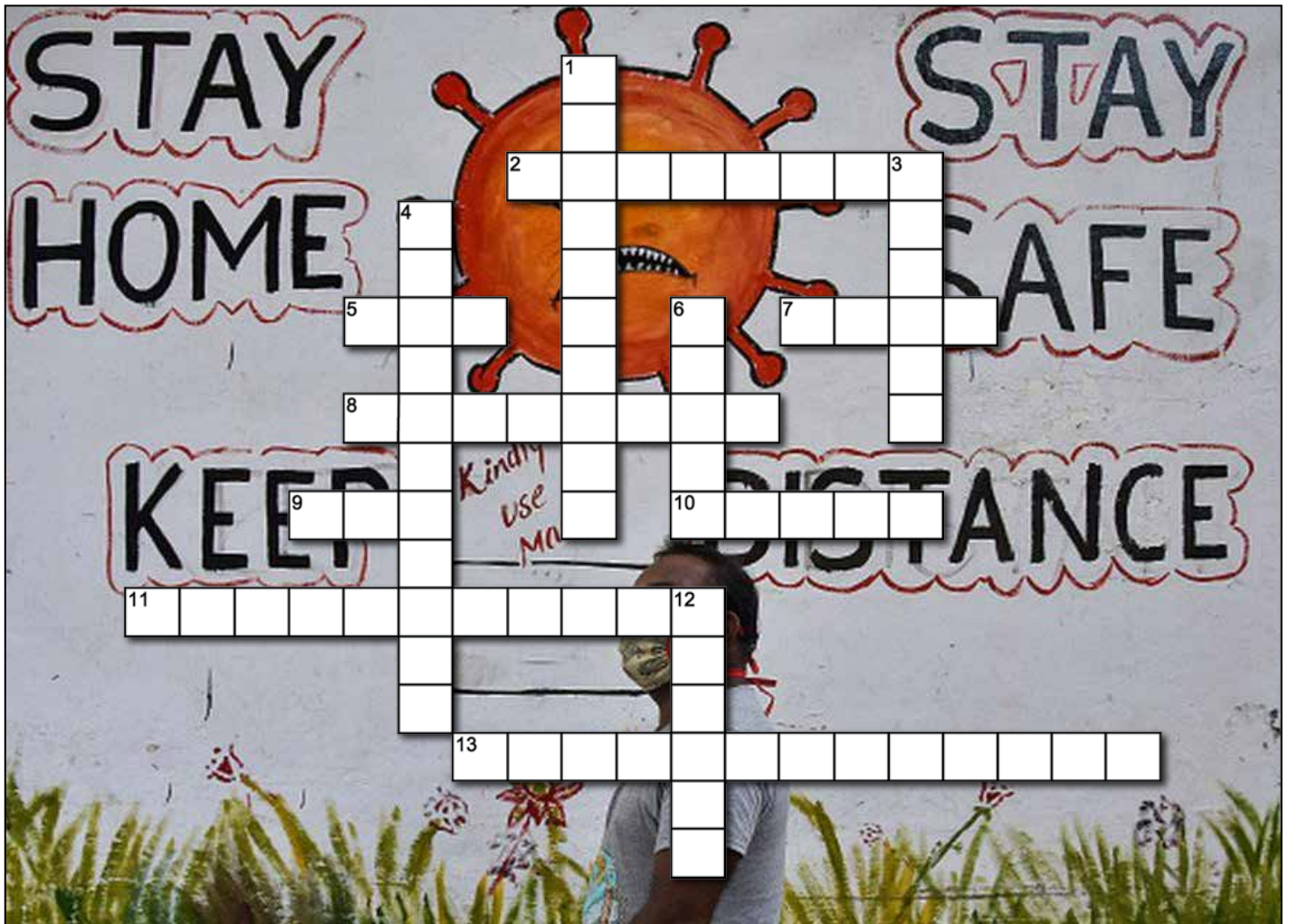
CLIMATE CHANGE is amongst one of the major, if not the most important, global challenges of our time, compounding already existing fault lines like inequality and poverty. This report is therefore a welcome look at mitigation and adaptation strategies in the field of energy. It does this through the lens of gender, particularly how lack of access to reliable energy continues to exacerbate women's marginalization and exclusion.

The report in particular focuses on

Overview of capacity of energy technologies operating, under construction and planned in Africa (in MW)¹

	OPERATING	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	PLANNED
FOSSIL FUEL INSTALLATIONS	173 737	26 859	88 816
coal	49 861	6 522	33 694
diesel	13 031	279	4 592
natural gas	110 845	20 058	50 530
RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS	14 454	3 647	77 032
BIOGAS	95	11	223
BIOMASS	900	402	3 274
GEOTHERMAL	835	83	3 789
hydro (>=10 mw)	569	117	806
ocean	0	6	105
solar	6 024	1 042	52 202
wind	6 031	1 986	16 633

ing access to electricity in the continent, but also about doing so in a way that is sustainable, both from an environmental perspective as well as an inclusive approach.

**Across**

2. Contagious disease that affects people from more than one country.
5. COVID-19 similar symptoms like this common condition, so stay at home.
7. Avoid touching your ...
8. Latest news that COVID-19 also transmitted in this way.
9. Global health agency that coordinates efforts against pandemic.
10. Most serious and deadly COVID-19 amongst people of this age and over ...
11. Covid 19 is part of this virus family ...
13. Symptoms include a loss of ...

Down

1. Best way of protecting against infection.
3. One of the comorbidities that make COVID-19 infection so serious.
4. If you have Covid 19 symptoms, to protect others you must ...
6. Wash your ... regularly.
12. COVID-19 is spread through droplets when we talk, cough, sing or ...

WORD BANK

pandemic
sneeze
sixty
face

Coronavirus
WHO
airborne

taste and smell
stay at home
flu

self isolate
cancer
hands

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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