



ANC TODAY

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14–20 August 2020

Conversations with the President



THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19

Let us be the generation that **ends the oppression of women** in all its forms, **in our lifetime**

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

ON SUNDAY, the country celebrated Women's Day. This occasion marks the anniversary of the day in 1956 when 20,000 women marched to the Union Buildings – a great sea of womankind speaking many languages, from different places and of all races. They were united in their demand for an end to the dreaded

pass laws and for their right to live in freedom.

The status and position of women in South Africa today is vastly different to that faced by our mothers and grandmothers in 1956. We have come a long way in realising a South Africa that is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, prosperous and free.

There has been real progress in improving the lives of South African women in the economy, in the political sphere and in public life.

At the same time, we know there is so much further we still have to go. Women still face discrimination, harassment and violence, and bear the greatest brunt of poverty.

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WOMEN OF
SOUTH AFRICA,
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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



If we are to truly realise the promise of our Constitution we have to tackle the economic and financial exclusion that makes women more vulnerable to abuse and violence.

We have joined a ground-breaking campaign that links us to global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. Generation Equality is an ambitious and transformative agenda to end discrimination and violence against women and for their equal participation in political, social and economic life.

As part of this campaign, we have joined two 'Action Coalitions', one for economic justice and rights and another against gender-based violence. Both of these themes are critical to our own national agenda.

Eleven months since the Emergency Response Action Plan to combat gender-based violence and femicide was implemented we have made progress in expanding support and care to survivors, and progress is being made in legal reforms to afford them greater protection.

This month we begin the implementation of the National Strategic Plan to combat gender-based violence and femicide. A key aspect of the plan is

on ensuring greater women's financial inclusion. This is because economic inequality and social inequality are interconnected. The economic status of women in South Africa makes them more vulnerable to abuse. We must therefore scale up support for women to enable them to become financially independent.

We have made a number of commitments under Generation Equality that will be given effect to through the National Strategic Plan.

Firstly, we are going to drive women's economic inclusion through public procurement. We have set the target of ensuring that at least 40% of goods and services procured by public entities are sourced from women-owned businesses.

Secondly, we are going to scale up support for women-owned SMMEs and for women who work in the informal sector or are unemployed. This will include engagement with the financial sector to make financial services accessible and affordable for women.

Thirdly, we want to ensure more women have access to productive assets such as land. It is essential that women are beneficiaries of the

accelerate land reform programme. It is significant that of the R75 million in COVID-19 relief earmarked for farming input vouchers 53% of the beneficiaries will be rural women. We must ensure that women subsistence and small-scale farmers continue to receive support beyond the pandemic.

Fourthly, we want to ensure that women are protected from gender-based violence in the workplace. In this regard, we will be working at a national and regional level towards the ratification of the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace.

It is said that freedom is not given, but taken.

The emancipation of women is only words on paper unless it is matched by commitment from all sectors of society.

As we prepare for the reconstruction of our economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, we have said that we cannot simply return to where we were before the outbreak of the virus. We must build a fundamentally different economy which, among other things, substantially improves the material position of women.

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This means that our ment in infrastructure must support not only the development of local industry, but also women-owned businesses. It must deliberately create employment opportunities for women in all stages of planning, financing, building and maintaining infrastructure. By the same measures, as we scale up our public employment programmes, we must ensure that young women in particular are identified as participants. In addition to an income, these programmes will provide them with an opportunity to acquire some of the skills and experience necessary to enter the mainstream economy.

As much as it is government's responsibility to provide economic opportunities for women and create an enabling framework for advancing gender equality, everyone in society needs to play their part.

Businesses must support women-owned enterprises in the procurement of goods and services. They should employ more women and appoint more women to management positions.

This is all the more important considering that the private sector's record on gender-representation at management level lags behind that of the public sector. This is an issue that is repeatedly raised in engagements I have had with a number of women's business organisations. By equal measure, we must eliminate gender

disparities in pay for men and women, and give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work contained in the Employment Equity Act.

Women must also be protected from harassment and discrimination in the workplace. It is up to transport operators, university administrators, school governing bodies and religious organisations to create conditions for women and girls to travel, study and worship in safety.

We must forge ahead with our efforts to eradicate chauvinism, sexism and patriarchy. It is these attitudes that enable the oppression of women.

It is up to us – both men and wom-

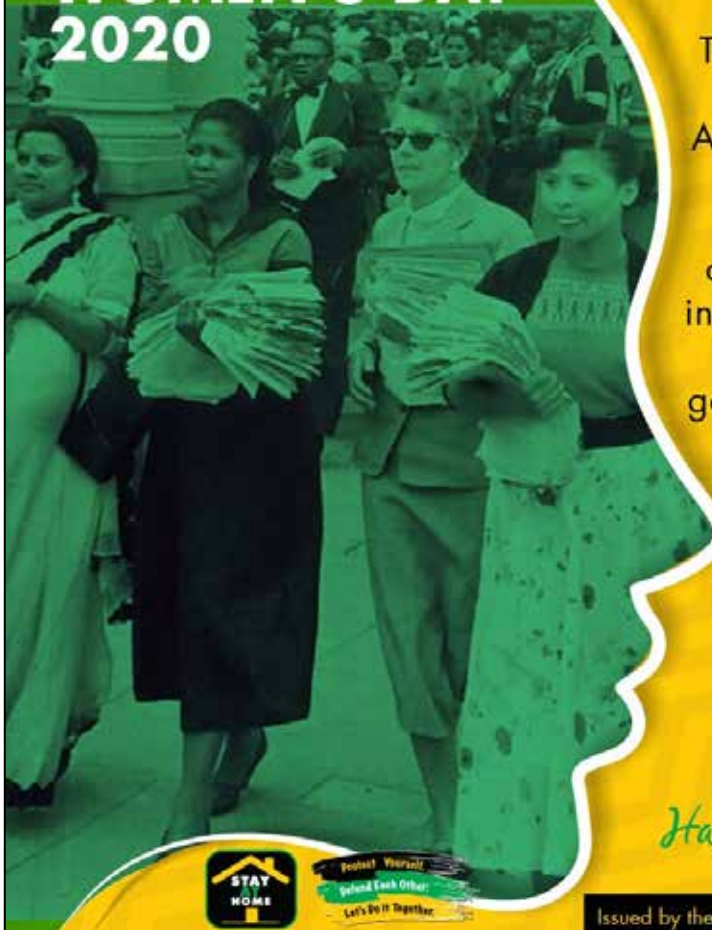
en – to affirm that a woman's value, position and opinions are no less than that of a man. It is up to us as parents and grandparents to treat and raise our sons and our daughters the same.

It is up to us as men to reject and speak out against gender-based violence wherever we see it, even if it is against our friends, fathers or brothers.

Let us be the generation that ends the oppression of women in all its forms, in our lifetime. The brave generation of 1956 marched for us all. We owe it to them, to ourselves and to future generations to not betray this noble legacy. ■

ANC message on National Women's Day

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020



The ANC recommits to mobilising all South Africans in the struggle to build a non-sexist South Africa, by confronting patriarchy in all its manifestations, including fighting gender-based violence, reducing the gender pay gap and the economic marginalisation of women, reproductive health and other aspects that maintain women's inequality.

Happy Women's day



Issued by the ANC, **Chief Albert Luthuli House**.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

CLARION CALL: AFRICA SHALL RISE!

Dear Mr President

THIS IS yet another sad day within the congress movement as we lay to rest one of South Africa's eminent struggle stalwart, Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe John Nkadimeng.

Ntate John Kgwana Nkadimeng was born in Sekhukhuniland in Limpopo in June 1927. He joined the African National Congress in 1950 through the influence of his close friend, Flag Boshielo and was appointed to the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) in December 1955 at a congress in Bloemfontein. However, he had already cut his teeth in the trade unions when he earlier joined the African Tobacco Workers' Union and became a shop steward in 1949. For his efforts, he was sacked during a strike in 1950 and was arrested two years later during the Defiance Campaign in 1952.

Isithwalandwe Nkadimeng suffered greatly for the liberation of his people and was arrested numerous times, including at Erasmia where, despite the winter season, he was denied a coat or blankets because he would not reveal the whereabouts of Walter Sisulu to the apartheid interrogators.

He remembers that when he was put in the sun to warm up, his frozen skin began to crack.

While in detention in Fordsburg in 1963, he was issued with a banning order which remained in effect until he



Comrade Pule Mabe

was released from prison. He was restricted to Orlando West until he fled the country in July 1976, a month after the Soweto uprising began.

He went to Swaziland and worked

*Mr President, as saddened as we
are, we are humbled to
celebrate the life of this great
man, Isithwalandwe Nkadimeng,
who sacrificed a lot to ensure
that his people attain freedom
and democracy.*



for the ANC for two years before proceeding to Mozambique where he chaired the structure of the ANC.

He became the general secretary of SACTU in 1983 where he propagated for the formation of trade unions in South Africa, and called on unions to unite in the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), an idea which came to pass.

Mr President, Isithwalandwe Nkadimeng was an all round cadre of our movement and when the South African Communist Party was relaunched as a legal body in July 1990, he was elected to its central committee.

In 1995, he was appointed the South African Ambassador to the People's Republic of Cuba.

Mr President, this is also a time for us to reflect and celebrate a life dedicated for the emancipation of the oppressed people and the restoration of workers' rights as epitomised by Isithwalandwe Nkadimeng.

Last year, the ANC bestowed on him Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe, the highest honour awarded by the African National Congress to those who made an outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle.

Prior to this honour, the government of South Africa had conferred the Order of Luthuli in Gold on him for dedicating his adult life to the struggle for liberation, workers' rights and the formation of Cosatu.

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Mr President, as saddened as we are, we are humbled to celebrate the life of this great man who sacrificed a lot to ensure that his people attain freedom and democracy.

He lived to see democracy and the restoration of workers' rights, and although many challenges remain, such as poverty, inequality and unemployment, we owe him a debt of gratitude as well as the commitment to do more to realise economic emancipation of our people.

But for the coronavirus restrictions, we would be out in our thousands to bid this great stalwart a farewell befitting his stature.

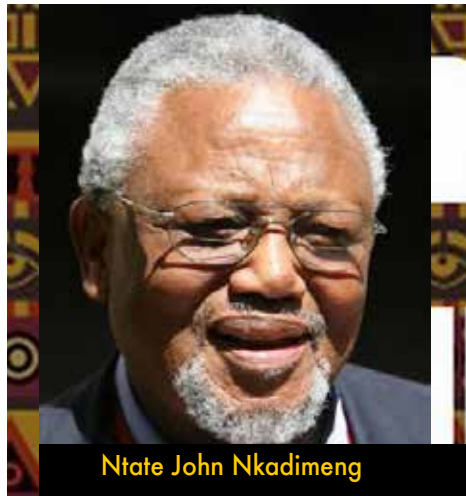
Robala ka Khutšo Ngwana Legoko Mamafishe. Monna Lerutla – wena Mmina Tau – Ngwato 'a Ngwato.

Mr President, the month of August also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the life of the father of Africa Unite movement, Marcus Garvey, who was born on 17 August 1887 in Jamaica.

The black nationalism remains our guiding light and inspiration in our fight to defeat racial subjugation because Garvey campaigned for an end to European colonial rule across Africa and emphasised unity between Africans in the continent and the African Diaspora.

Although Garvey never visited the African continent, he was committed to the Back-to-Africa movement, arguing that many African-Americans should migrate back home.

As our country grapples with ensuring parity in the economic might among the races, we are reminded that Garvey was committed to the belief that African-Americans needed to secure financial independence from the white-dominated society.



Ntate John Nkadimeng



Marcus Garvey

Garvey not only spoke but he acted. He launched various businesses in the United States, including the Negro Factories and the Negro World newspaper. In 1919, he became the president of the Black Star Line shipping and passenger company, designed to forge a link between North America and Africa, and facilitate African-American migration to Liberia.

Garvey also called for a vanguard of educated and skilled African-Americans to travel to West Africa, a journey facilitated by the Black Star Line. *"The majority of us may remain here, but we must send our scientists, our mechanics and our artisans and let them build railroads, let them build the great educational and other institutions necessary, after which other members of the African diaspora could join them,"* he said.

Those powerful words reverberate to this day when there is a flood of skills leaving the African continent for Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

There is no doubt that Garvey would be proud of the advent of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which creates a single continental market for goods and services in Africa.

For the longest time, African economies operated in silos which pre-

vented the continent and countries to realise their full potential among the nations, despite the abundance of resources the continent is blessed with.

Mr President, the time to accelerate intra-Africa trade was yesterday and we should all roll our sleeves and create opportunities to grow local businesses, create jobs and increase infrastructure on the continent.

Indeed, to this end, the ANC and its government has prioritised infrastructure as one of the critical areas of investment to grow the economy and create jobs in the wake of the coronavirus.

The vision espoused by Marcus Garvey is nearing fruition and despite the gloom cast across the continent and the world, we have a roadmap to emerge victorious.

We should sound a clarion call to recall those who left the continent for greener pastures abroad to return to the motherland and plough back.

We owe it to the memories of Garvey and Nkadimeng.

Africa shall rise!

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

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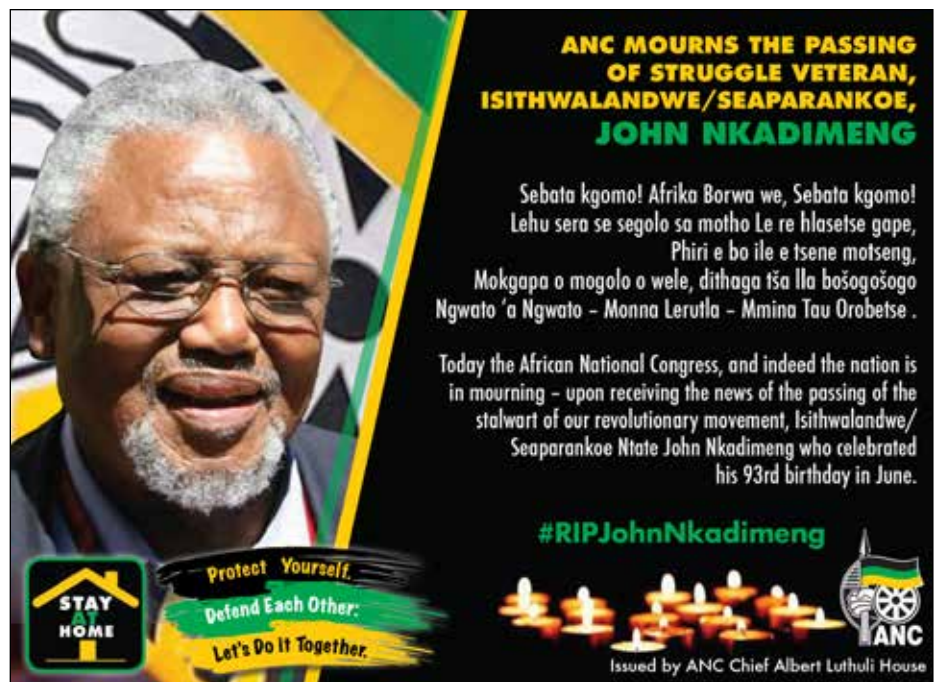
TRIBUTE TO COMRADE NTATE JOHN K NKADIMENG, MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD, ISITHWALANDWE/SEAPARANKWE

■ By Ilva McKay

CONDOLENCES to mam-Nkadimeng, Modise, Vera, David, Gloria, Shirley, Calvin and the entire family of the late Ntate Nkadimeng or cde JK as we used to call him.

Cde JK was a kind man, warm and jovial – he was a father to us, we who were the younger ones in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). We thank you for sharing your father with us for so many years, to the extent that Cdes Poppy Nokwe, Yvonne and other young comrades used to call him Daddy. Today we mourn your loss because we also shared in the joy of his life with you.

SACTU was our home away from home. We were one family in Lusaka, Zambia, as well as in other Frontline States, where we were taken care of by SACTU and the ANC, under the leadership of cde JK. Things may not always have been easy for everyone, but as younger comrades, we were privileged to work with and learn from the giants of our trade union movement including cde JK who was one of the founding members of SACTU in 1955, Baba Moses Mabhidha, Ray Simons, Archie Sibeko (ZZ), Mark Shope, Kay Moonsamy, John Motsha-



bi, Aaron Pemba aka Alven Bennie BB, Stephen Dlamini, Mlungisi Gazi, Thobile Mhlahlo and Martin Sere. It's important to say their names – so that we remind ourselves of the sacrifices that were made for the freedom we enjoy today. [MEMORY AGAINST FORGETTING]

SACTU was a fully-fledged entity and well organised with its Propaganda, Information & Publicity Unit responsible for publishing Workers Unity. Also Radio Freedom Workers Front pro-

grammes, which were beamed into South Africa from Lusaka, Angola, Tanzania and Madagascar. SACTU also wrote leaflets and other publicity material for internal distribution. There was an Education Unit dealing with trade union education and training aimed at the unions inside the country; an Internal Unit which was responsible for internal operatives and structures; not to forget the Treasury comrades.

Through its International Unit, SACTU

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was in the forefront of building international working class solidarity, in particular with ILO, OATUU, socialist countries, Nordic countries, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Without exception, workers of the world supported our struggle against the obnoxious apartheid regime.

SACTU also had international offices or representatives in UK, Denmark, Canada and at WFTU in Prague, Czechoslovakia. And cde JK and his collective was in charge of all this.

Cde JK was multi-faceted and wore many caps as we referred to it in those days. He was the embodiment of the Tripartite Alliance – as the General Secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions; as a member of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party; and as the Chairperson of the Political Committee of the African National Congress and a member of the Political-Military Council of the ANC. Cde JK wore all three caps! And we teased him a lot about the many caps!

I remember one of the saddest moments in cde JK's life was when his beloved son Vernon, aka Rogers, was brutally killed in a car bomb attack by the apartheid security forces in Botswana. Cde JK was devastated, sad, you saw it in his face because he had a very expressive face which carried all his emotions – and he had to bear the pain on behalf of his family and the Movement, when Rogers was killed at the age of about 27.

Cde JK was the leader of the SACTU collective during the 80s when he led the underground work of SACTU towards the formation of a single, non-racial trade union federation based on the principle of industrial unions. The slogan was: One country, one federation; one industry, one union.

Mam Evelyn Nkadimeng and Ntate John Nkadimeng sharing happy moments...



Throughout the early 80s, SACTU guided its internal operatives in the prolonged and protracted Unity Talks, which formally started in Langa in Cape Town in 1981 with 29 unions present. There was one focus and that was to forge the greatest level of unity within the diverse trade union movement towards a single trade union federation.

This was a dynamic time and there were intense debates about unity, principles and conditions for unity, unions walked out of the talks and then walked back into the Unity Talks. There were numerous attempts to derail the Unity Talks but SACTU preached the principles of unity... and the final outcome was that after more than four years of Unity Talks, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) was born on 1 December 1985 in Durban.

For us that was a great moment! That baby was not delivered by a stork nor did it fall out of heaven – it was delivered through hard work and hard labour!

From the side of SACTU, we feel that in the 80s, this was one of the most important contributions we made to the struggle in our country – to unite the progressive trade union movement into a coherent force so that it

could lead the struggles inside the country. And cde JK was at the head of this operation...

It therefore pained cde JK when he witnessed the cracks and divisions in the trade union movement in recent years. The unity of the trade union movement has been torn asunder and we are still reeling under the divisions because as long as we are not a united force, we cannot hope to make any significant impact on the ongoing struggle to improve the lives of the poor and down-trodden.

The honour and respect we can pay to comrade JK is for our trade union movement to go back to the table – and to forge unity of the diverse forces in the trade union movement and work towards a single, non-racial federation which will defend all its members, the workers of all races, especially the most exploited workers on farms, in the mines and the factories and in the homes. We owe this to cde JK, as well as to the working class who are subjected to abject poverty, inequality and joblessness, despite 26 years of freedom.

Cde JK was a man of integrity and principle, so I do not doubt that he would have been appalled at the revelations, week after week about the



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level and intensity of corruption in the Movement and government. He always stressed the responsibility we have towards the defence and protection of our Movement, but that would not make him turn a blind eye to the wrong-doing. The call to defend the Movement refers to its values and principles. The image of the ANC today is not what it was under the stewardship of honest comrades like cde JK.

In the past when the Movement had faced challenges, President Oliver Tambo and his leadership collective reached for extraordinary measures. In 1969 the ANC convened the Morogoro Conference and in 1985 the ANC convened the Kabwe Conference. And now the call for a Consultative Conference to address the current crisis on our hands is growing louder. So, in paying tribute to Cde JK, we should not shy away from addressing our problems through convening a Consultative Conference if that is what is needed.

Comrade JK was always driven by his commitment and dedication to the struggle of the masses of our people. So, in his honour we must go back to our structures and rebuild the Movement, brick by brick, member by member. We must mobilise, organise and educate. In this way we will honour our comrade JK.

I'D LIKE TO INFORM THE FAMILY THAT SACTU COMRADES ARE MAKING A COLLECTION OF ALL THEIR MESSAGES WHICH WE WILL HAND OVER TO YOU.

ORGANISE OR STARVE...AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL...

MAY HIS BELOVED SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

HAMBA KAHLE, QAWA LAMA QAWA! ■

Long live the women of South Africa, long live!

COSATU STATEMENT IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 9TH AUGUST 2020

THE WOMEN'S DAY of 2020 comes 35 years since the establishment of COSATU, 26 years since the advent of democracy in South Africa, 25 years since the Beijing Platform of Action and is being commemorated during a double crisis of economic recession, unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic which has further crippled the working class and the high level of Gender Based Violence, Femicide, violence and sexual harassment in the world of work. These afore-mentioned factors call the federation to reflect deeply on the position of women and the impact of these on the possibility of attaining genuine gender equality. COSATU wishes all the women of South Africa undying strength during the commemoration of National Women's Day and onwards during this pandemic.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) was launched on 1 December 1985. From its very first Congress, the federation of workers resolved, amongst other tasks, to focus on the exploitation of women workers.

The federation in seeking to take the majority of workers into the land of gender equality has consistently worked on various interventions that



COSATU

COSATU wishes all the women of South Africa undying strength during the commemoration of National Women's Day and onwards during this pandemic.

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have included: policy, national and international negotiations, education, lobbying, national and international collaboration with like-minded institutions and civil society organisations. To date, the federation has reached the level of gender parity in the com-

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position of National Office Bearers.

Our government has not made a dent or brought sustainable interventions in the eradication of poverty which impacts over 60% of South African women, mostly black women. The majority of South African women remain on the margins of the economy and the arrival of COVID-19 to our shores has ruthlessly exposed and exacerbated all the weaknesses in the economy, education, health, institutional mechanisms and interventions on GBV. Already by June 2020, the media was reporting that more than 200 000 women had lost their jobs. Most of these jobs were shed in the domestic work sector. It is not a doubt that by the end of the pandemic, millions of jobs will have been lost with a possible four out of five jobs lost being lost by women, as was the case in the global economic recession of 2008.

Under COVID-19, we have seen the unprecedented reporting of corrupt activities within the state. We have seen just how precariously our children and educators are existing in public education institutions. Also exposed are the other huge inequalities within and between provinces' health systems. Women have been locked in with their abusers and have been sitting ducks to Gender Based Violence and this has shown the unpreparedness of our collaborative systems to respond to GBV. Many of the supposed beneficiaries of the UIF are yet to receive the grant, with most domestic workers unable to collect after heartless dismissals by employers.

We still live with the intransigent discrimination and undermining of women. Women remain under-represented in decision-making positions and where they have been promoted, they continue to have to jump through hoops and undergo tests before being taken seriously. Their remuneration persists in being below that of men holding similar positions in different



workplaces. The post-employment impoverishment of women continues unabated as a result of the perpetual wage gap and the role women play in sustaining extended households.

On this National Women's Day, COSATU wants to affirm its stance on the following:

- Provision of effective Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all health workers, the majority of whom are women;
- Eradication of nefarious tendencies in the COVID-19 response;
- Our call for the ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions 190 and its Recommendation 206;
- Immediate Coverage of domestic workers under COIDA and its implementation to benefit domestic workers;
- Support for the speedy establishment and capacitation of the Legislated GBV Council;
- Eradication of the evil nexus of poverty, inequality, and unemployment;
- Eradication of the evil alliance between capitalism, racism and patriarchy;
- Eradication of violence against

women and GBV in the world of work and in society;

- Support for women's rights and substantive gender equality;
- Support for National Health Insurance (NHI), its speedy implementation and urgent improvement of all social infrastructure;
- Support for public investment in public education, skills development and health workers' education;
- Support for institutional mechanisms that advance women's rights and gender equality;
- Demand for the fair and just distribution of economic returns that benefits workers and working women in particular;
- Support for the promotion and respect of women in decision-making positions;
- Support for the transformation of institutions that accommodates, promotes and supports all, especially women and all other marginalised groups.

Long live the fighting spirit of working women, long live! Long live the women of South Africa, long live! ■

Nompumelelo Manyise is an LLB final student.

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LET'S DEVELOP A PEOPLE-CENTRED POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY APPROACH, IN HONOUR OF THE WOMEN OF 1956

■ By Tiisetso 'Afrika' Makhele

IN JUNE 1918, the first case of Spanish Influenza emerged in Spain, beginning an eruption of a global pandemic that would cause serious damage to economies and livelihoods of people across the world. It was a pandemic that would cause the deaths of 20 to 50 million people worldwide, an infect a third of the global population. The number of deaths caused by this pandemic far surpassed those of the First World War, which took about 9 million lives.

In Sweden alone, which was not involved in the World War during which the pandemic started, the subsequent labour supply shocks were transmitted throughout the country, with consequences for the whole economy. Just as in the case with the current COVID-19 pandemic, most of the population was bedridden or isolated, businesses were closed, sporting events were cancelled, large gatherings and funerals were banned to curb the spread of the virus.

In the medium to long terms, the Spanish Influenza pandemic had negative consequences for capital incomes in Sweden and elsewhere in the world. Thanks to the scarcity of labour caused by the effects of the pandemic, poverty rates in many parts of the world increased. Just as it occurred 102 years ago, the world today is faced with yet another global pandemic; COVID-19.

South Africa, as part of the global community, has not been spared from the



damage caused by this world tragedy. As of the 08th of August 2020, there were more than 10 000 lives lost through this pandemic in our country. The socio-economic effects of COVID-19 in South Africa cannot be quantified as yet, since the monster is currently ravaging through our fledgling economy like a tornado.

Whilst it is still premature to even ponder about the concept of economic recovery, we should be able to draw lessons from previous pandemics, and from efforts made to recover from such tragedies. Experience from the Spanish Influenza has shown, for instance, that heavily affected countries had lower economic growth rates after the epidemic.

Evidence also shows that, from 1921 to 1930, post the Spanish Influenza, poverty rates continued to rise in Sweden.

This shows that the effects of a pandemic can be devastating, even years post the pandemic. In fact, research also suggests long-term damage from prenatal exposure to pandemic influenza, and that children of infected mothers are more likely to have health problems and experience lower wages as adults than non-affected children.

In the UK, it is reported that by the mid-1920's, more than 2 million people were unemployed, thanks to the world war and the Spanish Influenza. In 1925, the Churchill's regime linked the value of the currency to the value of gold. The ensuing deflation led to lesser consumer spending, and the British economy did not improve until around 1934, about 16 years since the outbreak of the epidemic.

Based on the evidence above, it is clear that the effects of COVID-19

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will be with us for some generations to come. It is therefore crucial that we employ measures to cushion the immediate, medium and long term effects of this pandemic. With lessons learnt from past pandemics and global shocks, we should be able to develop strategies and mechanisms that would ensure full recovery from this situation.

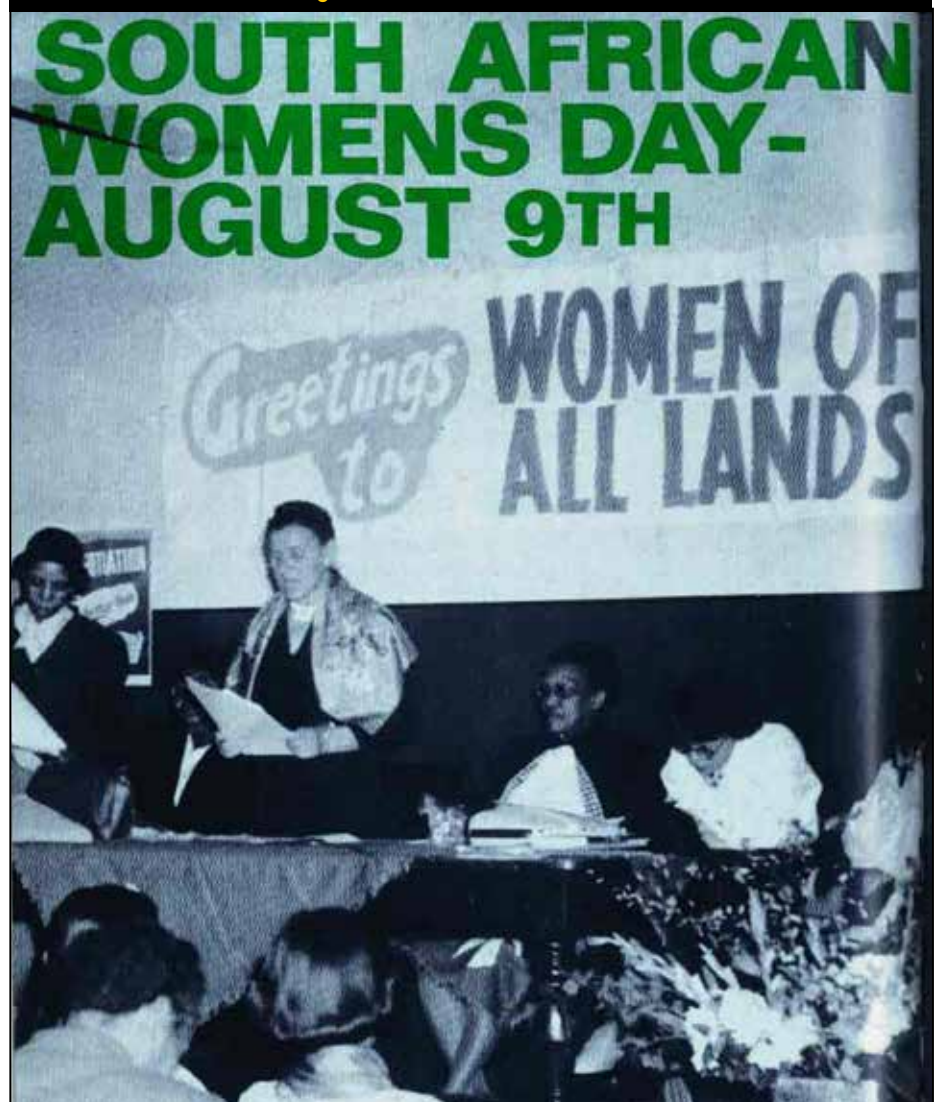
Studies also show that efforts to take care of public health first, were an important indicator to generating a stronger economic rebound later. Cities and countries that limited social interactions during the Spanish Influenza experienced relatively faster improvements in their economies after the epidemic.

On 17th June 2020, MEC for the Free State Department of Economic, Small Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Makalo Mohale, announced a comprehensive incentive package for enterprises, hawkers and informal traders. This was intended to provide financial and non-financial support to Free State businesses with the goal to ignite demand for our ailing economy, and to sustain livelihoods on the background of the lockdown-imposed restrictions. These pronouncements, which followed those made by President Cyril Ramaphosa, are intended to stabilise the economy, and to direct it towards real recovery.

In addition to these packages, society must embark on a united, collective war on the pandemic, as it is only through social compacting that we can curb the spread of the virus in the short term, and to prepare the ground for faster economic recovery post the pandemic.

It is therefore my argument that there is a need for a social compact in the fight against Covid-19, which must be driven in conjunction with the process towards economic recovery. At this point, I would propose **Ward-Based COVID-19 Crisis Committees**. These committees should be seized with all matters related to the current tragedy, including but not limited to:

Backcover of Sechabe August 1983



- i) COVID-19 awareness;
- ii) COVID-19 prevention and cure;
- iii) Compliance with COVID-19 regulations; and
- iv) Economic response and planning.

The ANC, as the only political party with a footprint in every ward in South Africa, can play a critical role in providing leadership and support to this noble campaign. Let us draw inspiration from the women of 1956, who sent representatives to various parts of the country and mobilise women to join the March on the 9th August, 1956. This grassroots activism, rooted amongst the people, made the March a historic success. It is only through working with the people that we can defeat

COVID-19, and ensure full recovery post the pandemic.

In conclusion, I believe we must be inspired by the wise words of Xi Jinping, Chinese President and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China when he said;

"The outbreak will inevitably deal a blow to the economy and social activities. At such a time, it is even more important to view China's development in a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective, and to further firm up confidence".

Tiisetso Makhele is an ANC member and Acting Chief Director: Integrated Economic Development at FS Department of Economic Development. He writes in his personal capacity.

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Applauding women stalwarts of our country

■ *By Pastor Nonqaba Mosunkutu*

MAY I PLEASE take the opportunity to applaud all of us Women, in particular those women in 1956 who took the bull by its horns against the oppressive dompass laws of the time. Thanks that Ubuntu/Botho was brought back when Apartheid was dismantled. That was great milestone.

Yes, in 1993, the first Durban ANC Conference after the unbanning, where some of us fought for 50% women representation in all our structures of ANC obviously except in the ANCWL, was met with at least 30% compromise which was better than nothing after fierce arguments.

We commend our movement that it now recognises the 50% parity of women representation, though in some senior management quarters it is not implemented at all, delaying the

good gains fought for by women liberators. I know our ANC will look seriously and quickly into this, including at young women who are the future of our country.

The country is faced with brutal murders of our women and children by some ruthless men monsters. This must be condemned by all. We were faced with triple oppression, now Gender-Based Violence (GBV) has taken its toll adding on to Women's misery.

This coronavirus pandemic is indiscriminately killing our citizens, destroying our economy, education and the health system. It has deprived us of staging large celebrations during this important Women's Month in honour of our Women stalwarts like Mama Getrude Shope, Sophie William de Bruyn, and others. We are still under

level four lockdown with regulations that must be respected in order to deal with fatal impact of this monster virus we are facing.

Lastly, my honour goes to all frontliners and those children left orphaned because of this coronavirus. May the soul of those Women killed due to GBV and their children rest in Peace.

To all Women, the struggle continues until the 50%-50% representation is practi not only on paper. May God Bless all of us for this great opportunity.

Pastor Nonqaba Mosunkutu is an ANCWL/ANC Executive Member Eric Molo-bi Branch ward 125 and Greater Johannesburg Faith Based Organisation: Civil Society, NGO's and Gender Subcommittee Member.

Q & A

Q&A

■ By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Dr Koliswa Matebese- Notshulwana

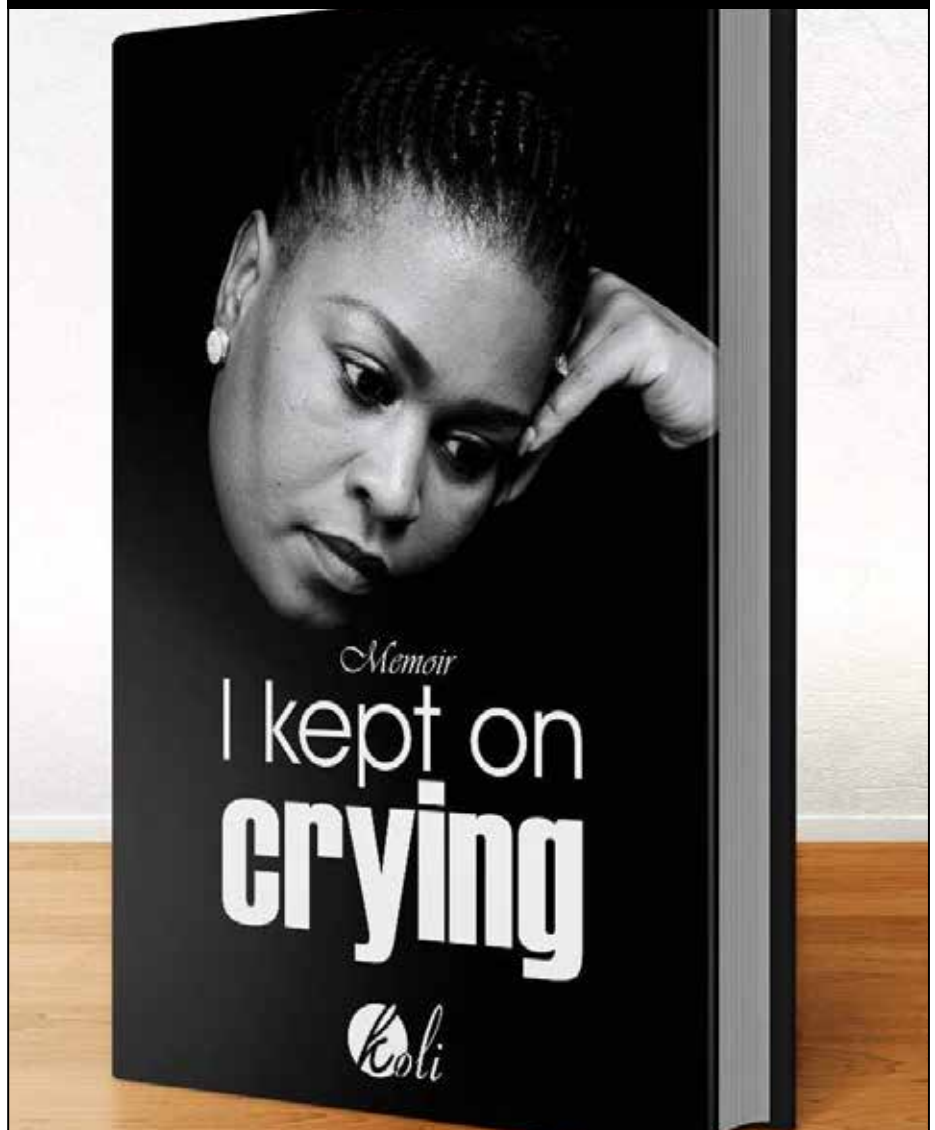
1. Cde Koliswa, please tell us briefly about yourself?

I was born and raised in Kwa-Zakhele, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. I am from a big family. I was born fifth of eight children, two older brothers and two older sisters, with three younger sisters. Sadly, my two older brothers and one older sister are now late (May their souls rest in peace). My parents, my late mom and my father were loving and very supportive to us and to all other people who came to know our family. They were disciplinarians and staunch church members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (eTopiya). We valued family and bonding times. We celebrated birthdays and had great Sunday lunches and Christmas lunches at home. A tradition I still continue with my two sons. I am a highly motivated and focused individual with a great sense of achievement, responsibility and accountability.

2. You recently obtained your doctorate this year. What keeps you going and how has education and politics shaped you?

I must credit my parents for instilling discipline, high work ethics and self-confidence. Both my parents were very generous people and loved greater things in life. As I mature, I find education broadening the horizon and opening vistas. It forces you to occupy spaces because you can engage. I have learned to appreciate that many of our people died

Book written by Dr Koliswa, sharing her ordeal as a survivor of GBV



for me to be able to access quality education and I refuse to take that for granted. Politics brought democracy; democracy opened doors for me to be accepted at an institution of higher learning which was previously reserved for whites only.

3. What are the few things you would love for young women to learn from iMbokodo such as Mam Charlotte Maxeke, Mam Sophie De Bruyn and many others?

These women, and many others across the length and breadth of



Q & A

this country, have paved the way for us to pursue our goals, define our destinies and occupy spaces that we could hardly dream of taking. They were women of integrity, who stood firm in their beliefs. Their resilience in fighting apartheid injustices and desire to liberate women is commendable and remains outstanding. I owe my courage to stand out for my dignity, even in the workplace to these women.

4. Dr Koliswa, You are a very young and strong woman. You were so brave to walk away from an abusive husband and toxic marriage. Where did you get the courage and wisdom as it's not an easy decision?

Well, I do not know about being young. But it was eight years ago and I was only 36 years old when I left my abusive marriage. This was the most difficult decision I had to make in my whole life. Abuse had started early on in my relationship and, in my mind, I had hoped to remedy the situation by trying to make my then husband to stop his abuse. With time I realised that every attempt at salvaging my marriage was simply prolonging the pain of abuse. After many failed attempts, I started reading about abusive relationship. I finally made up my mind which I do not regret for a bit. I then realised through literature that there was nothing wrong with me, I was simply in an abusive relationship. All that was needed of me was to find enough courage to leave. One day, as I was reading through literature, I came across a list of ten questions with the caption at the bottom "If you answer yes to any of the questions, just one yes- you should know that you are in an abusive relationship."

At the end, I answered yes to nine out of the ten question. The truth sank in and I could not give excuses or deny my situation.

5. If you could pass down your wisdom to the next generation, what words or motivation would you leave behind?

Being a survivor of gender-based violence, I would definitely encourage them to fight for their happiness. Firstly, find enough courage to leave an abusive relationship otherwise you may not be fortunate enough to tell your own story yourself. My hope is to normalise leaving a toxic relationship without society stigmatising women as failures. One cannot live a purposeful life in a toxic environment of abuse. Know the signs, learn to let go and do not ignore them by trying to change another person.

6. Do you think Government is doing enough to fight against Gender-Based Violence in the country? If not what do you think must be done as a GBV survivor?

Well not enough. That is why we still have calls for enough is enough. It's undeniable that South Africa has become a deadly space for women and children to live in. Government needs to create awareness at an early age. For example, education as early as basic education phase so that both girls and boys are taught at a young age that violence is not a solution and girls and women are not an inferior version of men. Then move to tertiary education where a lot of young girls and boys are struggling with peer pressure. Also, to offer advice, counselling and support to victims of GBV so that they know that government cares.

7. Dr Koli, if you had the opportunity to change how women are being treated in working environments, what's the first thing you would do?

Truth be told, the power relationship is still in favour of men who dominate in many areas of authority. The opportunities for men and women

in the workplace are not the same. There are pronouncements but little effort to empower women. I am a living proof to this sad experience in my workplace. With my qualifications and years of working, I am still being asked for sexual favours before some men could "fix" my promotion. It is a sickening situation that I will never subject myself to. I would create platforms for awareness to openly discuss gender inequality. I will also ensure that I drive a programme of mentoring women for senior positions.

8. What's your motto?

I live by the motto "Courage is Contagious".

MORE ABOUT DR KOLISWA MATEBESE-NOTSHULWANA

Dr Koliswa Matebese-Notshulwana is a trained teacher by profession, author, writer and motivational speaker. A highly motivated individual with a sense of achievement and responsibility, she holds a doctorate degree with the University of Pretoria, titled "A critical analysis of the oversight role and function of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) in promoting accountability in South Africa's public sector". Being a survivor of gender-based violence, she has authored a memoir titled, "I Kept on Crying", which chronicles her experiences in an abusive marriage. Based on her personal experiences and the prevalence scourge of femicide, gender-based violence and intimate partner violence, she has embarked on the process of passionately educating, motivating as well as inspiring both men and women to be able to identify signs of abuse, to find courage and reason to let go and to create positive spaces for themselves.

Her values include commitment, honesty, reliability, open-mindedness and efficiency. (Source: <https://www.courageous-conversations.co.za/>)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

15–21 August 2020

Source: SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za) and O'Malley Archives

15 August 1925

Mam Gertrude Shope born



Gertrude Shope was born in Johannesburg, but grew up in Zimbabwe. She was trained as a teacher and went on to teach in Natal and Soweto. When she was 29 years old she decided to join the African National Congress (ANC) and soon afterwards left teaching as part of a campaign to boycott Bantu Education. She was active in FEDSAW, chaired its Jabavu branch and later became Transvaal FEDSAW secretary. In 1966, she joined her husband Mark Shope, in exile and where she joined Umkhonto we Sizwe. From 1970 to 1971, Shope was secretary to Florence Mophosho, head of the ANC's Women's Section, and together they started publishing *Voice of the Women*. Shope later became the ANC's chief representative in Lusaka and in 1981 was promoted to head of the Women's Section, which she led at the End of the Decade Conference in Nairobi in 1985.



She served as ANC Chief representative in Lusaka, after serving in ANC offices in Botswana, Tanzania, Czechoslovakia and Nigeria. In 1991 Shope was elected president of the ANC's Women's League, a position she held until 1993. She worked together with Albertina Sisulu in convening the ANC's Internal Leadership Corps Task Force from 1990–1991. In 1994 Shope became a member of parliament in the Government of National Unity. She is a patron of the Women's Development Bank Trust.

Mama Gertrude Shope is a recipient of *Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe*, the highest honour awarded by the ANC to those who made an outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle.

17 August 1972

Ruth First assassinated in Maputo



Ruth First, journalist, academic, author, anti-apartheid activist and member of the South African Communist Party, was brutally killed by a letter bomb in Maputo, Mozambique, sent by South African government agents. At the time of her death, First was a lecturer at the Eduardo Mondlane University. Her funeral in Maputo was attended by presidents, members of parliament and envoys from 34 countries. The Truth and Reconcilia-

tion Commission (TRC) granted amnesty to Craig Williamson and Roger Raven, two men responsible for the death of Ruth First.

17 August 1996

Ruth Perry, first African female head of state



History was made in Western Africa when, for the first time, a woman, Ms Ruth Sando Perry, was unanimously elected at a meeting of West African heads of state to become the third chair of Liberia's ruling council. Perry, victorious over two male contestants, became head of the transitional government, thereby making her Africa's first woman to act as head of state. Perry was mandated to execute the daunting task of leading her country from a devastating seven-year civil war, to peace under a sub-regional plan of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Although serving in a non-partisan capacity, Perry was a member of the National Democratic Party of Liberia. She was leader of Liberia from 3 September 1996 until 2 August 1997. Perry has since served on the board of a children's hospital; she was instrumental in the development of infrastructure in Liberia and has received numerous awards for her efforts in the advancement of women and for her national development endeavours.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

19 August 2002

Amina Lawal sentence upheld



On 19 August 2002, an Islamic high court in the Katsina state of Nigeria, upheld a sentence of death by stoning for Amina Lawal. The 31 year old woman had been convicted of adultery by a village court for having a child more than nine months after her divorce. She was not represented by a lawyer at the hearing and the man who allegedly fathered her daughter denied the offence and was acquitted. Following the intervention of lawyers appointed by Amnesty International, Lawal was granted 30 days to appeal against the decision. Amina's lawyer filed another appeal to the Upper Sharia court of appeal in Katsina. Her sentence drew worldwide condemnation. Human rights campaigners branded the sentence inhumane and discriminative towards women. According to some interpretations of Sharia law, for a man to be convicted of adultery, he either has to confess to the crime or four men have to have witnessed the act. The law favours men. A man is allowed to beat his wife if she is disobedient, provided he does it within the guidelines prescribed by Islamic scholars. According to these guidelines, he must not break any bones or hit her in the face. In February 2004, the Sharia Court of Appeal ruled that Amina Lawal's conviction was invalid because she had been pregnant already when the harsh Islamic Shariah law was implemented in her home province.

19 August 2013

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka takes helm of UN Women



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was sworn in as the Executive Director of UN Women during a ceremony on 19 August 2013 at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City, presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Mlambo-Ngcuka was South Africa's first female Deputy President (2005-2008). She is leading the UN's work on advancing gender equality and women empowerment. Ngcuka, a gender activist and educationist, was the first President of the Natal Organisation of Women (NOW), formed in 1983.

20 August 1919

Author Noni Jabavu born



Helen Nontando (Noni) Jabavu was born in 1919 in the Eastern Cape into a literary family. From the age of thirteen, she was schooled in England, and continued to live there for many years. She went on to become one of the first African female writers and journalists. The Ochre People is one

of her two autobiographical works; the other is *Drawn in Colour* (1960). Both were written early in her literary career and have been hailed by critics as brilliant and fascinating. The works indicate that she preferred positioning herself as being simultaneously an African and a European, tracing her origins in both England and South Africa. In her books she looked at the alienation she felt, issues of identity and the impact of the West on Africa. Jabavu died on 19 June 2008 at the age of 88.

20 August 1935

Dulcie September born in Cape Town



Dulcie September was born on this day in Cape Town. She became active in the student movement in Cape Town, linked to the Non European Unity Movement. She campaigned against bantu education, and as a teacher, joined the Teachers League of South Africa and the African Peoples Democratic Union of Southern Africa (APDUSA). After leaving the Unity Movement, September, together with Neville Alexander, Marcus Solomon, Andreas Shapingo, Fikile Bam and Xenophon Pitt formed the anti apartheid paramilitary Yu Chi Chan Club. She was arrested for her political activities and served five years, together with Doris van Heerden, Dorothy Alexander and Elizabeth van Heyden. September left the country after 1976, joining the ANC in the UK and becoming active in the ANC Women's League. She campaigned

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

around children and women's issues, and worked at the ANC Lusaka headquarters from 1981, chairing its Regional Preparatory Committee. At the end of 1983, Duclie September was appointed ANC Chief Representative in France, Switzerland and Luxembourg, and in this position, she was a leading organiser of the international campaign to isolate apartheid. On 29 March 1988, September was assassinated outside the ANC's Paris office.

21 August 1929

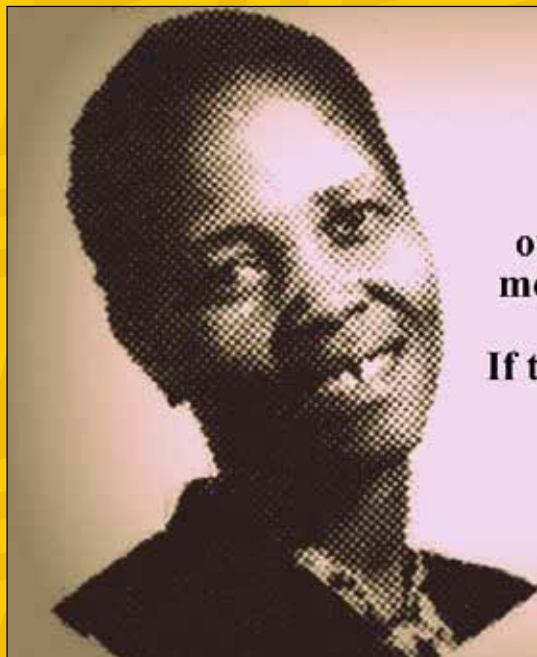
Trade unionist Emma Mashinini born

Emma Mashinini (21 August 1929 – 10 July 2017) was a South African trade unionist and political leader.



Living in Johannesburg, her family was forcibly displaced several times during her childhood. She started working at age 14 and soon became a union organiser at her garment factory. She became active with the African National Congress (ANC) in 1956. Mashinini served for 12 years

on the executive of the National Union of Clothing Workers (NUCW) and founded the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU) in 1975. She was arrested and detained without charges for six months in 1981–82. Mashinini played several important roles in the transition to ANC rule in the 1980s and 1990s. Mam Mashinini served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and went on to become a Commissioner for Restitution of Land Rights. Her autobiography, titled *Strikes Have Followed Me All My Life*, was published in 1989 and republished in 2012. She received numerous awards and decorations, including the Order of the Baobab and the Order of Luthuli.



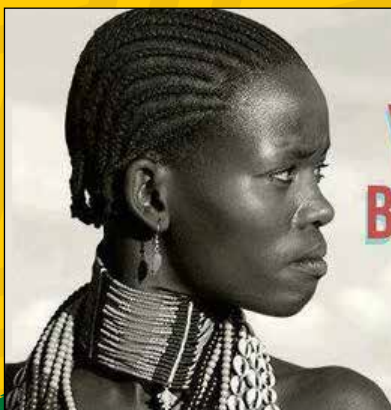
**"Men are born into the system,
and it is as if it has been a life
tradition that they carry passes.**

**We as women have seen the treatment
our men have - when they leave home in the
morning you are not sure they will come back.**

**We are taking it very seriously.
If the husband is to be arrested and the mother,
what about the child?"**

Lilian Ngoyi

25 September 1911 - 13 March 1980



**"IF YOU EDUCATE A MAN
YOU EDUCATE AN INDIVIDUAL,
BUT IF YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN,
YOU EDUCATE A NATION."**

— AFRICAN PROVERB

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

15–21 August 2020

Source: <https://www.un.org> and www.daysoftheyear.com

15 August

Homeless Animals Day

Humans share our planet with many other living beings. Every day, animals are abandoned or placed into kennels, dependent on charities and goodwill. These organizations are strained beyond coping and are desperate to raise awareness of the plight of homeless and abandoned animals. Homeless Animals Day aims to educate people about pet abandonment, feral animals and benefits of caring for domestic animals.

19 August

World Humanitarian Day

On World Humanitarian Day (WHD) August 19, the world commemorates humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and honours all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need. This year, World Humanitarian Day comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic over recent months. Aid workers are overcoming unprecedented access hurdles to assist people in humanitarian crises in 54 countries, as well as in a further nine countries which have been catapulted into humanitarian need by the COVID-19 pandemic. #RealLifeHeroes



20 August

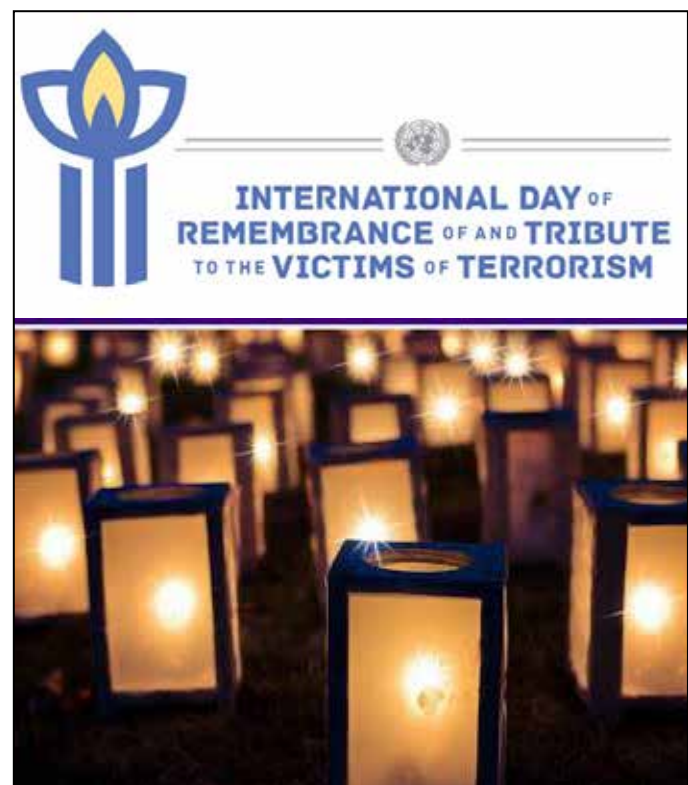
World Mosquito Day



The day celebrates the occasion on 20 August 1897 when Sir Ronald Ross discovered the link between the mosquito and malaria. Mosquitos kill over 600 000 people every year, responsible for malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, and encephalitis. The African Union has a **Zero Malaria Starts with Me** campaign in member states.

21 August

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism



The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/165 (2017), established on 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Women Leaders of the 1956 March

ON THE occasion of the 60th anniversary of the historic Women's March of 1956, the Mail and Guardian weekly newspaper published a special supplement: 60 Iconic Women. The people behind the 1956 Women's March to Pretoria (25 August 2016). The supplement brought to light many of the untold stories of women who organized the march, the largest of its kind in our history. Of course, there were over 20 000 women who eventually made it to the march, but many, many others were either stopped, detained or banned from attending the march.

In the supplement, we read for the first time about Mam Lillian Diedricks, who was one of the women leaders of the March, a unionist and activist, still living today in Port Elizabeth/Nelson Mandela Bay. Or Mam Caroline Motsoaledi, Fedtraw and ANC activist, who mobilised for the march and attended it with her 5-year old son strapped to her back. Then there is Chrissie Rossier, a member of the CPSA who worked as secretary to Moses Kotane; Elizabeth Mafikeng who was President of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union from 1954-1959; and ANC Women's League leaders Florence Matomela and Dorothy Nyembe, including Lillian Ngoyi as ANCWL first president. Some of the names we know from the 1980s because these women were still active in the women's movement, the UDF in the 1980s and the ANC Women's Section and League: Dora Tamana, Florence Mkhize, Frances Baard, Annie Silinga, Bertha Gxowa,



Helen Joseph, Gertrude Shope, Lizzy Abrahams. The list goes on.

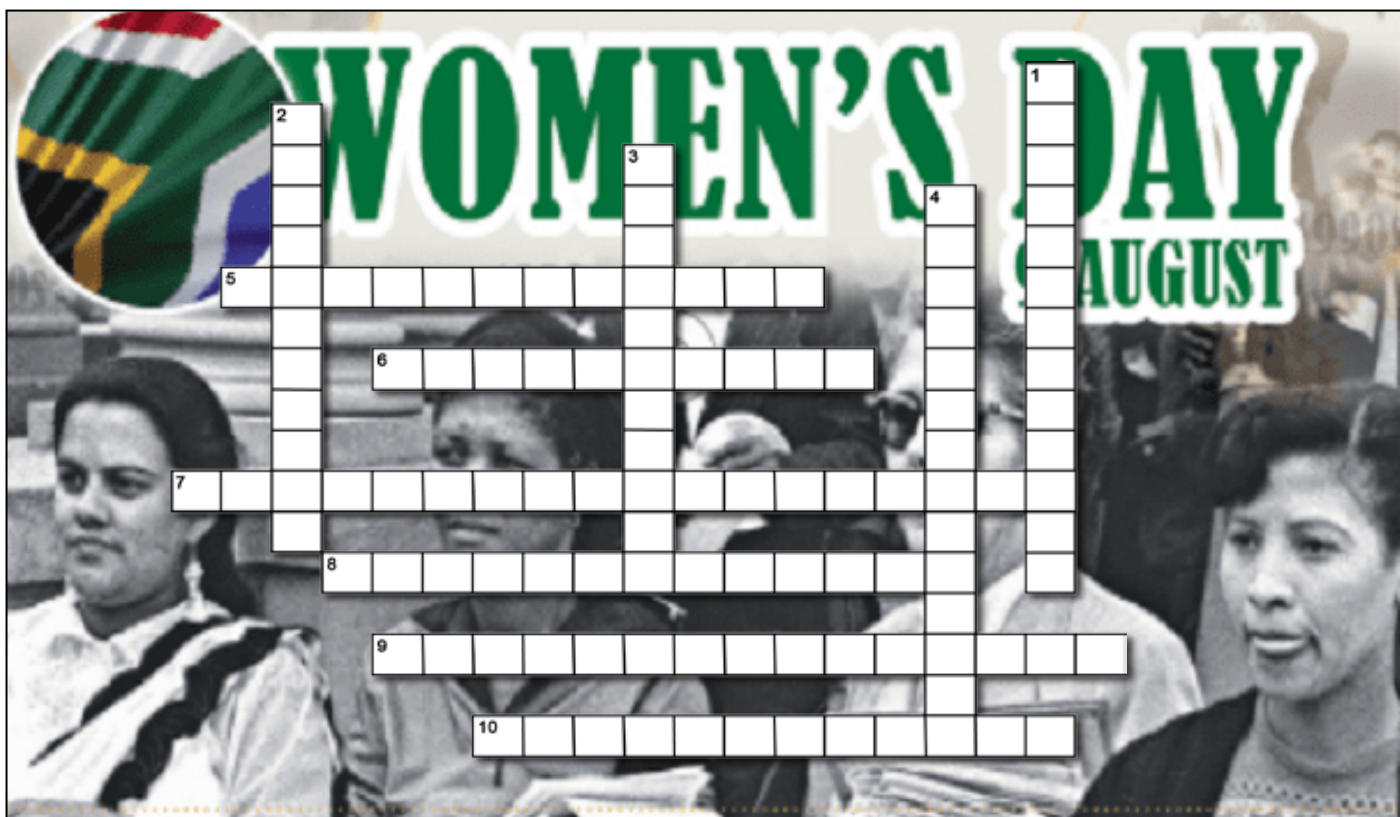
What is perhaps not so (un)surprising though, is how few biographies have been written of these women. Even of the sixty women listed in this M&G Supplement, books and articles written of their lives and this event are growing, but far from enough:

- **They Fought for Freedom Series: Lillian Ngoyi**, by Diane Stewart; **Helen Josephs** by Julie Frederickse; **Dora Tamana** by Jane Rosenthal; **Ruth First** by Don Pinnock;
- **Everyday Matters. Selected Letters of Dora Taylor, Bessie Head & Lillian Ngoyi**, edited and compiled by Margaret J Daymond;
- **Love in the Time of Treason - The Story of Ayesha Dawood**, by Zubeida Jaffer;
- **Women in South African History. Basus'iimbokodo, Bawel'im-ilambo / They remove boulders and cross rivers**, Edited by Nomboniso Gasa;
- **Albertina Sisulu**. Abridged by Sindiwe Magona and Elinor Sisulu;

- **When Hope and History Rhyme**, Autobiography, Amina Cachalia;
- **When you Strike the Women you have Struck a Rock**. By Hil-da Bernstein;
- **Margaret Ballinger: A Tribute**, by Gavin Maasdorp;
- **Colonels and Cadres: War and Gender in South Africa**, by Jacklyn Cock;
- **Prodigal Daughters: Stories of South African Women in Exile**, by Lauretta Ngcobo;
- **The Work of the Nation: Heroic Masculinity in South African Autobiographical Writing of the Anti-apartheid Struggle**, by Elaine Unterhalter;
- **Women and Resistance in South Africa**, by Cheryl Walker;
- **Married to the Struggle, 'Nanna' Liz Abrahams Tells Her Life Story**, edited by Yusuf Patel and Phillip Hirschson;
- **Learning African History. Freedom Fighters. Lillian Ngoyi** by Chris van Wyk; **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela** by Chris van Wyk.

X-WORD

Women Leaders of the 1956 March | #1



Across

5. Kupugani in Soweto, trade unionist, banned under Suppression of Communism Act.
6. Defiance campaigner and union organiser from Worcester, 1956 Treason Trialist
7. Federation of Transvaal Women founder, carried her 5-year son on her back to the March.
8. Joined Transvaal Indian Congress as a teen, founder of Women's Progressive Union for financial independence; FEDSAW first Treasurer.
9. Nurse, longest banned person in SA, also attended ANCYL founding congress in 1944.
10. Cape Town Defiance campaigner, FEDSAW founding NEC, leader in Western Cape United Women's Organisation.

Down

1. Member of Communist Party of SA (CPSA) and secretary to Moses Kotane
2. Tap dancer, nurse, victim of Sophiatown forced removals.
3. Clothing Workers Union organiser, ANC Youth Leaguer, FEDSAW, crossed country to collect anti pass petitions from women.
4. Trade unionist, attended SACTU founding congress in 1955, textile worker from PE.

WORD BANK

Albertina Sisulu
Caroline Motsoaledi
Bertha Gxowa

Amina Cachalia
Cecilia Rosier
Bettie du Toit

Annie Peters
Chrissie Jasson

Annie Silanga
Bibi Dawood

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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