



# ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

23–29 October 2020

Conversations with the  
**President**



## MAKING A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TO BUILDING A SOCIETY THAT WORKS

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

**T**HE LAUNCH of the Presidential Employment Stimulus last week marks a fundamental shift in our approach to tackling unemployment.

We are undertaking a far-reaching and ambitious public investment in human capital, with the state as both a creator and an enabler of jobs. The Presidential Employment Stimulus

is unprecedented in its scale and breadth, involving a public investment of R100 billion over the next three years.

We will protect and create directly-funded jobs and livelihood support interventions while the labour market recovers from the coronavirus pandemic. Each of these is ready for implementation, and is additional to

existing commitments.

While some of the interventions build on the strengths of existing programmes, the stimulus also includes new and innovative approaches.

This includes a focus on what we have termed 'social employment'. We are working from the premise that there is no shortage of work to

**SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR  
AND ADHERENCE TO  
HEALTH PROTOCOLS**

**4**

**Dear Mr President  
A TIGHTROPE OF  
INDEPENDENCE AND  
RESPONSIBILITY**

**6**

**FOR THE FUTURE  
GENERATION**

**8**

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## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

### The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan in numbers



More than

**800,000**

**work opportunities created and  
livelihoods supported through the  
Presidential Employment Stimulus**

be done to address the many social problems in our society. The aim is to support the considerable creativity, initiative and institutional capabilities that exist in the wider society to engage people in work that serves the common good.

This work cuts across a range of themes, including food security, ending gender-based violence, informal settlement upgrading and much more.

This will supplement the efforts of the public sector, allowing for greater scale and social impact as well as new forms of partnership with diverse social actors.

The stimulus includes a new national programme to employ teaching and school assistants in schools. Schools are making these appointments right now, delivering new opportunities in every community across the length and breadth of the country.

Public employment is not just for unskilled work. There is a cross-cutting focus on graduates, with opportunities for nurses, science graduates, artisans and others.

The stimulus will also protect jobs in vulnerable sectors that have been hit hard by the pandemic. Support will be provided to Early Childhood Development practitioners, mainly

self-employed women. Over 74,000 small farmers will also receive production input grants.

As a nation, we need arts and culture to lift our spirits once more – the stimulus provides new funding to help the sector back onto its feet, including support to digital content-creation and expansion of e-commerce platforms.

This will enable artists to adapt to the new market conditions that the pandemic has imposed on us all and to seize new opportunities for growth.

A critical enabler for wider job creation, made more important by the pandemic, is connectivity. To overcome the digital divide, the stimulus will provide affordable, high-speed broadband to low-income households through innovative connection subsidies and the expansion of free public WiFi.

As our country recovers from the devastation of the coronavirus pandemic, we are in no doubt as to the size of the task before us.

We have to achieve an economic recovery that is swift and inclusive. We have to get as many of our people as possible working again. We also have to regain lost ground in the provision of basic services and critical infrastructure, addressing social

challenges and transforming townships and rural communities too.

Public employment is an instrument that can do all of the above: creating jobs at scale in the short term while markets recover, and creating social value in the process.

The example is often cited of the massive public works programme undertaken by the United States after the Great Depression in the 1930s. This was not just a stimulus, but also promoted social participation and inclusion.

There are several examples of innovative public employment programmes in the developing world, including in India, Ethiopia and here in South Africa. These programmes make a direct investment in local economies, reaching poorer areas first, supporting local small enterprises and trickling up into the wider economy from there.

They also promote social participation and inclusion, providing communities with the means to change their lives as they undertake new forms of work. In doing so, they contribute to transformation both at a local level and within broader society.

Direct public investment to support employment and create economic opportunities that generate social



## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT

value does more than just tackle the unemployment crisis.

It is responsive, because it uses the state's resources to respond to local community needs, be it for greener spaces, food security, more early childhood development centres, or for better and more accessible roads.

It is progressive, because it offers social protection and income security to those who face destitution because they are unable to find work.

It is an investment in the future, in that it supports the broader economic recovery agenda by urgently getting our people to work on improving our national and municipal infrastructure.

Through the interventions in the stimulus, we are creating work for those who need it, while leaving a lasting impact on entire communities.

Like public employment programmes across the world, this employment stimulus supports and complements the critical role of the private sector in creating jobs. It is counter-cyclical, in that as the recovery advances, the scale of public employment will decline.

The work experience and skills acquired by beneficiaries of the Presidential Employment Stimulus will improve their prospects of securing

formal employment.

The experience gained is also a pathway to entrepreneurial activity. Participants will improve their skills and capabilities to start their own businesses, and can use the steady income provided by public employment to branch out into other income-generating activities.

**I have consistently affirmed that the COVID-19 crisis is also a window of opportunity to build back better.**

At this time of great upheaval, we would be doing ourselves no favours by making unrealistic promises that raise expectations, only to come short when they are not met. This is why each of the jobs and livelihood support interventions is fully funded, with a clear implementation plan.

The employment stimulus is not about vague commitments for some time in the future, but about jobs being created right here and now.

The stimulus is the result of extensive consultation with national departments, provinces and metros to rapidly design employment programmes that can be rolled out or expanded within six months.

The implementing departments and other stakeholders were rigorously

assessed on their capacity to implement.

In every one of the programmes that fall under the stimulus, opportunities will be widely advertised and recruitment will be fair, open and transparent.

The goals we have set ourselves are realistic, measurable and achievable, and draw lessons from past experience and international best practice.

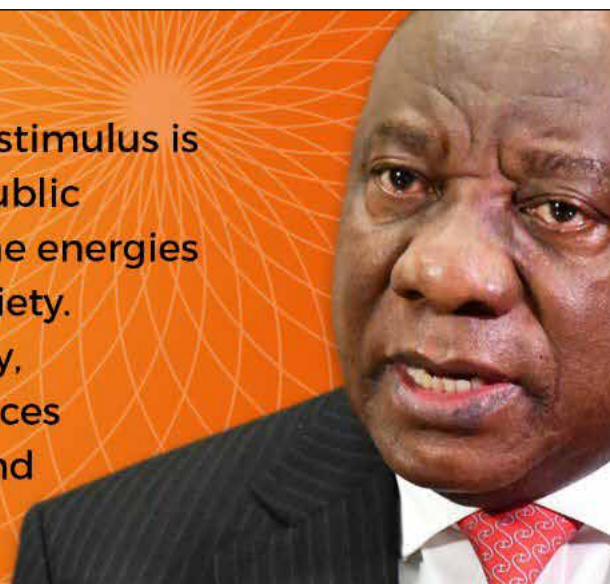
Our people are ready and willing to work. This vast potential must be harnessed, and our collective skills and capabilities brought to bear in rebuilding our country in the wake of the coronavirus.

The Presidential Employment Stimulus provides a respite for families who have endured a long hard winter with greatly reduced income, and for individuals who have spent many years without work.

**Real, decent work is the right of every human being. It is a precondition for economic growth and social stability.**

By giving effect to this fundamental right, the Presidential Employment Stimulus is **making a decisive contribution to building a society that works.**

**“At the heart of the employment stimulus is a new, innovative approach to public employment which harnesses the energies and capabilities of the wider society. It uses the considerable creativity, initiative and institutional resources that exist in our society to respond to local community priorities.”**



## EDITORIAL



# Social behaviour and adherence to health protocols – the only weapon we possess

■ By Zweli Mkhize

**I** WISH to take this opportunity and appreciate all the well wishes that my wife and I have received from you, my fellow South Africans, colleagues and friends from all over the world. I want to assure you that we are improving each day. I remain in quarantine at home, I am resting and recuperating with only a cough remaining from my previous symptoms. I'm also very pleased that my wife has been discharged from hospital today and will now be joining me for quarantine at home.

In a war, when an injured soldier lies down to recover, injuries do not remove his mindset from the set goal to win the battle. He uses such an opportunity to reflect on the battle and also to think ahead for when he re-joins the army. Like a soldier, I find myself in that position as we continue to fight this battle against COVID-19 as a country.

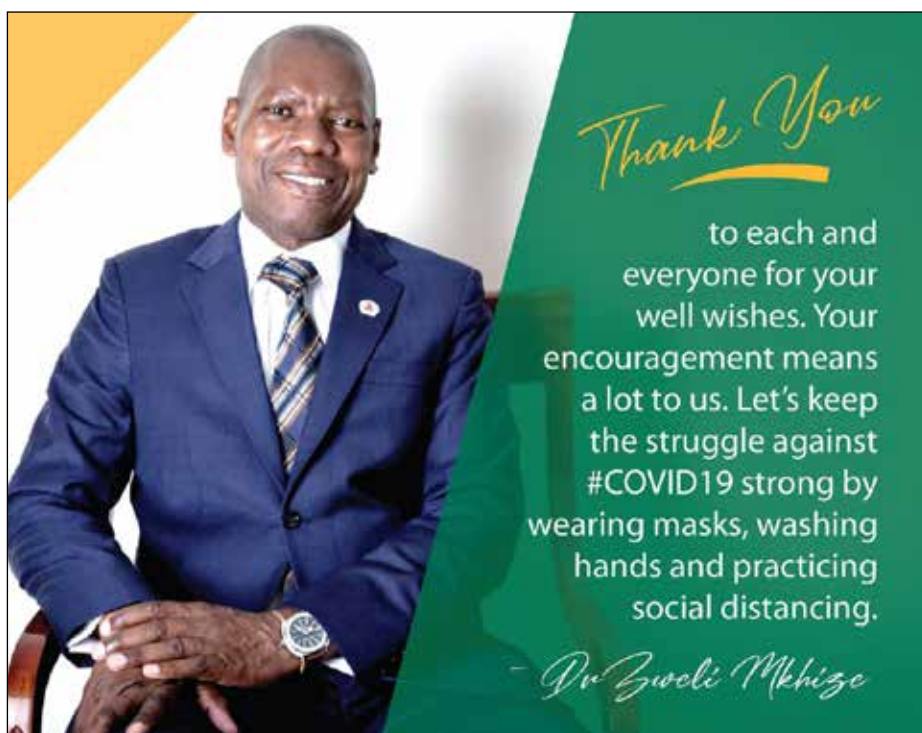
This morning, after reading and analyzing our country's epidemiological reports, as the Minister of Health, I cannot help but be concerned. When we empha-

size that the risk of resurgence remains high, we do not do so to instill fear in you. As government, we have a responsibility to alert you when we see concerning trends. It would be irresponsible of us to ignore "small flames" that we see redeveloping in some parts of the country. You will recall that a few months ago when we witnessed these trends, it wasn't long before we started experiencing a burden

in our health system.

I wish to bring to the attention of all South Africans that our epidemiological reports are showing that in the country, over the last 7 days, there has been an increase of 9.1% in new cases. Similarly, over the last 14 days, there has been an increase of 10.7%.

We are also seeing concerning increases in some of the prov-





## EDITORIAL

inces. To illustrate this, in the last 7 days, there was a marked increase in the number of new cases in the Western Cape. The Province recorded a 42% increase in new infections. According to our resurgence plan, we define this significant spike in new cases in the Western Cape as a resurgence. The Western Cape Provincial Health Department has identified specific clusters that are responsible for the increase in cases, and has advised that each of these clusters has been investigated and a detailed outbreak response is being mounted. We have noted that the single biggest cluster outbreak has been identified to be in the Southern Sub-district in the Cape Metro, and this has been associated with a super-spreader event in a BAR. We await further reports from the WC Health response teams who are now required to target the sub-districts with a high increase of new cases over the last two weeks.

We are now encouraging all provinces to pay attention to these increasing numbers and

quickly mount a response, including contact tracing and quarantine.

We must mention that the rate of new infections and deaths will inform the recommendations that the Health Department makes to the National Coronavirus Council. As we continue to monitor the development of a vaccine, the only weapon we possess as a country is our social behaviour and constant adherence to health protocols. All of us must take this responsibility and always encourage those around us.

We must also take heed of the major lessons from the

COVID-19 that is, despite the anxiety, the psychological trauma, the physical suffering and grief from lives we lost, COVID-19 has reawakened our deep values of Ubuntu in us all. We have been reminded to care more, love more, empathise with our families, friends, colleagues and even those we hear about in the media. This is the same spirit that we must carry in fighting all other social and health ills facing our society, including gender based violence.

*Dr Zwelini Mkhize*  
**Minister of Health**



# A TIGHTROPE OF INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Mr President

**A**S EARLY as 1992, two years away from the elections that ushered in democracy in South Africa, the African National Congress published a Media Charter. This blueprint would later serve as bedrock that guarantees media freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution. Back then, the media was in a state of fluidity and apprehension, following decades of Nationalist rule which curbed freedoms.

On the 43rd anniversary of Black Wednesday this week, the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) acknowledged that the country was in a far better position in terms of media freedom compared to those dark days under apartheid.

Black Wednesday in 1977 was a dark chapter wherein the apartheid regime banned *The World* and *Weekend World* newspapers. The editor of *The World*, Percy Qoboza was taken into detention and held for five months under section 10 of the Internal Security Act in Modderbee Prison. The apartheid regime banned the independent media to hide its horrendous acts and stop journalists from exposing them.

Fellow journalists, Joe Tholoe, Don Mattera and Mathata Tsedu, who were also detained, were tortured in prison and on their release slapped with five year banning orders.

A fierce and fearless journalist, Qoboza became the editor of *City Press* in



*Comrade Pule Mabe*

1984.

The ANC has delivered in its promise of an unfettered media. Our Media Charter emphasised the need for the democratisation of the media underpinned by an equitable distribution of media resources. The democratisation of the media means a media

**Under the ANC government,  
a Black Wednesday  
is truly confined to the  
dustbin of history.**

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that generates and disseminates information for the benefit of the people. It should be a media that reflects all interests of our society. This in turn is a function of many other specific issues – literacy, access to electricity and telecommunications. SANEF chairperson Sbusiso Ngalwa says a lot more work needs to be done to educate all sectors of society about the crucial role the media plays in strengthening democracy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen many publications closing down and almost 700 journalists being retrenched. These include *Drum* magazine which blazed a trail in the dark days as the voice of the voiceless.

The media landscape is once again in a state of fluidity. Even before the pandemic struck, the advent of the internet and social media was taking its toll on the business of traditional media.

This state of affairs has reduced the number of credible voices which are important in the dissemination of information to our people.

However, Mr President, it has not all been doom and gloom. There are publications such as *Ground Up* and *Mukurukuru* media which are rising from the ashes and emerging as the voice of the people. *Mukurukuru Media* is a media agency specialising in feature articles on land reform, land politics and redistribution and rural development. It is an oasis in the des-



## COMMENT & ANALYSIS



ert of sensational reporting of celebrity which has been proliferating the media space lately. It captures and epitomises the great journalism of the Drum era journalists such as Mr Drum, Henry Nxumalo.

Writing in the Mail and Guardian in 2017, Glenda Daniels lamented the “messy” state of media freedom. “Today the media is a murky ambivalent and contested space marred by political interference, commercial imperatives and depleted newsrooms. The fourth industrial revolution has created a culture of ‘sharing’ and ‘liking’, as well as the phenomenon of ‘fake news’.”

She decried that aspects of journalism was captured and some journalists had allowed themselves to be used in the battles of the ANC and these were used to smear our comrades.

For our part as the ANC, we have called out those journalists whose agenda is clearly not informing the public even as we allowed the media to self regulate.

Because ours is a democratic organisation, we have not allowed frustrations with enemy agents to escalate in a total breakdown of relations with the members of the Fourth Estate.

Amid extreme provocation and bias, the ANC has kept to its side of the bargain and allowed an environment which gives platform to a diversity of views.

The conditions under which our media operates is the envy of many of their counterparts on the continent and beyond. While the government has the Government Communication

and Information System (GCIS) and to an extent the South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC) to disseminate information, the rest of the mainstream media is viewed as partners who are allowed to err on occasion. During the pandemic, the media was and is a crucial partner to empower our people with life-saving information.

While some opposition political parties have gone as far as barring some media houses from their events, the ANC has stood steadfast and built bridges with the Fourth Estate.

Mr President, through Independent Communication Authority of SA (ICASA), the government has freed the airwaves and allowed the proliferation of free to air and community radio and TV stations. The SABC has been freed from the clutches of being a state broadcaster to being a fully fledged public broadcaster.

Unfortunately, the press still suffers from a lack of democratisation and is still concentrated in the hands of a few companies. As we take stock of

what Black Wednesday represents today, it is worth looking at how we can allow more voices to proliferate the media space.

The phenomenon of the social media has gained dominance, but as Daniels laments, it has led to unintentional consequences such as “fake news”.

During the pandemic, the World Health Organisation has warned the public against infodemics. This is described as a blend of information and epidemic that typically refers to a rapid and far-reaching spread of both accurate and inaccurate information about something such as a disease.

Research has shown that social media has served as a preferred platform to spread infodemic while traditional media has fared much better and reported accurately during the pandemic.

As the country emerges from the devastation of the Coronavirus, we hope the media will once again partner with us in disseminating accurately on the socio-economic issues, through efforts that seek to reconstruct a better and prosperous country. Under the ANC government, a Black Wednesday is truly confined to the dustbin of history.

### Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



## PERSPECTIVE



**F**ROM the onset of confronting the COVID-19 pandemic our rallying cry was: ***Saving our lives, Saving our livelihoods.***

Our countrymen and women in the health sector steered us through the storm in their sterling effort of saving our lives.

When the pandemic descended, and our country went into lockdown to halt its spread, our economy was already in recession. Subsequent downgrades by Rating agencies sunk the economy further. Then the pandemic sounded a death knell in a climate beleaguered by inhibiting high cost of electricity. Therefore, the reliance of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan on our ability to secure reliable and affordable supply of energy. Our Plan must, however, transcend the pre COVID-19 level to grow the economy on par with our country's development.

Expanding the country's energy generation capacity is a priority intervention to support a rapid economic rebound. This is central to us saving our livelihoods.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has heeded the call of the President by fully implementing



■ **By Gwede Mantashe**  
**Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy**

the Integrated Resource Plan, IRP 2019.

The Department targets to deliver a total of sixteen thousand three hundred and thirteen megawatts (16 313 MW), from a mix of energy sources. These include:

- Procurement of two thousand megawatts (2000 MW) of emergency power to meet the short-term electricity supply gap. We issued a Request for Proposals and the Bid Submissions are closing soon. Power procured will be fully operational and connected to the national grid by June 2022.

- Procurement of eleven thousand eight hundred and thirteen megawatts (11 813 MW) from various energy sources: six thousand eight hundred megawatts (6 800MW) from renewables – PV and Wind), five hundred and thirteen megawatts (513 MW) from storage, three thousand megawatts (3 000 MW) from gas, and one thousand five hundred megawatts (1 500 MW) from coal. For this purpose, we Gazetted the Section 34 Ministerial Determinations with the intention to urgently connect new generation capacity to the national grid. Request for Proposals will be issued in December 2020 to enable the opening of various bid windows, including Bid Window 5 of renewable energy.
- Issuing of the Request for Information (RFI) for two thousand five hundred megawatts (2 500MW) for the nuclear build programme. Responses from the market are currently being evaluated.

Immediately, the Department has enabled ninety-seven megawatts (97 MW) of self generation for own use,

- through a Gazetted amendment of Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act, to exempt categories of generation facilities under one



megawatt (1MW) and resellers from the requirement to hold a generation licence. NERSA has already registered one hundred and fifty-six (156) self-generation facilities under one megawatt (1MW) with a total installed capacity of seventy-two megawatts (72MW).

- through effecting the provision for distributed generation in the IRP 2019 for facilities of one megawatt (1MW) and above, thereby removing the need for Ministerial approval for deviation from the IRP before NERSA can process a generation license application. To date, NERSA has approved five (5) applications with a total capacity of twenty-five megawatts (25MW).

Further, we have Gazetted amendments to Electricity Regulations on new generation capacity to enable municipalities in good financial standing to develop their own power generation projects. The amendments clarify the regime applicable to municipalities when requesting Determinations under Section 34 of the Electricity Amendment Act.

Recognising Eskom's role in the electricity sector Government is working tirelessly to achieve significant systems improvement through the Eskom maintenance programme. Work is underway to achieve operational and financial stability at the entity. The process to separate and unbundle Eskom is progressing well in line with the Roadmap. These initiatives will complement efforts to secure energy supply for society.

Looking ahead, we have considered the feasibility of natural gas for economic use in the South African market, which includes accelerating the exploration of our own natural gas for domestic gas feedstock. Investment in infrastructure to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is critical. There-



### The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has heeded the call of the President by fully implementing the Integrated Resource Plan, IRP 2019.



fore, the tabling of the Gas Amendment Bill before this House, when it happens, should be considered against this backdrop.

Pre-COVID-19, the Department was in the process of consulting stakeholders on the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill. Community consultations were, however, foiled by the lockdown restrictions. Relaxation of restrictions on gatherings enable the Department to restart consultations. Finalisation of the Bill will unlock our country's untapped

potential in the upstream oil and gas reserves.

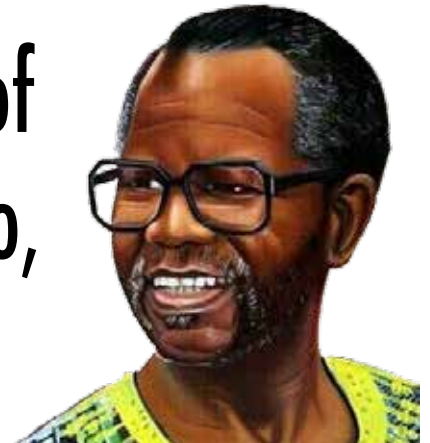
As directed by the President, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan should fast-track reforms to reduce the cost of doing business in our country. This is to facilitate investment, achieve economic growth and transformation.

Government is focused to renew investment in exploration, which is the lifeblood of mining. This will further promote diversification of the economy. The mining sector is actively engaged to facilitate renewed investment through a policy framework that provides certainty, investment protection and transformation. We are also giving effect to our commitment to reduce timeframes for mining and prospecting licenses. Formalising artisanal mining is being accelerated, thereby creating an avenue to mine sterilised deposits.

Saving our lives Saving our livelihoods is a social compact between Government, the social actors and society, which is core to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. This is reminiscent of our country's ability to overcome the worst, do the unimaginable, when we hold hands and act together.



# Celebrating the 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday of President Oliver Reginald Tambo, **THE FEMINIST**



■ By Thenjiwe Mthintso

**T**HIS YEAR on 27 October, Comrade President O.R. Tambo would have turned 103 years old. Many of us still sorely miss him and his leadership, especially at these challenging times when his glorious movement, the ANC, continues to devour itself. The whole revolutionary movement dips its flag in his memory and hopefully we all still commit to uphold his legacy in all respects.

We are all aware of his exceptional leadership skills, his resilience in the face of brutality and repression, in leading a militant struggle for freedom, for spearheading an international anti-apartheid campaign and for being the glue that kept the ANC together in exile, and in the struggle for the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, free, just and democratic South Africa.

In celebrating this gentle giant and his attributes, I wish to reflect on him as a “feminist”, much as he would perhaps have never defined himself or even wanted to be “labelled” as such.

Feminism in this article will be simplified as the belief in, commitment to and struggle for real women’s emancipation and complete gender equality in all spheres of life, realising that without these two there could

never be any freedom, justice or democracy. His feminism cannot only be gleaned in his leadership style and commitment to gender equality within and outside the ANC, but also in his relationship with his feminist lovely wife and comrade MaTambo, and how they ran their family home in London, which was a home for most comrades who were in or passed through London. Comrade O.R.’s feminism intersected with his Ubuntu and its basic values such as love, care, generosity especially of spirit, humility, integrity and respect for everyone irrespective of their other defining identities, attributes or status. His feminism was also embedded in his deep hatred for any kind of oppression and injustice and his respect for women’s right which he correctly understood as human rights as well as his love and devotion to his people and country.

He had a profound understanding that colonialism was not only racist and capitalist but also patriarchal with the colonialist patriarchy intersecting with and appropriating some aspects of the indigenous patriarchy to create intricate, layered and complex forms of patriarchy in SA. Cde OR understood this intersectionality and embeddedness of class, race and gender oppression and exploitation under apartheid.

He therefore, was instrumental in ensuring that the interpretation of Colonialism of a Special Type (CST) was not only focussed on the class and national contradictions to the exclusion of the gender contradictions that could give an impression that women’s emancipation would be a by-product of the resolution of the other contradictions.

At that time, there was very little theorisation on gender equality beyond the “women’s question” and discussions on “feminism” were usually avoided or even seen as divisive. OR Tambo championed the feminist cause, without labelling it as such, always emphasising at all times that there could never be any free, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa without complete women’s emancipation and gender equality.

It was Cde O. R the feminist, who brought about the turning point for gender equality in the 80s, particularly at the 1981 ANC Women’s Conference, when he called on both women and men to realise that there could be no revolution without the leadership of women. He issued a clarion call to women to take their rightful place in leadership saying “...**women in the ANC should stop behaving as if there is no place for them above**

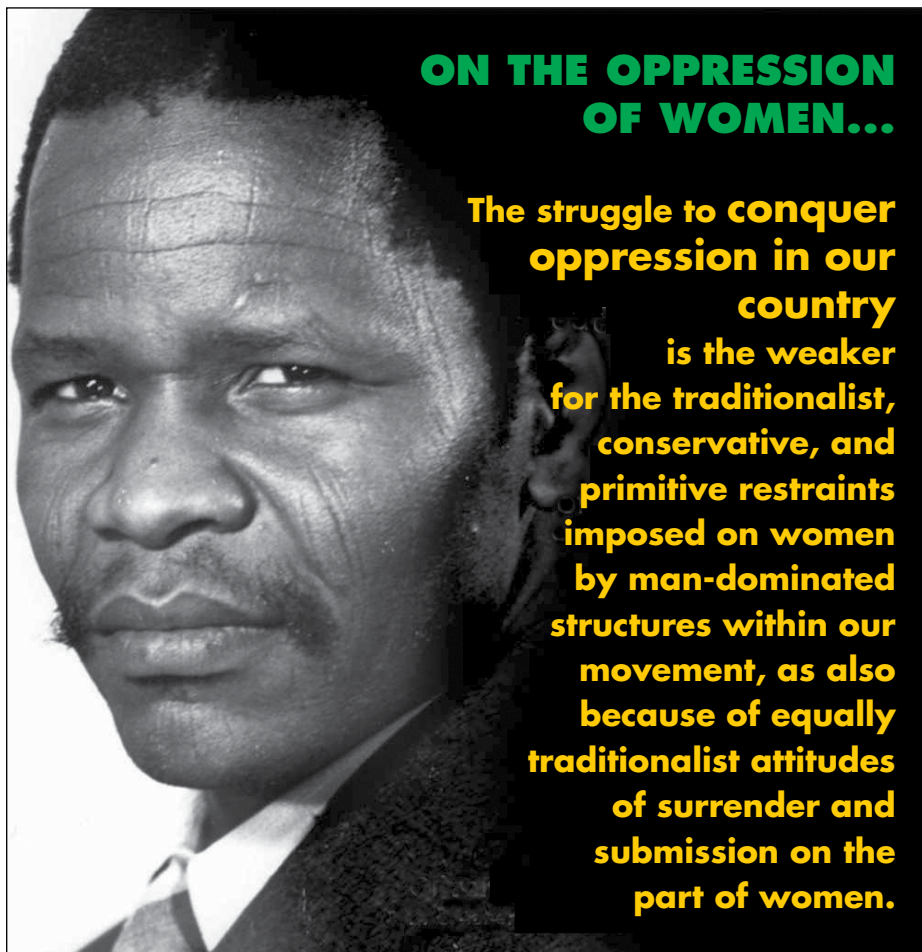


## PERSPECTIVE

*the level of certain categories of involvement, women have a duty to liberate us men from antique concepts and attitudes about the place and role of women in society and in the development and direction of our revolutionary struggle”.*

And he continued “...*We need to move away from revolutionary declarations to revolutionary practice. We invite the ANC Women’s Section and the black women of SA, more oppressed and more exploited than any section of the population, to take up the challenge and assume their proper role, outside the kitchen among the fighting ranks of our movement and at command post.*”

His feminist style of leadership was reflected in his high confidence in and respect for women, particularly the young. It was this confidence that made those women who were deployed in “leadership” responsibilities without being elected to give their best and continue to earn the respect and confidence of the leadership in general and of O.R. in particular. For these women, failure was not an option and mediocrity was not in their dictionary.



### ON THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN...

**The struggle to conquer oppression in our country is the weaker for the traditionalist, conservative, and primitive restraints imposed on women by man-dominated structures within our movement, as also because of equally traditionalist attitudes of surrender and submission on the part of women.**

The lessons and impact that we can draw from O.R. today are steeped in his excellent Ubuntu and feminist style of leadership. If our claim is still true – that we are the leaders of so-

ciety, then by all accounts we are not living up to the legacy of comrade O.R. Patriarchy has adapted to ANC’s democratic character and exists within all its structures. The tendency of an “add on approach” to women’s emancipation and gender equality still prevails including in government. The “war” against women and children reflected in Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&F) is the highest form of patriarchy. COVID-19 has exacerbated the poverty, inequality and joblessness whose highest victims are women. Our confessed corruption and public “internal” fights are subverting the NDR we claim to stand for.

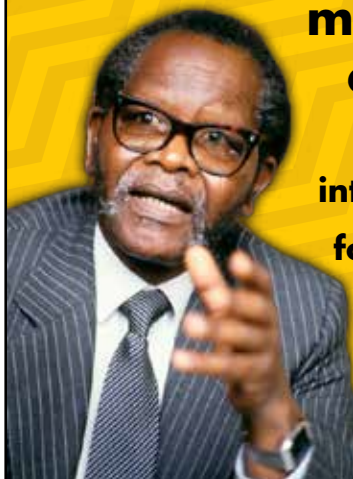
As the revolutionary song goes: “uTambo angalila xa esibona sinje”.

If we are to save our country we have to return to Cde OR Tambo’s ANC and his Ubuntu and feminist style of leadership.

### ON THE MOBILISATION OF WOMEN...

**The mobilisation of women is the task, not only of women alone, or of men alone, but of all of us, men and women alike, comrades in struggle.**

**The mobilisation of the people into active resistance and struggle for liberation demands the energies of women no less than men.**



# Keys to growing SMMEs that survive

■ By Thapelo Masilela

**G**ROWING your business is in everyone's best interests – yes, even your competition's. In fact, it increases competition, but that increases innovation and growth. So, in the end everyone wins, especially the unemployed youth. In South Africa, due to our current challenge of improving the economy and creating jobs, it is a particularly stressful time to be an entrepreneur or businessperson; to know how to grow your business. With low expectations of the economy making an upswing any time soon, business growth is going to be more difficult, but it's going to be vital for our economy. It is becoming ever more apparent that the economy of the country rests in the hands of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). Let's look at how you can tap into that potential and grow your business despite the current economic climate.

## A COMPETITIVE MARKET

Firstly, your product or service needs to have a competitive market and it needs to relate to that market well. Without going into detail about what your product should and shouldn't be, the bottom line is that it needs to be the best product out there to gain a competitive market share. In the case where your product is homogenous or cannot compete with the asking price of your competitor, you need to create additional value – to not only get customers to choose your goods over your competitor's goods, but to also get customers to pay more for them.



## A BRAND

This brings me to my second point: the brand. By creating a brand that speaks to your target market, you will be able to harness additional profits and market share without increasing or changing the product. You can do this by creating an experience; by making a customer to feel special and important. For example, take the difference between iPhone and its competitors. The competitors have better specs and are cheaper. However, Ap-

ple still has a huge share of the market. There are two reasons for this: the phone has a recognisable logo – you can spot an Apple product from a mile away – and iPhone users refer to their iPhone by name rather than just as a cell phone. The second reason has to do with the experience – from the clean and elegant feel when you walk into an Apple store, to the presentable, friendly consultant who is well informed about the offerings and experience around owning the latest version of the iPhone. So, increasing the value of your brand requires you to invest in conformation costs: quality assurance costs which prevent external cost failures. The focus here should be on training, recruitment, quality checks, efficient service and good presentation – all of which prevent or reduce the chance of ex-



◀ The SMME Handbook provides valuable information to business owners



## PERSPECTIVE



ternal failures such as products being returned due to defect or customers getting bad service.

### A MARKETING STRATEGY

Thirdly, building on a brand involves a marketing strategy. Given modern-day technological developments, digital marketing costs are much less – these days the cost of not being on the likes of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and other mainstream social media is far higher than the cost of being on them. Being present on these platforms allows for interaction with customers while they are at work, school and even in the comfort of their own home, 24/7. It also allows you to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. A good example is how Nandos is able to market based on current affairs as they happen. Increase your digital media presence; you cannot afford not to.

### TRIMMING THE FAT

Generally speaking, the best place to trim the fat and create a competitive advantage is through the supply chain and logistics of the business. With ongoing globalisation and technological progress the demand for quicker, tailored service has become the new norm. The beauty of these developments is that they can be done virtu-

ally; you don't need to trek all the way to China to make a deal. A more day-to-day life example is Uber, which is the biggest taxi company in the world, however, they do not own a single taxi. They have been able to create a virtual platform that connects drivers and passengers, facilitating deals that are managed remotely. The point I am highlighting is that with technology, solutions and innovations are only limited to the imagination, so be as innovative as possible in conducting your business or service.

### BUILDING A WORKFORCE

One of the biggest challenges is the issue of labour and minimum wage. In the beginning your business may be cash strapped, making it difficult to even pay the required R20 per hour minimum required, and it may limit the rate at which your enterprise grows. The best way to maximise this is to develop your workforce: build it from the ground up. Gather students from varsities and technical colleges, recommended by lecturers. Then build and groom your labour force through on-the-job training, internships, scholarships, and so on. With this approach, though the R20 per hour may initially seem high, in the long run the productivity and output of the person will increase at a faster rate than the cost, making it seem like a bargain.

There are no shortcuts to building a successful business. It requires hardwork and dedication.

However, this requires training, a productive environment, patience, good management and clever recruiting.

### A SOLID FOUNDATION

Lastly, the major challenge is that small, medium and micro-sized enterprises do not have the access to capital needed to grow at the desired rate. As the saying goes, 'slow progress is lasting progress'. You do not need to grow your business overnight; very few companies have become a success overnight, and even then overnight means 10 years. Build your business from scratch, brick by brick, gaining a thorough understanding of it so that the foundation is solid. Expand slowly: exploit a gap in the market, a need, and do not rely on government tenders. Try being a subcontractor first, before going the government tender route. The ANC-led government has signed in the *Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act* (PPPFA), which essentially ensures that 30% of all government tenders must be outsourced to SMMEs. Build slowly; leverage your capital and debt to grow steadily. Remember that when starting your business, funding comes at the end; you need to first have all your ducks in a row. Only then do you open yourself up to luck, where preparation meets opportunity. And with the promise of a new dawn of growing opportunity, now is the time to be prepared.

*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 MEMORIUM

# Iron Woman: NONTSIKELELO ALBERTINA SISULU

## # BeTheLegacy

■ By Vusumzi Mba

**M**AMA Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu, like her first name was indeed a blessing to the nation. Being a blessing is part of her legacy. She was a pillar of strength to her husband who was one of the Rivonia trialists. Her children, despite victimisation of their parents by the apartheid regime, became active in politics because she was able to raise them to oppose injustice no matter what.

Like her husband, she never sought to be a populist although she had serious political muscle and history. Amongst great women of South Africa, she is always counted. Among her political credentials and roles, we can count her presence as the only woman during the launch of the African National Congress Youth League; her participation in the anti-pass march of 1956 and being the first co-president of the United Democratic Front.

In her roles she always agitated for education. Her passion for education in public was translated to her personal life. She made certain that her children get education. She is part of those that made a vow to educate the children even when it was hard. Some of her people said in Xhosa 'Singafundanga nje siza kuba fundisa rhoqo abethu abantwana'. They did not leave all the responsibility of teaching their children to teachers. Current

parents should learn that education of their children requires their participation. Take her children for example, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Max Sisulu who are educated.

Like her husband, she commanded respect among her comrades and the general public. Commanding respect in the presence of great political figures is not easy, but she managed to get it. Her dignified and principled demeanour and respect that she accorded others made a huge difference. She did not coerce anyone; no force was used. It must be a lesson learnt by today's youth that respect and honour are not fought for but earned as Mama Sisulu earned them. She was able to fuse her nursing knowledge with political activism. She decided to make her home a class-

room where she offered alternative education in opposition to the inferior Bantu Education. Her friends and comrades benefited from her nursing skills; she did not make them pay for her medical intervention. She knew and understood that her nursing was a service to the nation.

Her children were also beneficiaries of her goodwill. She was indeed a natural nurse. She did not get only concerned with individuals' health. She was worried about the political health of the nation that was sick with apartheid. Her role was not limited to worrying. She acted by opposing the system and fighting against it. In her fight with the system, she was driven by deep love for the people. Hence she fought for equality instead of superiority of one group over another.





## IN MEMORIAM

The young generation, like Mama Sisulu, should fuse its education with activism in the educational space. However, activism must not be always contradictory. It should be also complementary as her approach was adapted to the democratic dispensation which is markedly different from that of the apartheid regime. Mama did not abandon her views. She just adapted her approach and took cognisance of her role as an MP in the first democratic parliament. We learn from her that flexibility is not necessarily struggle abandonment, but realisation that tactics should be relevant to the environment.

It is very well to make noise about racialism, but patriarchy was also her focus as she made men realise that women have a role in professions and the then apartheid resistance movement. The ANC that she was a member of during her years was once a sexist organisation; people like Mama Sisulu changed it to a 'genderless organisation'. She did not back down from challenges; she continued fighting with principle in difficult conditions. Her opposition was never limited to internal politics. Her contribution was lateral, it also went outside. The apartheid regime was in a perpetual fight with her since Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) days and when she was one of the leaders in the UDF. Even people like Rholihlahla Mandela and Mvuyelwa Govan Mbeki put her on the high pedestal of great women such as Lilian Ngoyi and Charlotte Manye-Maxeke.

She believed in collectivism. That is the reason she collaborated with like-minded people in her fight against apartheid. The current generation should learn that unnecessary competition can harm their plans; there is value in cooperation with others.

*"Women are the people who are going to relieve us from all this depression. The rent boycott that is happening in*



**Mama Albertina Sisulu with Tata Walter Sisulu**

*Soweto now [in the 1980s] is alive because of the women. It is the women who are on the street committees educating the people to stand up and protect each other," said Ma Albertina Sisulu.*

Ma Sisulu believed in the power of women at a time when women were ignored. At a time when the views and capabilities of women were neglected, she believed in the mobilization of women and was fearless in her approach. Ma Sisulu's words are relevant in the images we have seen today and in the past in South Africa, where women were central to the protests which ensued to advance the struggles faced in different spaces. These include the Fees Must Fall campaign in 2016, addressing the racism in girls' high schools and the #SAShutdown, to mention a few. Women in South Africa should be occupying a meaningful space in South Africa because of their capacity.

Celebrating Mama Sisulu is not enough. Her actions, principles and what she represented should walk with us and fit our reality according to the experiences we know. She once wrote: "We are each required to walk

*our own road and then stop, assess what we have learnt, and share it with others. It is only in this way that the next generation can learn from those who have walked before them. We can do no more than tell our story. Then it is up to them to make of it what they will."*

We are the only ones that can shape our legacy and our legacy will determine the perspective of future generations because they will use it to guide their own trajectory. History will judge our legacy harshly if we do not begin using the lessons from the past to guide our present. We need to use Ma Sisulu's legacy to shape our current context in the best way we know how.

Our society should learn from Mama Sisulu. To change patriarchal relations there ought to be cooperation as she worked with other women to achieve equality, especially in the political and education space. **'BE THE LEGACY'** like her as a modern patriarchy challenger.

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# LIONEL RUSTY BERNSTEIN

## *A leading strategic thinker*

■ By Saul Pelle

*"I speak here of comrades, like Rusty, who stand out today and will, for all time, as legendary figures whose readiness to make all the necessary sacrifices brought us the freedom the millions in our country, in Africa, and in the world, continue to celebrate."* Foreword: Thabo Mbeki – MEMORY AGAINST FORGETTING

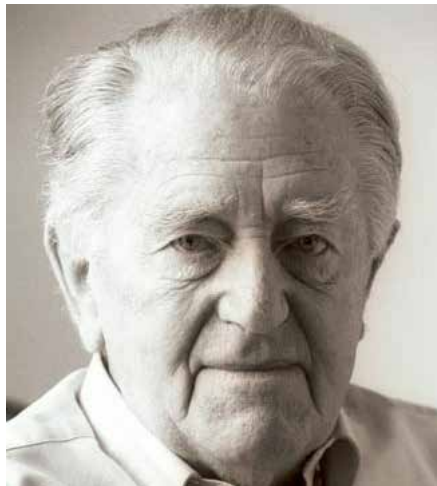
**D**ELIVERING the January 8th Statement of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress (ANC), on the occasion of 108th Anniversary of the ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa exhorted ANC members to unite society in order to transform it; and to transform society in order to unite it. He said that in identifying and executing the tasks necessary to confront the challenges of unity and transformation, we must know our past and understand our present and to be able to chart a better future for the people of South Africa. "... We must honour and pay tribute to those whose struggles and sacrifices brought us freedom and democracy. We must draw guidance and inspiration from their examples. As we reflect on significant milestones in the history of the ANC, the broad liberation movement and the country, we must continue to learn and implement the lessons they teach us."

He added that this year we would be celebrating the centenary years of several leaders of our nations. Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein's name was mentioned as one of those leaders who deserved to be celebrated.

We honour Rusty Bernstein, a member of the Communist Party of South Africa and the Congress of Democrats and a defendant in both the Treason Trial and the Rivonia Trial. We pay tribute to a comrade who worked tirelessly throughout his life for democracy and freedom.

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein was born on 3 March 1920 in Durban into a middle class family. Orphaned by the time he was 12, he was raised by relatives and boarded at the Hilton College in Pietermaritzburg through matriculation in 1936. He then studied architecture at the University of Witwatersrand from 1937 to 1941.

Cde Rusty began to take an interest in politics in



*Comrade Rusty Bernstein*

high school and after graduating, he joined several leftist groups, including the Labour League of Youth (LLY), a wing of the white Labour Party, where he met and courted Hilda Watts, a prominent activist and talented public speaker. Together, they formed a formidable political partnership.

They soon abandoned the all-white LLY and joined the Communist Party of South Africa, the fore runner of the South African Communist Party instead. They were both elected to the party's Johannesburg District Committee in 1941, and were married the same year.

Cde Rusty was a political activist almost throughout his life even outside formal party lines. He served as a gunner in the South African Artillery in the Italian Campaign in the Second World War. A committed anti-apartheid activist and one of the leaders of the Communist Party of South Africa, he gave up a comfortable and lucrative architectural practice and a convenient lifestyle to fight

apartheid.

After his demobilisation in 1946, during the African Miners' Strike, Cde Rusty produced a strike bulletin and both he and Cde Hilda, were later charged by the regime for aiding the strike, but were given suspended sentences.

With the coming into power of the racist National Party and adoption of apartheid as state policy in 1948, Cde Rusty's resolve to fight for freedom and equality in South Africa intensified. By 1953, both he and Cde Hilda were subjected to various bans and restrictions, including being barred from joining non-political bodies such as parent teacher associations.

In 1954, together with his comrades including Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu, he played a major role in organising the Congress of the People, which subsequently adopted the Freedom Charter in Kliptown in 1955. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Congress of Democrats.

In 1956, together with 155 others (including Chief Albert Luthuli and Mandela), Cde Rusty was arrested and charged with treason during the 1956 Treason Trial. Together with his co-accused, he was acquitted after four years, but this lasted only for a while, as he and his wife were again arrested under the emergency regulations in 1960 after the Sharpeville Massacre.

On their release, they were banned and subjected to restrictions, including being forbidden to meet with other people and this was reinforced to house arrest in 1962. Despite the banning of the Communist Party in 1950, Cde Rusty served it diligently together with the ANC as an underground operative after its reconstitution in 1953.

*continues on page 18*



## Q&amp;A

■ By Amanda Tshemese

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

## Onele Sakoyisa Ludidi

*Comrade Onele Ludidi*

### 1. Please tell us briefly about yourself and where you've been in this challenging life.

I am Onele Sakoyisa Ludidi from the Amadzana clan. I was born in the small town of Dutywa in the Eastern Cape, where former President Thabo Mbeki also hails from. I am a single mother of a 10 year old daughter Sosulwe. I am currently a Deputy Director for Strategic Projects and Advisory Unit in the Private Office of President of South Africa. I am responsible for planning, organising, managing high level meetings and special projects of the President.

I have served both the former Deputy President Kgalema Montlante

and former President Jacob Zuma. With 10 years of experience in the public sector, I have served in different ministries. I have displayed far-reaching expertise in engaging with various stakeholders from the national, provincial and local government spheres. I am also credited with delivering flawless urban campaign strategies, coordination and managing a team of young innovators.

I did the National Diploma in Operations Management at the then Wits Technikon which was followed by the Bachelor's Degree in Project Management through the renowned Cranefield Institute of Project Management.

### 2. As young as you are, we've seen your political activism in the ANC and ANC Youth League, what's driving you and what motivated you to join the ANC?

I joined the ANCYL because of the injustices of black people I witnessed growing up in my home town in the Eastern Cape, during my high school days in East London and in Johannesburg during my varsity days. My late grandmother, Saise who was an ANC activist also played a very critical role in motivating me to join the ANCYL.

### 3. Comrade Onele, when did you discover that you had a breast

### cancer and how did it affect you when you discovered?

My experience was rather unique. In December 2016, I felt a lump on my left breast and this lump kept on growing until I was bold and courageous to take a hospital trip to get tested in February 2017. Four days later, the results confirmed that the lump was malignant and it was Stage 2 and oestrogen positive. It was adrenalin, intense and scary experience. This combination of emotional whirlwind triggered an intermittent out of body experiences that led to the discovery of new strength, new faith and new posture. A journey of stubborn faith, resilience and a positive mindset. Breast Cancer gave me a purpose and a clear intent that has never left me. Not even four surgeries, seven months of chemotherapy and six weeks of radiation treatment could deter my road to recovery. I am deeply convicted by this saying that every test hides a blessing, because crisis is an opportunity to overcome.

### 4. As a young woman living with breast cancer, is it possible that you can still have kids in the future?

I wouldn't use the words, "I'm living with breast cancer" because I have overcome it. Breast Cancer is totally beatable if you have the right mindset, knowledge and understanding that it's a lifestyle disease. What saved my life that was early detection and I treated it with an in-

tegrated approach of a combination of alternative treatment and conventional medicine. My Oncologist tells me that I will not be able to bear children because the breast cancer is oestrogen positive. But I know many other women who have given birth post cancer treatment. Cancer is a billion dollar industry which is a topic for another day.

**5. Most people think if you have breast cancer you are immediately going to die. But here you are, beautiful, healthy and strong. What's your secret?**

Most people die because they are not provided with adequate knowledge. Two months before the start of the chemotherapy treatment, through my former colleague Zandile, God led me to a Wellness Centre at the border of Pretoria and Haartebees. I checked myself in for a 10 days programme. I didn't know what lay ahead but the Wellness Centre changed my life forever. The centre focused on two aspects of healing which is the physical detoxing and emotional detoxing programme and the NEWSTART Programme.

I've been on a 100 percent plant based diet for four years now. Four years ago I also stopped drinking alcohol because of the sugar levels in the alcohol. Sugar and cancerous cells are best buddies. No animal products such as eggs, milk and cheese (all kinds including fish). I no longer use the microwave because as it carries massive levels of radiation. I exercise four times on a good week. I drink 3 liters of PH 8 water daily on a good day. I do a colon cleanse once in two months. I use detoxifying charcoal organic toothpaste (no fluoride), organic body lotion (no chemicals), organic roll-on (aluminium free). I haven't had flu since I started the plant based diet. I know how to cure the symptoms of flu from just having a cold and hot

shower technique and many other techniques that requires zero medication. Very interesting stuff I tell you.

**6. How often do you go for a check-up a year and how is it important?**

I'm on a Zoladex treatment which is injected on the stomach four times a year and that's when I do a check-up. The Bible says there's order in the house of the Lord so I do follow all protocols in doing check-ups.

**7. If you were not in a political environment what would you be doing for living?**

I would be owning and managing

state of the art Wellness Centre the world has ever seen in the African continent and save lives of many women in South Africa and around the world. I would own land to farm organic fruits and vegetables. I would own a 100 percent plant based and vegan chain restaurants in South Africa. I would develop a 100 percent plant based beauty range products. Lastly, I would travel the globe teaching humanity on the dangers of some foods on our supermarket shelves. Good food is medicine.

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

**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding. (Proverbs 4:7)**

*continued from page 16*

## LIONEL RUSTY BERNSTEIN - A LEADING STRATEGIC THINKER

He contributed articles to a number of political journals and was responsible for much of the articles published by the liberation movement. During this time, he also wrote extensively for many journals, including Liberation, Guardian, the African Communist and Fighting Talk and continued to write under pseudonyms even after being banned.

On 11 July 1963, Cde Rusty was arrested with other leaders at Lilliesleaf Farm, in Rivonia, the headquarters of the high command of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the liberation army of the ANC, then newly established with Mandela as Command-in-Chief.

This was after Cde Rusty had served 90 days of detention. While most of his co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment following the notorious Rivonia Treason Trial, he was released, rearrested and he eventually skipped the country together with his wife to England while he was still on bail.

He continued to work for the anti-apartheid movement and wrote many articles during this period. Until 1994, when the first free elections took place, he was still working towards the liberation

of South Africa, never renouncing his principles or beliefs. He returned to the country in 1994 for four months for the first post-apartheid elections and worked in the ANC press office during this time, responsible for ensuring mass white participation in the first non-racial elections in South Africa.

Cde Rusty was as independent-minded as he was intolerant of oppression. During his term at Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania, he set up political courses and taught history, encouraging critical thinking.

In 1998, Cdes Rusty and Hilda were awarded honorary degrees by the then University of Natal for their role in helping to bring democracy to South Africa. This followed the publication of Cde Rusty's acclaimed personal account of the unwritten history of South African politics between 1938 and 1964 titled: **'Memory against forgetting'**. He died in June 2002 at the age of 82.

Cde Rusty was posthumously conferred with the Order of Luthuli (Gold), **"for his political activism, abandoning privilege and dedicating his adult life to the struggle for liberation, democracy, human rights and peace, and for striving to build a better Africa and a better world through the anti-apartheid crusade."**



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

24–30 October 2020

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

### 24 October 1985 'Purple rain' used on Women Protestors in Cape Town



Apartheid police in Adderley Street, Cape Town used their new water cannons to suppress a Cape protest that had, for the third time, spread to White areas. Protests started when groups of women wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Troops Out" marched to the city centre to demand that the South African Defence Force, that was permanently stationed in townships because of the state of emergency, pull out of the townships. The police ordered the people to disperse, but the crowds refused. The police decided to use water cannons with purpled dyed water to force the crowd to disperse. It was called 'Purple Rain' after the title of the first album of songwriter Prince.

### 25 October 1900 Nigerian activist and campaigner, Funmilayo Ransome Kuti is born



Funmilayo Ransome Kuti was born Francis Abigail Olufunmilayo Thomas on 25 October 1900 in Abeokuta, Nigeria. She was one of the first girls educated in her community, and went on to become a teacher. She was a founder of educational organisations such as the Nigerian Union of Teachers, Nigerian Union of Students, West African Students' Union, and Nigerian Youth Movement, tirelessly fighting for education for all, but especially for women. Kuti founded a women's organization, the Abeokuta Women's Union with over 20 000 active members at the time; an organization globally recognized as "*one of the most important women's movements of the twentieth century.*" The organisation was thrust into the public eye when it organised a rally of women against price controls, which were hurting the female merchants of the Abeokuta markets. This was just the first of many campaigns for the benefit of women, including their right to vote and to education. Kuti had three sons Fela Anikulapo Kuti, a musician, Beko Ransome-Kuti, a doctor, and Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti. Following their mother's example, all her sons became activists. In 1978, Funmilayo Kuti was thrown out of a second floor window by military men that had invaded her son, Fela's compound. She went into a coma and died two months later. The struggle for women's rights in Nigeria is still far from over. Nigeria has amongst the lowest representation of women in the political sphere in Africa, declining from 5% to 4% in the last elections. (<https://en.unesco.org/womenin africa/funmilayo-ransome-kuti/biography>).

### 26 October 1948 Artist George Msimang is born

George Msimang was born in Lamontville Township near Durban and



spent the rest of his life working and living there. Msimang's interest in art began at school although art was not offered as a subject. He studied at the Evangelical Lutheran Art and Craft Centre, Rorke's Drift and was offered a study grant by the Italian government. He went to Rome on two occasions, once to the Accademia di Belle Arti where he spent a period from 1971 to 1975 and another year in 1986 at the Accademia di Belle Arte, Perugia. With his evocative images of township scenes, Msimang captured urban township life in all its humour and valour. Anthea Martin of the African Art Centre hailed Msimang's 'modern-day depiction of everyday events, often containing a moral message'. In the years before his death in 2004, Msimang was prolific, sometimes staging as many as three solo exhibitions a year. Msimang's work challenged the negative social issues caused by the imbalances in the system. Other themes in his body of work included music, township landscapes and modes of transportation and movement. (Gabi Ngcobo, [http://revisions.co.za/biographies/george-msimang/#.Xa\\_mZi2Q1QI](http://revisions.co.za/biographies/george-msimang/#.Xa_mZi2Q1QI))

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 26 October 1983

#### **Register of Cultural Boycott breakers published by UN**

The UN and the Organisation of African Unity Special Committee against Apartheid published the first Register of Entertainers, Actors and others who had performed in South Africa, breaking the Cultural Boycott.

### 27 October 1808

#### **Anti-slavery march to Cape Town**

One of the first recorded mass actions against slavery and oppression in the Cape Colony, influenced by stories about uprisings in America, Ireland and the Caribbean, as well as the recent abolition of the slave trade on the high seas started on this day. News of these events inspired the mixed band of conspirators: slaves Louis of Mauritius, Jephtha of Batavia, Abraham and Adonis, only known by their first names, and two Irishmen, James Hooper and Michael Kelly; later joined by another Indian slave and two Khoi men. Their plan was to march from the rural districts gathering slaves on the way and then to enter Cape Town, seize the Amsterdam Battery, turn the guns on the Castle and then negotiate a peace which would involve

establishing a free state and freedom for all slaves. On the evening of 27 October 1808, on a farm just north of Malmesbury, Louis arrived on horseback dressed as a visiting Spanish sea captain. Hooper and Kelly rode up by his side, disguised as British officers. They managed to convince the absentee farmer's wife to hand over all their slaves into the hands of the 'military' party. The next morning the party proceeded from farm to farm, persuading slaves and Khoi servants to join them. Even though all appeared to be going according to plan, a march of some 300 mutinous slaves and servants is a difficult secret to keep. News soon reached the Governor of the Cape, who ordered Infantry and Cavalry to lie in wait for the insurrectionists at Salt River just outside the city, who rounded up and captured 326 of the marchers. Of these, 47 were put on trial, including the leadership. Nine were found guilty of treason and sentenced to be hanged, including Louis of Mauritius and James Hooper. Another 11 were sentenced to death as well, for 'active participation'. Many others were given lesser sentences including imprisonment on Robben Island.

### 27 October 1917

#### **ANC President Oliver Tambo born**



On 27 October 1917, Oliver Tambo was born at Bizana, Eastern Cape. During the 1940s, he enrolled at the University of Fort Hare where he became active in politics. Tambo was among those who led the student boycott at Fort Hare, calling for the formation of a democratically elected Student's Representative Council (SRC). Subsequently, he was deregistered from the institution and could not complete his Bachelor of Science honours degree. The son of Nzimeni and Julia, Tambo dedicated his entire life to the ANC and the struggle for liberation. It was Tambo who played a tremendous role in shaping Thabo Mbeki's political career and played a fatherly role in exile. During the for-

"Oliver lived not because he could breathe. He lived not because blood flowed through his veins...  
Oliver lived because he had surrendered his very being to the people.  
He lived because his very being embodied love, an idea, a hope, an aspiration, a vision."

- Nelson Mandela



**Oliver Reginald Tambo**  
27 October 1917 - 24 April 1993







Nelson Mandela and OR Tambo

mation of the ANC Youth League in 1944, Tambo became the first Secretary General. He became the acting President of the ANC after the death of ANC president Chief Albert Luthuli in 1967, and was elected President in 1969 after the Morogoro Conference. He led the ANC through the difficult years of exile, keeping the movement together, united around four pillars of mass struggle, armed struggle, underground activities and international isolation of the regime. In the early hours of 23 April 1993, Tambo suffered a massive and fatal stroke. He was honoured with a state funeral.

### 27 October 1990 **Orlando Rally hails re-establishment of ANC Youth League**

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) was re-established at Orlando stadium in Soweto after an absence of thirty years from the political arena in South Africa. The Youth League was effected through the amalgamation of two youth structures, the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) and the ANC Youth Section, with the participation of student organisations. The Provisional National Youth Committee (PNYC) was set up to spearhead the rebuild-

ing process of the Youth League nationwide. The PNYC launched ANC Youth League branches and regions across the continent, and defined in the draft Constitution the 'twin tasks' of the Youth League: to champion the interests of youth in society and to mobilise young people behind the ANC. The PNYC also developed the discussion document on the "*Autonomy of the ANC Youth League*", still guiding the relationship between the ANC and the Youth League today. The Youth League established contacts with various youth and student organisations locally and abroad, embarked

**African National Congress  
Youth League**



**Launching Rally**

**Venue:** Orlando Stadium,  
Soweto

**Date:** 27 October 1990

**Time:** 10 am

**Speakers:** Chris Hani  
Joe Slovo  
Walter Sisulu  
Adelaide Tambo  
Peter Mokaba

*Cultural Programme*

**Fight Produce Learn!**

on recruitment drives in townships, high schools and tertiary institutions, and set up different departments and programmes to engage different sectors of the youth. The rebuilding of the Youth League was seen as a rebuilding of the African National Congress (ANC) itself.

### 29 October 1905

#### **Nama Chief Hendrik Witbooi dies**

Hendrik Witbooi was born into a prominent Nama family in 1830. Witbooi's grandfather and father were both chiefs of the Nama group, a title that Hendrik inherited upon the death of his father. He was educated at a Lutheran Mission and was fluent in a number of European languages, as well as his own Nama. Witbooi led the Nama group to the north of the country, which became known as South West Africa (now Namibia) with the German colonization of 1885. A number of rebellions were staged against German rule, one of which resulted in the Herero Genocide of 1904. Witbooi's Namas initially served as soldiers under the Germans for three years during the Herero Revolt, but eventually rebelled. On 29 October 1905, Hendrik Witbooi died in a skirmish with the Germans near Keetmanshoop. The rest of the Witbooi Namas surrendered in 1908. *(A different source gives 28 October 1905 as the date of death.)*

### 29 October 1983

#### **Ongoye university massacre**

Five people were killed and many others injured at the University of Zululand (Ongoye) after the outbreak of political violence at the institution on 29 October 1983. Five of those killed were students who were supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF). The violence between an estimated 500 Inkatha Freedom Party supporters and a group of UDF aligned students highlighted the rising political tensions in the province.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### INTERNATIONAL DAYS

24–30 October 2020

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

#### 24 October

##### United Nations Day



United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force, and celebrates everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945.

In 2020, the UN marks 75 years since the entry into force of its Charter. The day will be celebrated this year under the theme: **Reimagine, Rebalance, Restart: Recovering together for our Shared Humanity**, an acknowledgement of the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic on our world, and the fault lines it exposed.

#### 24 October

##### World Development Information Day



World Development Information Day is used to distribute information on the state of development of the world, on all fronts and on international cooperation. The day also focuses on the role of journalism, TV, radio, newspapers, the Internet, and all other major forms of media used throughout the world since that is the means of getting the "information" out about development. In recent years, there has also been a big focus on information technology and how it is aiding in spreading the word about development and in development itself.

#### 27 October

##### Day for Audiovisual Heritage

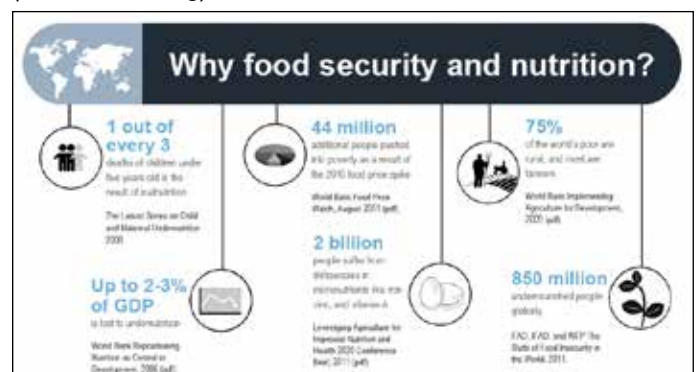
The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images. The World Day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents. Audiovisual archives tell stories

about people's lives and cultures from all over the world. They represent a priceless heritage of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge, reflecting the cultural, social and linguistic diversity of our communities and world. This 2020 theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is **"Your Window to the World"**. Audiovisual materials as documentary heritage objects provide a window to the world. We can watch and participate in events we cannot attend, we hear voices from the past who can no longer speak, and we craft stories that inform and entertain. Audiovisual content plays an increasingly vital role in our lives as we seek to understand the world and engage with our fellow beings. (<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldaudiovisualday>).

#### 30 October

##### Africa Food Security and Nutrition Day

The African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in 2010 designated 30 October as the first of the Africa Day or Food and Nutrition Security in Africa. The AU resolution also set the target to eliminate hunger on the continent by 2025, a goal extended to 2030 as part of the global Sustainable Development Goals. A number of strategies have since been put in place towards the achievement of this goal, including the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), with its target of increasing public expenditure on agriculture to 10% and 6% annual growth in agriculture GDP (Report by the Food and Agricultural Organisation in 2018). At the same time, the importance of addressing food security and nutrition was brought once again into sharp relief with the AU Cost of Hunger in Africa report of the same year, which shows the impact of hunger on children: with over 1 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and 38% with stunted growth as a result of malnutrition; hence the call for more countries to introduce school feeding schemes in all schools. ([www.nedad.org](http://www.nedad.org))



# Floods, Pestilence and Droughts

## Review of the *African Union Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa* (African Union, 2020)

**J**UST DURING October this year (and it's not over yet), the website floodlist.com listed reports of floods of the River Niger in Benin with over 7000 people displaced; 11 flood fatalities and many missing in Kivu in the DRC; traffic chaos in Ghanaian capital of Accra following flash floods; in Uganda rising water levels in Lake Albert and Lake Kyoga have led to hardships for surrounding communities; in Dares Salaam, Tanzania 12 people were killed in flashfloods; flooding of the Oti river in northern Togo led to thousands displaced; in West Pokot County in Kenya, heavy rains caused rock landslides destroying many homes, as at around the same time, rising water levels of Lake Victoria and Lake Turkana displaced thousands of people. And these are just floods. Southern Africa, especially Malawi faces a drought, Africa's highest mountain, the famous Mt Kilimanjaro was burning this month; and there has been a resurgence of the locust pests in Sudan, Kenya and moving south.

Climate change greatly exacerbates these natural disasters, and it is for this reason that the African Union adopted the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** in 2015, to monitor and build resilience to these types of events. It also formed the African Risk Capacity agency as a collective insurance effort for African countries against disasters.

The **Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa**, launched by AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, is the first report required by the Sendai Framework. The report paints a worrying picture: "Over the past 20 years, Africa became the only continent where disasters have increased exponentially. Although the mortality associated with these disasters has reduced, the economic losses and social impacts on African citizens have increased. This is because



*Africa is highly vulnerable to multi-hazards. Droughts, floods, cyclone, landslides and epidemics have become frequent and intense. Pests and diseases are also on the rise."*

In addition to this continent-wide report, the AU Commission is also working with Regional Economic Communities to strengthen reporting at that level and building the scientific capacity in the continent to research and provide early warning of disasters.

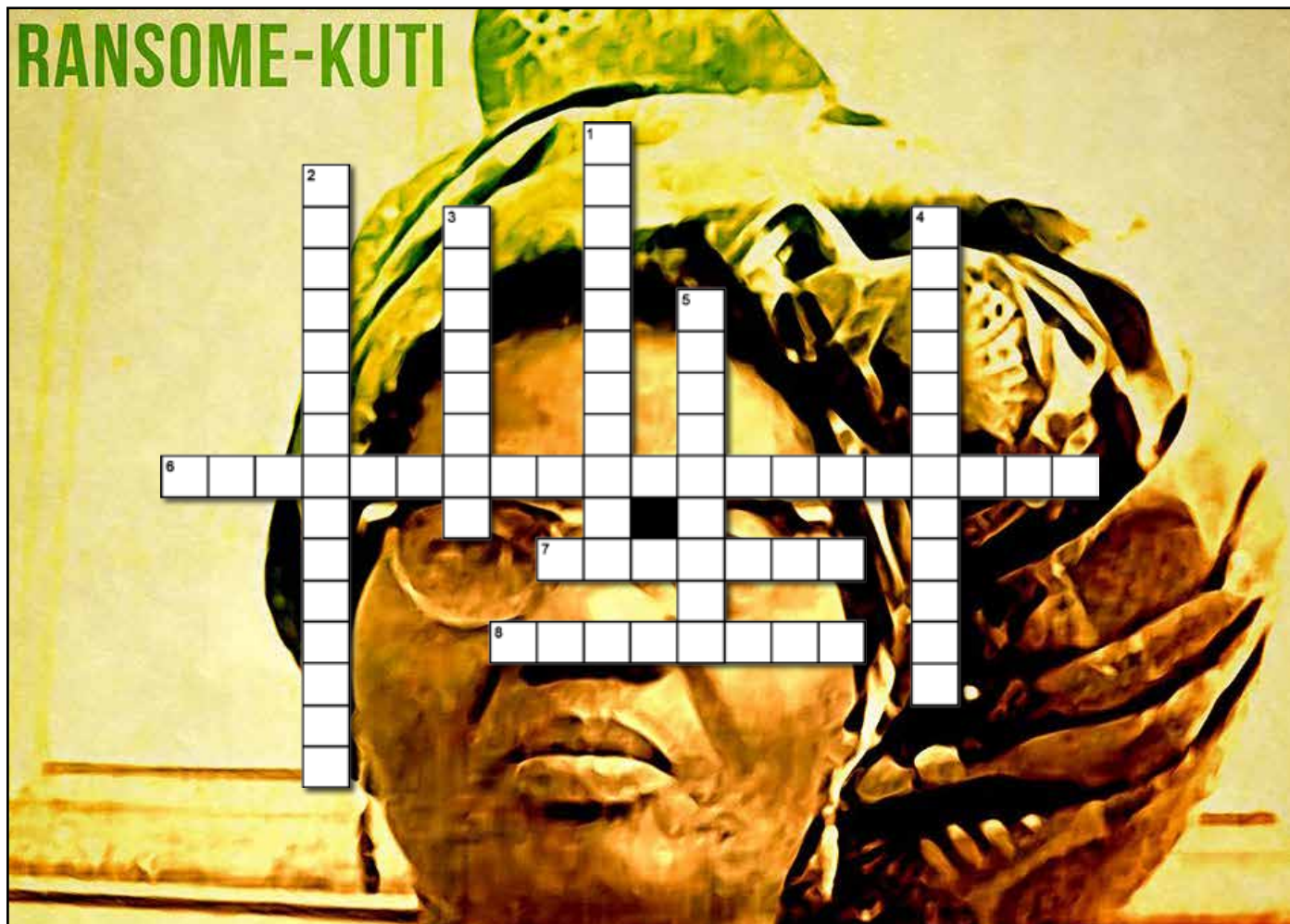
The report tracks progress with implementation of the Sendai Framework, focusing on the mortality, economic and other impacts of disasters (human and natural), and whether we are seeing progress in African countries' governance, capacity, strategies and investment in disaster risk reduction.

Thus, although the number of mortalities due to disasters is on the decline, the social and economic costs are rising. We should all take note.

### Source:

<https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200805/launch-africa-biennial-report-drr>



**X-WORD****Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti (1900-1978)****ACROSS**

6. One of the most important 20th century women movements founded by Mme Funmilayo.
7. She was a ... and founder and leader of the Nigerian Union of ...s
8. After Nigerian independence in 1960, the constitution introduce adult ... for both men and women.

**DOWN**

1. Fumni was a tireless fighter for women's ... in Nigeria.
2. Her campaigning for rights of market women earned her the name.
3. Musician son of Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti.
4. Played an active role in the Nigerian ... constitutional negotiations of 1946
5. Ransome-Kuti was the first woman in Abeokuta to ...

**WORD BANK**

Abeokuta Women's Union  
independence  
suffrage

Teacher  
Lioness of Lisabi  
Fela Kuti

right to vote  
drive a car

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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