



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



IT IS UP TO US ALL TO **BRING ABOUT** **THE CHANGE** WE SORELY NEED

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

IT IS nearly three decades since the United Nations first initiated the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

It runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Despite the groundswell of public support for this campaign and many others like it, we are still unfortunately a long way from realising a world free of sexism, discrimination and violence against women and girls.

Despite our best efforts as the international community, as national governments and as civil society, gender-based violence

remains a feature of the lives of millions of women and girls around the world.

The reality is that legislative and policy measures instituted by governments cannot alone rid us of this problem.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign affirms the need for all sectors of society to play their

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part in the fight against gender-based violence.

It is up to us all, as individuals and communities, to bring about the change we so sorely need.

It is about driving fundamental change in societal attitudes that allow sexism, chauvinism and patriarchy to thrive.

As we gear up for this year's campaign, we acknowledge the invaluable work being done by those outside government to combat gender-based violence.

I speak here of the volunteers at shelters, at police station victim support offices and rape crisis centres, and who staff victim-support hotlines.

We thank the housemothers and managers in our care centres for children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups who have been affected by gender-based violence.

We are grateful for the dedication of our social workers, both in government and in grassroots organisations, who provide critical psycho-social services to survivors and their families.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign affirms the need for all sectors of society to play their part in the fight against GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.



We acknowledge the counselors and sponsors who are a life-line both for survivors and those perpetrators of gender-based violence whose lives have been ravaged by alcoholism and substance abuse.

I commend the professionals who work with perpetrators; running workshops and programmes and supporting efforts towards their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Above all, we salute the neighbour who opens her home to a vulnerable mother and her children; the co-worker who accom-

panies a survivor of violence to the hospital, police station or a shelter; and the friend who does not stand by and watch a woman or a child being abused but intervenes.

In paying tribute to the health workers, police men and women, prosecutors and judges on the frontline, we should not forget those whose work is not publicised, but is no less important or impactful.

Women form the majority of those engaged in care work and it is in the main unpaid. Acknowledging its important contribution not just to the economy but to society, is key to advancing gender equality.

During the lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed first-hand the integral role played by the NGOs and community-based sector in providing support to vulnerable women and children.

They worked with government to ensure that the basic needs of women and children in shelters were met, and worked with the Solidarity Fund to ensure there



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was adequate personal protective equipment in shelters where they were needed.

We know all too well that while it is government that adopts policy, it is our NGOs and community workers who are closest to where our people are. They are a barometer of implementation on the ground.

This country's women and children, and indeed all the people of South Africa will forever remain grateful for the work of our robust, activist and principled civil society organisations and workers.

Beyond its devastating effects on the health, safety and well-being of women and girls, this insidious problem has significant social, political and economic impacts.

According to a 2017 study, the economic cost of gender-based violence in South Africa is between R28 billion and R42.4 billion a year. This includes the social services, shelter and health care needed to respond effectively to gender-based

violence.

Individuals and families bear the greatest proportion of costs – from reduced income to replacement of broken property, to transportation to seek care or attend trial. Furthermore, the productivity of women in abusive relationships is also negatively affected.

There is also the so-called sec-

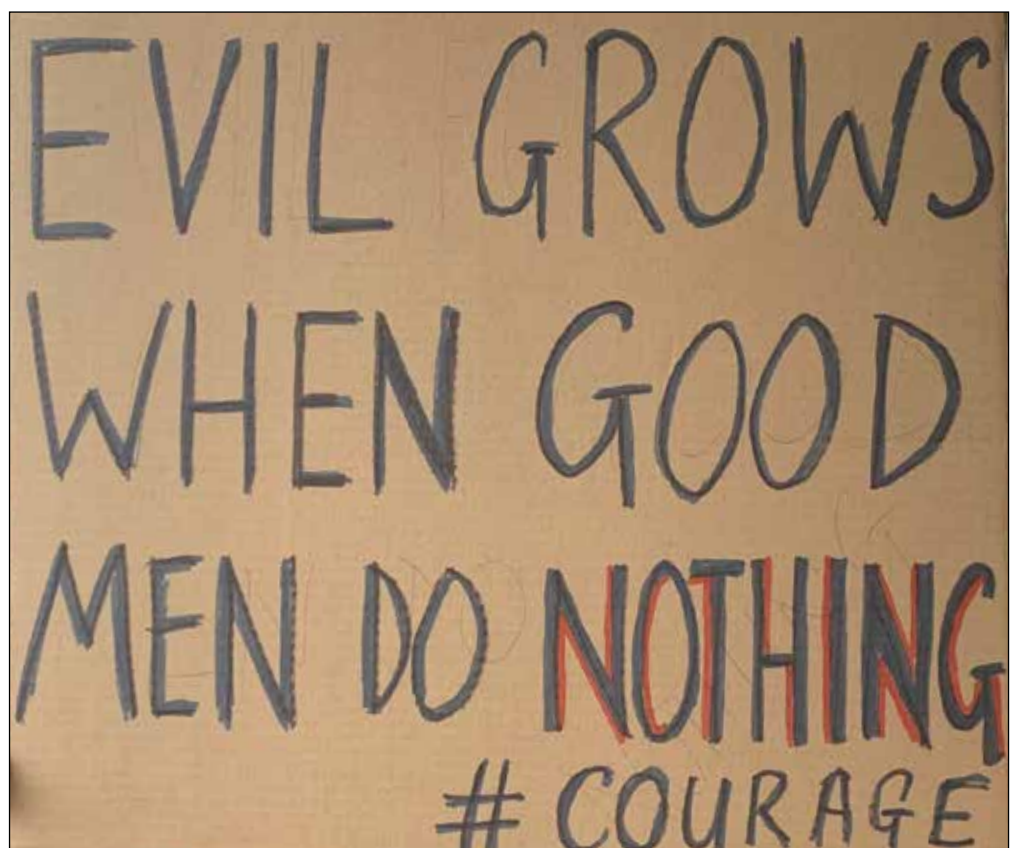
ond-generation impact, such as the cost of services for children and others who are affected.

It is clear then that not only is eradicating gender-based violence a moral and human rights imperative, it is also key to us realising our developmental potential as a country.

As we begin the 16 Days of Activism campaign, let us remember that we all share a common goal: to turn the tide on this scourge.

Let us continue in the **spirit of mutual respect and partnership** to make this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign one that is **impactful and that makes a difference**.

By the time the campaign concludes on International Human Rights Day, let us be all the **closer to achieving a society in which the rights of women and girls are upheld and protected**.



GBV: Play your part against the second pandemic

Dear Mr President

“VIOLENCE against women and girls is a global pandemic, affecting millions. As many as 1 in 3 women is the victim of gender-based violence at some point in her life, and that rate is even higher for women of colour, lesbian and bisexual women, transgender individuals, and other members of vulnerable or indigent communities.” This was a post by the President-elect of the United States of America, Joe Biden on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November this year. The date signals the beginning of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children and takes place annually until December 10. This is a United Nations campaign aimed at highlighting the scourge which has blighted our planet by putting the lives of more than half of the world’s population in jeopardy.

In our country, the epidemic proportions of gender-based violence are well-documented and have brought shame and opprobrium to our society even as we grapple with many other urgent matters. The flagrant abuse of women continues unabated even as the government institutes measures and outreach programmes to highlight this pandemic of violence and abuse.

Mr President, it is ironic that women abuse has reached epidemic



Comrade Pule Mabe

proportions, even after the country emerged from centuries of racial subjugation and took the path towards the healing of society and protection of the human rights of women and children.

Even at the height of apartheid and racial supremacy, cases of femicide were few and far between.

The fight against GBV requires the same concerted effort and unyielding social compact that we meted against the coronavirus pandemic.

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Our constitution, adopted in 1996, restored the rights of all individuals to a life free of violence, and that living document is unambiguous in according the right of human dignity to everyone.

However, there is nothing dignified about the violation of the bodies of women and children. Hardly a day goes by without headlines screaming about yet another murder, rape or molestation of another woman in our country. The courts and the law enforcement agencies are overwhelmed by the sheer scale of reported cases.

For this year’s campaign, the government has tweaked its strategies to mitigate the scourge of abuse. The government, with civil society and the private sector, will host a series of community and sector dialogues and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with GBV. The campaign urges everyone to be an activist against GBV in our homes, communities, work and public spaces. And indeed Mr President, our homes are where it all starts and the police are hamstrung where a matter is not reported until it is too late for the victim.

When the country was still under hard lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19, and it became clear that many women were locked up with their abusers, the police ministry released a list of 30 hotspots identified as needing special attention and targeted interventions on GBV.



The list was compiled based on the number of cases reported to the South African Police Service during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Police Minister, Bheki Cele also released shocking figures which showed that only 130 of the 4 058 people arrested for alleged GBV since the lockdown in March have reached conviction.

In other words, this means that 97% of alleged perpetrators get away with murder, literally.

While gender-based violence knows no colour or social status, the bulk of the hotspots are in the townships where most of our people reside. It is not rocket science to deduce that black women bear the brunt violence. This is no doubt as a result of lack of socio-economic opportunities in our unequal society.

Mr President, it is absolutely critical that there is community buy-in in combating gender-based violence. Thus, it makes sense that this year's campaign puts the emphasis on everyone to play their

part by rejecting and reporting abusers.

Act and don't look away! Do not protect abusers, report them! Cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequalities need to be challenged on a daily basis.

The community buy-in would be moribund without the inclusion of community-based non-governmental organisations that are adequately capacitated to deal with this second pandemic of abuse.

These organisations are a step ahead of law enforcement agencies as they have established relations and know the nuances of GBV in their specific communities. We have seen some of these organisations protest outside the courts whenever a suspect has been apprehended, calling for stiffer sentences and no bail for alleged perpetrators. These are important stakeholders in our arsenal to combat abuse and should not be dismissed as props but be sufficiently capacitated.

Police stations must join forces

with these organisations and tap into their knowledge of challenges that exist in their jurisdiction in order to build watertight cases against the perpetrators. The current conviction rates do not inspire confidence and more needs to be done. As the ANC, we applaud instances where some of these monsters have been removed from society, such as the sentencing of Charles Moswathupa to two life terms last month in the Polokwane High Court. Moswathupa, 34 raped and murdered six-year old Boitumelo Matsekoleng and brutally killed three-year old Samson Sithole in 2018. The father of six children pleaded for mercy from the court on account of his positive HIV status, but Judge Ephraim Makgoba threw the book at him and described him as an evil person who is not fit to live in any community.

Indeed Mr President, abusers of all tinge and tone are not fit to live in any community and we should be equally ruthless in dealing with them within the prescripts of the law.

This country has shown a couple of times that it is capable of dealing with its myriad challenges. Our response to the threat of COVID-19 showed what the country is capable of when we all put our heads together. Although our infection rates are climbing again, there is no doubt that the worst of the storm is behind us. The fight against GBV requires the same concerted effort and unyielding social compact that we meted against the coronavirus pandemic.

Let's all play our part!

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

DEVELOPING THE TOURISM SECTOR POST COVID-19

■ By Fish Mahlalela

IN RECENT decades, tourism has come of age and is now firmly established as an important contributor to economic growth and employment and a driver for achieving the global development goals. The tourism sector is one of the larger economic sectors that is significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in the need for enhanced sector support, to help protect this sector during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as aid it during the recovery phase.

As the tourism sector, while traversing an uncharted path, we do so with positivity and firm in the knowledge that we will emerge tourism strong. Our strategy for the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period is therefore anchored around commitments for growth and development.

Coupled with the introduction of the District Development Model (DDM), we believe that we will enhance the competitiveness of tourism localities as we continue to diversify our offerings, with local government as a key role-player in the spatial management of the tourism estate, including work done in communities under traditional leadership.

Through the Enterprise Development and Transformation Pro-



gramme, we are introducing new players into the tourism economy and thus contributing to the competitiveness of tourism destinations. We recognise that technology will drive the provision of government services into the future. The Enterprise Development and Transformation Portal will therefore serve as an online supplier marketplace for SMMEs in order to promote sector transformation and job creation.

Our Working for Tourism Programme continues to support training. Firstly, through on-the-job training within infrastructure projects, and secondly, through

stand-alone training interventions with participants accumulating credits towards a qualification.

We will create 2 500 work opportunities through the Department's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) during this financial year.

Projects for 2020/21 include (1) Tour Guide Capacity Building, (2) Food Safety Quality Assurers, (3) Wine Service Training (Sommelier), and (4) Hospitality and Fast Food Training programmes.

We have unfortunately had to suspend the Youth Chefs Training

PERSPECTIVE

and Coastal Marine Tourism Skills Development Programmes in line with the COVID-19 restrictions and risk assessments.

DEVELOPING OUR DESTINATIONS

From a Destination Development perspective, we continue our path of inclusive growth through investments in community tourism. Some of this year's work will include finalisation of the nodal development concepts for Numbi Gate in Mpumalanga: Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Nandoni Dam in Limpopo: Vhembe District Municipality, Tshathogwe Game Farm in Limpopo, Mtiti Game Farm in Limpopo: Mopani District Municipality, and Mapate Recreational Social Tourism Facility in Limpopo: Vhembe District Municipality.

Through the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa, we are also introducing an approach to prepare establishments for grading. This will enable establishments to receive feedback on areas that require attention prior to full grading application, thereby minimising the numbers of those that do not make it or increasing the uptake, particularly for emerging small enterprises.

We will equally pursue a well-developed system of handling and managing complaints from travellers and consumers, with the aim of ensuring the speedy resolution of such complaints. The Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector has borne the brunt of the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with cancellations of events. This pandemic resulted in the cancellation of Travel Trade Platforms globally such as ITB, IMEX and WTM. We are introducing new players into



Deputy Minister of Tourism Fish Mahlalela engaging with stakeholders

the tourism economy and thus contributing to the competitiveness of tourism destinations, to name a few.

Included in these are our own platforms such as Africa's Travel Indaba and Meetings Africa.

The South African National Conventions Bureau (SANCB) will this year focus on the support of the recovery of business events tourism by targeting future events, which have a bidding process of three- to four-year lead times.

The geographic spread of tourism business events is another way of broadening participation in the sector. For this, South African Tourism (SAT) is developing a framework to capacitate national associations to host business events in Villages, Towns and Small Dorpies (VTSDs) across our nine provinces.

We will also implement the National Tourism Information and Monitoring System (NTIMS) to gather, analyse and provide data to inform our decision making and enable prioritisation of sector ini-

tiatives, geared towards areas with high tourism potential, including townships and rural areas.

KEEPING TOURISTS SAFE

The National Tourism Safety Strategy, finalised late last year, covers three strategic interventions namely (1) proactive measures – focusing on minimising the incidences that affect tourist safety, (2) responsive measures, and (3) an after-care programme to ensure effective support to tourists in distress.

Our collaboration with the South African Police Services resulted in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to identify and address challenges in tourism safety, including (1) identification of tourism hotspots, (2) the analysis and enhancement of crime prevention initiatives as well as (3) creating a platform for joint awareness programmes.

The Tourism Monitors Programme was implemented in parks managed by South African National Parks (SANParks), and gardens managed by the South African

SOUTH AFRICA IS READY TO MINGLE WITH THE WORLD



A bold declaration by the Department of Tourism

National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Although we have 302 participants at SANParks, this programme has been temporarily suspended from 1 June 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Plans are also underway for their further training by the South African Police Services Academy.

KEEPING TOURISM SUSTAINABLE

Climate change remains an overarching threat. Accelerating the implementation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement requires clear strategies and a progressive system reform for climate responsiveness for tourism planning at provincial and municipal level.

While we may be faced with COVID-19 today, climate change brings with it other forms of social and natural disasters, which also has a direct impact on the econ-

While this phase might be a
winter of despair, our
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omy. To this end, we have undertaken an assessment of tourism vulnerability at a local level.

In the pursuit of economic diplomacy and development cooperation, the department has bilateral agreements with 35 countries globally. We will continue to work towards regional integration through capacity-building initiatives, investment promotion, sharing of best practices and dialogue about addressing tourism challenges and opportunities on the continent.

Through the regional economic and political alliance of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we will collaborate with other states to implement the SADC Tourism Programme, as a roadmap of a sustainable tourism development and growth agenda for the region.

Political commitment is key to ensure that tourism can lead wider economic and social recovery, as proven in past disruptions. While this phase might be a winter of despair, our recovery speaks to a summer of hope. Together we will ensure that as an industry, we will emerge tourism strong.

Fish Mahlalela is Deputy Minister of Tourism.

• The article was first published in **Business Update**, Issue 18 – A PBF publication.

RENEWING THE ANC THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

■ By Safoora Sadek, Given Sebei (Chair) and Mike Leslie (Secretary) on behalf of Gaby Shapiro Branch

RENEWING and Rebuilding the ANC is a “new” buzzword, maybe even a “slogan” that is expressed in just about every meeting of the organization – from national down to local branch level.

Our national conference resolutions on the essence of this very critical issue remains steadfast, unambiguous and direct – conference after conference. Between conferences, we discuss, debate and write lengthy articles and opinion pieces, ad nauseam, on what renewal and rebuilding means.

Each time and without fail, we reaffirm that a key principle of renewing and rebuilding our organisation is to “*Be the people’s*

Champion” by putting the community first, getting involved in projects that build our communities and building social cohesion (ANC Website: “**Be the Renewal**”).

However, this principle is not new to the ANC; it is the golden thread that has run through our organisation and informed our strategy and tactics since its inception in 1912. It is the golden thread around which we organised, fought against, and successfully toppled the apartheid system that was declared a crime against humanity. It is this golden thread that runs through the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No 108 of 1996).

This principle – in its simplest form and without the verbose semantics that has unfortunately become the

“language” of our organisation – means being a community-based and focused activist. The very existence of ANC branches at local community levels points to the organisation’s commitment to such community activism. However, it sadly appears that our organisation has lost this focus, and that its role as a political party outside of government and as the ruling party within government has become so enmeshed and intertwined with the latter taking precedence over the former.

Prior to our first democratic election in 1994, we operated as community-based activists. As such, we formed strategic partnerships with other community-based, non-governmental, faith-based, advocacy and other such developmental organisations to do work at a grass-roots level, implementing projects that directly met the socio-economic needs of our people. Together with our strategic partners, we set up advice offices, designed and implemented community programmes, organised sport and recreation activities, to name but a few. While working with our people in communities, we engaged in political, social, economic and human rights issues that impacted people’s lives. As community activists we stood in the trenches -as equals – next to the people for whom we wanted to provide a better life.



Members of the Gaby Shapiro Branch in action



Food garden in Phillipi

The ANC Gaby Shapiro Branch, in responding to the call for support to our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, decided to formulate a response that would:

- take us “*back to the basics*”,
- visually and tangibly show that the ANC has and can return to being “*the People’s Champion*”,
- display our continued commitment to improving the quality of lives of our people,
- in a practical way demonstrate our position of working in partnership with communities, their representative organisations and other organisations from other sectors of society that support an agenda of equitable socio-economic development,
- leverage on and consolidate various skills, experiences and inputs of multiple partners

working towards a common goal.

Within this framework, we partnered with two non-government organisations providing food security services within communities in the City of Cape Town, namely Abalimi Bezekhaya and Revolutionary Yoga, and a small sewing business called Zenzeleni, that provides work for 20 women as they receive projects.

Providing Food Security through Strategic Partnerships

Revolutionary Yoga has assisted communities to establish Free Food Kitchens in 7 communities, one of which is in Lavender Hill, Rondevlei. This kitchen feeds just over 600 people 3 times a week and has, with the help of donors, managed to start a food garden. One of the other food kitchens in

Phillipi feeds about 400 people 3 times a week. Abalimi has been in existence since 1982. It is a developmental NGO that works with communities and trains them to establish and maintain food gardens. Both NGOs are formally registered organisations. Links for both organisations that explain their work are: <http://abalimibezekehaya.org.za/> and <https://freefoodkitchen.com/>.

Both the Lavender Hill and Phillipi food kitchens had started small food gardens, with the help of other donors such as the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. These food gardens provide the fresh vegetables required by the Kitchens.

The ANC Gaby Shapiro Branch’s initial support in terms of COVID-19 took the form of collecting funds for food parcels that were being distributed through the ANC Parliamentary Office in Athlone. The funds collected for this drive enabled us to contribute 110 food parcels to the same number of homes. The contribution was much needed and well-received. However, we realised that the food parcel support option is not sustainable in the long term.

We thus sought to provide a longer-term sustainable solution that provides food security without a dependency on once-off food parcels. Our solution was to partner with Revolutionary Yoga and Abalimi to expand the 2 gardens in Phillipi and Lavender Hill. The contribution of the ANC Gaby Shapiro Branch was to raise funds for the garden expansion. These funds were transferred to Abalimi, the implementing NGO with the Revolutionary Food Kitchens being the beneficiaries. All three

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Q&A

By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Bitsa Lenkopane

1. Cde Bitsa, how is the ANC Women's League contributing to the programme on 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children?

The Woman's League in North West has already adopted a plan which led to the launch of 16 days of activism for no violence against women and children on the 21 November 2020 at Lehurutshe Civic Centre. The ANC Women's League has also launched the Ward Based Anti Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Command Centre which aims to partner with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), Government and Traditional Structures to account for every woman and child who is in need of care and services, who is a victim of violence, or anyone in need of gender awareness. The Command Ambassadors will work closely with the police during 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

2. What strategies should our communities employ in tackling abuse against women and children?

Our communities need to be empowered to understand the signs of abuse. They need to understand that there are systems in place to rescue those in abuse relationships and give support. But more importantly, they need to be exposed to the environment of prevention. Our culture and beliefs are also important to consider, practices which are woman and children abuse-free. The constant interaction with Ward Based Command Centres will provide available capaci-



*Comrade Bitsa Lenkopane,
Acting Provincial Secretary
ANCWL, North West Province*

ty building needs.

3. What are some of the biggest struggles you face as a women with the opposite sex in-terms gender roles in politics?

Politically, women lack numbers in elected representation to effect changes related to their economic and social status. Gender stereotypes and traditional societal expectations restrict women's ability to break the ceiling to enter the leadership space. The continuation of the antiquated patriarchal system which enforces stereotypes of women as hewers of wood and drawers of water impede their access to higher political office. Women in urban areas have greater advantages in occupying meaningful

political spaces than women in rural areas.

4. How can we use politics as a tool to have open conversations about abuse instead of sweeping these under the carpet?

Politics expose individuals to have a better understanding and interpretation of life, the rules, laws and related policies in both the government and private sector, that deal among others with abuse. Being an activist in politics enables the individual to explore all avenues to capacitate other individuals to expose and fight abuse. Article 7 of the Women's Charter dealing with political and civic life, notes that women have traditionally been excluded, particularly from decision making in political, civic and community life. Their participation in politics will enable the woman to find it easier to access and relate to women in public office than they would in men.

5. Do you think bullying in schools has given birth to adult abusers and how can we contribute to its reduction and ultimate eradication?

Bullying in schools is a phenomenon that is common and might at times be as a result of gangs and or adolescence or societal ills. The school policies on safety and anti-drug usage need to be well structured to help avoid bullying to grow among school learners. The partnership of all stakeholders, including government in the Quality Teaching and Learning Structures (QLTC) are important as they fo-

cus on learners who might be bullied or who might grow into bullies as they grow older.

6. Do you think if men were to be given a platform to talk about gender issues they face, it might in a way help reduce the rate of abuse within families, relatives and friends?

Our cultural background has contributed to a notion that men are born to be silent and express how they feel mainly in violent action than talks. The dialogues where children, women and men become participants are important and helpful. The topics must necessarily be aimed at revealing how men feel about issues that affect them in society and ultimately help in ending GBV. It would also assist, especially with examples like partnership with the Department of Correctional Services where those who are given parole, having been perpetrators of violence, speak out and are gradually integrated into communities.

7. What would your advice be to someone who is struggling with abuse?

It needs all of us to learn to understand signs of abuse at an early stage. Unfortunately, those who experience abuse are always taking time to come out. And this is because sometimes they are labeled and laughed at and as a result, they become mentally and emotionally affected. I would advice them to go for counseling because there are those that are free. Opening up to the community organisations could be the first step because it is there where they will be afforded with ideas that would point them to the path to recuperation. Remember, emotional stress is an illness and can ultimately be cured.

8. What's your motto?

"I am smarter because of my mistakes and I am happier because of the sadness."

Continued from page 10

RENEWING THE ANC THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS



partners jointly launched the expanded food garden in Phillipi in an event that was attended by members of the community.

Supporting SMME's and the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The second leg of our "Back to Basics", being "the People's Champion" and strategic partnerships involved in the provision of masks to people who did not have the resources to buy or make their own masks. For this, we partnered with Zenzeleni, an SMME that trains women in sewing skills and that provides work to the 20 trained women as they receive sewing projects. This work enables these women to provide for their families' needs – a sustainable and empowering solution. We partnered with Zenzeleni, by transferring some of the funds we collected, for them to sew 300 masks for us. Zenzeleni met us

halfway in this partnership by providing us with a R2000 discount on the price of the masks.

The masks sewn by Zenzeleni was donated to the Rise Up – an NGO working on GBV issues who distributed as part of care packs that they provided to homeless people in areas in Cape Town.

We believe that our branch has successfully "piloted", so to speak, the key principle of renewing and rebuilding the organisation of "Be the People's Champion". We have also successfully shown that when we debate and discuss how to rebuild and renew our organization, we remember and draw on the strategies we used in the past – pre-1994 – in working with and alongside our people for creating a better life for all!

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

28 November – 4 December 2020

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives

■ 28 November 1987

South African Airways Boeing 747 crashes into Indian Ocean

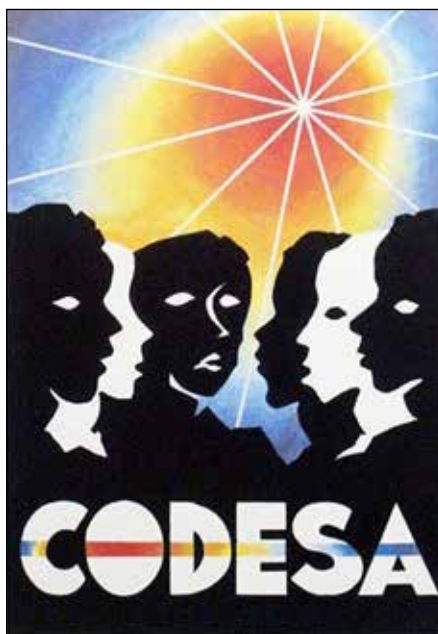


SAA flight 295, a Boeing 747 called Helderberg was en route from Taiwan to then Jan Smuts International airport (now OR Tambo International) in Johannesburg when it crashed. Reports indicated that the plane experienced a catastrophic fire in its cargo area and crashed in the Indian Ocean near the island of Mauritius, killing all 159 passengers and crew aboard. The government appointed Judge Margo to investigate the causes of the crash, but no conclusions were reached as to the causes of the crash, especially since some of the air traffic control tapes of the incident were alleged to have gone missing. The Margo commission's inconclusive findings spurned many theories, the most persistent being that the plane carried substances for the security forces (including mercury and other dangerous substances), which caused the fire that led to the crash. The matter also served before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1996. A decade after the crash, it was discovered that apartheid South Africa's chief oil sanctions buster, who was also a director of the IDC, also perished on the flight.

■ 29 November 1991

CODESA starting date set

Delegates from twenty groups agreed after preparatory talks in Johannesburg on a date for the start of substantive negotiations on South Africa's fu-



ture constitution, a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). Its opening session in Johannesburg was to be on December 20–21. The SA government and the ruling National Party (NP) sent two separate delegations. The CODESA eventually concluded negotiations around an Interim Constitution in 1993, paving the way for the 1994 first non-racial and non-sexist elections on a common voters roll.

■ 30 November 2006

Chiliboy Ralepelle first black Springbok Captain



Rugby player, Mahlatse Chiliboy Ralepelle was born in Tzaneen on 11 September 1986. Ralepelle moved to Pretoria and attended Pretoria Boys High School, where he joined

the rugby team. He was selected for the under-15 squad in 2001 and the under-19 squad in 2004. Ralepelle made history in 2006 when he became the first Black rugby player to captain the Springboks. In 2010, his reputation was tainted when he was suspended following a drug test that proved positive. It was later discovered though, that an energy drink contained a banned substance. Ralepelle was cleared.

■ 1 December 1834

Slavery is abolished in the Cape



On 1 December 1834, slavery came to an end in the Cape Colony; a year after the Slavery Abolition Bill of 1833 was passed by the British House of Commons and by the House of Lords. Although the Bill was passed in August 1833, it came into effect on 1 August 1834. On that date, slavery was abolished throughout the vast British Empire, with a few exceptions. One was the Cape Colony, where it was delayed for four months until 1 December. The Act apprenticed slaves to their masters for a period of four years. This enabled them to learn trades and afforded a transition period for the owners. A certain amount was granted as compensation to the owners, which they had to collect personally in Britain. No compensation was given to the slaves, ever.

■ 1 December 1986

Dr Fabian and Florence Ribeiro assassinated

The medical practitioner and politi-



cal activist, Dr Fabian Defu Ribeiro, and his wife, a teacher turned businesswoman, Florence Barbara Ribeiro, were gunned down in their own courtyard on 1 December, 1986, after several attempts on their lives. It only emerged at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearing in 1997 that they were assassinated by Apartheid state agents, when six policemen (AJM Joubert, PJ Verster, C Naude, N Robey, JJH van Jaarsveld and C Vlietstra) applied for amnesty in connection with their murder. The TRC Amnesty Committee granted amnesty to the perpetrators in 1999. Former Vlakplaas commander Jan Cronje was also granted amnesty for the role he played in the planning of the murder.

■ 1 December 1987 Nyerere addresses ANC conference in Arusha



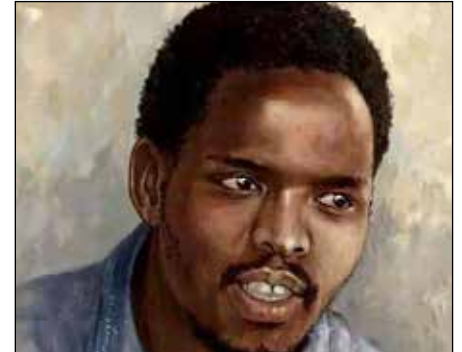
Julius Nyerere president of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), addressed delegates attending the African National Congress (ANC) conference in the Tanzanian city of Arusha. Arusha is the city where Nyerere issued the Arusha Declaration in 1967 which

inaugurated the Ujamaa Movement. Ujamaa advocated for an independent programme of African socialism. Nyerere called for an end to white rule in South Africa and encouraged the struggle against apartheid to continue, stating in his speech: *"Throughout these long years the struggle has been waged inside South Africa, by the people of South Africa. It has waxed and waned. There have been many setbacks, until sometimes the faint-hearted despaired and occasionally even the courageous retreated for a time into sullen resignation. But never was the flame of resistance extinguished."* Oliver Tambo delivered the opening and the closing speeches of the Arusha Conference. The Conference ran from 1 December to 4 December 1987, and concluded with a declaration by the ANC, condemning apartheid as a crime against humanity and military aggression by the South African government towards other Southern African states.

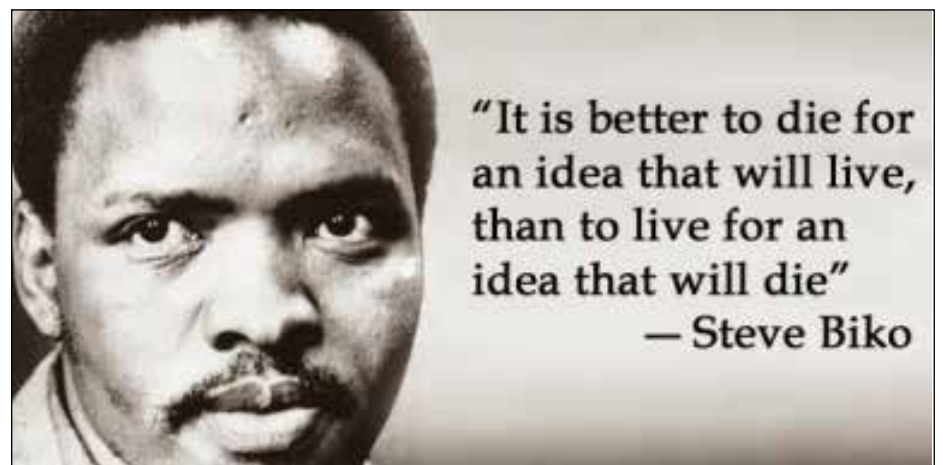
■ 1 December 2006 First gay marriage in South Africa

Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls became the first same sex couple to legally wed in the country, one day after President Thabo Mbeki's government legalized gay marriages. The two are game rangers working in Riversdal, Western Cape and also animal rights activists. This made South Africa the first country on the continent and the fifth country in the world to legalise same sex marriages.

■ 2 December 1977 Police cleared of death of Steve Bantu Biko



Steve Biko, who died at the hands of apartheid security police on September 12, 1977, is widely seen as one of the greatest martyrs of the anti-apartheid movement. He gave up studying medicine to devote himself to the struggle, and founded the Black Consciousness Movement in 1969. On 18 August 1977, Biko in Grahamstown was brought to the Port Elizabeth police station. During his detention he was always kept in chains, and slept in urine-soaked blankets, often naked and cold. He was finally tortured to death on September 12. Despite the obvious and extensive trauma to the body, an inquest by the apartheid government given by Chief Magistrate Martinus Prins, exonerated the police of any blame in Biko's death. In 1999, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission denied amnesty to the former security policemen involved in his custody. Despite the TRC's ruling however, no charges were ever brought against those responsible.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 3 December 1959

Britain and Egypt agreed on independence for the Sudan

Britain and Egypt agree on independence for Sudan following years of colonial rule. The tale of these two countries' rule over Sudan dates back to the 19th century. In 1823, Egyptians founded Khartoum as their headquarters and developed Sudan's trade in ivory and slaves, while in the 1890s the British decided to gain control of Sudan. Following a series of campaigns between 1896 and 1898, an Anglo-Egyptian force under Herbert Kitchener destroyed the power of the Mahdists. Subsequently, agreements in 1899 established the condominium government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. In 1930, the British Civil Secretary in Khartoum declared the "Southern Policy," officially stating that the north and south, because of their many cultural and religious differences, were to be governed as two separate regions. After a long civil war, South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, after an AU-led peace process and a referendum, making it Africa's youngest sovereign state.

■ 4 December 1809

Earthquake hits Cape Town

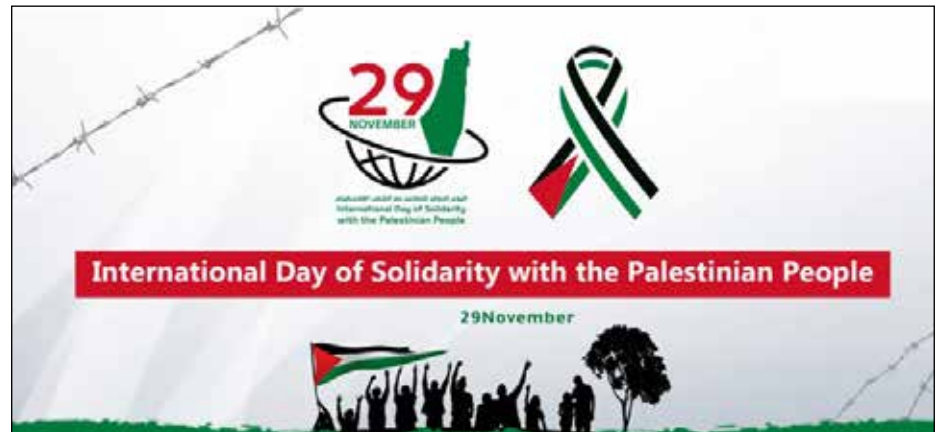
On 4 December 1809, Cape Town was hit by an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale. It is the biggest recorded earthquake to have hit the area. The quake was caused by the Milnerton fault, running across the Milnerton area, the Cape Flats and right through to the city center. In 1809 there wasn't much infrastructure for the quake to destroy, leaving only fissures on the ground. A quake of that magnitude would be devastating if it hit the area today due to increased population and infrastructure. In September 1969, a 6.3 quake near the town of Ceres caused devastating damages. On 16 November 2020, a 3.5 quake hit the West coast, 70 km northwest from Cape Town.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

28 November – 4 December 2020

■ 29 November

International day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



The UN General Assembly in 1977 declared 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the day in 1947 when the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on the partitioning of Palestine. On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, all UN member states are encouraged to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the human rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

This year's day of solidarity is particularly important as the state of Israel continues to escalate violence against the people of Palestine, including children. The Palestinian representative to the UN on 12 November 2019 urged the UN Secretary General: "I write to urgently draw the international community's attention to Israel's escalation of military aggression against the Palestinian people under its occupation, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip. This most recent unlawful military aggression risks the outbreak of another deadly and destructive cycle of violence, endangering the lives of millions of innocent civilians." The African Union has been consistent in its condemnation of Israel's aggression, and the Palestinian Authority is invited to address every Summit of the African Union. There is a very strong lobby by Israel against this solidarity by the African continent, including application for membership of the AU.

■ 30 November

International Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

The International Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on the day that the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed in 1997 by 189 countries, came into effect. The Convention prohibits the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of large-scale chemical weapons. It provides opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, for the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, and ultimately promoting peace, security, and multilateralism. According to www.armscontrol.org, at the time of the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention, "eight countries declared chemical weapons stockpiles when they joined the CWC: Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the United States, Russia and an anonymous state widely believed to be South Korea."

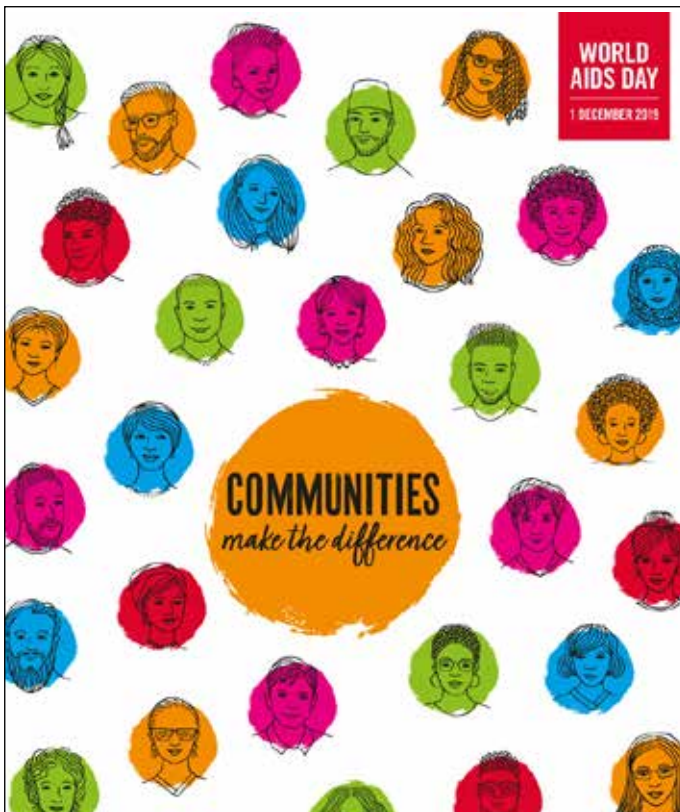
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Of those eight countries, Albania, South Korea, India, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Russia have completed destruction of their declared arsenals. Syria, however, may not have declared its entire stockpile. The United States plans to complete the destruction of its chemical weapons by September 2023."

■ 1 December

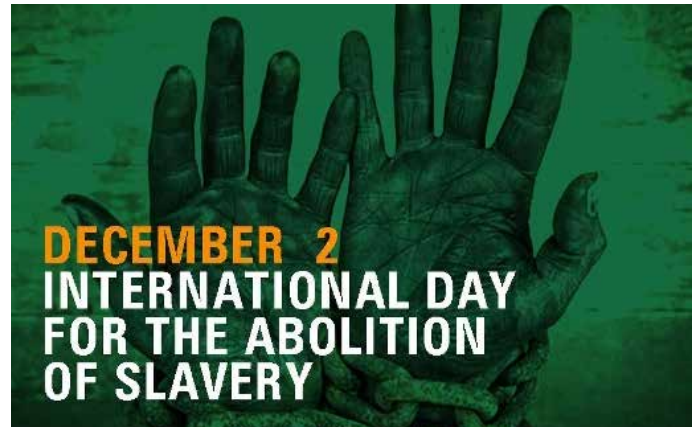
World Aids Day

The world has made significant progress since the late 1990s, but HIV remains a major global public health issue. As with other major health issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services are disrupted in countries with fragile health systems or where the health systems are overwhelmed by the pandemic. Nevertheless, all over the world, health workers and community representatives are doing their utmost to keep services going, adopting innovative ways to overcome disruptions in services caused by COVID-19. The call in 2020 on World Aids Day is therefore for "global solidarity" to maintain essential HIV services during COVID-19 and beyond. <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-aids-day/2020>



■ 2 December

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery recalls the date when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Others (resolution 317 (IV)) of 2 December 1949. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons,



sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Today, 21 million women, men and children are trapped in slavery all over the world.

■ 3 December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The 2020 theme 'Not all Disabilities are Visible' focuses on spreading awareness and understanding of disabilities that are not immediately apparent, such as mental illness, chronic pain or fatigue, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes, brain injuries, neurological disorders, learning differences and cognitive dysfunctions, among others. According to the WHO World Report on Disability, 15 per cent of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, are living with disability. Of this number, it's estimated 450 million are living with a mental or neurological condition—and two-thirds of these people will not seek professional medical help, largely due to stigma, discrimination and neglect. <https://idpwd.org>

■ 4 December

International Day of Banks

The day recognises the potential of multilateral development and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how. It is also in recognition of the vital role of the banking systems in countries across the world, contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. According to conventional economics "the banking system plays an important role in the modern economic world. Banks collect the savings of the individuals and lend them out to business- people and manufacturers. ... Thus, the banks play an important role in the creation of new capital (or capital formation) in a country and thus help the growth process." (economicsdiscussion.net). At the same time, multilateral and other international banks have been criticised for their role in forcing structural adjustment policies onto developing countries, and crippling national development.

The Commitment to Reduce Inequality Index 2020

(Oxfam. 2020)

THE GLOBAL coronavirus pandemic has exposed faultiness in the world and in countries – and this latest Oxfam report on inequality in the world woefully exposed this: *“The failure of governments to tackle inequality is now forcing ordinary people to bear the brunt of the crisis and pay a much higher price than they should.”*

The 2020 report is the third in the Index series which rates over 156 governments across the world and regions on their commitment towards reducing inequality, focusing on policy and action in three areas: **Public services (health, education and social protection)**; Taxation and Workers’ rights. In each of these pillars aimed at reducing inequality, they measure (a) Policy commitment indicators; (b) Coverage or implementation indicators; and (c) Impact indicators.

Like the previous two, Commitment to Reduce Inequality Indexes (CRI), OECD countries top the list... *“(w)ith higher gross domestic products (GDP), they have much more scope to raise progressive tax revenues because they have more citizens and corporations with higher incomes; likewise, they have greater scope to spend those revenues on public services and social protection.”*

But the report notes that many coun-



FIGHTING INEQUALITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2020

tries, including Norway and Belgium have introduced policies that are beginning to increase inequality, particularly cutting taxes. Interestingly, Germany that ranks third in the overall ranking, yet spends the same percentage on education as South Sudan, and therefore can do better! Ethiopia stands out for spending the second highest proportion on education and for having significant budgets for health and social protection, with a significant impact on poverty reduction.

South Africa ranks number 1 in the 2020 CRI Tax Index: *“reflecting a tax system that is relatively progressive on paper and a good record on tax collection, which combined, gives it*

the tax system with the most impact on reducing inequality. However, there is much more that the country could do to make its system even more progressive, such as to collect more tax and introduce a wealth tax.” South Africa is ranked 18 on the overall commitment, pulled up by its ranking on the use of taxes to reduce inequality. However, on labour rights (ranked 53) and public services (no. 44), we are not in the best of company.

Download and read the full report on:
<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/fighting-inequality-time-covid-19-commitment-reducing-inequality-index-2020>

X-WORD

Slavery Abolition Act of 1833



ACROSS

3. Changes in the global trade in which product were amongst factors prompting abolition.
4. One of the largest slave uprising in the US in 1739.
6. As property, slaves could be bequeathed in ... to heirs.
9. Which year did Britain finally payed of the Slave Owners Compensation Loan?
10. How many African slaves were freed through this act?

DOWN

1. Which country's parliament passed this act to get rid of slavery in their colonies
2. Abolition was also as a result of fears of more slave ...
5. One of the largest loans made by the British government (5% of GDP) to pay compensation to...
7. Slaves were regarded as property of their owners, and were therefore included as part of ...
8. Famous slave revolt at sea in 1839, made into a movie.

WORD BANK

Great Britain
uprisings
inventory
twenty fifteen

eight hundred thousand
Stono Rebellion
wills

sugar
Amistad
slave owners

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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