



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



Wishing the matric class of 2020 the very best of luck

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

THE MATRIC CLASS of 2020 sat for the National Senior Certificate examinations this week.

It is the culmination of twelve years of schooling and a grueling final year of preparation. For many, this is an exciting moment, but one that is also fraught with anxiety.

This year's exam is being written under unprecedented conditions. We are in the midst of a global pandemic.

The nationwide lockdown we had to impose in March to contain the spread of the coronavirus caused immense disruption to everyday life and cost valuable hours of learning and study.

To accommodate the disruptions, the June Senior Certificate exams were postponed and are now being written together with the National Senior Certificate. More than a million candidates are sitting for the examinations.

This makes this combined examination the largest public exam ever ad-

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ministered in South Africa.

The provincial and national Departments of Basic Education are to be congratulated for their sterling preparation to ensure things proceed smoothly. These include the independent and public auditing of examination centres, finding extra venues to accommodate the large number of candidates, and the development of protocols to ensure compliance by candidates and officials with COVID-19 regulations.

The Class of 2020 has had to endure conditions their predecessors never had to confront. They had to adapt in real time not just to finish the curriculum but to catch up with the learning hours lost. Though some had access to online learning platforms and other resources, many had to struggle with access to learning material and teaching.

They had to endure the mental strain of social isolation, and for many months were cut off from friends and their teachers. They were not able to participate in sporting, recreational and leisure activities that are so es-

sential to a well-rounded life that relieve the stresses of prolonged study.

Yet, despite having the odds stacked against them, our learners are determined to present for this exam that is the pinnacle of their schooling.

It has been equally difficult for our educators. Despite the risk posed by the virus and resource challenges inside our schools, the majority of our teachers heeded the call to return to

school to salvage what was left of the academic year.

They presented for work every day to support our matriculants. They put in the extra hours to get our learners over the finish line, making the most of the resources they had to ensure learning continued.

I salute our educators who have been there for their students when they were needed most. They have given so much, personally and professionally. They put our learners first and in doing so, affirmed once more that our teachers are among our finest public servants.

This pandemic has brought our nation together in ways not experienced before, and this was demonstrated in the matriculation examination preparations.

Many businesses played a supportive role, assisting with the provision of technology like tablets to schools and assisting to resource school multimedia centres. Mobile network operators established e-school platforms during the lockdown carrying

**Without the support
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We thank them for
their support.**

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Matriculants getting ready to write the first paper



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free learning content, including subject content for matriculants.

University graduates set up tutoring platforms online, making much needed supplementary learning support available for free.

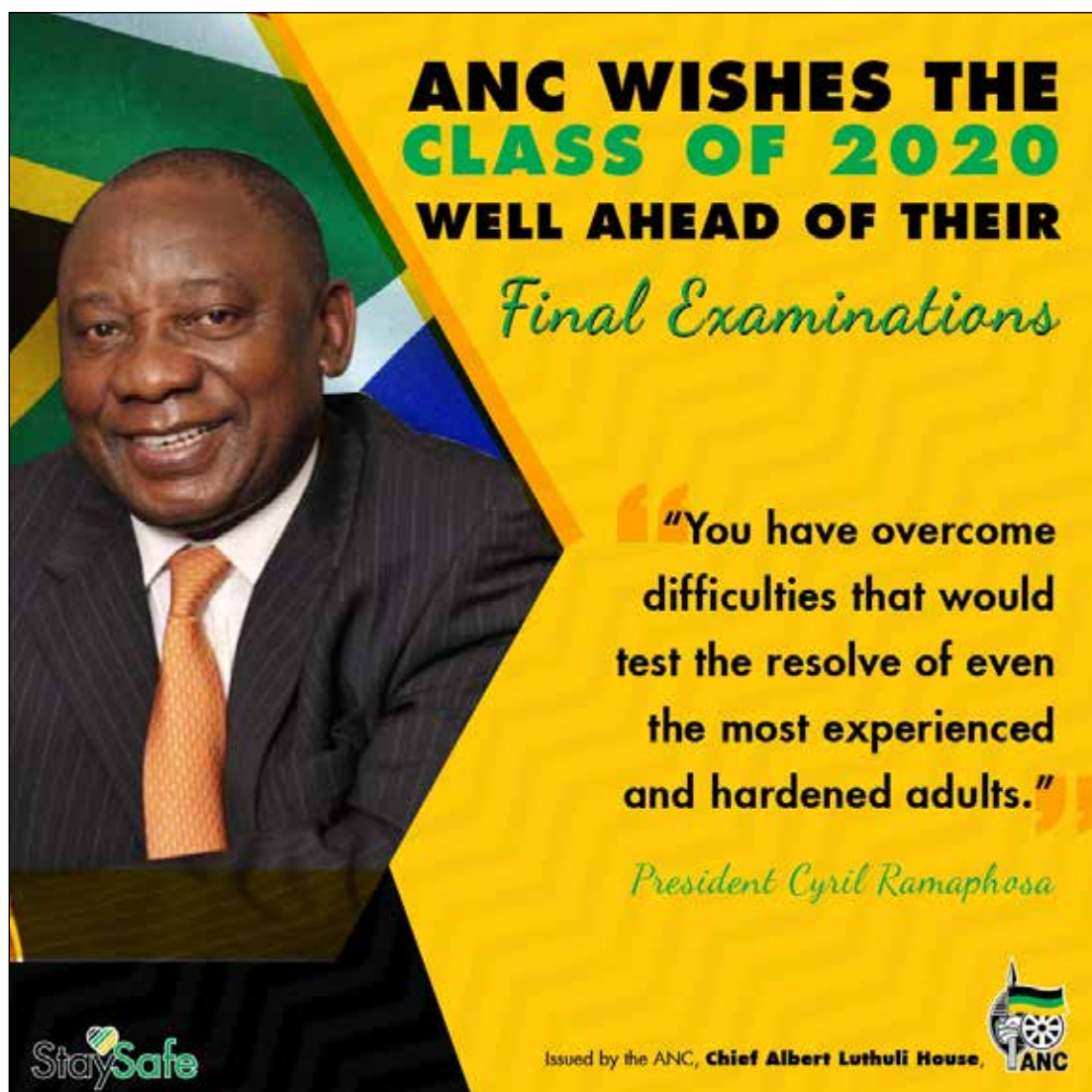
The SABC and other TV providers have carried catch-up lessons for matric learners through the Department of Basic Education's Woza Matrics Programme, enabling learners to prepare for the examinations.

There is the heart-warming story of Dendron Secondary School in Limpopo, where a group of dedicated teachers opened their own homes to their students. During the early days of the lockdown, they provided food and accommodation to small groups of matriculants, and supervised their studies.

There are no doubt many such stories in other parts of our country; of educators convening home-study groups with their students and of parents providing food, learning space and other resources to their children's friends.

Without the support of parents, families and communities, our young people's path to the matric exam would have been considerably harder. We thank them for their support.

Despite all the challenges this year has brought, I call on the Class of 2020 to summon their great reserves of courage and strength in this, the final push.



**ANC WISHES THE
CLASS OF 2020
WELL AHEAD OF THEIR
*Final Examinations***

"You have overcome difficulties that would test the resolve of even the most experienced and hardened adults."

President Cyril Ramaphosa

StaySafe

Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli House, ANC

To the Class of 2020, I wish you the very best.



You have overcome difficulties that would test the resolve of even the most experienced and hardened adults.

At your tender age, there are so many demands upon you. There are the pressures of rigorous study, the pressure to excel and to achieve the results you need to study further. And yet you have come this far.

When you enter the exam room in the days ahead, you will be carrying not just your own hopes for success and those of your families. You will also carry the hopes of us, the South African people.

We are immensely proud of you and wish you the very best of luck.

Wanted: A leader who knows Black Lives Matter

Dear Mr President

THIS WEEK, we have cast our glance across the Atlantic as the people of the United States of America (US) vote for who would lead their country for the next four years.

It matters who leads the US since that country has the world's biggest economy and muscle to influence events at home and abroad.

At the time of writing, Mr President, it was not yet clear who would triumph between the incumbent, Donald Trump and his challenger from the Democratic Party, Joe Biden.

As the African National Congress (ANC), we are mindful of the fact that whoever triumphs will likely pursue the same policies that have put Africa on the periphery.

While there have been progressive policies from the White House over the years, such as the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar) programme, there has been a regression on so many fronts.

The US has left the rest of the world in a lurch after it abandoned the Paris Agreement that aimed to combat climate change. As one of the biggest polluters in the world, the US abdicated its role as a leader when it pulled out of the international climate change forum.

As the ANC, we are mindful of debilitating spats between two of the world's biggest economies, China and the US, during the last four years.



Comrade Pule Mabe

These unfortunate relations have had a negative impact beyond the two countries and this will have dire consequences to the rest of the world.

The US has banned Chinese prod-

The manner in which the outgoing US administration handled the Coronavirus is well-documented as the worst possible reaction to a pandemic that has ravaged the rest of the world.

ucts on whatever pretext, such as it did with Tik Tok recently and China responded in kind.

One of the biggest South African companies is Naspers, which has heavily invested in Tencent, the Chinese internet giant. Tencent shares slumped in August upon the announcement by Trump to ban WeChat. Fortunately, sanity prevailed and the company was assured that they could still use the WeChat platform in China.

So, it matters greatly who becomes the president of the US. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter that shook the world earlier this year, it is in the interests of the oppressed that whoever becomes president understands race relations and is committed to building bridges, acknowledging that black people suffer disproportionately from a system designed to subjugate them.

America went up in flames this year when a white policeman brutally killed George Floyd in Wisconsin. The subsequent and justifiable outrage by the people of all races in America was mishandled by the government which missed the opportunity to mend relations.

Mr President, the place of black people in America has always been in contention since the days of slavery. While our people were trafficked across the Atlantic ocean to build the economies of the Europe and America, it is deplorable that they are still being treated as second class citizens to this day. As a matter of fact, Mr President, in continental US, there were Africans who came before slav-

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

ery, before Columbus and thousands of years before Christ. They were engaged in boat building, seafaring, trade and commerce. In many parts of America today, there are still people of African Negritic racial background who continue to exist either blended into larger African-American population or are part of separate indigenous groups living on their own lands with their own unique culture and languages. One such example is the Washitaw Nation (official name: Empire Washitaw de Dugdamoundyah) who owned about one million acres of the former Louisiana Territory. The black Californians broke up as a nation during the late 1800s after many years of war with the Spanish invaders of the Southwest, with Mexico and with the US. They blended into black population of California and their descendants still exist among millions of black Californians of today.

And then there are also the Afro-Darienite, a significant group of pre-historic, pre-Columbian blacks who existed in South and Central America (Panama in particular). These blacks were the Africans that the Spanish first saw during their exploration of the narrow strip of land between Columbia and Central America and who are described as “*slaves of our lord*” since the Spaniards and Europeans had their intention of enslaving all blacks they found in the newly discovered lands.



Voters in the USA casting their ballots

This is a very important history to mention, Mr President, because it remains hidden from contemporary history which is dominated by imperialist narrative.

The ANC was founded on the principle of equality among the different races. Indeed, the ANC waged a struggle to abolish white supremacy and the empowerment of the oppressed. The fate of black people in America came into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic as it emerged that the virus was particularly virulent among the black communities. The manner in which the outgoing US administration handled the Coronavirus is well-documented as the worst possible reaction to a pandemic that has ravaged the rest of the world.

The United States of America recorded 25% of global infections, even as it

only had one fourth of the world population.

The bickering and squabbles between politicians and scientists showed serious dereliction of duty as the virus wreaked havoc.

While we all recognise that in a democracy, it is the right of the citizens of a country to determine their own fate and decide who should lead, we are also invested in the outcome since it bears ramifications well beyond the borders of the United States.

We have seen in the last four years the closing of rank and the rise in rightwing tendencies in America. While South Africa and other countries on the African continent derive benefits from the US's African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which removes tariffs from certain products that we export, we are also mindful that it has decimated the South African poultry industry since one of its conditions is to allow cheap chicken imports into our market.

It is for this reason and others that we await the election of a leader who is sufficiently apprised of the responsibility on his shoulders as the president of the world's largest democracy and biggest economy.

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



Americans sending a clear message



TRIBUTE

OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO: OUR PRESIDENT

Remarks by the ANC National Chairperson, Comrade Gwede Mantashe during the virtual memorial lecture of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe, President Oliver Reginal Tambo, 27 October 2020

WE MARKED 2017 as the **Year of Unity in Action** and celebrated by dedicating it to Oliver Tambo. We should continue celebrating him every year and express our appreciation of OR Tambo's immeasurable contribution to the struggle for freedom. He is from a special generation, the Youth League of 1944 that led our movement for five decades successfully and delivered freedom.

We have the responsibility to continue to serve the ANC or to allow it to collapse in our hands. When greed subsumes the principles that Comrade Oliver Tambo stood for, the ANC will weaken and ultimately die. Ours is a race against this. Some of us take this threat for granted, are casual about it and either do not notice it or willfully ignore it. We must survive this threat and employ programmes that strengthen the ANC against all odds.

We are celebrating the life and times of President Oliver Tambo, the most distinguished leader of our movement. A leader who was head and shoulders above all. A leader who kept our movement intact during the most difficult phase of our revolution, the thirty years of working under conditions of illegality. Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe, President Oliver Tambo brought exceptional personal attributes, and learnt from



the collective experience of struggle. It is these experiences that gave our movement the nature and character. Character is what makes an individual distinct and different from others. The ANC is what it is because of the contribution of President OR Tambo.

The framework for the execution of the liberation struggle is shaped by a collective of experiences.

At one point, someone made a statement that others do not know President Tambo. The implication was that only those who lived and worked alongside him possessed the sole

claim to knowing him. Such a view is myopic in that it diminishes the person and impact of OR Tambo. For example, Christians talk about Jesus as if they have intimate knowledge of him and his deeds. Muslims talk of Prophet Mohamed, bless his name with great reverence and sense of affinity. In the Cuban Revolution, Jose Marti is talked about in such an integral way to the daily actions of the revolution as if his passing is recent.

Our revolution cannot be hamstrung by the selfishness of narrowly owning OR Tambo, and therefore our heritage of liberation. I would love to hear learners in schools talk about Oliver Tambo as part of their school curriculum. In our present conjuncture of the struggle, we must all learn and emulate the lodestar O.R. was as he pursued the national democratic revolution.

We memorialise O.R. because he represented the best and the highest qualities both in struggle and in humanity. In this manner, we can elicit something of value from such attributes, individually and collectively.

**We are celebrating the life
and times of President Oliver
Tambo, the most distinguished
leader of our movement.**



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We are a revolutionary movement of Oliver Tambo whose aim is to represent the interests and aspirations of the vast majority. Hence contesting elections is not just an exercise but a test of the popularity of our movement among the people. We have the responsibility and duty to ensure that we represent the majority in society.

We must represent the most scientific development and be the home of the brightest minds in society. To be able to fulfill all these, we must ensure that trust between the people and their movement is at its highest. It is our duty to ensure that we honour and nurture the trust of our people. When we are constantly at each other's throats we erode the peoples' trust in our movement.

We are at a stage when people are fast losing trust in our movement, their movement. This comes because of the indiscretion in handling resources of the country. This harms the brand of the movement of Oliver Tambo. The ANC cannot afford being equated to corruption, because individual members and leaders cannot suppress their greed.

We must continuously ask the question, what kind of the ANC do we want to build? We must talk and appreciate the importance of unity of our movement. Even those who agree in meetings and immediately go to factional caucuses must be engaged. We must on an ongoing basis talk to their conscience.

Unity is a function of the diversity of ideas being a source of strength. Unity is not homogeneity of ideas but ability to persuade one another. It is about uprightness so that we do not second guess one another. We must always know where we stand with one another.

The fight against corruption must be intensified. The Zondo Commission

must be supported and accepted as a formula for the movement to cleanse itself. Information that is coming out of this commission is a serious illustration as to how deep the rot is. The temptation to want our conduct to be compared to the apartheid regime is a formula for disaster. Society is correct in expecting our conduct to be of high standard because we are revolutionaries. If we are not revolutionaries, then we are something else contrary to what President OR Tambo was.

Contesting elections is not just an exercise but a test of the popularity of our movement among the people. We have the responsibility and duty to ensure that we represent the majority in society.

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We are at a stage when our movement needs ethical and principled leadership in its conduct. Bishop Trevor Huddleston attested that *“it has not come out sufficiently...how much...ethical and moral principle mattered to Oliver; far more than any political philosophy.”* Oliver Tambo belongs to the generation of leaders described by Comrade Yusuf Dadoo, when talking of Moses Kotane, as incorruptible. *“Incorruptible not only in his politics but also in his personal life. He was a man you knew could never let you down, never do something behind your back, never deceive you. You always knew where you were with Oliver Tambo. Sometimes his words were harsh and hurtful, but they were never dishonest”.*

As the leaders of our movement today, can we be upfront and say we are incorruptible? Truth stands and falsehood has short legs. Rejoice if they tell lies about you knowingly because history will be on your side.

Leadership of our movement must be constructive in dealing with criticism. To be criticized is not being insulted but being shown what is in your blind spot. Oliver Tambo demonstrated this



Crowd at the ANC 2019 national elections rally

TRIBUTE



It is Oliver Tambo who
handed our
movement over
to us intact, in 1991.
His hope was that the
leadership would
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in his handling of the allegations directed at the leadership and the movement in the period leading to the first consultative conference in Morogoro. He insisted on addressing the issues raised, including the harsh criticism by the Hani memorandum. Morogoro became a watershed conference because the leadership of Oliver Tambo gave space to members of the organization to change leadership, including him. What came out of that consultative conference continues to guide the movement. Strategy and Tactics was formalized. Four pillars of the revolution were concretized. Today, various groups are criticizing and labeling the leadership. Our ability to listen and appreciate the views expressed will make the movement grow stronger.

The second consultative conference in Kabwe in 1985 was regarded as a crisis conference. It is Oliver Tambo who turned that crisis on its head. He termed it the crisis of our advances. A crisis of making our advances quicker in all fronts. It was in this conference that the decade of freedom was declared. This proved to be prophetic as we attained our freedom in 1994.

Armchair revolutionaries are critical, and others see the 1994 breakthrough as a sellout. They need time to learn

that it was not luck but an outcome of intensive struggle. Some insights on the decade of liberation appear in the chapter on “*Oliver Tambo Speaks*” where reference is made to “*our bases are inside South Africa*.” The regime did not even need to find the ANC but bombed bases to work on the psyche of their followers. There were no ANC camps in Matola. Massacres in Maseru and Gaborone cannot be explained up to this day. They constitute a psychological warfare on their followers.

It is Oliver Tambo who handed our movement over to us intact, in 1991. His hope was that the leadership would look after it. Today the movement is in a crisis all round.

The ANC must revive and renew itself. The Alliance must strive for maximum unity. We must resist the temptation to project the ANC as evil and everyone else a saint. We must confront the challenges facing the movement. We must engage in the space of the battle of ideas. We must defend the ANC ideologically. The ANC deserves our support and defense.

The economy is not performing. Growth is sluggish. When we engage in the debate about reviving our economy few ideas come to the fore. We

spend most of the time discussing processes. Economy is practical. You either do the right things or not. The economy responds to action. As we engage with the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, our focus should be on implementing practical programmes.

The debate on energy highlights possible encirclement, where the weak is forced to advance the ideas of the powerful. We are told to destroy everything that we are strong at and adopt a philosophy that is adopted by developed economies. The risk is immeasurable. We must use and access every technology and source of energy at our disposal as we reduce carbon emissions to society. We must enter this debate with the interests and needs of the country in mind. We must invest heavily in uniting the movement for the sake of our country and our people. We must engage among ourselves with the aim of reaching agreements.

Let me close by making the call that ANC members and leaders will do the legacy of President O.R Tambo good if we can donate clothes for the poor in centers set up in communities where we live. Continue to show that the ANC is a caring organization.

TRIBUTE

TRIBUTE TO COMRADE VUYISILE MINI

'Organizer of the unorganized'

Remarks by ANC Veterans League President, Cde Snuki Zikalala on the occasion of the reburial of Vuyisile Mini at Tsolo, Eastern Cape, 06 November 2020

IT IS A singular honour for us, as members of the Veterans League, to be given an opportunity to pay tribute to the gallant fighter of the struggle for the liberation of South Africa. It is 56 years since the hero of our struggle, Vuyisile Mini, together with his comrades Wilson Khayingo and Zinakile Mkaba, were summarily executed on that fateful day on 6 November 1964. Their cardinal sin was that they fought fearlessly for political and workers' rights.

In particular, we make mention of Comrade Mini, who was known as the **'organizer of the unorganized'**. It is largely because of his tireless efforts to organize workers across the Eastern Cape in the 1950's. He was tasked by the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) to organize the metal workers. Subsequently, he became the Metal Workers' Union secretary.

It is generally acknowledged that there is no nobler cause in the life of revolutionaries than the fight for the liberation of mankind. May I add to these prophetic words, that there is no loftier goal in the life of revolutionaries than to pay the supreme sacrifice for the liberation of one's people, of one's country. Comrade Mini and his fellow comrades distinguished themselves as some of the most illustrious and courageous sons of Africa.

Their stories of bravery are yet to be told in full, lest we carelessly forget to



capture these chronicles that define our struggle, our history, our African-ness. Indeed, we shall be that generation which will be indicted by those that come after us, for having shirked our responsibility of keeping the memory of our predecessors alive.

Please allow me to address our fallen hero with the humility and directness that he would understand. Cdes Mini, we stand before you on this day in your memory. We are not perfect, we are human and have made serious mistakes. We have disappointed society which has given us an opportunity to govern on their behalf.

It is befitting to mention that our glorious organization which you laid your life for is facing serious political and economic challenges.

As members of the ANC Veterans League, we are the custodians of the ANC values, traditions and principles. We have however failed to ensure that there is consequence management against those found wanting or failed to live up to society's expectation. We have not taken up our responsibility seriously by ensuring that those that face criminal and corruption charges step aside and clear their names.

To honor your selfless contribution to the struggle against the atrocious system of apartheid, we as Veterans of the ANC will work hard to unite and renew our glorious movement.

We will ensure that those that are appointed to senior positions are skilled, competent and are fit for the purpose of governance.



TRIBUTE

It is unacceptable that some of our municipalities are dysfunctional. There is little or no service delivery to the poor; there is little access to potable water, electricity, roads and there is a poor health service for our communities. Cde Mini, there is an alarming increase of Gender Based Violence and Femicide in our communities.

Corruption has once again reared its ugly head during COVID-19, especially in the Eastern Cape. We are told that the Eastern Cape Public Works has still to account for the R1.2 billion spent on COVID-19 -related tenders that were awarded to 562 suppliers.

It is unacceptable that state infrastructure like stadiums, community halls and multipurpose centres are vandalized.

The situation at Nelson Mandela Bay leaves much to be desired. The MEC for COGTA must act and resolve this crisis. The Metro needs a Mayor, Municipal Manager and permanent Directors.

The unemployment rate is extremely high and shocking in the Eastern Cape and needs to be urgently addressed.

According to the Eastern Cape Socio Economic Council, the province recorded the highest unemployment rate in the country of 36.9; youth unemployment declined by 0.3% to 53.3%; female unemployment is 36.6% and the labour force has a large share of people who have not completed secondary education which stands at 43.1 %.

Cde Mini we will not disappoint you.

At the Provincial Working Committee and Provincial Executive Committee meetings, and at all other structures of the movement, we will ensure that the elected members of the PEC must feel obliged and adhere to principles of organizational democracy. They must put society's interests first and not their personal interests. They must commit to fight against corruption and factionalism and help in uniting our glorious movement and the South African society.

As members of the Veterans League, we will help to rebuild the ANC Youth League that will emulate the features and, principles and values demonstrated by the generation of Cde Vuyisile Mini. Our challenges demand the courageous character of the generation of Cde Mini.

We all have to be prepared to sacrifice in order to renew and rebuild a coherent alliance that will make sure that our movement remains the inspiration that serves the people of South Africa, the continent and the world. This is the journey that Cde Vuyisile Mini traversed. We are all proud of the historical contribution he made to ensure that the ANC remains the rock upon which the hope, aspiration and desires of the people are anchored.

As we dip our revolutionary banner in memory of our fallen comrade Vuyisile Mini, we promise to double our efforts to ensure that the unity that our people yearn for is realised in our lifetime.

Amandla!!!



Vuyisile Mini, and his two comrades were offered their lives in exchange for giving information about sabotage activity in their area, determined to die for the cause of freedom Vuyisile Mini wrote:

"I am presently awaiting execution at Pretoria Central Gaol having been sentenced to death at the beginning of the year. On October 2, 1964, Captain Geldenhuys and two other policemen came to see me. They asked me if I had been informed that my appeal had been dismissed. I told them I was not interested to know from them what my advocate said.

They then said there was still a chance for me to be saved as they knew I was the big boss of the movement in the Eastern Cape. I must just tell them where the detonators and revolvers were, and they would help me. I refused. They then asked me about Wilton Mkwayi (subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment) and whether I was prepared to give evidence against Mkwayi, whom they had now arrested. I said no, I was not. When they asked would I make the Amandla Ngawethu salute when I walked the last few paces to the gallows, I said yes.'

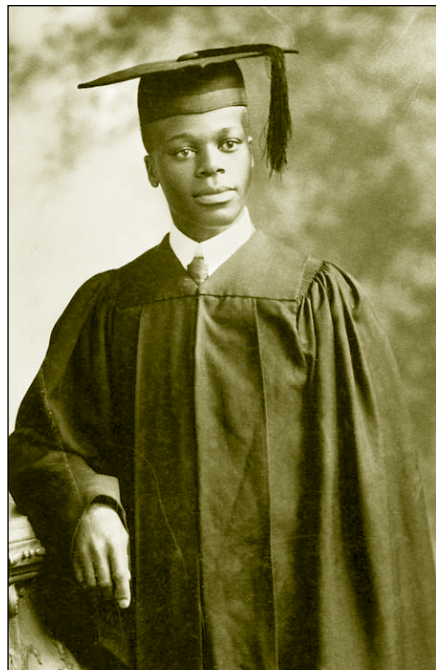
The best amongst us **must** lead

■ By Siggibo Biggz Mfuywa

WHEN Dr Pixley ka Seme delivered an oration in the inaugural conference of the ANC (then called SANNC) on 8th January 1912, he said *"Kings of the royal blood and gentlemen of our race, we have gathered here to consider and discuss a scheme my colleagues have decided to place before you... In the land of our birth, Africans are treated as hewers of wood and drawers of water. The whites have formed what is known as the Union of South Africa in which we have no voice."*

The ANC has been existing in different epochs for a noble cause premised on people's interests. The struggle for emancipation of the majority was finally 'won' in 1994, and the ANC has been in charge of government since then. Be that as it may, the majority of the natives are still hewers and drawers of the water. The people still leave in destitute and the unemployment rate has hit unprecedented levels. Contrary to popular belief, economic freedom has always been part of the ANC struggle and it continues to be, even though little has been achieved on this front.

However, this (economic freedom) ought to be attained through political power the ANC enjoys, but the owners of the means of production will not capitulate without a fight. Self enrichment and obsession with opulence driven by greed is also a major predicament in achieving the economic freedom we hope for, and the ANC is struggling to rid itself of hyenas. Proof of this is manifested in the current shenanigans at the Zondo Commission. Wholesale



Dr Pixley ka Seme

looting has almost emptied the state coffers and collapsed State Owned Entities. It will take years to fix this damage, but it can't be left unattended.

The recently adopted economic and reconstruction recovery plan is the vehicle that we ought to use in getting out of the woods. Its pillars are:

- Massive infrastructure rollout;
- Energy generation;
- Employment stimulus; and
- Industrial growth.

**Economic freedom has always
been part of the ANC struggle
and it continues to be.**



Our only hope is industrialization which is driven by massive investment in the productive sectors. The revival of our local manufacturing and agro-processing capabilities cannot be delayed. The difficult question is: does the ANC have the capacity to deliver its promise? Many pundits will answer this without thinking twice, with a big NO!!.

Addressing SASCO in Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in Mthata, Eastern Cape in 2011, the then Deputy President Kgalema Mhlangeni said *"Sins of incumbency are invariably marked by betrayal of the ideals of freedom, where a former liberation movement turns into a monster that devours the very principles of freedom that sustained it over the ages, and that it is supposed to uphold"*. If these pillars are not strengthened, the ANC will have no one to blame but itself.

Dr Pixley ka Seme's inaugural address is very clear on why the ANC must exist, and it is high time that we go back to these principles of our forbears. We can no longer continue as if it is business as usual whilst the movement is failing, and the only thing that will save the ANC is the ANC. The best amongst us must lead.

Pula!!!

Siggibo Biggz Mfuywa is a member of ANC in Ward 79 Greater Tshwane Region, he writes in his personal capacity.

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

The African National Congress: A REFLECTION

■ By Tebogo Mopeloa

THERE comes a time in a political season for the movement to reflect and mirror itself through its National General Council (NGC) and Policy Conference as crucial platforms and political stepping-stones for the final Elective Conference for the ANC to redefine and reform itself as a movement for the future political survival and for its navigation in its thorny complex path towards National Democratic Revolution as a destined directional political agenda.

These occasional political events somehow define a new era going forward and will take place in a backdrop of a polarised ANC political instability.

We cannot as members leave everything to either a political chance or a wait-and-see situation; we must as members be active on the political-life of our organisation and take ownership while being jealously at guard at all times.

Part of these complexities is the conflict of ideological deficiency within the collective ANC senior leadership echelon – a display of a lack of political “homogeneousness”, visible disunity, incoherent leadership and an assimilation of new political culture that could derail the movement off course.

In its post Central Executive Committee meeting outcomes Statement (1976), the South African Communist Party described the ideological defi-



ciency as an illustration of total lack of ideology within the movement which is basically due to ignorance of the historical reality.

For the ANC to preserve its dynamic uniqueness as a “living organism”; it needs to pause and to critically reflect on its contradictions of leadership composition. It needs to redefine the vague ideological deficit which steers the movement away from its fundamental founding principles of total emancipation of the people as espoused in its aspiration for non-racialism, non-sexist and a democratic society.

Only a fair and constructive in-depth political introspection may seek and establish a scientific political barometer to measure and grapple with the posture or the ideology that guides the

decisions of the ANC leadership. It's a worrying factor and as such needs to be brought to the fore:

Which ideology and theory guide the leadership to arrive at and to settle with particular political decisions during its meetings?

As was the case in Morogoro, the leadership is under immense pressure. Known as the Morogoro Conference, the ANC's National Consultative Conference in 1969 was a watershed moment for the organisation as it grappled with the challenges of illegality, exile, division and discontent. After a period of decline and dissent, the Morogoro Conference launched a period of renewal and revitalisation in the ANC.

Given our contemporary ANC challenges that we cannot turn-a-blind eye

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to, it's an open political secret that the centre is not holding firmly. Therefore, correct platforms such as the National General Council must be convened in order for members to share and provide direction and wisdom to the movement. This is because members cannot continue to be oblivious of their surroundings, thereby abdicating their political duty and responsibility to the political detriment and "demise" of the precious movement.

Within the movement in its entirety, are there still comrades in the true sense of the word? Is there a role of "external forces" which could in a way contribute meaningfully to the ANC's new type of a contemporary leader?

Who is an ANC Member and what are his/her Responsibilities?

Briefly, the ANC Constitution (2017) reads partly that a member must: "...take all necessary steps to understand and carry out the aims, policies and programmes of the ANC." Relevant to this piece, the ANC directs that an ANC member must observe discipline, behave honestly and carry out loyally decisions of its higher bodies.

To this end, the solemn member declaration is the cornerstone for com-

mitment of a member who voluntarily joins the ANC. This is the most difficult political principle that these "novice" members transgress and are not fit to be members. We should admit that the ANC has attracted a wrong crowd since it's unbanning. For that, we need to reflect and recruit politically ethical members within the ANC.

The United Democratic Front (UDF) as the ANC Internal Front

The UDF was a resistance mass based leadership rooted within the structures of the communities they served. It was widely acknowledged that the foundation of this calibre of leadership was derived from a spirit of collectivism and accountability without an undue propensity for power or the inclination to amass wealth for their betterment and self-serving reasons. So, an assertion has been made that this was a disciplined team of leadership core and an inspiration of others in the struggle for national liberation.

Perhaps the character of leadership in this organisation as a front always came across as solid and indeed an embodiment of the espoused discipline as expected and translated by the then banned ANC led by the imitable OR Tambo in its time.

These disciplined leaders of this organisation rallied the masses and fought the struggle unambiguously. The conduct of our ANC leaders from exile at the time displayed an era of power and political aloofness from the masses who were ready to be led by their leaders who were supposedly to be true ANC and politically astute. The UDF created a pathway for them to lead the masses. The majority rallied behind in support of this principled-leadership to which it was their defining strength.

To this end, as the ANC, there is a dire need for leaders to emulate this component of mass democratic leadership in the current political epoch.

The African National Congress Leadership Return from Exile

When the majority of ANC leadership returned from exile, there was political ululation. People realised that there would be no impressive attempt to explain the mistaken notion that "all cadres from exile would arrive with bazookas to liberate the masses." Given the material conditions, we received all our leaders from various arrival entry ports of the country empty-handed – a sore point of confusion and a disjuncture in the eyes of the masses.

This despite all clarities provided to our masses and similarly this mindset killed the fighting spirit of the poor as an overt of opulence of our leadership became an eyesore more than anything else.

Without any misgivings on the nature, type and character of the leadership style of both the leaders from the UDF and from exile, there was a sense of where the organisation was heading, guided by the pillars of the struggle.



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



GET CAREER FIT

■ By Des Squire

PROGRESSION in your career, like anything else in life, can always benefit from the wise advice of someone in the know. From the personal trainer at the gym to the spiritual advisor and the various doctors we consult, we rely on a network of experts in their field to show us the way. So, why not bring a personal Business Trainer (PBT) on board to hone our business and work skills?

Mentoring in business is not a new concept. In fact, it is common practice for companies to contract mentors to coach employees, managers and even directors about work-related issues. This style of hands-on training – often referred to these days as personal business coaching – is a growing trend. And one that could give you that extra edge as you reach for the next rung on the career ladder.

WHAT IS A PERSONAL BUSINESS TRAINER?

Simply put, personal business training involves a one-to-one relationship between a person with much experience and a less experienced person. What you gain, as the less experienced person, is an opportunity to share in vast professional and personal skills and experiences that are not available to you in your normal work setup, and, thereby, speed up your career growth



and development in the process.

Aside from your personal career needs and aspirations, there are most likely many issues that crop up in your day-to-day business where a second opinion, or even just a sounding board, would help a great deal. And, of course, you should be able to talk to your manager or supervisor but, as it goes, this is not always the case – they may be inexperienced themselves, incapable of assisting or just plain unwilling.

This is where a personal Business Trainer comes in, offering support and a strategy.

WHY USE A PBT?

Irrespective of your level in an organ-

isation, if you are serious about your career, you should think seriously about taking on a business coach – investing in yourself is always a good move. Think of those moments when you are feeling burdened by the endless tasks and meetings and decisions, and you are feeling out of your depth with a particularly challenging piece of work or person. In these moments, a coach is there to lean on, to bounce ideas off, to boost morale.

At the core of your relationship with your coach is mutual trust, openness and respect. This develops over time. But once established, the coach's function will be to encourage you, to be there to assist you, to offer their professional opinion and constructive comments, and to share their wealth of business experience. And

PERSPECTIVE

this career development all happens independently of your normal manager-subordinate relationship, ensuring objectivity – and no ramifications regarding confidentiality.

Although mentoring and coaching is not an entirely new construct within the business world, companies only introduced formal mentoring programmes for key employees over the past few years. So being, this is a company initiative and the employee usually does not get to choose who the mentor or coach will be.

With growing demand, clearly there is a need for personal Business Trainers in the workspace. People are fast turning on to the major benefits of an arrangement such as this – from top level to the workforce. Normally at the expense of the individual employee who has a desire for career progression, companies would be wise to consider subsidising the cost of these worthwhile services.

After all, a more productive employee means a more productive company.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The bottom line: This will be a personal relationship between you and your trainer. Initially, there will be one or two face-to-face meetings to establish and develop the relationship, but from there the sessions are normally on a distance learning basis. During the initial meetings you will agree the terms of the association and how future contact will be made. There should be a formal agreement to clarify the respective roles, costs involved and expectations. The agreement will also determine the framework of the relationship and the terms for termination of the relationship.

You should only enter into an agreement for an initial six-to-12 month period, so you can be sure you do not end up wasting time and money deal-



ing with someone who cannot meet your requirements or who does not have the necessary experience and business acumen to take you further along your career path.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PBT

It is crucial that the person must have greater experience and knowledge than you – the whole point of having a coach is to gain more than you had. Look for someone that has a good understanding of management, particularly people management. The person must be trustworthy, ethical and be able to maintain confidentiality. They should enjoy helping others and be willing to share their knowledge and experiences freely, and should be prepared to act as your counselor, consultant, coach, and personal advisor and confidante. Above all, choose a coach who will be willing to consistently be there for you when you need them, who is prepared to respond to your queries and help you find solutions to your problems within

an agreed time frame.

Support in the first two months is highly important; this is the foundation period, a time in which the relationship and trust are cemented. Phone contact during this period is essential. And expect the agreed programme to change as the personal business trainer gets to know you and your specific needs. The programme will become more effective as it matures and with ongoing evaluation.

Lastly, to reiterate, one of the biggest advantages of a personal business training programme is that it takes place outside of a structured business system, giving you the advantage of unbiased opinions and independent, unique advice. This kind of back-up and potential for rapid advancement is priceless – a career no-brainer.

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Q&A

■ By Amanda Tshemese

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Emilie Olifant

1. Comrade Emilie please tell us about yourself.

I hail from the humble and promising soils of Tshwane ya Mamelodi. I'm the youngest of six children and the only girl. Matriculated from Vlakfontein High and graduated from UNISA. I'm a creative person who sees opportunities through the darkest clouds. I have worked for both private and public sectors but mostly private, and have been sharpened along the way to being where I am today. I love managing projects that bring great impact in people's lives. I never take up a challenge I don't believe in, nor do I pretend to know-it-all. I am life's student through every day's experiences. I'm an author of my autobiography "My Life Climax", an account of my life, trials and tribulations I had to go through to become the phenomenal person I am today. The book summarizes my will to live, ability to embrace the unknown and desire to touch people in a special way.

2. What do you most appreciate about your life's journey?

There is no better teacher than life itself. As I grew older and became wiser through life's experiences, I learned to embrace life – the good and the not so pleasant, learn through introspection to come out better and stronger. It's my daily mantra to give thanks to God and those that have birthed me – my



Comrade Emilie Olifant

ancestors, for the great blessing that I am. I have a strong woman as my mother. She's been with me through my darkest hours with this spinal cord injury I have, and yet she remains humble and proud of me. I could not have asked for a better nurturer. Just knowing that I'm still alive to have my challenges is a victory all by itself.

3. What do you think is the biggest misconception that people have about people with disability?

We are all spiritual beings living a human experience. Persons with disabilities are no different to you

and I. We are so competent, intellectuals, talented and are able to live fulfilling lifestyles. Yet the society tends to perceive us as weak and incapable. Just like everyone else, through human rights and financial independence, we are able to live fulfilling lives. Lack of work and employment opportunities among other barriers continue to create a huge setback for persons with disabilities. But given an opportunity, we will rise above deep waters.

4. What are some of the memories you most cherish about your childhood?

I have to give this one to my late father, Jacob "Mashite" Olifant. He taught me everything I know about independence, financial literacy 'the foundation thereof', family bond, transparency, and mostly – quality. When I was younger, my family allowed me to explore life. From pre-school I took part in the arts and cultural activities, I took part in athletics and was one of the best sprinters. I'm a product of Girls Guides and Brownies which contributed to my brilliant life skills.

As I grew older and had encounters with many other influential people, I learned from their music, their writing, their acting, their parenting, their loving, and of course, their being who they are.

5. How do you advise someone that has lost hope through disability?

We all go through different challenges and anything that happens to us is merely here to teach us something about ourselves and to show us who we truly are. Nothing happens by chance. We go through life's journey that is set for us - individually. Just because I may seem to manage disability better than another person doesn't mean their disability is not meaningful. You ought to know and understand that nobody owes you anything. Not in a bad way. But the moment you realise you have a disability and decides to live with the unknown, that is a first step to embracing who you are becoming. Only you can determine the life you feel you deserve. When I got injured in my car accident 17 years ago, I made a promise to myself that I will do my best to live my life as best as I did before. Having a disability is not easy, but you can decide to honor your God by not sulking but striving towards the life you are called here to live.

6. Who played a pivotal role in your life and journey throughout when you wanted to give up?

I've had very challenging moments since my injury. I've gone through all sorts of emotions and fear would creep through trying to steal my joy so I can lose my focus. But God has been my source of strength. I'm alive today because it wasn't over for me yet. The knowledge that I still have bigger things to achieve alone is what encourages me to wake up every day. Memories I have of my late father encourages me to become better. He was a family man, loved the good about life and most of all, he loved and cherished me. I'm grateful for the seed he planted in me. So, every time I experience a diffi-

cult moment, I embrace emotions, introspect and come out stronger.

7. Do you think people with disability are given equal opportunities in government and the private sector?

Inequalities exist for everyone, but it's persons with disabilities who feel the biggest brunt of this inhumanity. The Constitution is great support but only on paper. Some employers are still not open to educating themselves about and embracing disability inclusion in the workplace. How can someone with a law degree or BCom degree for example, continue to be placed on Learnership Programmes throughout their career lives? Some organisations, private and in public sector, haven't met Government's target to transform and employ at least 2% of persons with disabilities in their workplace. Is this through ignorance? You may ask. I think it's greed. Organisations are more focused on making profits than investing in the people that work for them. Persons with disabilities are most loyal and talented assets,

yet employers don't even give themselves an opportunity to embrace this gift. Everything we sell or manufacture gets consumed by persons with disabilities too, yet instead of seeing a bigger picture here, we are sidelined. Sometimes even by the very same people we rely on for support.


8. What's your favorite meal?

I love a good meal. Soul food you know, the kind that when you eat you ought to take breaks because it's just too good. I also love cooking African Cuisine and experimenting with new dishes.

9. What's your motto?

I have a few that I've lived by all my life but at the moment... **"We are all born naked, everything else is drag honey"**.

I'm on a journey to embracing my older-self and this motto reminds me to remain authentic no matter what the journey. Be true to myself, embrace who I am and leave the world to take care of one's issues.



"Being independent and empowered has its great and wonderful benefits but on the other hand, the opposite can be devastating and discouraging."

From my autobiography now available at Exclusive Books nationwide:

"My Life Climax"
Emilie Olifant

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

7–13 November 2020

Source: SA History Online (www.sahistory.org.za)

■ 8 November 1887

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange established



The Johannesburg's Stock Exchange (JSE) was established to facilitate the explosion of trade sparked by gold mining in the Witwatersrand. The Witwatersrand gold rush started in 1886, resulted in the formation of mining and financial companies with investors who needed a central facility to access primary capital. Initially trading took place in a miner's tent and moved to the stables at the corner of what became Sauer and Commissioner Streets (Sauer has been changed to Pixley Seme Street). Benjamin Minors Wollan proposed to a meeting of the Exchange and Chambers Company board and members that 'the Johannesburg Stock Exchange should be established. On 8th November 1887 Woollan founded the JSE by providing a facility to conduct trading. The establishment of the JSE at this time made it the oldest stock exchange facility in the subcontinent. Growth in the mining industry was reflected in the economic boom of the 1890s that the JSE experienced. Between 1887 and 1934 an estimated 200 million pounds was invested in the gold industry with more than half from foreign investments. In 1933 a rival exchange known as the Union Exchange was formed in Johannesburg. It continued to trade until 1958 when it was closed by the Treasury

Companies and the companies listed under it were transferred to the JSE. In 1947 the Stock Exchanges Control Act was passed to regulate the operation of stock exchange by stating capital requirements for members and the conduct for brokers. In 1963 the JSE joined the World Federation of Exchanges an international association of the world's leading regulated markets. The physical location of the JSE changed several times throughout its existence as it grew. On 7 June 1996 the open outcry trading floor (where traders shout across the floor or gesture to sell or buy shares) was closed and replaced by a centralised, automated trading system known as the Johannesburg Equities Trading (JET) system. The JSE moved from its CBD location to Sandton, Johannesburg.

■ 8 November 1958

All African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana



A year after Ghana gained independence from Britain under the presidency of Kwame Nkrumah, the All African People's Conference (AAP) was held in the capital city Accra on this day. Nkrumah felt that Ghana independence would be meaningless if other African states were still colonised by the European powers. Earlier in the year, Nkrumah as a pioneer of Pan-Africanism convened the Conference of All Independent African States (Libya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mo-

rocco, Tunisia, Sudan United Republic of Egypt and Ghana), which was followed by this historic AAP Conference. The AAP Conference was attended by all independent and non-independent African states, liberation movements and public organisations. The slogan for the conference was "Hands off Africa", meeting to chart a way forward on how to achieve continental freedom. The conference committed African countries and liberation movements to anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, African Unity and non-alignment.

■ 8 November 2014

African Union organise Africa Against Ebola Roundtable



The Ebola crisis in West Africa, especially Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone saw the WHO declaring a 'public health emergency.' Shortly thereafter, the AU Peace and Security Council resolved to deploy a joint humanitarian/military mission of volunteers (ASEOWA) to the three countries, to assist with tackling the pandemic. After a joint visit by AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, UN Economic Commission Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes and African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka to the three countries in October 2014, Dlamini Zuma wrote to all African Presidents, requesting them to provide more health workers to strengthen ASE-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

OWA. On 8 November 2014, the AU Commission Chairperson, with UNECA and the AfDB convened the Africa against Ebola roundtable at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the private sector. At this roundtable, the private sector pledged 32 million USD towards the additional deployment of African health workers. By December 2014, 178 Nigerian health workers, 187 Ethiopian health workers, and 81 health workers from the DRC joined the ASEOWA contingent in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. On the 9th of January 2015, 170 health workers joined the ASEOWA team from Kenya. The ASEOWA contingent in the three countries played a critical role in supporting the health departments and communities of the three AU member states to bring the pandemic under control.

(Source: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/30999-doc-fact-sheet_as_of_26_jan_2015.pdf)

■ 9 November 2008

Mama Africa, Miriam Makeba passes on

South African singer Miriam Makeba dies at the age of 76 after a 30 minute performance in the Italian town of Caserta. Nicknamed 'Mama Africa' or the 'Empress of African Song', Makeba's music transcended South African borders and entered the global stage. Makeba built her reputation in the music industry in the 1950s, singing for the Cuban Brothers and the Manhattan Brothers and the Skylarks. In 1959, Makeba starred in the anti-apartheid documentary *Come Back Africa*, which placed the apartheid government under the international spotlight. As a consequence, she was subjected to harassment by the apartheid government. Her passport was revoked and withdrawn while she was outside the country, leading to her stay in exile in London. When her mother died in 1960, she could not return for her funeral because her passport had been revoked. In 1963, Makeba testified before the



Miriam Makeba

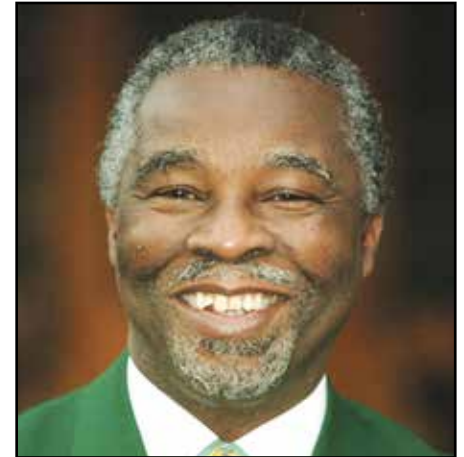
United Nations (UN) of how the apartheid government had stripped her of her citizenship. She performed at the inaugural conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963 in Addis Ababa. After speaking out against apartheid at the United Nations, her music was banned by the state broadcasters in South Africa. Makeba lived in numerous countries such as the United States of America, France, Guinea and Belgium; and whilst in exile, she received passports from Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, the US, and Belgium, whilst being denied a South African passport. Makeba toured various parts of the world in the 1970s and 1980s and continued to speak out against apartheid in various forums. At the end of apartheid, she returned to South Africa and continued with her singing career. In 2005, Makeba announced her retirement from the mainstream music industry but she continued to make appearances and to do smaller performances.

■ 9 November 2004

Mbeki and entourage welcomed in Abidjan

South African President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, arrived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to help find a solution to the political unrest in the country. Thousands of people turned out on the streets to greet President

Thabo Mbeki and the rest of his delegation. Mbeki was received in Abidjan by the secretary general of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, as well as local ministers.



■ 10 November 1871

Stanley found Livingston at Ujiji, Tanzania

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was a Scottish missionary and explorer, also known as an anti-slavery advocate, whilst promoting British colonial and economic expansion in Africa. His first postings were in Southern Africa, which he abandoned to travel, convert and explore and map the rivers or highways of the continent. He left the London Missionary Society and was appointed as Her Majesty Queen Victoria's consul, paving the way for explorations across the continent. He is credited with being the first European to discover the *Mosi-oa-Tunya* ("the smoke that thunders") waterfalls, which he named Victoria Falls. In 1886, he returned to Africa, this time seeking the origins of the river Nile, starting his journey in Zanzibar. After much tribulations, he ended in Ujiji, Tanzania, gravely ill. Livingstone by then lost contact with Europe, and New York Herald newspaper sent journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley to try and find Livingstone. He found him in the town of Ujiji on 10 November 1871, and greeted him with the now famous words: "*Dr. Livingstone, I presume?*"

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

■ 10 November 2002

Mass grave found near SADF base in Namibia

Reports were made that two mass graves were found at a former South African Defence Force base, Eenha-na, in northern Namibia. Construction workers discovered the first mass grave containing human bones and ammunition, 400 metres from the former military base on 9 November. The second grave was discovered the next day near the base's airstrip. It contained human remains. The bones were suspected to be those of South West African People's Organisation fighters who may have been killed in the so-called nine-day war near the end of South Africa's occupation of Namibia, which ended in 1990. It was not known how many bodies the grave contained. Constand Viljoen, who was chief of the army from 1977 to 1985, reacted to the finding by saying that it was impossible for well-disciplined South African troops to have buried guerrillas in mass graves.

■ 11 November 1975

Angola gains independence from Portugal

Angola becomes independent after 14 years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule. The three major movements, the Movimiento Popular de Liberación de Angola, (MPLA), the Front for the National Liberation of Angola (FLNA) and National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the Alvor agreement in January 1975. Due to political differences amongst the parties that signed the agreement, civil war broke out. The MPLA, which seized power was supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union, and UNITA which went to war was supported by South Africa and the US. The independence of Angola paved the way for other liberation movements in Southern Africa to establish bases for military training. For instance, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) established bases in

Angola. In 1976, the African National Congress (ANC) set up the Central Operations Headquarters of uMkonto we Sizwe (MK) and began a process of establishing military training camps in Angola. That same year, the ANC began negotiations with Angola to establish military bases, and by the end of 1976 the ANC had established its first military base in Angola. The first group of MK soldiers was sent to a camp south of Luanda in Gabela. By late October and early November 1976 other MK were brought from Tanzania and sent to a transit camp called Engineering. Camps Gabela and Engineering were closed in 1977 and people were moved to Nova Katengue in the south. After Zimbabwean independence in 1980, ZAPU left Angola for Zimbabwe and gave two of their camps Caculama and Camalundi to the ANC. Another camp Quatro was demolished in 1988.

■ 11 November 1992

Church of England Votes to allow Women to become Priests

The Synod of the Church of England on this day voted to allow women to be ordained as priests, following a trend in the Anglican Church across the world. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted for the ordainment of women priests earlier in 1992, whilst countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the US had women priests ordained since the 1970s. The first female Anglican bishop was ordained in Canada in 1994, and the first Southern African female bishop in 2012. The Church of England's first female bishop was ordained only in 2015!

■ 11 November 1995

Ken Saro Wiwa is executed

Born in the Ogoni District of Nigeria, Ken Saro Wiwa studied English at the Government College Umuahia. He took up a post as a Civil Administrator during the Nigerian Civil War and wrote a novel based on his experiences. In 1973, after serving as Re-



Ken Saro Wiwa

gional Commissioner for Education in the River State Cabinet, he was dismissed for his support of Ogoni autonomy, and Saro Wiwa became a member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). One contentious issue faced by the Ogoni people, that MOSOP aimed to solve, was that of the crude oil extraction in the region. Since the 1950's, Ogoniland had been dumped with oil waste, causing irreversible environmental damage. Saro Wiwa led a Passive resistance campaign against the multi-national corporations, Royal Dutch Shell in particular, and was also critical of the Nigerian government for its reluctance in curbing the wastage of oil companies. Due to his outspoken views, Saro Wiwa was imprisoned by the Nigerian military government for several months, without trial. In 1994, four Ogoni chiefs were murdered, and although he had been denied entry into Ogoniland on the day of the murders, Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were arrested for inciting the killings. Due to the false testimony of two witnesses, bribed by Shell officials, he was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death by hanging. On 11 November 1995, Saro Wiwa was executed, as were the other eight defendants. The international community responded with outrage, and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for almost four years. Law suits were brought against Shell, as well as Brian Anderson, the head of the Nigerian operation at the time. Shell offered \$15.5 million to the families of the nine victims, but denied any responsibility for the executions.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICANS BORN THIS WEEK

■ 7 November

Helen Suzman (1917-2009)



Doyen of South African liberalism, politician and anti-apartheid activist, Helen Suzman, was born in Germiston, South Africa on this day. During her 36 years in the whites-only Parliament, she used every opportunity to speak out against discriminatory legislation. She entered politics when she represented the United Party (UP) in Parliament in 1953. Six years later she founded the Progressive Party (PP) and became its sole representative in Parliament. As a Member of Parliament, she was able to visit prisons, among them Robben Island, where she inspected the living conditions of prisoners. In the course of her career, the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard awarded her honorary doctorates; she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978 and in 1980, the Medallion of Heroism. The Helen Suzman Foundation was established to promote liberal democracy in South Africa.

■ 8 November

Chris Barnard (1922-2001)



Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) was born in Beaufort West on this day. He headed the surgical team that achieved the first-ever human heart transplant at Groote Schuur hospital in 1967.

■ 9 November

Bulelwa Mkutukana (b.1988)



Bulelwa Mkutukana (born 9 November 1988), best known by her stage name **Zahara**, is a South African singer and songwriter. She started singing in her school's choir when she was six years old, and at the age of nine she was told to join the senior choir because of her strong voice.

In 2011 Zahara released her debut album *Loliwe*, which went platinum in 13 days and double platinum after 17 days, selling over 100,000 copies in South Africa.

On 30 April 2012, at the annual South African Music Awards, Zahara won eight awards, including *"Best Female Artist"* and *"Album of the Year"*.

In 2013, Zahara released her second studio album, *Phendula*. *Phendula* won three South African Music Awards for Best Selling Album, Best R&B, Soul and Reggae Album and Best Female Artist of the Year. The same year, President Nelson Mandela invited her to his home to perform a private bedside concert. She then composed "Nelson Mandela" in his honor.

■ 10 November

Benni McCarthy (b.1977)



Former footballer turned coach, McCarthy was born in Cape Town and grew up in Hanover Park. Benni still holds Bafana Bafana record as an all-time top goal scorer (31). He is also the only South African to win the UEFA Champions with Porto in 2003-2004.

■ 11 November

Dr Esther Mahlangu (b.1935)



Esther Mahlangu is a South African artist best known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings that reference her Ndebele heritage. She was born on 11 November 1935 on a farm near Middleburg in Mpumalanga. Mam Esther was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the University of Johannesburg, 9 April 2018. She painted her geometric patterns on a BMW 525i in 1991 and was invited to decorate the inside of a Rolls Royce Phantom. In 2006 Mam Esther was conferred the Order of Ikhamanga, silver class by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Today Mam Esther's work is repre-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

sented in private, corporate and public galleries around the world. Her village home in Mpumalanga is inundated with visitors from around the world, keen to explore her complex approach to wall decoration. Even at the age of 75, she is involved in sustainable development in her community and trains young women in this art of their forebears.

■ 13 November Bonnie Ntshalintshali (1967-1999)

Bonnie Mayvee Ntshalintshali was born in Winterton, Natal. She plunged herself into art when she apprenticed as a studio assistant for ceramics artist Fée Halsted-Berning. Her talent in ceramics and painting soon shined through. In many of her works, Ntshalintshali drew inspiration from her early years at mission school. She won numerous awards throughout her career, among them the Corobrik National Ceramic Award in 1988 and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 1990. Her work is represented in collections locally and overseas. Ntshalintshali died in 1999 and was buried at the farm where she was born.



■ 13 November Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula (b. 1956)

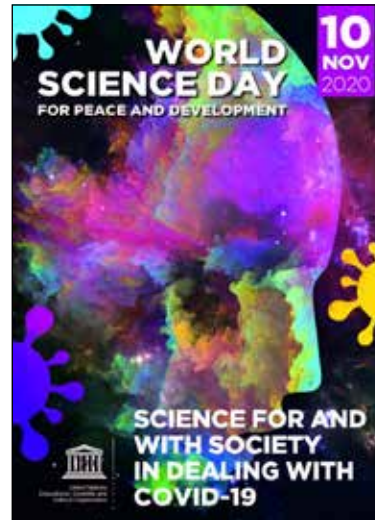
Minister of Defence and Military Veterans since 2012, former Secretary General of the ANC Women's League, trained and taught as a primary school teacher in the 70s. She left for exile in 1984, joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, active in the ANC Women's Section, and represented the ANC Women's Sec-



tion in the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO); and was part of South Africa's constitution-making process. She has been a member of parliament since 1994, and served as Minister of Home Affairs and of Correctional Services.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

7-13 November 2020



■ 10 November World Science Day for Peace and Development

World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. By linking science

more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable. The theme for 2020, when the world is battling the global COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of the World Science Day is on **"Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic"**. The focus areas include improving international scientific cooperation, improving access to water and sanitation, and supporting ecological reconstruction. (<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldscienceday#theme>)

■ 13 November World Kindness Day

The day was started by NGO's advocating for kindness, and people on this day are encouraged to be kind, and integrate kindness to others in their daily lives. Kindness is defined as *"being... friendly, generous and considerate."*

The attributes of kind persons include: Empathy; Good listening skills; Social; Generous; Charitable; Helpful; Courteous; Engage in perspective-taking and Caring/nurturing. (<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/world-kindness-day-1573623905-1>)



* **Luli Callinicos** is also the author of **Oliver Tambo: Beyond the Engeli Mountains** (2004), **The World that Made Mandela** (2000), **Working Life: Factories, Townships and Popular Culture** (1987) and **A Place in the City** (1993).

in pictures



In preparations for the by-elections of 11 November 2020, the Officials and NEC members embarked a a door-to-door programme to canvass voters on 31 October and 1 November.



ANC Secretary General Comrade Ace Magashule, in conversation with future voter.



Community meeting in the Peter Mokaba Region, Limpopo



Comrade Naledi Pandor engage with prospective voters



Comrade Pemmy Majodina in conversation with a prospective voter



Comrade Barbara Creecy (left) and Comrade Mamoloko Kubayi-Ngubani (right) accompanied by ANC Volunteers going door-to-door



in pictures



In preparations for the by-elections of 11 November 2020, the Officials and NEC members embarked a a door-to-door programme to canvass voters on 31 October and 1 November.



Comrade Angie Motsbekga during a church visit



Community meeting



Community meeting



ANC Volunteers



Comrades making sure that every vote counts

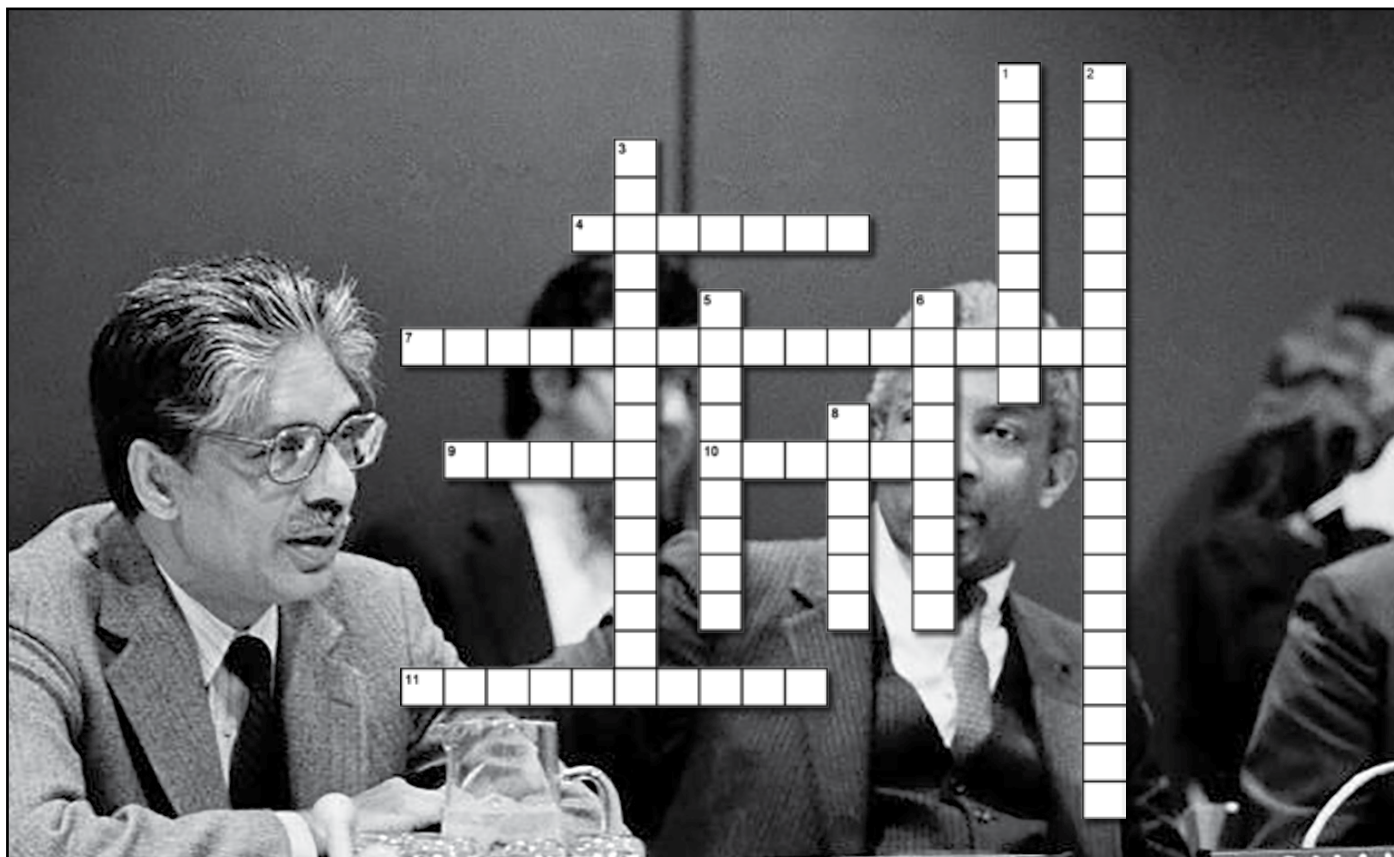


Comrade Susan Shabangu and Cde Pemmy Majodina with an ANC Volunteer



X-WORD

Anti-Apartheid Campaigner ES Reddy (1924–2020)



ACROSS

4. At the beginning, Special Committee against Apartheid only had African and Asian countries, and Haiti and Costa Rica (Latin America) as members. Which Eastern European country was the exception?
7. The Committee against Apartheid recognised South African peoples right to ...
9. Reddy was a student activist in his country of birth in the 1940s.
10. UN Secretary General when Reddy became secretary of the Special Committee against Apartheid (1963)
11. Reddy received the Order of ... of OR Tambo in 2013.

DOWN

1. ES Reddy was secretary of the UN Special Committee against ...
2. Which year was celebrated as International Anti-Apartheid Year
3. Archival treasure: ES Reddy Collection.
5. Was board member of Council on African Affairs in US with this great Pan Africanist
6. Played an important role in international ... against apartheid
8. South African non-racial sports body advocated for sports boycott.

WORD BANK

Apartheid
sanctions
SANROC

Companions
WEB Du Bois
self determination

India
U Thant
nineteen seventy eight

Southern African
Hungary

Read the Interview with ES Reddy: <https://www.aamarchives.org/archive/interviews/e-s-reddy/int16t-e-s-reddy.html>

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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