



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the President



As a country, we are **part of Africa** and **Africa is part of us**

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

LAST WEEK media around the world carried heart-rending images of a young boy adrift off the coast of the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. He was clinging to a makeshift buoy made of plastic bottles and desperately trying to make it to shore.

Over the years we have become accustomed to seeing images of African men, women and children crammed into boats and make-

shift rafts trying to reach Europe. According to relief organisations, more than 20,000 people have lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean since 2014.

As we observe Africa Day, these tragic stories remind us of the huge task we have to build a better life for all the people of Africa.

While we celebrate the progress we have made towards building

a peaceful and prosperous continent, events in faraway North Africa show that we still have a long way to go.

Life is so difficult for millions of people on our continent and opportunities so few that they would risk their lives crossing the sea in pursuit of a better future.

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT



Image of the young boy who used a makeshift floating device to get to shore in Cueta, Spain

from the effects of conflict, under-development and poverty even more vulnerable.

African economies have been severely damaged and growth prospects are greatly diminished. Many of the continent's developmental gains may be reversed as the fight against the pandemic takes precedence over other national priorities like poverty eradication. Although low-income countries are especially vulnerable, middle income countries like our own have also been severely hit.

To support the continent's economic recovery, African governments have been working through the African Union (AU) to mobilise significant financing to meet their developmental goals.

Last week, I joined several African leaders at a summit in Paris

Life is so difficult for millions of people on our continent and opportunities so few that they would risk their lives crossing the sea in pursuit of a better future.

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hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron on the financing of African economies in the post-COVID-19 era.

South Africa reiterated its support for a comprehensive and robust economic stimulus package for Africa to aid the recovery. But we said this should not be a substi-

tute for official development aid.

We welcomed the steps taken by financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support low- and middle-income countries, and called for further measures to support vulnerable countries. This would include an allocation by the IMF of what are known as Special Drawing Rights, where on the basis of membership quotas, around \$33 billion will be released to increase the reserves of African countries. African leaders have however argued that an amount of \$33 billion, while welcome, is not sufficient to meet the challenges that the continent faces. As the more developed economies are set to receive much of the \$650 billion of Special Drawing Rights to be issued, we believe that 25% (which equates to \$162.5 billion) should be made available to African countries.



Other measures would include increased concessional financing by international institutions and development agencies, and additional measures led by the G20 countries to provide African countries with debt relief.

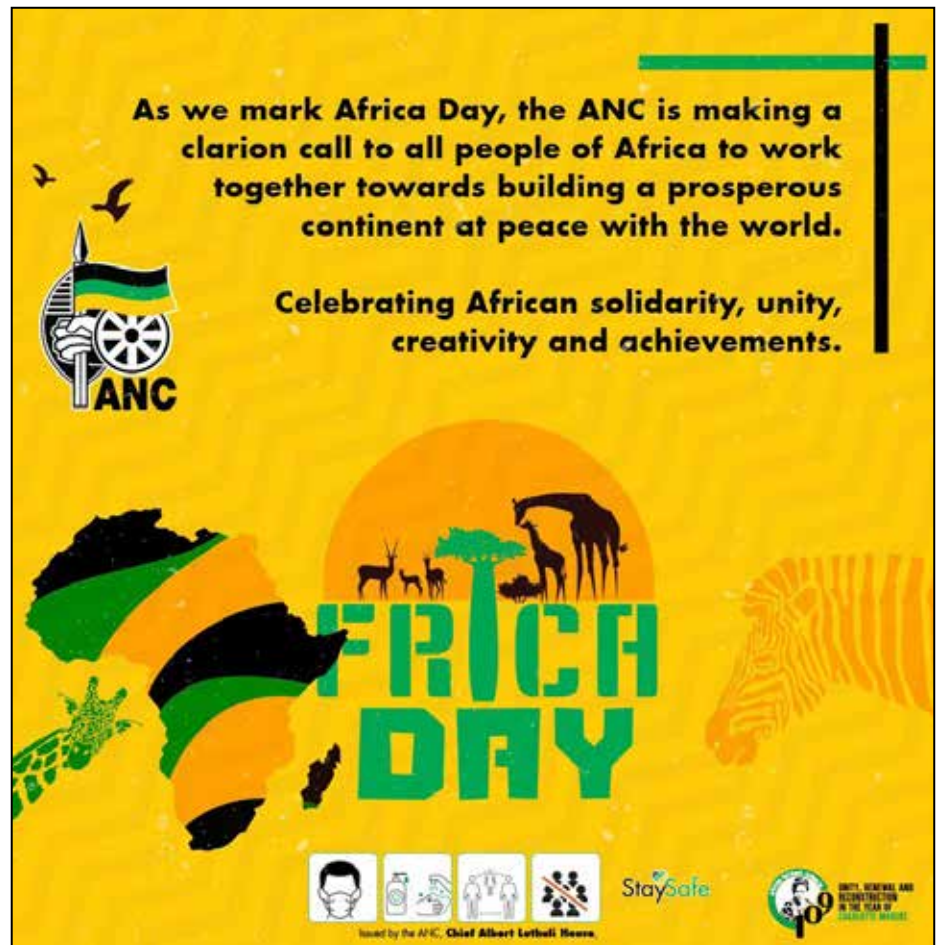
In what was described as a New Deal for Africa, leaders and international organisations recognised that we share a collective responsibility to implement financial relief measures for African countries in distress.

The international experience with COVID-19 has been a lesson in the importance of collaboration between African countries and with our international partners. Our gains as a continent have been because we have both drawn on our own capabilities and worked with the international community.

As African countries, we want to help ourselves and not be told what is good for us. The principle of *'nothing about us without us'* should be applied. It is important that we affirm our sovereignty as free and independent states capable of determining the destiny of our continent.

While countries have immediate financing needs, a sustainable economic recovery can only be assured if we increase levels of investment on the continent. Investing in African economies will contribute to making Africa the next champion of global growth.

The African Continental Free Trade Area will play a key role in the continental recovery. We also envisage a greater role for the continental network of African public development banks to mobilise funding to support key projects in health, education, infra-



As African countries, we want to help ourselves and not be told what is good for us.

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structure, green growth and other sectors.

African leaders acknowledge the centrality of good governance, public debt management, financial integrity and creating a more favourable climate for private sector investment in their economies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented levels of unity and cooperation between African countries. It has seen the continent strengthen its ties with the broader international community and global institutions.

As we observe Africa Day, let us deepen our efforts to achieve a sustainable and lasting social and economic recovery for the citizens of Africa. Ours must become a continent that is thriving and prosperous, not one from which its people are dying in an attempt to leave.

As a country, we are part of Africa and Africa is part of us. What happens in one part of our continent affects us all, and so we must work together to recover from this crisis, and to ensure that our continent grows and thrives.



SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE!

MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS

WE, members of the African National Congress (ANC), are outraged by the ongoing callous brutality, oppression, ongoing state-sponsored violence against innocent civilians, especially children and ongoing land disposessions against the Palestinian people.

The ANC believes that the continued colonial occupation of Palestinian lands by apartheid Israel is not only gross violation of human rights, but also a crime against humanity. This is the harsh reality faced by the people of Palestine on a daily basis.

Black South Africans share a common history of oppression with the Palestinians. We have both been subjected to oppression and land dispossession by some of the most evil and cruel regimes the world has ever seen.

As South Africans, we recall how

the international community's solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa during the dark days of apartheid contributed towards breaking the back of the apartheid regime.

The ANC stands firmly on the side of the people of Palestine in their struggle to achieve freedom and self-determination.

As the ANC, we will never forget that the Palestinians were at the forefront of the international movement against the apartheid regime.

LIST OF DEMANDS

On behalf of our movement and all peace-loving people across the globe, we demand:

1. In the face of injustices and atrocities meted out against innocent civilians, we call on the Israeli regime to stop its campaign of murder and atrocities

against the Palestinian people.

2. We call on the United Nations to put relentless pressure on the Israeli regime to stop its campaign of repression and ruthless brutality against the people of Palestine.
3. Israel to recognise the rights of the people of Palestine to their land and freedom.
4. Israel to comply with international law and to respect Palestine's right to self-determination
5. Israel to stop expanding its settlements on Palestinian lands and return all dispossessed land to the people of Palestine
6. Israel to ensure that all members of its security forces who are responsible for the slaughter of unarmed civilians are held to account



Palestine: Our freedom is incomplete without your freedom

Dear Mr President

THE world is once again bearing witness to the callous killing of civilians in the Middle East wherein the Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in internecine warfare. The conflict between the two nations sharing the same piece of land is one of the longest in the world and has defied international mediation for a century. The African National Congress and its alliance partners have long adopted a policy to support the subjugated Palestinians who are denied basic human rights in their own land. As such, the ANC is appalled that wanton violence is prioritised to resolve a dispute that ought to have been resolved amicably for the safety and well-being of everyone involved.

The impasse has its origins from the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the World War I by the British who took control of the area known as Palestine today. The land was inhabited by the Jewish minority and Arab majority and tensions escalated between the two people when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a "home" in Palestine for Jewish people.

Between the 1920s and 40s, the number of Jews fleeing from persecution in Europe flocked to Palestine seeking a homeland after the holocaust. In 1947, the United Nations voted for Palestine to



Comrade Pule Mabe

be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city. The plan was never implemented as tensions grew between the Jews and Arabs.

**The wanton killing
of children and unarmed
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immediate effect.**

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Unable to solve the problem, British rulers and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 to the objection of Palestinians and war followed with the invasion of neighbouring Arab countries. By the time the fighting ended, Israel controlled most of the territory.

Jordan occupied land which became known as the West Bank while Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip. Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West and Jordan forces in the East. Because there was never a peace agreement, there were more wars and fighting in decades that followed.

In the 1967 war, Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza. Most Palestinian refugees and their descendants live in Gaza and the West Bank. Neither of them have been allowed to return to their homes – Israel says this would overwhelm the country and threaten its existence as a Jewish state.

Israel still occupies the West Bank, and although it pulled out of Gaza, the UN regards that piece of land as part of the occupied territory. Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Mr President, this epistemology of the conflict is important to understand the tensions that led to the



current wanton violence and continuing hostilities between the two nations.

Gaza is currently ruled by Hamas while Israel and Egypt control the borders of Gaza to stop weapons getting to Hamas.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they're suffering because of Israeli actions and restrictions. The issues of disagreement between the two groups include what should happen to Palestinian refugees and whether Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank should stay or be removed and whether the Jews and Arabs should share Jerusalem.

Peace talks have taken place on and off for more than 25 years but there is still no peaceful resolution in sight.

The ANC, as a party that fought the oppressive system of apartheid on national and international grounds, has long advocated for a cessation of hostilities and our solidarity is firmly with the people of Palestine. The ANC successfully averted civil war when it took a conscious decision to sit around the table to negotiate with a hostile and untrustworthy apartheid regime and today South African is reaping the rewards of that decision.

The Israeli state, which commands one of the world's top five armies, is no different from the apartheid state, which corralled our people into barren homelands because it feared the numerical majority of black people.

The daily realities of the Palestinians in the occupied territories are no different to what our people had to contend with in the apartheid homelands where they were denied their rights. The latest



conflict was sparked by an Israeli court decision to evict Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem to make way for Israeli settlements. This is a humiliation many black families in South Africa became familiar with under the National Party rule. Marabastad in Pretoria, Sophiatown in Johannesburg and District Six in Cape Town are the embodiment of the dastardly and ruinous actions of dislocating families from their land for racist motives. The legacy of forced removals lives with us today even as we seek to dismantle the hegemony of apartheid.

Indeed, according to Dr Ramzy Baroud, who has been writing about the Middle East for over 20 years, *"the present struggle against apartheid in Palestine is not merely similar to that of South Africa. Both struggles are extensions of the same movement, the same fight for freedom..."*

The wanton killing of children and unarmed civilians by Israel must stop with immediate effect. Mr President, our fight against the apartheid regime was escalated through the international Anti-Apartheid Movement when many liberation movements, including the ANC, were banned

from operating in South Africa. One of the messages that registered among British and international anti-apartheid activists was to withdraw support from apartheid by not buying South African goods. The message was simple enough but it was most consequential in its outcomes.

From the era of our former president, Nelson Mandela to date, the stance of the ANC has been consistent. Madiba enjoyed fraternal relations with the late leader of the Palestinian movement, Yassir Arafat.

In his own words Madiba said: *"We know all too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."*

It is a historical fact that the Israeli government shored the apartheid regime in many ways, including militarily and intelligence. Be that as it may, our democratic government has not sought to make Israel a pariah despite its deplorable oppression of the Palestinians.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



Pioneering Africa's Inclusive Economic Recovery and Free Trade: **Levers For Building the Africa We Want**

■ *By Mohammed Dangor*

ON THE 25th of May we celebrated Africa Day under the theme of “**Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for building the Africa We Want.**” When we celebrate Africa Day we celebrate the legacy and principles of Pan Africanism, Unity, Continental Human Solidarity and the triumph over colonialism and apartheid, legacies of our founding fathers: Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Amilcar Cabral, Ahmed Sekou Toure, Franz Fanon, Patrice Lumumba, Ahmed Ben Bella, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Thomas Sankara, Samora Machel, Toussaint Louverture, Toiva Ja Toiva, OR Tambo and Nelson Mandela amongst many others.

Thus, when we reflect on the progress we have made, we must do so within the context of our political, social, cultural and economic liberation of our continent. In this regard, we have been largely successful in ensuring our political liberation from colonialism and apartheid. Today, only the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic – Western Sahara is still colonised by Morocco. Unfortunately, the battle for economic liberation has been a much more



challenging struggle for most of our continent. It has been stunted by ethnic, religious and border conflict amongst others. The policy and legislative architecture, systems and infrastructure for economic integration, trade and development have been at best

fragmented and at worst non-existent. Instead, for most of Africa's post-independence period, they have been geared towards favouring our former colonisers. In Africa most of our rail and road infrastructure lead to the ports in order that all our raw materials are exported outside of the continent. Until now, for many African



countries it is cheaper to export to Europe than it is to export to countries on the continent. Africa's economy is fragmented, rent based, exclusivist, extractive and commodity based as opposed to being inclusive, integrated and diversified. As a result, the share of Intra-African exports has only increased from about 10% in 1995 to approximately 17% in 2017.

It is against this background that over the past few decades, under the auspices of the African Union (AU) there has been a conscious effort and incremental progress to strengthen our economic integration across our continent. Africa started a bottom up process of economic integration through the development of 8 separate Regional Economic Communities (REC's); Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Eco-

nommic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Thus, today we have much to celebrate. After years of hard work (i.e. in 2012 the AU formerly agreed to usher in a continental free trade zone) in 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Area, hereinafter referred to as the AfCFTA) was founded in order to ensure continental economic and trade integration through the REC's. At the end of 2020, there were 54 signatories, of which 36 ratified and trade commenced as of 1 January 2021.

The AfCFTA is expected to enable countries to break into new African markets as they both diversify by export destination and type of goods produced. According to modelling results by the United Nations Economic Commis-

sion for Africa (ECA), the AfCFTA is a game changer which should stimulate and increase the value of intra- African exports and trade to the value of between 15% (or \$50 billion) and 25% (or \$70 billion), depending on liberalization efforts by 2040. (Brookings Institute). Furthermore, the World Bank Report on AfCFTA – July 2020 says the, "AfCFTA agreement will create the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion..." Full implementation of AfCFTA would reshape markets and economies across the region and boost output in the services, manufacturing and natural resources sectors. As the global economy is in turmoil due to the COVID-19 pandemic, creation of the vast AfCFTA regional market

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Taking Africa a step closer to a **vision** of an **integrated** continent

■ *Statement by the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Wamkele Mene, at the AfCFTA Start of Trading Ceremony*

TODAY is a historic day, a day in which we start officially trading under the preferences of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Today is a day we take Africa a step closer to a vision of an integrated continent, a vision of an integrated market on the African continent. This African Continental Free Trade Area should not just be a trade Agreement; it should actually be an instrument for Africa's development.

In this regard, we have seen the World Bank produce a report that projects that by the year 2035, if we implement this Agreement effectively, we have the opportunity to lift out of poverty one hundred million Africans.

And the majority of this hundred million Africans that will be lifted out of poverty, are women in trade. It will be the opportunity to close the gender income gap, and the opportunity for SMEs to access new markets.

We are working very closely with



Wamkele Mene
*Secretary General of the African
Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
Secretariat*

Today, as Africans, we are witnessing the beginning of a new chapter in terms of trade and investment relations of the African continent.



our technical partners to develop digital technology platforms that will enable connectivity of small to medium enterprises, and enable connectivity of young Africans in trade.

This Agreement does not benefit only the big corporations on the African continent, but it should always be inclusive of young Africans, women and African SMEs. We have partnered and worked very hard the past years with UNECA, with AfreximBank, with Afrochampions, with UNCTAD, and recently with UNDP.

Today, as Africans, we are witnessing the beginning of a new chapter in terms of trade and investment relations of the African continent.

I have to say, personally, as an African, I'm truly proud today because 54 countries have signed this Agreement, 33 have ratified it, over 40 have submitted their tariff offers.

This is a strong signal that Africa



◀ Headquarters of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Ghana

are subdued, we know that Africa suffers.

So, we have to take active steps to make sure this industrial development is accelerated, and this African Continental Free Trade Area and the Launch of Trading today are the first steps we take in that direction.

Finally, I want you, Africans, to join me as we take this historic step towards the vision of an integrated Africa, the Africa we want.

*First published in **Business Update, Issue 20***

is ready to start trading today on the basis of new rules and preferences that will ensure that the African Market is integrated.

We have to take, as Africans, active steps to overcome the smallness of our respective national economies.

We have to take active steps to overcome the lack of economies of scale. We have to take active steps to make sure that we place Africa on the path of industrial development so that by the year 2035, we're able to double intra-African trade with value added goods.

As I observed before in the past, we have to take active steps to dismantle the colonial economic model that we inherited and that has been sustained over the last 60 years.

We have to stop being exporters of primary products to countries of the North. We have to create jobs on the

African continent by developing our regional value chains and be

self-sufficient in our own continental production. In 2020, COVID-19 has demonstrated that Africa is overly reliant on global supply chains, and when these global chains are disrupted, Africa suffers. When these global chains





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Pioneering Africa's Inclusive Economic Recovery and Free Trade: Levers For Building the Africa We Want

is a major opportunity to help African countries diversify their exports, accelerate growth, and attract foreign direct investment.

Notwithstanding the progress, there remain numerous challenges and threats to the successful implementation of the AfCFTA. The most serious being our continent's history of conflict. From 2015 to 2018, Africa experienced 21 civil wars and by 2019 there were at least 15 countries with active armed conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa which included Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Equally, non-state conflict in Africa has been on the rise over the past five years. Africa's second most populous country Ethio-

pia is sliding into a civil war.

The AfCFTA is the *"sine qua non"* for Africa's economic liberation and thus requires our protection. We can do this by ensuring that we meet our goal of *"Silencing the Guns"* in Africa. To this end, South Africa must continue to use its influence at the regional, continental and global multilateral organisations such as SADC, the African Union and the United Nations to focus on ending conflicts in Africa. We must ensure that our foreign policy remains geared towards preventing continental conflict where they are threatening to emerge and or re-emerge by focussing on conflict resolution, mediation and peace keeping. Furthermore, we need to focus on post conflict reconstruction and development programmes in countries emerging from conflict through the provision of develop-

ment aid to strengthen good governance and democracy. We also need to assist with the development of an integrated continental legislative and policy architecture and systems that will harmonise economic integration for the free flow of goods, services and people. Equally our foreign policy imperatives need to focus on building the necessary infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports, airports and dams as well as a continental ICT infrastructure in order to ensure synergy and integration of our continental economy.

Mohammed Dangor is an ANC Member of Parliament in the NCOP. He is the former Ambassador to Syria and Libya.

*This is an edited version of a speech he delivered on Africa Day to the NCOP entitled **Peace Keeping And Africa's Economic Recovery.***



African Heads of State at the launch of the AfCFTA in Kigali, Rwanda

The ANC must renew and rebuild to morally regenerate Society

■ By Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso

ORGANISATIONAL renewal means among other things, the ability of the ANC to be a beacon of hope and genuine leader of the society through the deployment of its ethical and capable leaders in pursuit of its historic task of serving the people, fighting corruption and malfeasance so as to effectively and efficiently lead the process of social transformation.

“At the core of the ANC’s task in the current period is the renewal of the organization for it to exercise societal leadership in a changing environment...ANC cadres need to be located in all these centres (sites of powers), exercising leadership not by decree or through arrogance; but in terms of logic of their ideas, through their organizational acumen and from exemplary conduct. Honesty, hard work, humility, ethics and respect for the people are some of the core attributes that they should evince”- ANC Strategy and Tactics of 2017

The ANC must as a leader of the society renew and morally regenerate to inspire hope to the people of South Africa. In its 54th National Conference, the ANC as a leader of the society resolved to lead the renewal and the moral regeneration of society. The reality is that the ANC must be the mirror of the society it envisages. It is only a renewed and morally regenerated ANC that could lead the societal renewal and its moral regeneration program.

An ancient philosopher and thinker, Plato, has in his writings taught us that the “*philosopher kings*”, meaning leaders, are deployed into positions of responsibility to set up systems of government that serve the “*city*” society, but as they do so, they are somehow guided by their different kinds of personal desires; the desire for material benefits, honour and good reputation, and the desire for knowledge and truth. Plato believes that, the “*philosopher kings*” (leaders) might take advantage of the “*city*” society to attain and satisfy their desires. In his argument, to avoid corruption, all members of the society must be trained and socialised through education. In my view, corruption has always been a societal problem and



there must be a strong system of governance that could effectively fight corruption and malfeasance.

The ANC in its NGC discussion document on “balance of forces around the South African Transformation Agenda” characterises this tendency of looters as the lumpen element that engulfs and operates in all sites of power in the society. They have systematically co-opted into their ranks of corruption network some trade unions, students and religious leaders. This lumpen element (network of looters) has no respect for the rule of law because “*they are driven by greed*”.

It has become apparent that some leaders of the movement are entangled into this network of looters. As a result, they are unable to provide decisive leadership to the broader society. Consequently, history bestows upon the shoulders of the ANC a responsibility to dismantle this lumpen element and take apart their nefarious interests that undermine the legitimacy of the state to drive the developmental agenda. The ANC has reaffirmed its support behind the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture precisely because this ‘Zondo Commission’ is part of its multi-faceted approach in its efforts to fight rampant corruption in all sites of power in the society.

As part of its efforts to enhance its in-

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South Africa's obligation to the Palestine and International Law

■ By *Zamuxolo Nduna*

OUR stance as the Republic of South Africa with other countries is guided by international law. As one of the nations that respect the rule of law, we have a responsibility towards the people of Palestine. South Africa's establishment of full diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine was announced on 15 February 1995.

The 213 page report from Human Rights Watch clearly states that "discrimination against Palestinians by Israeli laws and policies amount to the crime of apartheid". As we well know, South Africa was once under such laws and policies that segregated and subjugated black South Africans. The hostility towards Palestinians by the Israeli government in certain areas, amount to crimes against humanity of apartheid persecution."

South Africa, as a member state of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has an obligation in assisting to ensure the prevention of war outbreaks, be it in Africa, Middle East or in Asia.

We were once in the same situation as our brothers and sisters in Palestine. But we cannot forget that the international community played a pivotal role in the titanic struggle of South Africans to free themselves from the chains of apartheid.

In 1962, The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of Apartheid was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November 1973. The treaty was an attempt to criminalise racial separation and segregation policies such as those that had been imposed by South Africa's white minority government. Under the Convention, the crime of apartheid refers to a series of inhuman acts – including murder, torture, arbitrary arrest, illegal imprisonment, exploitation, marginalization, and persecution – committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the domination of one racial group by another.

The Convention is particularly notable for its departure from the

traditional rule of state sovereignty in that it authorises the national courts of states parties to attribute individual criminal responsibility for the crime to both government leaders and their supporters in certain instances.

So, in the latest conflict between Israeli forces and Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, fighting began on 10 May after weeks of tension which resulted in more than 250 Palestinians were killed. Iqbal Jassat, said: "...it's about time Israel faces real tangible consequences for its actions. As long as there are no consequences, boycotts, sanctions, divestments, then that is a green light for Israel to continue with its policies and it will be business as usual." Human rights organisations such as #Africa4Palestine have also joined the South African government in condemning the barbaric attacks on Palestine.

Among members of the G-20 major countries, 9 of those, including Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia,



South Africa and Turkey, recognise Palestine as a sovereign State. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, do not recognise Palestine as a State. Israel is supported by almost all the G8 powers. That should concern us because the 11 countries that do not recognise Palestine as a state, are the ones that have the wherewithal to sanction Israel. It should be remembered that many of these states imposed sanctions on the regime of South Africa before the 1994 democratic breakthrough.

South Africa's foreign policy stance is thus guided by international law with regards to a two – state solution. On the 30th June 2020, the Department of International Relations and Corporations released a statement condemning Israel's planned annexation of Palestine territories. According to the statement, "the South African Government remains gravely concerned at the intention of Israel to proceed with its unilateral action to annex strategic areas of the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) in the West Bank and Jor-

dan Valley from 1st July 2020."

The annexation plans by Israel represent a unilateral negation of the two-state solution opposed by most countries, including the European Union. The annexation would violate international law, and it could undercut all the possibilities of renewing negotiations between the two states.

It will also intensify tensions. Furthermore, it will hamper any efforts in getting these two states to advance regional peace treaties, and to maintain international peace and security.

The annexation could thus have serious diplomatic, security, economic, social and legal repercussions. Our stance on foreign policy is very clear: we support the people of Palestine in the wake of Israel aggression.

"Israel's actions are in stark violation of international law, and a total disregard for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, which explicitly call for an end to Israel occupation and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people, including self determination

and independence" (Statement from the SA government).

President Cyril Ramaphosa in his weekly letter said: "Our experience with the democratic transition is a lesson about the power of empathy, negotiation and compromise. The escalating situation in Israel and Palestine affirms once more what we South Africans know too well, that intractable conflicts can only be solved through peaceful negotiation."

The national government stance towards the Israeli - Palestinian conflict has always been consistent, and sometimes the country's constituency has cost friction in bilateral relations with Israel. The African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organization enjoy historically close ties, to the point of calling one another 'brothers in arms'.

The Capital of South Africa, Pretoria, regularly trained Palestinian diplomats in their effort to balance the power symmetry at the negotiations table. South Africa is regarded by Israel as being too biased to be a major peace broker in the conflict between the two states. Our beloved motherland has initiated and supported countless draft resolutions in favor of Palestine. And South Africa has gone to every open UN Security Council meeting, in an effort to address the Palestine question. South African diplomats have attended all peace conferences and defended Palestinians.

Zamuxolo Nduna is an academic in the field of Politics and International Education. 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.



Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Vuyisa Manyandela

1. Please tell us more about yourself?

I am a member of the African National Congress and volunteer of its Department of Information and Publicity (known as DIP). I graduated from the University of Port Elizabeth which is now known as Mandela University.

I joined the ANC in 2001 as a member at ward 50 Solomon Mahlangu branch in Uitenhage, Nelson region. In my years at Solomon Mahlangu branch, I served on the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) of the ANC also was a member of the ANCYL under the leadership of the late Comrade Mkavvo. I also served in the BET of the branch.

In 2005 I relocated to Gauteng province and joined the Sandton branch. I am currently a member of Ward 112 Liliesleaf branch, Midrand. On my arrival in Johannesburg I was a volunteer for the ANCYL HQ. I worked on a voluntary basis in the ANC International Relations Unit at Headquarters under Comrade Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini who was the Head of International Relations. I then moved to the ANC Communications, now known as DIP under Comrade Smuts Ngonyama who was then the Spokesperson of the ANC and the rest is history.

I am currently a volunteer as part of the Secretariat for the ANC communications Subcommittee and working in the Office of the Minister in the Presidency.

2. This year's ANC theme in 2021



Vuyisa Manyandela

is "The year of Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction, in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke." What is it that you can tell us about uMama Charlotte Maxeke?

I think it was only fair that a woman is celebrated this year, even while the country is still battling to fight the deadly COVID-19.

Mama Maxeke was very passionate about the emancipation of women, making sure that women have a place and voice politically and economically at the time when it was hardly inconceivable for a woman to fight side by side with men.

What I treasure most is that she made sure that this emancipation is also about spirituality, and this meant that some of the things we

go through as a country require us to engage spiritually and be fearless, especially as women and mothers. Mama Charlotte laid the foundation and it is now up to us as young women to finish the job in our own spaces and corners.

3. What can we learn from past activists and stalwart like Cde. Walter Sisulu as he is remembered in May being his birth month and also Africa Month?

One of my favourite quotes is from Cde Walter Sisulu that says: "Problems arise when conditions are there for their solution". As disciplined cadres of the mass democratic movement, we must always be mindful of the responsibility to be the solution to the problems faced by society. We can all define and analyse all problems of society, but the responsibility to resolve those problems and advance the national democratic revolution is what must occupy our minds at all material times. We must deliver on the aspirations of our people towards the economic emancipation in our lifetime.

4. Having been witness to the effects of the pandemic first hand, what practices do you think people should follow in order to further curb the spread of COVID-19?

Having lost my own dear mother last year due to COVID-19 and having my entire family testing positive at the same time, just the mention of the name COVID-19 makes me shiver.

During the days leading up to my Mother's funeral, we had to ensure that high levels of hygiene were maintained in the house in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 as everyone in the household had tested positive.

We all self-quarantined at home as facilities were full in the Metro, we made sure that everyone wore a mask as physical distancing was not entirely possible and wearing of masks assisted to prevent the spread of the virus. As I was the only one that was negative, while sharing a house with people who had tested positive for COVID-19, frequent hand washing with soap and water remained the most important prevention method for our mother's funeral. We made sure that only immediate family members attended the funeral and no touching or handshakes, with social distancing maintained at the funeral to make sure those attending the funeral didn't get infected.

We each need to take responsibility following COVID protocols until the vaccine programme has been fully rolled out in our communities.

5. By means of your first-hand experience, what is your opinion on how best we can fight the GBVF and LGBTQIA+ second pandemic?

Having lost my younger sister who was raped and brutally murdered and her lifeless body dumped in some neglected house was the most painful for my family and still not easy to process. To date, the culprit(s) have still not been apprehended. It has now been nine years since the brutal killing of our sister and as a family we have so many questions to this day like: Why? What? How? It is psychologically disturbing as the trauma stays with you for the rest of your life. But her memory lives on with us forever.

We need to use our voices to educate and advocate on all social media platforms to make people

aware of violence on LGBTQIA+ and GBVF as these platforms have a large reach in the current times that we live in. In our homes we must speak about these issues and not treat them like it is taboo. It is our brothers, husbands, boyfriends, uncle and friends who commit these criminal acts, targeting other groups on the basis of their gender. We should not wait for the 16 Days Of Activism Against GenderBased Violence to take a stand. We can't always blame the justice system when we share houses with perpetrators of these violent acts and shield them – hence the importance on establishing street committees so as to encourage community members to take interest in matters affecting their communities. It is very important for communities to get themselves organised.

6. What do you regard as your highest achievement?

Being a mom is the greatest achievement ever. It is worth every wrinkle and sleepless nights. Of all the things I'll ever achieve in my lifetime, mothering will always be my greatest accomplishment.

continued from page 12

The ANC must renew and rebuild to morally regenerate the Society

Integrity and fight corruption, the ANC has in the 54th National Conference deliberated and, amongst others, resolved that Provincial and National Executive Committees should "Demand that every cadre accused of, or reported to be involved in, corrupt practices accounts to the Integrity Committee immediately or face DC process and summarily suspend people who fail to give an acceptable explanation or to voluntarily step down, while they face disciplinary, investigative or prosecutorial procedure".

Just like the "philosopher kings" cadres have used state resources meant

7. What can you tell us about the vaccinations that have now resumed having worked in the Presidency?

The Presidency has led Government's response towards the pandemic conscientiously to minimise the devastating impact. The national vaccination programme is one of the most effective ways to fight the pandemic and it is critical for ordinary citizens to each play their role in ensuring that we reach our targets when it comes to the vaccine rollout strategy. The success of the programme depends on us working together to ensure we get South Africans vaccinated. We must equip ourselves with as much credible information as possible by watching the national family meetings addressed by the President, listening to the experts, registering ourselves and our loved ones on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) portal and adhering to COVID-19 protocols.

8. What is your motto?

If you want something done right, do it yourself.

for service delivery to attain and satisfy their desires for material benefit. Therefore, all cadres implicated in corruption must step aside for the ANC to renew and resume its position of unquestionable moral standing in the society and be able to lead the process of social transformation and moral regeneration of the society.

Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso is a member of the ANC in Dr Ruth Mompati Region, the Deputy Executive Director of Higher Education Transformation Network and an employee of Dr Ruth Mompati District Municipality. This article represents his personal view.

28 May – 4 June 2021

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives

■ **29 May 1887**
Chief Sandile killed
in battle



Xhosa Chief Mgolombane Sandile, born in the Ciskei in 1820, was killed in Denge Forest in a skirmish with the Fingos under Captain J. Lonsdale. Sandile was a son from the Great House of Ngqika. During the Seventh Frontier War (1846-47) Sandile was defeated and his territory was put under British command and called British Kaffraria. His dissatisfaction with the appointment British commissioners to rule the territory led to the Eighth Frontier War (1850-53). Sandile was deposed and a White man, Charles Brownlee, was appointed in his place as paramount chief. In 1878 Sandile, joined by Krelie of the Galekas, waged war against Colonial forces, which included loyal Fingos, at the Battle of Kentani in attempt to regain his position. He was defeated and fled to Denge, where he met his untimely death.

■ **29 May 1935**
Author Andre P Brink born
South African novelist, Andre Philipus Brink was born on 29 May 1935, in Vrede in the Freestate. Brink did a BA in Literature at



the University of Potchefstroom in 1955, a Masters in Literature and in 1959, a Masters in Afrikaans and Dutch literature and a PhD from Rhodes University in 1960. In the 1960s, Brink, Ingrid Jonker and Breyten Breytenbach were part of the Afrikaans literary movement, *Die Sestigters* ("The Sixty-ers"), who used literature to speak up against Apartheid and to bring about a European influence to Afrikaans literature. This saw some of Brink and his contemporaries' books being banned by the Apartheid government. Some of his most notable works include: *Lobola vir die Lewe* (1962), *A Dry White Season* (1979), *An Act of Terror* (1991) and *The Other Side of Silence* (2002). Brink wrote his novels in both Afrikaans and English. His novel *Kennis van die Aand* (1973) was the first Afrikaans book to be banned by the Apartheid government. Brink passed away on 6 February 2015, on an airplane travelling from the Netherlands to South Africa.

■ **29 May 1976**
Eskom announces plan to
order Nuclear generators
from France
On 29 May 1976, the South African Electricity Supply Commis-

sion (ESKOM) announced its decision to order two nuclear power reactors from France. These reactors were supplied by the French company Framatome. This came after the initial consortium led by General Electric, that won the contract, had to withdraw due to the international sanctions and disinvestment campaign against Apartheid. The Apartheid government claimed that they were developing a nuclear industry for civilian purposes such as nuclear medicine, as well as generating electricity. The true purpose of the South African nuclear programme was to produce nuclear arms in order to prevent a "Soviet invasion" of South Africa. This programme, which included the setting up of nuclear research facilities at Velindaba and Pelinda was eventually successful in producing six nuclear weapons. The two reactors ordered from France in 1976 were installed at the Koeberg power station, the only nuclear power station in Africa. This site was attacked by African National Congress (ANC) cadres in 1982, and severely damaged.





■ **29 May 1998**
Gen. Meiring hands over
SANDF reigns to
Gen. Nyanda



Accepting a seventeen-gun salute, outgoing South African National Defence Force (SANDF) chief, General Georg Meiring, formally hands over command of the SANDF to Lt Gen. Siphile Nyanda in the sports stadium in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria.

■ **29 May 1999**
Ledwaba wins
International Boxing title

Lehlohonolo Ledwaba, SA featherweight, wins the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title.

■ **29 May 2005**
Hamilton Naki passed on

Hamilton Naki, laboratory assistant to cardiac surgeon Christian Barnard, dies.

■ **30 May 1946**
Annie Tempo passed away

Annie Tempo, known as Sister Nannie, was born of a slave mother and father who were kidnapped as children off the coast of Mozambique. She was born in the late 1870s and grew up in Worcester. She dedicated her life to helping the downtrodden and destitute in Cape Town, especially women sex workers. Her work resulted in the establishment of a formal 'Rescue House', which soon became an institution recognised by the Cape Town City Council and police. In 1937, Sister Nannie was honoured with one of King George's Coronation Medals in recognition of her work.

ognised by the Cape Town City Council and police. In 1937, Sister Nannie was honoured with one of King George's Coronation Medals in recognition of her work.

■ **30 May 1960**
Union of South Africa
officially ceased to exist

In March 1961, at a Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers held in London, the South African Prime Minister, H.F. Verwoerd formally announced that South Africa was changing from a Constitutional Monarchy to a Republic. Subsequently, the Union of South Africa, which was established in 1910 by the British government under the premiership of Louis Botha, ceased to exist at midnight on 30 May 1961. The Union left the British Commonwealth to become the Republic of South Africa under the leadership of Verwoerd. The country was criticised for its Apartheid policies by members of the Commonwealth. In just three years after taking office, Verwoerd realised his Republican dream when a 'Whites-only' referendum supported him. This was also the first time in 12 years of government that the National Party (NP) was able to gain a majority in parliament. South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth in June 1994.

■ **30 May 1967**
Biafra secedes from
Nigeria

The Eastern region of Nigeria, Biafra, secedes from the country. This led to the Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafra War (from 6 July 1967 – 13 January 1970). The Biafra war resulted in over 100,000 military casualties and between half a million to two million civilian casualties, mainly due to starvation. Though the war ended with a united federal



Niger, the underlying ethnic and economic causes of the Biafra War continue to be part of the fault lines of Africa's largest country, in terms of population. A number of books by prominent Nigerian authors and others have been written about the war, including *Destination Biafra* by Buchi Emecheta (1982), *Never Again* by Flora Nwapa (1975), *Survive the Peace* by Cyprian Ekwensi (1976), *Sunset in Biafra* by Elechi Amadi (1973), *The Nigerian Revolution and the Biafra War* by Alexandra Madiebo (1980); and more recently *Half of a Yellow Sun*, by Chimanda Adichie Ngozi (2006), *In Biafra Africa Died* by Emifiana Eziani (2012) and *There was a Country*, by Chinua Achebe (2012).

■ **31 May 1901**
King Dinuzulu refused to
join Anglo Boer War

King Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo of the Zulu Kingdom in northern Natal, which is now part of the KwaZulu-Natal province, refused to follow British instructions to take up arms against the Boer Republics during the Anglo Boer War. His reasons were that the war was between the English and Afrikaners only. It was after receiving a warning from Colonel Bottomley that under the current martial law he may be banished for such a



refusal that he took direct actions against the Boer Republics. Initially, the Zulu Kingdom's involvement was restricted to protecting her borders against Boer invasions since the 31st of January 1900.

■ 31 May 1961 South Africa becomes a Republic

South Africa became a republic, after Prime Minister Verwoerd organised a whites-only referendum on whether South Africa should no longer be part of the British monarchy and become a republic. After winning the referendum, Verwoerd went to London to give notice of South Africa's intention to the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. Under normal circumstances, the Commonwealth would not oppose this, but because of the apartheid policies, they did. Verwoerd thus withdrew his government's application to join the Commonwealth. Across the country, black and white democrats organised anti-Republic demonstrations against a constitution and political and economic system that still excluded the majority of South Africans.

■ 31 May 1989 Samuel Tshabalala, first black athlete to win Comrades marathon

Arguably the grandest marathon in the world, athletes flock to South Africa from all over the world every year to take part in the race. They run the 90 kilometers between the cities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The first comrades took place in 1921, with only 34 entrants. In 2008, more than 10 thousand athletes entered the race. In 1989, Sam Tshabalala made history when he became the first black athlete to win the

Comrades. Initially, black athletes were barred from participating in the race, but the ban was lifted in 1975. Unfortunately, Tshabalala was injured in a car accident in 1991. He however, returned to the race in subsequent years and managed to achieve four silver medals. In 1998, Tshabalala was awarded the prestigious Platinum Medal by the Comrades Marathon Association in recognition of his contribution to the Comrades Marathon.

■ 1 June 1937 Ezrom Legae is born



Ezrom Kgobokanyo Sebata Legae, South African artist, was born in Vrededorp, Johannesburg. He studied at the Polly Street Art Center and Jubilee Art Centre under Cecil Skotnes and Sydney Kumalo. When Kumalo retired in 1964, Legae became the art instructor at Jubilee Art Centre. In 1970, he was awarded a travel scholarship sponsored by United States/South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme and visited the United States of America. From 1972 to 1974 he was director of the art programme at African Music and Drama Association. In 1980 and 1981 he was instructor at FUBA. Between 1966 and 1987 he exhibited numerous in SA and abroad.

■ 1 June 1989 Ferdie Barnard found guilty of assassination of academic David Webster

On 1 June 1998, Ferdie Barnard was convicted for the murder of Wits University academic, anti-Apartheid activist and Detainees Parent Support Committee founder, David Webster. Barnard shot Webster in 1989, in front his home. Barnard was also found guilty of the attempted murder of another activist, Dullar Omar. Barnard was a former agent of the Civil Co-Operation Bureau. He was arrested on 25 charges including two of murder, two of attempted murder and various charges relating to fraudulent transactions and the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. He was acquitted on further nine charges, because of a lack of evidence.

■ 1 June 2001 Nkosi Johnson passed on



Nkosi Johnson, an HIV-positive pupil and subsequent activist for those living with the virus, passes away. South Africa's famous child Aids activist was born with HIV and died at the age of 12 in 2001. At the time of his death, he was the longest-surviving child born with HIV in the country. Nkosi rose to international prominence in July 2000 when he delivered his self-written address, televised



worldwide, to 10 000 delegates at the 13th International Aids Conference in Durban. *"Hi, my name is Nkosi Johnson,"* he began. *"I am 11 years old and I have full-blown Aids. I was born HIV-positive."*

■ 2 June 1989

Last woman executed in South Africa

On 2 June, 24 year old Coloured woman, Sandra Smith, was executed by hanging at Pretoria Central Prison, the last woman to be executed in South Africa. Smith had been convicted alongside her boyfriend Yassiem Harris for the robbery and murder of Jermaine Abrahams. Smith was tried and sentenced for her part in Abrahams' murder and was hanged alongside Harris and two others. Out of nearly 3 000 hangings between 1959 and 1989, only 14 were women. Many women were executed for the murder of their husbands, including infamous serial killer Daisy de Melker. The Apartheid years saw a steady increase in the number of people executed in South Africa. In the 1980s particularly, more people were executed per year than anywhere else in the world. In 1990, during the interregnum, de Klerk ordered a stay on all scheduled executions. Under the democratic dispensation, the death penalty was completely abolished, bringing an end to a system that saw 3 500 people hanged at Pretoria Central Prison.

■ 2 June 2011

Ma Albertina Sisulu passed on

ANC stalwart, Albertina Sisulu died at her home in Johannesburg at the age of 92. Often referred to as the 'Mother of the Nation', she was a nurse and one of the most important leaders of anti-Apart-



heid resistance in South Africa. It was with husband Walter that she attended the first conference of the ANC Youth League where Albertina Sisulu was the only woman present. In 1948, she joined the ANC Women's League and in the 1950s she began to assume a leadership role – both in the ANC and in the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW). The second of five children of Bonilizwe and Monikazi Tetiwe, Albertina was born on 21 October 1918 at Xolobeni, Tsomo in Transkei (now Eastern Cape). She and her husband Walter were jailed and banned several times for their political activities and she was constantly harassed by the Security Police. She was buried next to her husband, Walter at Newclare Cemetery, Johannesburg on 11 June 2011.

■ 3 June 1946

NIC calls for Passive Resistance against the Ghetto Act



GM Naicker, President of the Natal Indian Congress, held aloft | South African History Online

Natal Indian Congress (NIC) led by Dr. G. M. Naicker, met in an emergency session in Durban and decided on a hartal on 13 June, which was designated "Resistance Day" to mark the beginning of Passive Resistance against the Ghetto Act or The Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act no 28 of 1946, which was passed the previous day.

■ 4 June 1978

Benjamin Tyamzashe passed on



On 4 June 1978, Benjamin John Peter Tyamzashe, Xhosa composer, choir conductor and organist, died in East London. Tyamzashe was born in Kimberley on 5 September 1890, trained and worked as a teacher in the Eastern Cape, where he also directed choirs and composed. Two years before his death, Tyamzashe was awarded an honorary Masters of Arts degree from the University of Fort Hare in recognition of his contri-



bution to the music industry. He died due to cardiac failure at Free Hospital, East London and was buried on his farm, Zinyoka, King William's Town.

■ 4 June 1980 Apartheid forces bomb houses in Manzini, Swaziland

In response to attacks on the Sasol oil refinery in Secunda, the South African security police bombed two houses in Manzini, Swaziland. The attacks claimed the lives of Umkhonto we Sizwe member Patrick Makau and seven-year-old Patrick Nkosi, the son of an active ANC member, Mr Mawick Nkosi.

■ 4 June 1986 First Legal photo of Mandela since imprisonment

The photograph appeared in a booklet by the Department of Information, *"Talking to the ANC"* and is a photo of Nelson Mandela, taken before his incarceration in 1964. The photograph was published by *The Weekly Mail* two days later, on 6 June 1986. Up to that point, it was illegal to publish a photograph of South Africa's and the world's most famous political prisoner.

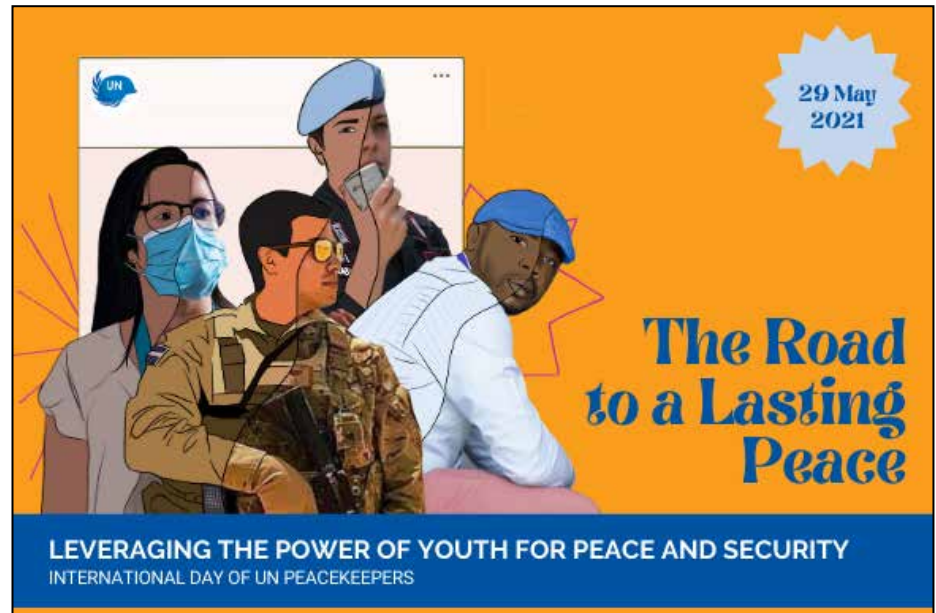


INTERNATIONAL DAYS

28 May – 4 June 2021

Source: <https://www.un.org> and <http://www.dirco.gov.za/events>

■ 29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers



The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organisation and to honour the more than 4,000 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948. Today, tens of thousands of young peacekeepers (between the ages of 18 and 29 years) are deployed around the world and play a major role in helping the missions implement their mandated activities, including the protection of civilians. The theme for 2021 is *"The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security"*.

■ 31 May World No-Tobacco Day

The only thing that tobacco brings along with it is disease which later converts in death and despair for your loved one.... Save yourself and your family from a disaster like this by quitting tobacco.



World
NO-TOBACCO
Day

31 May 2021

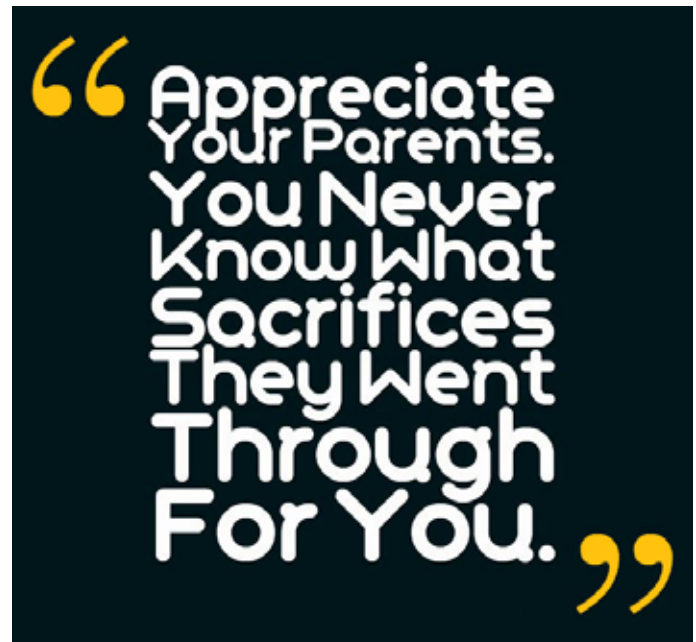
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

World No Tobacco Day was declared by the World Health Organization in 1987. The day is observed by abstaining from tobacco for a period of 24 hours around the World. The objective is to encourage smokers to stop smoking altogether. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2013 was: *ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship*. Statistics show that a third of South Africans are heavy smokers, with the average smoker spending over R400 a month on cigarettes. The country therefore has amongst the most progressive anti-smoking laws in the world. According to the WHO, the “COVID-19 pandemic has led to millions of tobacco users saying they want to quit.” The theme for 2021 is therefore “**Commit to Quit.**”


 An infographic with a green background. At the top left, a white line drawing of a person's head and hand is shown with a red 'X' over it, indicating that bringing hands to the mouth is bad. Text to the right says: 'Bringing your hands to your mouth can transfer the virus into your body'. Below this is a yellow box with the text: 'Smoking can increase your chance of getting COVID-19'. Underneath is another yellow box: 'Tobacco weakens your respiratory system making you more vulnerable to the virus'. At the bottom left, a white line drawing shows two people sharing a waterpipe, with a red 'X' over it. Text to the right says: 'Sharing tobacco products such as waterpipes can transmit the virus between people'. At the bottom right, it says 'Credit: WHO'.


 An infographic with a blue background. At the top, it says 'SAY NO TO TOBACCO NOW AND... ALWAYS!' in large white and yellow letters. Below this is a yellow box: 'Smoking makes you more vulnerable to COVID-19'. Underneath are two white line drawings: one of human lungs and one of a hand-to-mouth transmission. Text below the lungs says: 'Increased risk of serious illness due to unhealthy lungs'. Text below the hand-to-mouth drawing says: 'Higher chance of transmission from hand to mouth'. At the bottom, a yellow box says: 'So stop smoking and give your lungs a chance!'.

■ 1 June Global Day of Parents



Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. Emphasising the critical role of parents in the rearing of children, the Global Day of Parents recognises that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children. The theme for 2021 is “*Appreciate all parents throughout the world*”.

■ 3 June World Bicycle Day

The bicycle is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), safe infrastructure for walking and cycling is also a pathway for achieving greater health equity. For the poorest urban sector, that often cannot afford private vehicles, walking and cycling can provide a form of transport while reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke, certain cancers, diabetes, and even death. Accordingly, improved active transport is not only healthy; it is also equitable and cost-effective. Under the ANC city government, a programme of dedicated bicycle lanes were introduced in Johannesburg, but halted when the DA came to power in 2016.



X-WORD

#AfricaMonth **OAU and AU**



ACROSS

4. Current AU president from the DRC.
8. 25 African states met in City in 1964 ratifying agreement for African Development Bank.
9. Roadmap for African Economic integration of 1991.
11. First OAU Secretary General, from Ethiopia (1963-64).
14. Tanzanian former Prime Minister who led OAU Secretariat (1989-2001).
16. Pan Africanist bloc argued for gradual integration.
17. Pan African bloc argued in 60s for federation of African states.

DOWN

1. OAU committee led solidarity against colonialism and apartheid.
2. Mandate given to Presidents Mbeki and ... to negotiate cancellation of African debt, 1999.
3. First SADC and woman head of AU Commission (2012-2017).
5. Leader of both OAU and AU secretariats (2001-2003).
6. AU body of elders advising on continental matters.
7. First Chairperson of the African Union (2002).
10. Sirte Declaration of 1999 led to establishment of ...
12. First step towards African common market, in operation 1 January 2021.
13. OAU formed in this city 25 May 1963, now AU headquarters.
15. 50 year AU vision from Golden Jubilee anniversary.

WORD BANK

Addis Ababa
Abuja Treaty
Liberation committee
Thabo Mbeki
Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

Casablanca
AFCTA
Agenda 2063
Felix Tshisekedi
Bouteflika

Monrovia
Kifle Wodajo
African Union
Panel of the Wise

Khartoum
Salim Achmed Salim
Amara Essy