



ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the **PRESIDENT**

Optimism is the foundation of progress and hope is the companion of development

■ *By President Cyril Ramaphosa*

LATER this week, I will be travelling to the United Kingdom to attend the G7 Leaders Summit. We have been invited as a guest country together with South Korea, Australia and India.

The summit will discuss how to promote future prosperity through

free and fair trade, championing shared values and tackling climate change, but the global recovery from COVID-19 is likely to dominate the agenda.

In extending the invitation, the G7 group of countries acknowledge South Africa's role in driving the continental response to COVID

during our AU chairship, and the contribution it can make to global progress.

Much as we are a developing economy and despite facing considerable challenges given rise to by the pandemic on our society, we have done and will continue to do our best.

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 CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
 President: ANC and SA

South Africa can hold its head high among the community of nations because we remain a country that is free and united and determined to succeed.

Gatherings such as the G7 are important opportunities for South Africa to promote its view of a fairer and more peaceful world. They are also an opportunity to promote our country as a destination in which to invest and do business, as a partner for development, and as an ally in resolving the most pressing social and political issues facing humankind. These gatherings also give us an opportunity to promote our continent as a destination for investment.

Our delegation to the G7 Summit will be able to talk about the progress we are making in overcoming the pandemic and the measures we have taken towards our national recovery that are slowly but steadily yielding results.

We will be able to talk about the green shoots of economic progress I spoke of in the Presidency Budget vote in Parliament last week. Among them are the tangible results of commitments made

The G7 Leaders Summit is an opportunity to seek broader support for the struggle we are waging alongside India and more than 100 other countries to achieve a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property agreement at the WTO to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines



by this administration to resolve challenges that have long hindered our economic growth.

I will be presenting the clear signals that our country is emerging from the devastation wrought by the pandemic. These signals include a strengthening currency, a record trade surplus, and growth in mining, financial services and manufacturing. We can also talk about the life-changing opportunities being provided to our people through the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has directly benefited nearly 700,000 people since it was launched eight months ago. We can reflect that there is progress towards greater policy and regulatory certainty in important economic sectors such as energy and telecommunications.

The G7 Leaders Summit is an opportunity to seek broader support for the struggle we are waging alongside India and more than 100 other countries to achieve a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property agreement at the WTO to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. This will enable countries to manufacture their own vaccines and pave the way for the development of a local pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in our own country and on the continent.

The message I will be taking to the G7 Summit will be one of hope about the prospects for our country's recovery, and indeed the global recovery.

But not everyone in this country is ready for that message.

When times are tough, it is easy to be pessimistic.

It is understandable that citizens may be frustrated by the slow pace



**President Cyril Ramaphosa in bilateral with
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson**

of change, and feel that our problems appear to be intractable. Our high rate of unemployment, for example, has not improved since the global financial crisis more than a decade ago and was made much worse by the pandemic.

But sometimes we are so absorbed by our shortcomings, that we often fail to acknowledge what we are doing right and where things are improving.

We are making progress in resolving many of our challenges, from corruption to energy shortages to the obstacles that discourage investment. The pace of reform is picking up.

We do not take the patience and resilience of the South African people for granted. We acknowledge our shortcomings as a government and are working to remedy them.

Optimism is the foundation of progress and hope is the companion of development.

Cynical though some among us may be, let the progress we are

making in overcoming the immediate crisis motivate us to do even better.

Our democracy was founded in hope where there seemingly was none. We emerged from a desperate situation that threatened to engulf us and built a new nation. Over the last year and a half, we rallied together to fight the pandemic, united in the belief that better days would come.



**President Cyril Ramaphosa in bilateral with
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**

The message I will be taking to the G7 Summit will be one of hope about the prospects for our country's recovery, and indeed the global recovery.

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Throughout the course of our history we have had setbacks and false starts. But our resilient nature allowed us to weather many storms. It is this drive and determination that must continue to propel us forward as our country recovers socially, politically and economically.

Let us look ahead and move forward. Let us nurture the green shoots of progress. Let us not only hope for better days, but let us work even harder to achieve them.



Strengthening our resolve to fight GBV and Femicide

Statement by ANC Parliamentary Caucus

THE National Assembly has passed three crucial pieces of legislation that are aimed at fighting Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, namely: **The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill (B16-2020)**; **The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill (B20-2020)**; and **the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill (B17-2020)**.

The adoption of these important Bills is a milestone for South Africa as the country is continuously faced with the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. This also comes at a time where the effects of COVID-19 and lockdown has increased the number of GBV and Femicide incidents and the use of technology, which has been taken into consideration

in the amendment of these bills. The implementation of the bills will greatly assist South Africans to access legal assistance without having to be physically present in police stations and courts. The Bills will ensure that the rights and lives of women, children, the LGBTQIA+ community and the society at large, are protected and perpetrators of these gruesome crimes are served with befitting sentences.

1. **The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill**

This Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007, so as to extend the ambit of the offence of incest; introduce a new offence of



sexual intimidation, further regulate the inclusion of particulars of persons in the National Register for Sex Offenders and extend the list of persons who are to be protected in terms of Chapter 6 of the Act.

It further seeks to extend the list of persons who are entitled to submit applications to the Registrar of the National Register for Sex Offenders and further regulate the removal of particulars of persons from the National Register for Sex Offenders.

The adoption of this Bill reiterates the resolve taken by government to have legislation that protects the rights and dignity of sexual



Recent picket against GBV by the ANC Women's League



offence victims and survivors and ensures that justice is served. It also provides legal grounds for any person that witnesses or believes such offence is taking place, to report the incident to the police, failing which, they may be found guilty. This will give effect to the work of the Sexual Offences Courts and contribute positively in the prosecution and conviction of sexual offenders.

2. The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill (B20-2020)

The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 so as to provide for the manner in which acts of domestic violence and matters related thereto must be dealt with, to further regulate protection orders in response to acts of domestic violence and amend provisions of certain laws.

This Amendment Bill will provide for easier access for those intending to obtain protection orders to access them through the internet. The amendments will expand the scope of the definition of domestic violence, which will greatly contribute to the change in behaviour that is needed in our families and society.

3. Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill (B17-2020)

The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1944, so as to provide for the appointment of intermediaries and the giving of evidence through intermediaries in proceedings other than criminal proceedings and the giving of evidence through audio-visual link in proceedings other than criminal proceedings.

ANC WELCOMES THE National Assembly's decision aimed at fighting Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

ANC welcomes the National Assembly's decision to pass 3 crucial pieces of legislation that are aimed at fighting Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, namely;

1. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill (B16-2020)
2. The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill (B20-2020)
3. The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill (B17-2020).

The adoption of these important Bills on the 3rd of June 2021 is a milestone for South Africa as the country is continuously faced with the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide.





Issued by the ANC, Chief Albert Lutulu Msimang.

The Bill also seeks to amend the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, so as to further regulate the granting and cancellation of bail, the giving of evidence by means of closed-circuit television or similar electronic media, and the giving of evidence by a witness with physical, psychological or mental disability.

It further aims to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997, with a view to further regulate sentences in respect of offences that have been committed against vulnerable persons; and the Superior Courts Act, 2013, so as to provide for the appointment of intermediaries and the giving of evidence through intermediaries in proceedings other than criminal proceedings.

This will enable victims or the families of the victims (if the victim

is deceased), to have a chance to be heard by the courts. The amendments include the use of audio-visuals, a great step in protecting the victims from secondary victimization so they can be able to speak freely without intimidation and protect their mental and psychological well-being.

The ANC Caucus welcomes and supports the passing of these bills as this strengthens our resolve to fight GBV and Femicide. We also commend the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services for the tremendous work that it has done in drafting and speeding up the process to bring this legislation to the National Assembly.

The Bills will be sent to the National Council of Provinces for Concurrence.



None left behind: Young People Vote

Dear Mr President

SINCE the global pandemic arrived and spread like wild fire last year, many countries successfully held elections to foster democracy and the will of the people.

In spite of the lockdowns that were announced to curb the spread of COVID-19, the countries opted not to postpone or delay the scheduled elections. Elections were conducted under strict hygiene protocols to protect the voters and citizens.

South Korea held elections on April 17 last year when confirmed cases of COVID-19 had already breached the 10 000 mark. The country was among the first with a major outbreak to hold national election since the beginning of the pandemic. Face masks, gloves, temperature checks and physical distancing were strictly enforced at polling stations, while voting booths were disinfected at regular intervals.

In Africa, Burundi held its elections in May, 2020 while Mongolia elected 76 members of parliament on 24 June. Voters stood two metres apart and were sanitised. Sri Lanka finally held elections on 7th of August after postponing them twice amid fears of COVID-19 and 75% of the 16 million voters cast their vote, with the government enforcing social distancing measures.



Comrade Pule Mabe

Singaporeans in face masks and disposable gloves observed social distancing as they lined up to vote on Friday, 10 July. They used hand sanitisers and had their temperatures checked before receiving their ballots. Poland followed swiftly on July 13 with a narrow victory of 51% against Warsaw's liberal mayor Rafal Trzaskowski. The country had 38 000 confirmed cases by elections day.

Mynmar's ruling party led by Aung San Suu Kyi claimed victory in a November 08 general election.

With more than 100 million registered voters, Indonesians lined up to vote on December 20. At the time, the country was struggling with Southeast Asia's worst COVID-19 outbreak, nearing 600

000 confirmed cases. The regional polls had been postponed once but the government persisted despite experts warning of the emergence of new clusters.

The much-anticipated elections proceeded on 3 November in the United States. The country was buckling under soaring cases of COVID-19. More than 50 million Americans voted early in the 2020 election to avoid crowding at polling stations. According to the University of Florida, more than 35 million people voted by mail and more than 15 million left their ballots in drop boxes. Former President, Donald Trump insisted, without evidence, that mail-in voting was prone to fraud and ultimately, Joe Biden was announced as new president.

Mr President, our country is scheduled to hold local government elections in October this year.

Even as the roll out of vaccines ramped up, South Africa would not have achieved the herd immunity required to disarm the virulence of the virus. Be that as it may, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has begun preparing for the elections even as former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke was tasked with probing the feasibility of holding elections during a pandemic. To its credit, the IEC is one of this country's well-oiled machines and has conducted free and fair elections since the dawn



of democracy in 1994. This week, the electoral body announced July 17 and July 18 as voter registration weekend. This is done to bring in new eligible voters on the voters roll to make their voices heard. The ANC is fully behind the IEC's decision to not fold their arms while COVID-19 rages and rather prepare for elections whether they happen or not. The voter registration weekend is also the opportunity for political parties to reach out for their members and prospective voters to register. It is also an opportunity to educate people about our policies.

There are a slew of young people who have come of voting age who need to be captured in the system in order to become responsible citizens by casting their vote. (ANC) President Oliver Tambo once said: *"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."* Our country has a high percentage of young people who are a crucial resource for its development and prosperity. They should therefore never be left behind in decision-making and be left to despondency. Young people should make their voices heard at the polls so they can hold those who are elected to account and not only be used in destructive actions when their unhappiness result in the destruction of a community.

Municipal elections are especially important as this is the level of government at the coalface of service delivery.

Much of community unrest happens at the door of local government when people feel that their voices are not being heard and their grievances ignored. Councillors rooted in their communities should serve as an alarm system



Young people attended the 2019 elections rally in huge numbers

before so-called service delivery protests engulf our communities with destruction and vandalism of public and private property.

In order to curb the spread of COVID-19, the IEC announced the implementation of an electronic voter registration system. This augurs well for the health of our democracy as the five-year term of the current councillors reaches its natural end this year. A number of provinces have already entered the third wave of the coronavirus and scientists and other experts confirmed that until we reach herd immunity, there will be more

The ANC expects all disciplined cadres to roll up their sleeves and ensure a successful voter registration drive in July.



waves and rises in infections. The waves have also spawned new variants as the virus mutates. Therefore, our people will have to continue to adhere to the well-known and established hygiene protocols of wearing face masks, sanitising and maintaining social distance.

The ANC expects all disciplined cadres to roll up their sleeves and ensure a successful voter registration drive in July. The weekend also coincides with Nelson Mandela's birthday and this in itself gives us the impetus to drive the message of elections home. The era of the pandemic has ratcheted the use of online platforms which young people have been quick to adopt and embrace.

Many countries have shown that it is possible to hold elections even under the threat of this invisible enemy.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



Defending the unity and integrity of the ANC at all material times

109th Anniversary of the late Comrade Walter Xhamela Sisulu: An embodiment of the ANC's membership declaration

■ By Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso

COMRADE Walter Sisulu was born on the 18th May 1912, just four months after the official formation of the ANC in Mangaung, in the Free State. Had he been alive, he would have turned 109 years old. He was a selfless leader and a true revolutionary who embodied 'membership declaration' of the ANC as outlined in its constitution. He accordingly understood that ANC members and cadres ought to serve the people "without motives of material advantage or personal gain".

Ntate Sisulu worked and served the ANC as a loyal member of the ANC until his last breath. He placed his energy and skills at the disposal of the movement and the people of South Africa. He understood and unreservedly carried out the organisational mandate and tasks with utmost diligence, dedication and discipline.

Further, he defended the unity and integrity of the ANC at all material times. He did all these because he was taught within the ranks of the congress movement that the ANC must be an "effective instrument of liberation in the hands of the people". Hence he ensured



that under his leadership, the ANC became a campaigning and mobilising organisation. As the Secretary General of the ANC, he became part of the first ANC leaders to be arrested during the 1952 Defiance Campaign. He selflessly and fearlessly led the destitute and downtrodden masses of our people from the front.

Xhamela was selfless. After he was elected the Secretary General of the ANC in 1949, he was

paid five pounds on a monthly basis and at times the ANC had no money to pay his salary and transport fees. History reveals that at one time, comrade Z.K Matthews was tasked to communicate with the Secretary General informing him that he would not be paid his monthly salary for a particular period. Apparently some comrades thought the SG would resign. But, instead he engaged his wife comrade Mama Albertina Sisulu who was a nurse, his wife



who committed to buy comrade Walter a monthly railway tickets to attend to the organisational tasks and meetings.

In 1940 at age of 28, he was formally recruited into the ANC by a unionist comrade Alfred Mbele. Owing to his activism amongst the toiling masses of the people, he was later elected as a Treasurer of the Orlando Branch of the ANC. He assisted the branch with recruitment and membership of the ANC in that branch grew from 100 to 200.

His leadership traits won him more confidence amongst members of his branch and community in general. In 1942, he was again delegated to the National Annual Conference of the ANC. He also played a very critical role in the formation of the ANCYL in 1944. He even used his delegation to the 1942 and 1943 ANC National Annual Conferences to advance the debate to convince the ANC leadership to agree to the initiative to establishing the ANC Youth League.

As the ANC starts with the elections of Branch, regional and provincial leadership at conferences, members must elect selfless and

rooted leaders who adhere to the ANC membership declaration and understand the aspirations and plight of the masses.

His character and discipline is affirmed by the former President of the ANC, Madiba, who had this to say about Xhamela: "...more and more I had come under the wise tutelage of Walter Sisulu. Walter was strong, reasonable, practical and dedicated. He never lost his head in a crisis; he was often silent when others were shouting.

He believed that the African National Congress was the means to effect change in South Africa, the repository of black hopes and aspirations. Sometimes one can judge an organisation by the people who belong to it, and I knew that I would be proud to belong to any organisation of which Walter was a member".

History bestows upon us members and leaders of the ANC to learn and use the leadership traits of comrade Walter Sisulu, the ANC constitution and its "through the eyes of a needle". To nominate candidates for Local Government elections and elections of leadership at various level of the organization, the renewal, rebuild-

ing and unity of the ANC cannot be postponed any longer.

At Xhamela's funeral, Madiba had this to say about comrade Walter Sisulu.

"His greatness as a leader derived from his humility and his ingrained belief in and respect for collective leadership. He knew and taught us that wisdom comes from sharing insights and listening to and learning from each other. He was always the unifier, never a divider where others of us would speak a nasty word or act in anger; he was the patient one, seeking to heal and bring us together."

Long live the undying spirit of the former Secretary General of the ANC and a life time President of South African Students Congress (SASCO) Long live!

Orapeleng Vanilla Matshediso, a member of the ANC in Dr Ruth Mompati Region, a Deputy Executive Director of Higher Education Transformation Network and Employee of Dr Ruth Mompati District Municipality. 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.

Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Soweto Uprising June 16, 1976

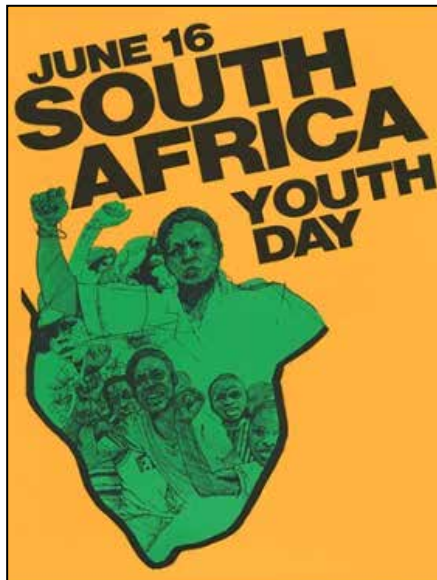
We today visibly enjoy the fruits of their sacrifices and heroism

■ By Tokologo Mphahlele

THE year 2021 paves the way to commemorate the 45th anniversary since the Soweto uprising, a day that is engraved in our hearts and minds as an epitome of zeal, zest and bravery.

This heroic generation remains a classical example of sacrifice, discipline and refusal to succumb to the enemy. The commemoration uniquely comes at a period when the country and entire world is battling the invincible enemy, subjecting all through uncharted territory. Our traditional massive gatherings are circumvented by genuine efforts to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus. In their honour, we ought to play our part in observing all the non-pharmaceutical protocols as set out by government.

The overarching need for tried and tested youth leaders from the ranks of the Congress Youth Movement is unquestionable.



The late student activist and youthful leader, comrade Robert Siyasonke Mathebula once alluded that *"Happiness starts with correct choices"*. As such we should seize this colossal moment and consciously elect not to despair but rather forge ahead in the fight for total liberation. We ought to pause and once again reflect about this unflinching and unflappable generation of young lions. We ought to further ponder on lessons that should be inculcated in us and thus rejuvenate our compassion and optimism about an even better future for the entire humanity. We today visibly enjoy

the fruits of their sacrifices and heroism, lest we forget.

Our country, as part of the global arena has not being spared from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the signs of a possible a third wave even more glaring. The pandemic has further worsened our already ailing economy which was undergoing difficulties even prior the COVID-19 pandemic, thus taking our situation from the frying pan into the fire. Moreover, it is a naked secret that South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world, underpinned by the scenario of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Such a disturbing trend can't be left unscathed by revolutionary forces; it's a ticking time bomb waiting to explode.

In their honour, we should join hands and collectively forge ahead to eviscerate the apartheid narrative that continues to stubbornly entrench itself in our structural economy. Invariably, we do have a revolutionary obligation to unite our people, but not on the foundation of black poverty and white wealth. The struggle for socio economic emancipation ought





to be accelerated in all frontiers.

As the youth, our immediate vehicle is the ANC Youth League (ANCYL), hence the constant call for a vibrant, robust and radical youth league. Its crucial role is vindicated by the fact that the majority of young professionals, students and unemployed youth are yearning for a revived and renewed ANCYL. That will be characterised by solid youthful voice of superior logic that will live up to the expectations of the youth itself. It will champion our interests in the continuous battle against poverty, underdevelopment, student historic debt, youth unemployment, alcohol and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, climate change, terrorism, vaccine nationalism, corruption and inequality as we traverse towards a post- COVID-19 era.

The overarching need for tried and tested youth leaders from the ranks of the Congress Youth Movement is unquestionable. The *crème de la crème* ought to rise and take the baton. It's a swim or sink phenomenon. We dare not fail.

Inspired by the 1976 generation, we must rise to the occasion and play a meaningful role in our society. We should, without a shadow of doubt, reiterate the need to have leaders who will serve our communities, not self-serving individuals.

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Inspired by the 1976 generation, we must rise to the occasion and play a meaningful role in our society. We should, without a shadow of doubt, reiterate the need to have leaders who will serve our communities, not self-serving individuals. The deliberate inculcation of moral values, patriotism and the spirit of accountability will undoubtedly go, at great length, in strengthening our hard won democracy. The activation of a second layer of leadership should agitate the youth of our country

to boldly contest the space at all levels, including the upcoming 2021 Local Government Elections – this, in our quest to reinvigorate local governance and thus fast track service delivery. In doing so, we should strive to continuously sharpen our skills base and knowledge given the changing environment.

The pandemic poses that real treat of worsening our situation. The flawed and exclusionary South African economy warrants an immediate overhaul. The quest for a restructured post-COVID-19 economy is overarching; things just can't remain the same. The pandemic also presents an opportune moment to accelerate the implementation of “*Structural Changes*” to enable reconstruction and growth. Such must be characterised by a more inclusive economy that should unlock local production and export potential, to further speak to the re-industrialisation and beneficiation of our mineral resources and ultimately enable inclusive an innovative ecosystem and high-technology industry.

As the current generation of activists, we ought to be alive to the reality that without action, without agitating, our tasks will be incomplete; we dare not fail. To pay lip service to this mammoth task at hand is a recipe for disaster. The ball is in our court.

Tokologo TK Mphahlele is former University of Limpopo SRC Deputy President, Former BMF Student Chapter Provincial Chairperson, former SASCO Limpopo Chairperson, current ANCYL Waterberg Regional Task Team Member. He writes in his personal capacity.

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A renewed ANCYL will strengthen the broader Mass Democratic Movement

■ By Refilwe Fifi Lekgothoane

THIS month marks the 45th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising. It is a consistent reminder to the generations that follow, of the collective power which they possess, to alter their circumstances and the course of history. The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), which was founded 75 years ago is a youth organisation committed to the ideals of democracy, freedom and peace. Its existence is borne out of the ANC Constitution and we owe its existence to the founding fathers like Ashley Mda, Oliver Reginald Tambo, Walter Sisulu and its first president Cde Anton Lembede who shaped the militancy of the ANCYL.

The Youth League as we know it is has a mandate to rally the young people of our country to actively participate in the struggle to create a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society. This is intertwined with the call to ensure youth make a full and rich contribution to the work of the ANC and to the life of the Nation.

In lieu of the national education crisis, as it relates to the



“EACH GENERATION MUST, OUT OF RELATIVE OBSCURITY, DISCOVER ITS MISSION, FULFILL IT OR BETRAY IT...”

Franz Fanon

socio-economic standing of students, it is the Youth League that should champion the general interests and rights of the South African youth and the working class.

The founding generation of the ANCYL radicalized the ANC. This was evidenced by their policy documents, historical campaigns and cries like “Freedom in our Lifetime.” It is this character of the ANCYL that must be revived and reinvigorated within the context of organisational renewal.

In recent years, the ANCYL has been plunged into organisational and administrative challenges which led to its 25th NEC being dissolved by ANC NEC. One

could argue that perhaps this action inadvertently aided the incorrect perception that the ANCYL as an organisation had died. In

the final analysis it must be acknowledged that most of the league’s challenges are derived from the internal challenges of the ANC due to the ideological and constitutional tether which enjoins them.

The internal ructions of the ANC centres around some of the “seven challenges” that governing parties ought to watch out for. Among those issues facing the governing party and in turn the Youth League, are dangers of a leadership that is seen to be too



Young Lions on the march (1).

far from the people, not caring about its issues.

The perception/reality of corruption, factions and a lack of implementing policy have led to the ANC facing most of the challenges it is facing today. By extension, the youth league is in the quagmire it is, as a result of being perceived to belong to a faction, unable to critique objectively the current state of the organisation.

One must appreciate that many challenges and contradictions have arisen in the process of the rebuilding of the ANCYL. Some of the challenges are objective and others are subjective. However, the cumulative impact of these challenges is the silent shift from transformative politics to palace politics wherein internal strife and factional battles of the ANC overpower principle arguments, and resources define the political life of the movement.

This has produced a new type of ANCYL leader and a member who sees ill-discipline, divisions, factionalism and in-fighting as part of the normal process of belonging to the organisation and the key to political survival. It would be unfair for one to criticize the current generation of the ANCYL for all these challenges that the organisation currently faces.

The ANCYL needs to focus on young people's issues and not factional battles of the ANC; extensive political education needs to be implemented in order to produce cadres that will be able to contribute to the strengthening of the organization. A strong ANCYL will have the capacity to revive and strengthen the ANC. A strong ANC will strengthen the Mass Democratic Movement. Any action that seeks to weaken the movement should be avoided and combated.

The ANCYL must rise above battles of the ANC and renew its structures through implementation of a radical, militant and polit-

ically astute programme of action that seeks to build a strong YL and shape the ANC for the better. The programme must address the question of developing future leaders as well as deepening the ideological outlook of the youth in order to lend content to their militancy.

It is only through decisive and deliberate action that the ANCYL can be capacitated to influence the ANC in particular and the country in general. It is upon the current crop of leaders to choose a path that ensure that through ashes and remnants of 75 years of glorious youth activism, the ANCYL is reborn as an even more gallant and resilient advocate for the socio-economic liberation for the youth of South Africa.

Refilwe Fifi Lekgothoane is the ANCYL BTT Coordinator of Solomon Mahlangu Branch in Mamelodi and former NEC member of the South African Students Congress

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Young Lions on the march (2).



Our Youth, the Private Sector and Social Transformation – A View from Hoedspruit, Limpopo

■ By *Sikhumbuzo Thomo*

OUR young people are here to stay – they are not the ones about to relocate overseas or invest offshore. The private sector has an even bigger role to play in the emancipation of our youth, and yet appears to be driven by different social transformative imperatives.

Most want the best return irrespective of the nature of the investment. This short-term, blinkered capitalist view and approach can be tempered only by an informed, capable core of young activists working with the private sector and government, ensuring that the investment funds are invested in long-term, sustainable, developmental community projects that fight poverty and create jobs.

Under the current Covid-19 period, the major challenge our young people are facing is dealing with casualisation, a central feature of capitalist globalisation. Casualisation, from manufacturing to retailing, is destroying even the limited number of jobs we have and we are not seeing quick solutions around this.

During this period, the private sector generated R2,81 trillion in



turnover in Q4:2020 alone, while youth unemployment sky rocketed to 0.1 percentage point from 32.5% in the Q4 of 2020 to 32.6% Q1 of 2021 – the highest since the start of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) in 2008. The unemployment rate, according to the expanded definition of unemployment increased by 0.6 percentage point to a record 43,2% Q1 2021.

It is unacceptable that the profits that the big business makes are invested in ways that result in job losses and deepen poverty in our communities. The time has come for the holding of an Economic CODESA. We need concrete agreements with the South African private sector to save South African jobs in the economy. This cannot be the sole responsibility of the government.

I recently travelled to KwaZulu-Natal and was shocked to learn that almost all hotels had retrenched young workers as I struggled to find accommodation, with most services having gone under business rescue. The tourism sector was the hardest hit in the past year alone.

Some of the class questions that we all must ask are: to what extent are workers' retirement funds and profits used to finance the type of investments in cheap imports that fuel the massive job losses in our domestic industries? Secondly, should companies, including those in the financial sector, who engage in job-shedding practices, be allowed to call themselves Proudly South African, and participate in its campaign? I personally think not.



Unfortunately, the rate of joblessness is such that those excluded from formal employment face a major challenge: the right to be able to save for their meal at night. For this reason, the creation of youth jobs must be a priority for the private sector, as is creating opportunities for those who work in the informal sector to be able to save for their future, not just for their dinner.

To aggravate the challenges we face, history has left us the challenge of Black Economic Empowerment. Those of us on the left have a particular view on this issue. Our view is that all empowerment must be genuinely broad-based and geared to eradicating poverty and creating jobs. No dilution of this transformatory goal can be allowed to parade under the banner of empowerment. But we are not alone on this one.

Many South Africans, including significant sections of business and government, share the concern that the current posture of transformation process has been perverted and distorted away from the spirit of the Freedom Charter, where it meant that the wealth of our country should be shared by all, to mean that we are focusing our efforts in this period of the National Democratic Revolution at deracialising the bourgeoisie.

This would mean a future of class conflict and confrontation, regardless of the colour of the new elite? Surely, this is not what we fought for in our revolution. The struggle continues.

Sikhumbuzo Thomo is the Head of Economic Diplomacy Task Team (IR).

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.

Sebatakgomo – the citadel of resistance

■ By *Phatse Justice Piitso*

ON the eve of the centenary celebrations of our vanguard party, the South African Communist Party, we take the opportunity to salute the pioneers of Sebatakgomo, feta kgomo o sware motho, mofetakgomo ke moriri o a hloga. We do so in a profound manner, with the understanding that a revolution without its soldiers is like God without His angels. The men and women of Sebatakgomo are indeed revered warriors, who, as a result of the difficult path they have chosen, have today earned their rightful place in the order of the glorious pages of our history books.

We cherish the dauntless courage, determination and heroism of the following comrades: Elias Moretsele, Flag Boshielo, Elias Motsoaledi, John Kgwane Nkadimeng, Godfrey Mogaramedi Sekhukhune, Phirime Mashego, John Phala, Kgosi Mampuru, Mmogase Nchabeleng, Uriah Maleka, Segowe Aolo Rapolai, Peter Nchabeleng, Kgosigadi Mandingos, Nelson Diale, Phooko Ratsoma and Lawrence Madimetje Phokanoka.

On the eve of the centenary of our party, we salute the immensity of their untold courage and sacrifice, the hardships they endured during the long periods of harassment



by the racist apartheid regime, torture, banning orders, and long periods of detention without trial, imprisonment and years in exile.

Through the leadership of the different successive warrior Kings and Queens of the Bapedi Kingdom, the region of Sekhukhune became the height of resistance struggle against imperialism and colonial dispossessions. Our warrior King of the Bapedi Kingdom, King Sekhukhune II, together with other kings and Queens from the Southern African region, such as King Solomon Ka Dinizulu, Montshioa of Barolong, Lewanika of the Lozi, Letsie 11 of Basotho, Dalindyebo of the Thembu, Ndlovukasi Lobatsibeni of Iswathini and Khama of the Tswana, attended the historic founding conference of the formation of the ANC in 1912.

Sekhukhune was accompanied by Kgosi Sekwati Mampuru and

Kgosi Tseke Masemola, who later became the representative of his Kingdom in the ANC House of Chiefs.

Sebatakgomo was formed during 1954 at the Bantu Hall, Lady Selbourne, in Pretoria, with Cdes Flag Boshielo as its chairman and John Kgwana Nkadimeng as its secretary. The inaugural conference was officially launched by one of the senior leaders of the party and the leader of the Soutpansberg Balemi Association, comrade Alpheus Maliba.

This was after the victory of the Nationalist Party in 1948, which fortified and declared officially the apartheid state of South Africa. The declaration saw the imposition of successive draconian laws such as the banning of the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), the Bantu education and the Bantu Authorities Act. Its membership was mainly constituted by migrant laborers working in the mines and factories around the industrial Witwatersrand, of what is now known as Gauteng.

Sebatakgomo's first secretary, John Kgwana Nkadimeng says the following about its formation: *"Sebatakgomo came about in 1954 with the issue of culling cattle, the curtailment of land and so called soil erosion under the Bantu Authorities Act. We felt that many bad things were going to be done to our people in the country and they were not sufficiently addressed. So we needed an organisation, a group in the (liberation) movement"*.

The formation of Sebatakgomo was a strategic initiative by the Communist Party of South Africa to intensify the call for the Africanisation of the party, and therefore to mobilize the peasantry across



Members of the SACP

the length and breadth of our country. This was consistent with the slogan by the Communist International in 1928, calling for the establishment of the Independent South African Native Republic, as a prelude towards a workers and peasants republic.

One of its leading founding members, and a senior member of the party from the area, comrade Elias Motsoaledi said the following about Sebatakgomo's formation: *"First of all, it is the organisation by the Communist Party, but the party realised that it was not within its sphere. In other words, it realised that the important organisation to tackle this was the ANC and members of the party who are in the ANC persecute it"*.

In 1956, Khuduthamaga, a replication of Sebatakgomo, was launched in Sekhukhune. The primary political focus was to fortify the activities of Sebatakgomo in the local area on the basis of day to day activities. The strategy by the CPSA to work with the ANC during the period of its illegality was preceded by the intensification of massive revolts across the country.

There were revolts in the far Northern Transvaal by African farmers led by a prominent party leader Alpheus Maliba, the Potato Revolt by Gert Sibande in Bethal and Zeerust, as well as the Leluhutse revolt by chief Abraham Moiloa, the Sekhukhune revolt by Kgosisigadi Madinoge, the Matlala revolt by Kgosisigadi Matlala, the Witzieshoek revolt by Chief Mopeli, the Pondoland revolt and many others.

The leader of Sebatakgomo, comrade Flag Boshielo, criss-crossed the hinterlands of the region to the mountain top of the Leolo Mountains disguised as a sangoma, recruiting people into the ranks of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. He was inspired by his understanding that the national question was inseparable from the class question.

The leadership of Sebatakgomo understood that at the age of their historical period, the national question assumed the posture of apartheid colonialism of a special type, which became a placenta to serve the interests of the white bourgeoisie. This was the basis of



the apartheid colonial nationalism and its ideology that underpinned racial segregation and supremacy. On the eve of its centenary, one of the principal political tasks of our Party is to save our revolution from vulgar notions and expressions of opportunism.

Our party is not just an ordinary detachment, but indeed a vanguard detachment, a class conscious detachment, armed with the knowledge of the life of society, its laws of development and laws of class struggle.

The Revolutionary Alliance between the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party, Congress of the South African Trade Unions plus the South African National Civic Organizations, is the bedrock of our National Democratic Revolution (NDR). Our revolutionary alliance is the only formation capable of taking forward the aspirations of the majority of our people.

On the eve of the centenary anniversary celebrations of our vanguard party, we salute their heroism; we salute their tenacity, their determination and dedication to the cause of the struggle for the liberation of our people. Sebatakgomo is our party and our party is Sebatakgomo.

Ambassador Phatse Justice Piitso wrote this article on his personal capacity.

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How business should approach opportunities presented by AfCFTA

■ By **Petrus Mohlomi**

AFTER the informative PBF webinar on the COVID-19 rollout plan, held virtually on 19 January, I was encouraged by our honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa saying that we have to open our eyes and look for business opportunities in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) project.

The AfCFTA emphasises the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, including the facilitation of

free movement of people, labour, right of residence, right of establishment, and investment, within a block, creating a single currency and customs union. It has the potential to create a continental free trade zone with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$3.4-trillion, according to the African Union (AU). This trade agreement, if implemented fully, would lead to the African economy becoming the largest in the world.

Learning from the European Com-



munity and other trade blocks which started to emphasise globalisation, the AfCFTA is following their example: think globally, act nationally.

Based on my wealth of working experience across multiple African countries, I have written this article to advise how business can approach the opportunity of the AfCFTA project. It is crucial that before you can think of doing business across the African continent, it is important to understand a country's macro environment dynamics, also the industry and competitive environment in which you want to operate or do business on the African continent.



PESTLE analysis

Ultimately, the business will need to develop a strategy or contingency plan to ensure that the business can sustain the macro-economic challenges that exist in the new environment and prosper.

The PESTLE analysis can be of great use in this regard, to analyse and monitor the macro-environmental factors that might have a profound impact on business performance.

PESTLE stands for Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental and Legal factors. This tool is especially useful when starting a new business or entering a foreign market as in the case of entering new African markets. The PESTLE analysis is often used with other business tools such as SWOT analysis and Porter's Five Forces, to give a clear understanding of internal and external factors that can affect the performance of the industry within a specific country. Each factor will be elaborated on below. These are the factors that need to be



The AfCFTA emphasises the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, including the facilitation of free movement of people, labour, right of residence, right of establishment, and investment, within a block, creating a single currency and customs union.

”

taken into consideration when assessing the attractiveness of the potential market.

Political factors

These factors are all about how and to what degree a government intervenes in the economy or a certain industry. Some of the government intervention can include government policy and regulation, political stability or instability, corruption, foreign trade policy, tax policy, labour law, import export regulation or restrictions, bilateral relationships, special tariffs, trade control, political lobbying activities.

Economic factors

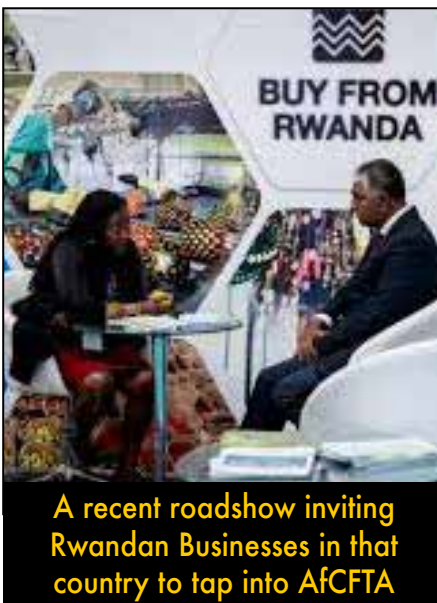
Economic factors may be used to determine a certain economy's performance. Factors include economic growth, exchange rates, inflation rates, interest rates, disposable income of consumers and unemployment rates. These factors may have a direct or indirect long-term impact on a business, since it affects the purchasing power of the consumer and could possibly change de-



mand and supply models in the economy. Consequently, it also affects the way companies price their products and services.

Social factors

This dimension of the general environment represents the demographics, characteristics, norms, customs and values of the population within which the business or organisation operated. This includes population trends such as the population growth rate, income distribution, career attitudes, safety emphasis, health consciousness, lifestyle attitude



A recent roadshow inviting Rwandan Businesses in that country to tap into AfCFTA

and cultural barriers.

These factors are especially important for the marketers when targeting certain customers. In addition, it also says something about the local workforce and its willingness to work under certain conditions.

Technological factors

These factors pertain to innovation in the technology that may affect the operations of the industry and the market favourably or unfavourably. This refers to technology incentives, internet infrastructure, automation, research and development (R&D) activity, technology change and the amount of technological awareness that a market possesses. These factors may influence decisions to enter or not enter certain industries, to launch or not launch certain products or to outsource production activities to the countries that have adequate capability and capacity. By knowing what is going on technology-wise, you may be able to prevent your business from spending a lot of money on developing a technology that would become obsolete very soon due to disruptive technology

changes elsewhere.

Environmental factors

Environmental factors have come to the forefront only relatively recently. They have become important due to the increasing scarcity of raw materials and carbon footprint targets set by the government. These factors include ecological and environmental aspects such as weather, climate, environmental offsets, climate change, which may especially affect industries such as tourism, farming, agriculture and insurance. Furthermore, growing awareness of the potential impacts of climate change is affecting how businesses operate and the products they offer.

Legal factors

Although these factors may have some overlap with the political factors, they include more specific laws, such as discrimination laws, employment laws, fraud and corruption prevention laws, consumer protection laws, copyright and patent laws, environment, health and safety laws. It is clear that businesses need to know what is legal and what is not legal in order to trade successfully and ethically. If the company trades globally, this becomes especially tricky since each country has its own set of rules and regulations. In addition, you want to be aware of any potential changes in legislation and the impact it may have on your business in the future. Recommended is to have a legal advisor or attorney to help you with these issues.

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Q&A

■ By Leo Ndabambi

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Professor John Maluleke

1. Briefly tell us who Professor Maluleke is?

Professor John Maluleke was born in Limpopo, Waterberg District Municipality at the current Planknek Estate. His parents could not tolerate the then farm policies of being farm labourers without any compensation for the hard labour rendered. The family took a strategic decision to abandon their place of birth in search for a peaceful place to settle.

2. The theme for the ANC in 2021 is "The year of Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction, in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke." What is it that you can tell us about Mhoni Charlotte Maxeke as a scholar?

Unity is better achieved if organisational members strive to attain a common vision, mission and strategic objectives. Most importantly, there has to be the sharing of cultural values of respect, honesty, integrity and a passion to explore. Looking at the life history of Charlotte Maxeke, a girl who was born in a deep rural area, it is remarkable to know that she undertook a venturesome educational expedition into the social science domain to become the first Black woman graduate in South Africa. To reiterate, she of all the people, was brought up in a rural village of Limpopo and proved that it was possible even for black rural girls to acquire tertiary qualifications everywhere, including in America.



Professor John Maluleke

3. What can we learn from past students and activists of the time who revolted and sacrificed their lives during the 1976 June Uprisings?

The lesson to be gained in the lives young people like Hector Pietersen and many others is the values of determination and commitment to what is important in the life of your community where you are an emerging leader. Education remains the key and the right quality education must be provided to learners and not based on colour, and that no one should be subjected to an inferior education. What triggered the 1976 uprising was when learners

were forced to be taught in Afrikaans, yet knowing very well that they would not make it through their academic journeys. They were denied a legitimate right of the language of their choice.

4. As a transport economist, what practices do you think people should follow in order to further curb the spread of COVID-19 in the transportation industry?

It is important noting that most of public transport operators and users alike, find it difficult to comply with the 70% capacity rule. The most negatively affected mode of transport is the taxi industry, which is unable to access any sort of financial or economic support. During this era of COVID-19, it would be advisable to explore new ways of fumigating vehicles and ensuring that antibiotic chemicals are installed to circulate with the conditioned air.

5. Being a Professor in Logistics, what is your opinion on how best we can fight the GBVF and LGBTQIA+ second pandemic?

Research has proven that GBVF and LGBTQIA+ mainly takes place where people have idling minds and intoxicating beverages, including drugs. In order to circumvent this, the total closure of the sale of alcohol and other related beverages should be en-



forced. The movement of people should be seriously managed so as to ensure that vagrancy is completely discouraged as it is the main cause leading to GBVF and LGBTQIA+.

6. What has been your proudest moment thus far?

My proudest moment in life was when I obtained my first degree after working extremely hard under unbearable conditions. It was at this moment when my former high school teacher came to congratulate me and said, “*you are the source of our pride my boy. Continue with your studies until you attain your Doctoral Degree.*” Indeed, I followed my mentor (Ms. Manzini) and acquired my doctorate and I am a Professor in Transport Economics and Logistics Management today.

7. What do you think the youth in South Africa can contribute towards Africa especially through the free trade agreement?

The youth should take advantage of this opportunity and strive to create public private partnership initiatives. This will need a concerted effort of our youths bringing their expertise under a common intellectual melting pot. The youth must go all out in search for the right education that would enable them to engage in mega projects in Africa.

8. What is your motto?

My motto is:
‘never reach a saturation point’ with the acquisition of knowledge. Continue with your studies; it pays intellectual dividends at the end!

“Education is the Most Powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela



COVID-19

IT'S NOT OVER

STOP THE THIRD WAVE

1



Download the **COVID Alert South Africa app** now and get notified if you are exposed to coronavirus

2



Keep wearing a **mask** whenever you are in public

3



Wash or **sanitise your hands** regularly

4



Maintain a **distance of one-and-a-half metres** from other people at all times

5



Meet outdoors or in a space with **good ventilation**

6



Avoid crowds and gatherings

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

12 – 18 June 2021

Sources: SA History Online and O'Malley Archives

■ 12 June 1917 Ansuayah Ratipul Singh, medical doctor, community worker, poet born



On 12 June 1917, Dr Ansuayah Ratipul Singh, medical doctor, novelist and community worker, was born in Durban. She moved to London where she completed her degree in Medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1944. In 1946, Dr Singh returned to South Africa and became involved in the Passive Resistance Movement in Durban. She published numerous professional articles. Although Dr Singh was known for her medical work, she was also known as a novelist and the author of two-three act plays. Dr Singh also lectured widely to students on a range of topics ranging from health and family planning, to the arts and the role of women in the Indian community. She continued her medical work until her death in 1979.

■ 12 June 1963 Coldest day in Pretoria

The coldest day in Pretoria in recent history was on 12 June 1963. The temperatures plummeted to a minimum of -3,6 and a maximum

of 7,5 degrees Centigrade. It had been a 110 years since temperatures were that low and it has never been as cold since. In winter, the daily average maximum temperatures in Pretoria is 20 degrees with a minimum of 1 degree centigrade.

■ 12 June 1964 Rivonia Trial judgement delivered

The Rivonia trial, which changed the course of South African history, judgment was delivered on this day. Eight of the accused Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Andrew Mlangeni, Dennis Goldberg, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and Ahmed Kathrada were found guilty and sentenced

to life imprisonment in the Pretoria Supreme Court. The accused may have received the death penalty, but for a national and global campaign to prevent this.

■ 12 June 2005 Queen Makobo Modjadji VI, dies after a sudden illness



The Rivonia Trial ends

Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Elias Motsoaledi, Andrew Mlangeni, Raymond Mhlaba and Dennis Goldberg are found guilty on all four charges and sentenced to life imprisonment. Ahmed Kathrada is found guilty on one charge of conspiracy while Lionel Bernstein is found not guilty. He is later re-arrested, released on bail, and placed under house arrest.



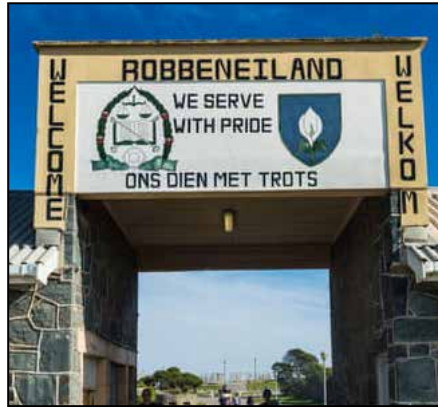


THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On 12 June 2005, Rain Queen Makobo Modjadji VI died in a hospital in Polokwane, Limpopo Province. Rain Queen Modjadji VI is a direct descendent of one of the royal houses of Monomotapa, which ruled over the Zimbabwean people in the 15th and 16th century. Rain Queen Modjadji VI began her reign in April 2003; when she succeeded her grandmother Mokope Modjadji V. Makobo Modjadji VI is the first Rain Queen to have received formal education, and went on to complete high school. The legend of the Rain Queen has been told for centuries, as even King Shaka Zulu is said to have asked for her blessing.

■ 13 June 1964 Nelson Mandela and fellow Rivonia Trialists arrived on Robben Island

Nelson Mandela arrived on Robben Island to start his lifelong sentence, along with fellow Rivonia



trialists – Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni. Dennis Goldberg was separated from the group because he was white, and served his sentence in Pretoria.

■ 13 June 1912 South Africa Defense Act paves way for Union defense force

The South Africa Defense Act is passed, and the Union Defense Forces (UDF) formed, integrating

forces from the two British colonies and two Boer Republic that formed the Union of SA in 1910. This was the forerunner of the South African Defense Force and after 1994, the non-racial and non-sexist SANDF.

■ 14 June 1898 France signs the Niger Convention

The convention was an agreement between France and Britain about the portioning of West Africa. The partitioning mostly defines borders in West African region today. These decisions determined the borders between former British or French colonies of Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Benin (formerly Dahomey). Sometimes borders divided relatives and people who had previously belonged to the same ethno-linguistic groups. A person who fell on the French side of Nigeria-Dahomey border, for example, might have learned French as a second language and migrated to the colonial capital Cotonou. Her cousin on the Nigerian side of the border, on the other hand, may have learned English as a second language, and migrated to the Nigerian colonial capital of Lagos.

■ 14 June 1985 Artist Thami Mnyele assassinated

On this day, graphic artist, activist and member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Thamsanqa (Thami) Mnyele was shot and killed by the South African government in Gaborone, Botswana where he was in exile. In Gaborone Thami participated in the anti-apartheid cultural organisation, the MEDU Art Ensemble. After killing him, the apartheid agents confiscated his work and soon after displayed it on national television as evidence



Thabo Mbeki is elected President

Thabo Mbeki became the second President of South Africa and succeeds Nelson Mandela, with Jacob Zuma becoming Deputy President. During his inaugural speech Mbeki said the following: "As the sun continues to rise to banish the darkness of the long years of colonialism and apartheid, what the new light over our land must show is a nation diligently at work to create a better life for itself."



StaySafe



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

of his so-called terrorist activities. His works have not yet been recovered.

■ 14 June 1977 Afrikaans Language Monument

The 'Afrikaanse Taal Monument' (Monument of the Afrikaans language) near Paarl, was handed to the state. The idea of monument to the Afrikaans language was first raised in 1942. A local committee was established to raise funds for it, but it only came to fruition when taken over by the whites only Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging (ATKV) in 1963. The Paarl municipality provided the land (83 hectares) for free for this purpose. Building started in 1972 and was completed in 1974. The design of the Taal monument represents the diversity of the origins of Afrikaans, as well as the symbolism of a bridge between Europe and Africa. The monument today also symbolises the debate and challenge by black South Africans who spoke the language, pointing towards the influences of indigenous languages and the Malay language to Afrikaans, in addition to its Dutch origins. After 1994, the monument remained part of South Africa's national monuments.

■ 15 June 1860 First nursing school opened

Florence Nightingale, seen as the founder of the modern nursing profession opened the first school for nursing at St Thomas Hospital in London.

■ 16 June 1976 Students March and Police brutality spur 1976 Uprising

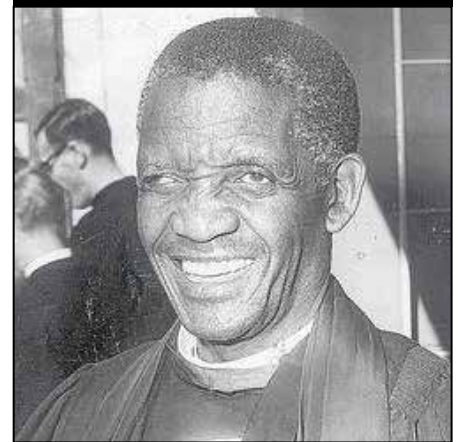
Students marched from Morris

Isaacson High in Soweto to protest against the introduction of Afrikaans as a language of instruction in schools. This sparked off violent response from the police, the killing of young student Hector Peterson, and a country wide student uprising which forever changed events in South Africa. After 1994, following lobbying by youth and student organisations, the day was declared as South African youth, a public holiday, annually commemorating the bravery of the 1976 generation.

■ 16 June 1983 Rev James Calata born

Rev. James Arther Calata, who was born in Cradock in 1930, a founder of the ANC Youth League, Secretary General of the ANC, Defiance campaign volunteer passed on. Rev. Calata was also a clergy from the Anglican Church.

Rev James Calata



■ 17 June 1991 De Klerk's whites-only parliament repeal some Apartheid laws

The whites-only Parliament voted to repeal some of the key laws that formed the foundation of apartheid, namely the Population Register Act of 1950 (that stripped the majority of black South Africans



Soweto Youth Uprising

Student anger and grievances against Bantu education explode. Tens of thousands of high school students take to the streets to protest against compulsory use of Afrikaans at schools. Police opened fire on marching students, killing thirteen-year old Hector Petersen and at least three others. The student uprising spreads to other parts of the country leaving over 1,000 dead, most of who are killed by the police. The Soweto Uprising was a "dramatic climax of the escalating wave of struggles in the first half of the 1970s."



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

of citizenship, with citizenship supposed to be only in the bantustans); the Group Areas Act and the Land Act (which together with Bantustan acts, preserved 87% of land for whites); and the Separate Amenities Acts, which segregated amenities – from public toilets, benches, beaches, cinemas, shops, sports facilities, transport facilities, hospitals, etc – between whites and blacks. This was seen as part of the process of removing

the legal basis of apartheid.

■ 18 June 2000 First Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace agreement signed

Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a ceasefire in Algiers, capital of Algeria, ending two years of war with tens of thousands casualties in both sides. A 25 kilometer neutral zone resulted, introducing a 'No-War-No-Peace' stand-off between

the countries. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018 signed another peace agreement aimed at normalizing relations between the two neighbours.

■ 18 June 1995 Angolan national team plane crash

The Angolan national soccer team was involved in a plane crash, which killed the entire team support staff and crew.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

12 – 18 June 2021

Source: <https://au.int/en/au-holidays> and <https://www.un.org>

■ 12 June World Day Against Child Labour



This day emerged out of the work of the International Labour Organisation to discourage child labour across the world. The theme for 2021 is **“Act Now. End Child Labour”**, as an estimated 168 million children globally are required to work.

■ 13 June World Albinism Awareness Day

People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide. Albinism is still profoundly misunderstood, socially and medically. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization and social exclusion. This leads to various forms of stigma and



discrimination. In some communities, erroneous beliefs and myths, heavily influenced by superstition, put the security and lives of persons with albinism at constant risk. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. The theme for 2021 is **#Strength-BeyondAllOdds**. South Africa will celebrate this day as we mourn the passing of one of the most prominent South African persons living with Albinism, ANC leader from the North West, Reverend OJ Tselapedi.

■ 14 June World Blood Donor Day

This day is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to celebrate people who regularly donate

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

blood and the role that they play in health systems. According to the WHO, very few seconds, someone, somewhere, needs blood; and transfusions of blood and blood products save millions of lives every year. Blood and blood products are essential to care for women with pregnancy and childbirth associated bleeding; children with severe anemia due to malaria and malnutrition; patients with blood and bone marrow disorders, inherited disorders of hemoglobin and immune deficiency conditions; people with traumatic injuries in emergencies, disasters and accidents; and patients undergoing advanced medical and surgical procedures.

■ 14 June UN World Elder Abuse Day



Around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse and rates of abuse may be higher for older people living in institutions than in the community. Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. It is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. South Africa also has more older people, with life expectancy in up from 54 years in 2006 to 64 years in 2018. There are now about 4.8 million South Africans over the age of 60 in a population of 57.7 million people (StatsSA, Midyear Population Estimates, 2018). In 2011, more than half of elderly persons lived in extended households, and in the same year, about 19.9% of households were headed by an elderly person. Institutions like the SA Human Rights Commission and NGO's work with the elderly, to protect their rights. The theme for 2021 is **"Access to Justice"**.
Sources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/elderabuse/> and StatsSA

■ 16 June African Union Day of the African Child

This day was adopted in 2011 by the African Union Heads of State and Government, to focus attention each year on the situation of children in Africa. It



coincides with the celebration of the contribution of youth and students to the struggle in South Africa. The AU has an African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children. It has been ratified by 41 countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan and South Sudan are the only four countries that have not signed the Charter. The 2021 AU theme is **"30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children"**.

■ 16 June International Family Remittances Day

This day is observed by the United Nations, to draw attention to how migrants (internal and international) contribute to their families. According to the UN, *"the day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children"*. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most. South Africa's also has its own history of the migrant system, where men and women left home to find jobs in cities and on mines and send money home to their families. Since 1994, more and more people have migrated to the cities, and also send money home to their families in rural areas. Some South Africans – nurses, teachers and other professions – also work outside of the country and send money home. This day celebrates their contribution to their families.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

17 June

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought



Desertification refers to the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. And when there are long droughts (no rain), this becomes even more of a problem. This is as a result of human activities and weather changes. This day celebrates the work done by communities, governments, civil society and international organisations to prevent desertification. Across Africa, countries are trying to do this through various projects. Projects include educating farmers so that they do not allow their life stock -cattle, goats, sheep – to overgraze; crop rotation to help land recover; and planting more trees.

The African Union has a project, called the **Great Green Wall**, to plant a wall of trees (1km wide and over 8000 km) that stretches from Eritrea and Djibouti in East Africa, to Senegal on the West of Africa, to stop and reverse desertification of the Sahara/Sahel. In South Africa, the very dry semi-arid and desert areas of the Karoo and Namakwa are at risk of desertification, also as the western part of the country gets dryer because of climate change. Former Bantustan areas are also prone to desertification, because so many people were forced to survive on small parts



of the country. Government has therefore started projects to rehabilitated land and fight land degradation in Sekhukhune district in Limpopo, the Mkhuze catchment area in KwaZulu-Natal and Machubeni catchment management in the Eastern Cape.

18 June

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

Gastronomy refers to the food we eat, where it's grown, processed and how we prepare it. Agriculture and agro-processing play an important role in our life, because we all have to eat. Both have an impact on our health and on the planet. The food we eat and how it is prepared is also influenced by culture, and changes in our lifestyle. In the past, we used to eat less processed food, eating what we grew locally, without much processing. This has changed, introducing new challenges like obesity.

Governments and international organisations have intervened in two main ways. Firstly, by insisting that foods are labeled for our safety, so we know what is in our food, and if it is harmful. For example, government recently introduced legislation to force producers to find a simpler way of showing how much sugar is in the food that we buy. There are also national and global rules about labeling where food comes from. We have a **Buy South Africa** campaign, to support local jobs and businesses. Imported food may sometimes be cheaper, but it is better to support local producers, because the food does not have to have so much preservatives to make it last longer. This also means we must support local food gardens in communities and schools. The other issue is about country of origin and protecting it as part of preserving of culture. Not too long ago, we had to fight a legal battle with someone in another continent who wanted to claim Rooibos tea as their own and prevent us from using the name. The African continent has lots of indigenous plants and food, but we must find a way of protecting and promoting these, as part of our heritage.





Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020

by International Labour Organisation (2020)



The ILO report on the global youth labour markets (published every three years) notes that on most indicators, we are doing poorly: labour market participation of young people continues to decline; the numbers of young people not in education or employment – NEETS – have not decreased significantly; 126 million out of 429 million young workers live in poverty as a result of informal, insecure and atypical jobs; and young people continue to be three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Moreover, young women are 50% more likely to find themselves amongst the NEETS.

The 2020 GETFY focusses on technology and young people, given that this generation is generally more likely to embrace new technologies than older people.

Key findings of the report include:

- Young people across the world are worried that new technologies – particularly robotics and artificial intelligence – may take away their jobs.
- There is a considerable digital divide between generations and regions.
- Despite the transformations brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, employers' and jobseekers' occupational preferences have remained quite stable.
- Applicants for jobs in most sectors are now expected to have digital skills.

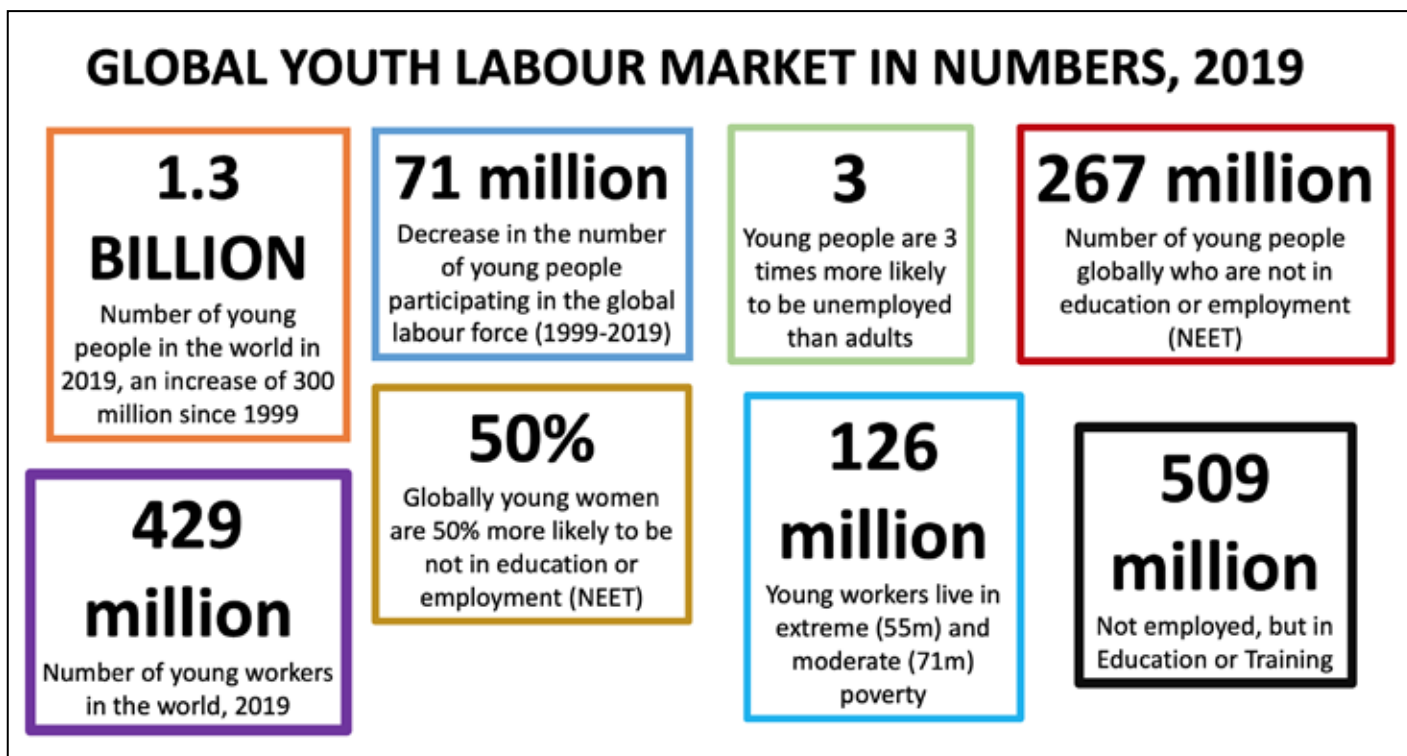
ONE year ahead of the adoption of the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals, one of the UN agencies in their reports on global demographics noted that “*never before have there been so many young people...never again will there be such potential*” (UNFPA, 2014).

As a result, Sustainable Development

Goal 8 called for “full and productive employment and decent work for all”, and by 2020 to ensure that the world substantially reduces the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET); better facilitate the transition from education to the world of work, and develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment.



BOOK REVIEW By Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule



- Vocational training is more likely to lead to employment in jobs that are at risk of automation.
- Young graduates are having trouble finding entry-level jobs that match their qualifications.
- The falling returns to tertiary education have dampened wages at the top for youth, influencing wage inequality among them.
- On the whole, there is a lack of adequate decent jobs for young people.

- As is the need for better organization, voice representation and collective bargaining to ensure appropriate wages and working conditions for young workers.
- Along with the need for gender-responsive approaches.
- Digital technologies present an excellent opportunity to strengthen employment services and job matching; and
- Social dialogue must include the voices of young people.

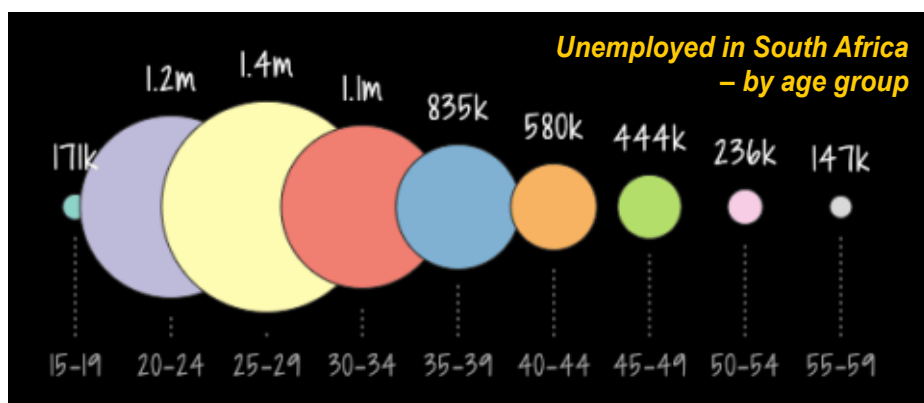
the report are Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia, accounting for all five regions and 65% of the continental youth labour market.

South Africa's deepening young unemployment crisis reflects many of the global trends highlighted in the report, and this is therefore a must-read as we grapple with solutions to this seemingly intractable national challenge.

In the light of these findings, the report recommends that:

- Effective policies are required to ensure that new technologies have a positive impact on youth employment.
- Such policies should be part of an integrated strategy to create decent jobs for young people
- Prioritizing and sequencing policies for youth employment is critical.

African countries represented in



The report can be downloaded from



X-WORD

#YouthMonth **The Youth Labour Market**



ACROSS

- 4. Major challenge of the youth labour market is this transition.
- 9. Young people are ... as likely to be unemployed than ...
- 10. Currently out of work, currently available for work and seeking work is the official definition of ...
- 11. Young people not in education or employment are also referred to as ...
- 12. Young people in internships often suffer from this, yet their incomes remain the same.
- 13. Young people encouraged to be this rather than job seekers.

DOWN

- 1. Performance of the youth labour market is linked to the overall economy and ... for labour.
- 2. ... means young peoples capacities are not fully utilized.
- 3. Young workers are mainly found in ... employment
- 5. Young people without work, gave up on ever finding a job.
- 6. Many young workers earn so little, they are part of the ...
- 7. A major determinant of young people's employability
- 8. Labour market projects to prepare young people for work often focuses on this.

WORD BANK

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| NEETS | youth unemployment | three times adults |
| discouraged | vulnerable | working poor |
| underemployment | school to work | education skills |
| overemployment | entrepreneurs | |
| work experience | aggregate demand | |