



# ANC TODAY

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Conversations with the  
**President**



## REBUILDING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS AFTER THE FLOODS

■ By **Cyril Ramaphosa**

**I**T has been just over a month since heavy flooding wreaked havoc across parts of KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and North West, causing extensive loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure.

Yesterday, I visited eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal to meet with businesspeople in the city to lend our support to their efforts to restore their operations.

When this natural disaster struck, there was some concern

that authorities had neither the capacity nor the will to respond efficiently and effectively to the dire situation of those who had lost everything.

Having paid my second visit to the city since the floods, I am clear that this concern was misplaced. In KwaZulu-Natal, as in the Eastern Cape and North West, all stakeholders have been hard at work to recover from these tragic events.

The National Disaster Manage-

ment Centre has been coordinating all spheres of government in their efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the many households that have been affected. It has been pleasing to see the NGO community, business and relief organisations joining in working with government to provide much-needed relief assistance.

All these stakeholders have provided food, clothes, blankets, dignity packs and school uniforms to vulnerable families to meet their basic needs. Shelter-

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ing services are currently being provided to over 7,000 people in the four most affected districts in KwaZulu-Natal. Work has started to build temporary residences for affected families on state-owned land parcels have been identified in KwaZulu-Natal for possible resettlement.

The Departments of Home Affairs, Health and Social Development have been assisting affected communities to access important services. For example, mobile units are helping those who lost critical documents in the floods to get new smart IDs and to re-issue birth certificates.

Mobile health services, including COVID-19 vaccinations, are being provided to people in areas where the physical facilities are not yet fully operational. Mechanisms are in place to pay out the social grants of affected individuals.

Mobile classrooms are being procured so that learning and teaching should not be interrupted for longer than necessary in flood-affected schools.

Work is underway to repair damaged waste water treatment works, pump-stations and reticulation. Damaged roads are being

repaired. Eighteen new bridges are planned as part of the Welisizwe Rural Bridges programme.

There has also been considerable progress in fixing key infrastructure supporting the Port of Durban. Given the importance of the port to the national and continental economy, port traffic has been restored, terminal operations are back at full capacity and work to repair damaged rail infrastructure is underway.

At different times in our democracy's history, we have been confronted with events and circumstances that have severely tested the resolve of our people and the effectiveness of our in-

stitutions.

Over the last month, we have seen extraordinary solidarity and support to affected communities in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North West. Municipal and provincial governments have been working closely with national departments and agencies to enable people to rebuild their lives and to get local economic activity back on track.

They have been working with all stakeholders in all of these areas to ensure that we effectively coordinate recovery efforts and that we plan and rebuild in a manner that is more resilient to extreme events of this nature in the future.

The perseverance of affected communities, their determination to succeed and their ability to rally together in times of crisis has been an inspiration. We salute all those who have been part of the effort to help the people of the affected provinces.

**As government, we are mobilising all available resources and undertaking every effort to ensure that, as we rebuild, no-one is left behind.**





# ANC STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 16 MAY 2022

**T**HE National Working Committee (NWC) of the African National Congress (ANC) met on Monday, 16 May 2022 to conduct the current work of the ANC and carry out decisions and instructions of the National Executive Committee (NEC).

## Letsema Campaign

The NWC welcomed the on-going Letsema Campaign, re-launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa, on 23 April 2022 in Mangaung.

On 21 May 2022, the Letsema Campaign will commence in KwaZulu-Natal, focusing on the victims of floods by participating in and reinforcing the relief and reconstruction efforts led by government and civil society.

The Letsema Campaign will be led by ANC National Officials, ANC leaders and volunteers who

will be active in relief efforts and the rebuilding of communities by distributing donations collected by ANC structures throughout the country. Efforts will also be focused on the provision of basic necessities, food, temporary shelters, as well as the rebuilding of roads.

The Letsema campaign is a call to action for all ANC members and citizens, to work with their local, provincial and national government to build better communities. The programme encourages communities and government to work together, forming local compacts to reconstruct the economic and social fabric of our society.

The Letsema Campaign aims to:

- a) Build a Letsema movement for clean, resilient and safe communities, across the country;
- b) Identify and organise regular community activities around

- issues that contribute to community resilience and safety;
- c) Build a broad front of various stakeholders in communities, towns, rural areas and cities who in their different sectors and working together contribute to the Letsema objectives;
- d) Raise awareness in communities and educate campaign organisers, volunteers, members and all stakeholders on the importance of community development, resilience and social cohesion; and,
- e) Ensure dynamic interaction between government structures and communities around effective basic services and local economic development.

## Preparations for ANC National Policy Conference

The NWC received a report on preparations for the ANC National Policy Conference scheduled



to take place from **28–31 July 2022**.

National Policy Conference is an important step in preparing for the **ANC 55th National Conference**, which will be held from **16–20 December 2022** at NASREC in Johannesburg.

National Policy Conference must be convened at least six months before the National Conference to review policies of the ANC and to recommend any new or to amend any present policy for consideration by the National Conference.

The NWC, as mandated by the NEC, finalised and authorised the distribution of the following discussion documents: Balance of Forces and Strategy and Tactics; Organisational Renewal; Social Transformation; Economic Transformation; Peace and Stability; Education, Health, Science, Innovation and Technology; Archives, Heritage and Culture; Communications and the Battle of Ideas; Legislature and Governance; and International Relations.

The discussion documents will be published in a special edition of the ANC journal, **Umrabulo**, to facilitate discussion amongst ANC structures, the Alliance, sectoral and civil society organisations as well as the public and media.

The process leading up to the National Policy Conference will constitute a festival of ideas characterized by broad, inclusive and intensive participation in evaluating the implementation of policies adopted by previous National Conferences and proposing amendments to these policies, as well as the formulation of new

policies.

From May to early July 2022, over 250 workshops will be conducted across the country with all ANC branch executive committees for induction and training in the facilitation of discussion of Policy Conference documents.

This training will enable BECs to conduct study groups and workshops with ANC members to discuss these vital issues facing the country and communities.

The ANC calls upon all individuals, organisations and institutions to make inputs and enrich these discussions papers.

The NWC also agreed to the establishment of a Policy Conference Gender Reference Group to review all discussion documents and ensure that our vision of a non-sexist South Africa, and a gendered perspective is incorporated in these documents.

The special edition of *Umrabulo* will be released at a media briefing on Friday, 20 May 2022 at 09h00 at the ANC Media Centre at Chief Albert Luthuli House.

Following the release of the discussion documents, media briefings by NEC Sub-committees and discussion document drafters will be held from Wednesday, 25 May 2022.

### **Municipal By-elections**

The NWC received a report on the outcome of recent by-elections. The NWC commended the efforts of ANC structures and volunteers and expressed its thanks to voters who have renewed the ANC's mandate in the overwhelming majority of by-elections.

The NWC also noted with concern the loss of wards previously held by the ANC, due to internal organisational challenges and failure to adhere to rules and procedures for the selection of candidates, in particular the requirement to hold community meetings to ensure community input and approval for ANC candidates. The NWC urged all structures to adhere to the rules and procedures adopted by the NEC and stressed the need for consequences for failure to do so.

### **Regional & Provincial Conferences**

The NWC received a report on ongoing work to ensure the holding of Branch Biennial General Meetings (BBGMs) as well as regional and provincial conferences.

The NWC noted that 27 regions out of 52 regions have convened their regional conferences. Furthermore, 3 out of 9 provinces have held provincial conferences. The Limpopo Provincial Conference is scheduled for 3–5 June 2022 and KwaZulu-Natal will hold its provincial conference on 15–17 July 2022.

The NWC noted progress made by the Free State, North West and the Western Cape in preparing for their provincial conferences and urged the Interim Provincial Committees of these provinces to ensure that conferences are held without delay.

### **Status of Interim Structures**

The NWC reaffirmed the decision by the Special NEC on 24 – 25 March 2022 that, in terms of the ANC Constitution, interim structures fulfil the functions of the

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BEC, REC or PEC, as the case may be, and accordingly, that members of such interim structures have the right to attend ex-officio as full participants in and as delegates to regional or provincial conferences.

The NEC mandated the Secretary General's Office to develop uniform guidelines regarding the size, composition and terms of reference of interim structures.

### ANC Membership System

The NWC welcomed a report on the ongoing work to implement an online, fully automated ANC Membership system in line with the resolutions of the 54th National Conference as an important aspect of organisation renewal.

The membership system seeks to combat gatekeeping and membership manipulation and allow members to control their own membership. Following the successful implementation of the first phase of the new system, lessons learned are being used to improve the system and address challenges identified.

The NWC also noted and welcomed the institution of disciplinary action against staff members implicated in allegations of membership manipulation in the Dr WB Rubusana and Chris Hani Regions of the Eastern Cape.

### Implementation of Step Aside Resolution

The NWC received a report on the implementation of the decision of the Special NEC meeting on 24–25 April 2022 that any member who has stepped aside voluntarily, or who has been suspended, following an indictment to appear in a court of law on any

charge should not be allowed to stand for a position on a BEC, REC, PEC or NEC.

The NWC noted and welcomed that fact that the decision has been adhered to in regional and provincial conferences following the Special NEC.

The NWC requested the National Officials, as mandated, by the NEC, to consider and make proposals regarding any further amendments to the step-aside guidelines and procedures, including with regard to handling of any matters that arose before the decision of the Special NEC.

### Special NEC Retreat on Unity, Renewal and Rebuilding

The NWC received a report on preparations for a Special NEC Retreat on Unity, Renewal and Rebuilding of the ANC, now scheduled to take place on 11–13 June 2022.

### MK Veterans

#### All-Inclusive Conference

The NWC welcomed the formation of the MK Liberation War Veterans at the uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) Veterans All-inclusive Conference on 27 April –1 May 2022 in East London.

The conference adopted important resolutions on ANC renewal, socio-economic development of MK veterans, heritage and legacy, as well as legislative review.

This important development gives effect to the resolution of the 54th National Conference mandating the NEC to facilitate unity and inclusion of all MK ex-combatants.

The NWC expressed its support for the leadership of the MK Liberation War Veterans nominated at the conference based on provinces and detachments. The leadership will hold its inaugural meeting on 20–22 May 2022 to elect office bearers and adopt a programme of action based on

**An uMkhonto weSizwe Veteran in attendance at the MK Veterans All-Inclusive Conference**





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the resolutions adopted at the conference.

### Establishment of ANC Women's League National Task Team (NTT)

Pursuant to the decision of the Special NEC meeting on 24 – 25 April 2022 to dissolve the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC Women's League, the NWC received a progress report on the proposed composition and terms of reference of the ANCWL National Task Team (ANCWL NTT). The proposals will be finalised and reported to a special NEC meeting in the near future for adoption.

### Engagements with Black Business Council (BBC)

The NWC welcomed reports on engagements with the Black Business Council (BBC) aimed at re-establishing a strategic working relationship to advance transformation towards inclusive growth and a shared prosperity for South Africa. Further engagements will be held to identify priority areas of collaboration on matters of economic transformation, including on issues such as preferential procurement and set-asides for women and youth.

### Engagements with Contralesa

The NWC welcomed the efforts to renew engagement with the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Con-



tralesa) following the Contralesa National Conference on 30 April 2022. It was agreed that a ten-aside structure, led the Deputy President, Comrade David Mabuza, would be established to deal with matters of common concern.

### Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School

The NWC welcomed the report that a delegation of 20 political education facilitators is attending

a workshop at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania from 12–21 May 2022. The workshop is being held under the theme: **New Development in the New Era: the CPC and the six sister-parties exploration and exchanges, as part of the school's capacity development for facilitators.**

### In memoriam

The NWC extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the following leaders, members and cadres who have passed on: Comrades Silumko 'Soks' Sokupa, Edgar 'Deggar' Motloenya, Dan Mofokeng, Mam Sally Cheanetta Nkosi Peterson, Gao Jasone, Ntshebe, Kgoloko Johannes Rachosi, Ntombi Magabane.

The NWC also paid tribute to Comrade Deborah Frazer, renowned gospel singer, activist, and loyal member of the ANC who used her melodious voice to communicate the messages of the movement and enrich our national culture.

## ANC Mourns the Passing of its former Regional Treasurer, Cde Mpho Moerane

The African National Congress joins thousands of people of Johannesburg and South Africa in mourning the passing of Cde Mpho Moerane who served as the ANC Regional Treasurer, COJ Executive Mayor currently ANC Leader of Caucus and the ANC Regional Task Team Fundraiser.

The ANC sends its heartfelt condolences to the Moerane family, the ANC family, the entire liberation movement, friends, comrades, the people of Johannesburg and South Africa. We wish them strength and fortitude during this moment of grief.

May his soul rest in peace.












# Letsema: Back To Our Roots

Dear Mr President

**A**PPROXIMATELY 10,000 years ago, humankind was composed of hunter-gatherers who survived by hunting wildlife and plants. Our ancestors in the southern part of Africa arrived here hundreds of years before Europeans did in 1652 and were the first farmers. They brought new ideas and skills, just like the Khoikhoi and their herders of animals. They introduced crop cultivation, metal tools, Bantu languages and village life to the region. According to *sahistory.org.za*, it is believed they came here because this was a summer rainfall area, which is good for growing crops. African farmers lived in larger communities than the San and Khoikhoi because more people were needed to look after herds of animals and to work the land. They built their villages around the cattle kraals and were ruled by a chief or a king.

The earth was fertile and most communal farmers only planted and harvested enough food for themselves. The men still hunted, but also herded cattle, goats and sheep. Crops provided daily food and were essential for survival. It was the women's work to tend to the fields. Men helped to clear the ground and tools like the hoe; and later the ox-plough made the work easier.

The ox-plough was brought to southern Africa by Europeans and it replaced the hoe as a tool



*Comrade Pule Mabe*

to clear the ground. The plough had to be pulled by oxen, but women were not allowed to handle cattle. This disruption meant the women could no longer work in the fields and men took over that job. This weakened the position of women in society. Be that as it may, Mr President, women proved their mettle by taking the cudgel and continuing to contribute immensely to their village communities.

They reared children and clubbed together when men went hunting. This is where the concept of letsema originated. Men came together to go on a hunt while women kept the home fires burning. Upon their return, the beast would be shared by the whole village until everyone was filled. When a woman in the village was about to give birth, others rallied to her

compound to offer their midwifery without notice. They would stay with the new mother until she was well enough to resume household duties.

The arrival of Europeans four centuries ago and the subsequent discovery of gold in the Witwatersrand and diamonds in the Northern Cape dealt a blow to this organised way of living. The men were forced off the land to provide cheap labour to the mines far away from their homes, leaving women behind. They were coerced by draconian measures such as land tax and blatant thievery of their land and livelihoods. Suddenly, they were instructed how many cows they were allowed to own and as a result, the migrant labour system was born, to the detriment of the African society.

It is credit to the African woman that they ensured the survival of families and communities in the absence of their husbands, who were corralled in unhealthy hostels in Johannesburg and Kimberley.

The women continued to foster the spirit of letsema and would rally together during harvest to assist each family with their labour to ensure bountiful harvest for everyone.

Mr President, the African National Congress has of necessity resuscitated the concept of letsema, which is today more relevant than it has ever been. Our country is faced with many challeng-



## COMMENT & ANALYSIS

es, among them those of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Our country still teems with productive land which can produce enough food for every stomach and our mineral reserves lying underground can provide livelihood for every living soul.

The structural inequality, borne of the capitalist system enforced by our colonizers, has however mitigated that many would be left behind while a few rise to the top of the human hierarchy of needs.

Salute to the modern women in downtrodden areas who continue letsema by clubbing together to form stokvels in order to maintain their families during these difficult times.

Mr President, this spirit of volunteerism has sustained African societies through millennia and we dare not eradicate it. By way of example, when a child goes missing in our violent communities, a clarion call is made to the rest of the township and a search party of volunteers goes to work to look for that child. Men, women and young people would take shifts to determine the whereabouts of the missing child. While the police are also roped in, the search party does not retreat until all the information has been gathered and shared with regard to the fate of the child.

That is the essence of Ubuntu and the human bonds that tie us together. *Letsema* and *Ubuntu* were thrust to the fore recently when COVID-19 interrupted normal human activity and impacted negatively on the poor and rich alike. When the economy was forced into a lockdown during the pandemic, chefs whose



“  
**Mr President, the African National Congress has of necessity resuscitated the concept of letsema, which is today more relevant than it has ever been.**  
 ”

restaurants were closed rallied together to continue cooking and served free meals to those who could not afford them. While the government came to the party through shelter and food parcels, it was ordinary people who shared the little they had with the poor.

Our ancestors would have been proud by this inherent spirit of Ubuntu.

As a leader of society and the governing party that seeks to transform our society into a prosperous nation, the ANC has tapped into this spirit to unleash selflessness that resides within our people.

Recently, the people of Kwa-Zulu Natal were devastated by floods that uprooted their homes and destroyed their properties. The road to rebuild their lives will be long and arduous. The caring ANC government has already apportioned the resources necessary to rebuild the infrastructure such as roads, houses, bridges, schools, clinics and other amenities. However, the spirit of Letsema is what would expedite the recovery of communities.

Our communities must come together to combat the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and grasp opportunities provided by the ANC government to turn the ship around via progressive policies and programmes. However, for those to succeed, they require a concerted effort by our people on the ground to clutch the baton in unison.

**Back To Our Roots. Amandla!**

Yours sincerely

**Pule Mabe**

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity



# Mandate, consultation and feedback by a **Branch Delegate** to an **Elective Conference**

## PART 2

■ By **Gregory Brown**

**U**PON being duly nominated and after public acceptance of the nomination, the affirmation to accept the responsibility to go and represent more than 100 voices, more than 100 ideals, aspirations, ideals and dreams, it transforms into something heavier than his own opinion because it's now an **Unchangeable Mandate** of many people combined inside him.

You cease to hold personal opinion from that moment when you accept the Mandate. The Mandate is a sacred duty to carry in the Revolution.

At best, it only gets given to soldiers as a legal licence to kill in a war on behalf of the people not present in the frontline.

The Mandate is the highest price of your own life, the stronger it is the more trusted you are. The golden thread between Mandate, Consultation and Feedback is the lifeblood of all Congress movements and it's the first lesson a Branch Delegate should master in the Congress environment.



**Delegates from Chris Hani Region in attendance at the recently held ANC Eastern Cape 9th Provincial Conference**

Your own opinion and own feelings of matters as you see them in person has been buried and doesn't arise to cause internal confusion within you unless individual liberty and wrong peer influence or trade-offs and vote smuggling takes precedence which is dangerous.

A Branch Delegate who is trading

and selling with his representative Vote of his people at home to the highest bidder is committing *High Treason* against an innocent and an unsuspecting people at home. A Branch Delegate who puts a price on this Branch Vote to a certain leader whom his members at home have not mandated him or her is betraying his own masses at home without using his con-

science and cultured consciousness whom the people rely on for you to exercise sober judgment on their behalf.

A unitary organisation with all its representative levels and layers as big as this one requires of such a Branch Delegate to kill his own personal opinion to make space and accommodation for the consolidated well debated position of the masses and collective resolve by all members of the branch as their true feelings and aspiration to be asserted on the floor in the plenary of congress amongst other branches, and the expectation is to win others over to that position. Those at home expect to see their position reflecting in the final resolutions that gets taken in Congress and in its final closing Declaration.

That position which was decided upon in a properly constituted BGM must never change because it comes to constitute what we commonly call the “Mandate” of the branch. The Mandate is sacred and should never be changed as you walk as an individual by those you meet along the way in an unaccountable manner.

Consultation becomes the second most important principle to use to strengthen that mandate and to use utmost care before altering or changing it for anything contrary of what the mandate was at home.

It's the collective voice combined by all who arrived at that decision, be it on leadership or policy or whatever the discussion was. Mandate has no price to exchange with by a Money Bag.

If Mandate was sold, the balancing act to equalise it is the principle of Feedback and when it gets applied as an after effect or during proceedings it has the potential to unearth untruths and lobbying lies.



It exposes personal ambition and liberal tendencies of trading and vote buying with the mandate. Feedback and Consultation is the twin principles that hold a Branch Delegate on his/her feet to always be reminded that no individualism should rise and that everything should be done in the subjective interest of the members at home and society at large.

A branch delegate is a serious member carrying a serious mandate between the branch and all other hierarchal structures and levels upwards of the organisation as far as it goes up until the national conference.

No fundamental change in a branch position should happen without Branch consultation and without the basic units and most fundamental building blocks of the organisation. If it does it borders on exclusion of the basic levels of the organisation and it gets sidelined in both policy position and reflection of leadership. Not even higher structures should thwart this fundamental revolutionary Congress traditional process, not unless the leaders we have today have no history of activism in the Congress movement.

Facebook can never and should never become the mouthpiece of

members of the organisation and the main centre and instrument for information dissemination. The ANC has always been chosen by society to carry its Mandate as the only black mouthpiece of its aspirations and dreams through its branches and not through social media.

Social media is a means to an end and not an end in itself to achieve what needs to be done.

The state and the organisation are one and the centre is one and the ANC is that strategic centre in society and the state all these years. It was rooted inside the heart of society with its branches for years because it has used these methods and practices to win society over and to occupy a special place in society.

We cannot change the traditions of the Congress movement now for money and what money can buy. MANDATE, CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK remain the backbone of building Organs of Peoples Power.

We need organisational clarity and unity more than ever before.

**Gregory Brown** is former ANC PEC Member of the Eastern Cape, writing in his personal capacity





# What does it mean to be an ANC Branch in Good Standing?

## PART 1

■ By **Ketso Toto Makume**

**“At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of genuine revolutionary lacking this quality.”**

Ernesto “Che” Guevara

**T**HE ANC was founded in 1912 and its primary purpose was to defend and advance the rights of the Africans. This was after their independence was destroyed by the white supremacy.

The founding of the ANC was also as a result of the creation of the “whites only” Union of SA, whose purpose was to pursue white interests, white hegemony and white everything. It was not an accident of history but a con-

tinuation of the protracted struggle against apartheid colonialism.

In the process of attaining its objectives the ANC had to be organised and therefore developed a programme (which was later popularly known as the National Democratic Revolution – NDR). It (ANC) also adopted policy positions and principles, tactics and strategies in order to advance towards its main objective.

It managed to ensure that the ma-

jority of democratic and progressive organisations rally behind it with the sole purpose of attaining its primary objective.

It was not an accident of history that it earned the name “*the people’s parliament*” and in some quarters it’s been referred to as the leader of society. This was because the ANC was rooted amongst the people; it was always advancing the demands and aspiration of the people because it was living amongst and



within the people. Every outcry or grievance was turned into the demands of the struggle by our people.

The manner in which the ANC was structured and designed, made it easy for it to be in touch with the people who, in turn had derived such strength and resilience from the structures referred to as AMASEBE (Branches). There were also revolutionary practices, values and principles which assisted the ANC to be strong and visible among our people.

Strong branches were amongst others pillars that assisted the ANC to attain some elements of political power after the democratic breakthrough.

The ANC used to have unquestionable influence in the society and thanks to vibrant branches which ensured that every issue was turned into a clarion call of our struggle.

Therefore, the above historical experience does without any doubt clarify the importance of the branch in the life of the ANC.

### **How does the ANC Constitution define the branch in good standing?**

Under the definitions in the ANC Constitution, a branch in good standing is defined as ***“A Branch that is recognised by the ANC to be fully compliant with its OBLIGATIONS in terms of the Constitution and whose members are paid up.”*** It is unfortunate that our definition, more often when we address the subject about a branch in good standing, is only limited to the ***“paid up membership”*** aspect and ignore the Obligations aspect as dictat-



## **The Branch shall be the basic unit of activity for members.”**

### **ANC CONSTITUTION RULE 23.2.4**



ed by the ANC Constitution.

Rule 23.2.3 further defines the branch as the ***“place where members exercise their basic democratic rights to discuss and formulate policy (positions)”***. The critical question is: Do we still have branches that allow members to feel and be proud that theirs is a place of discussions and formulation of policy? Or we have branches that have turned out to be places where unfortunate families will collect their family members' corpses or injured bodies? Or is it branches that have turned out to be gossip grounds for some against others?

Rule 23.2.4 also assists us to define the branch as ***“the Basic unit of activity for members”***. Are we comfortable that our branches are a basic unit of activities for us members or are they just playing grounds for political thugs and crooks who steal from our people?

From the above it is clear that a branch in good standing is more than just about paid up membership, it is more than just about electing delegates to confer-

ences. It is more than just about being connected or having closer proximity to leadership in some top echelons and it is bigger than we could imagine.

Later I will share my thoughts added to the definition above, about what does a branch in good standing mean.

### **WHY are we discussing the subject?**

The ANC Constitution gives the branches of the ANC some serious powers to exercise:

Rule 4.4 ***“Applications for membership shall be considered by the Branch Executive Committee (where such exists) in consultation with the Branch General Meeting, and by the Regional Executive Committee, if no Branch Executive Committee exists. The Branch Executive Committee from time to time to decide on applications, may accept or refuse any application for membership provided such acceptance or refusal is subject to review by the next higher organ of the ANC”***. The branch of the ANC therefore becomes our “through the eye of the needle”. It is this basic unit of the organisation that decides who comes inside the ANC family. So why is there an outcry when criminals are having a field day in the ANC?

Rule 23.1 ***“Every member of the ANC shall belong to a branch, which is the basic structure of the Organisation”***. There is no exception, even for the ANC President and NEC, PEC, and REC members – all of them are expected to be members of a branch. Therefore, before you can become any kind of a leader in the ANC, you MUST belong to a branch.



Rule 10.1 ***“The National Conference is the supreme ruling and controlling body of the ANC.”*** This is the body that authorises or reverses any decision taken in between conferences, the body that elects the National Leadership, adopts policy positions, formulates plans, reorganises the structures and redesigns the organisational position and analyses the balance of forces across the globe and here at home. Therefore, Rule 10.1.1.1 declares: ***“At least 90% (ninety percent) of the delegates at conference shall be from branches, elected at properly constituted branch general meeting”***. This means branches of the ANC are so significant that they may decide the future of the ANC including to decide that the ANC should cease to exist. It is branches of the ANC that give the citizens of this country the leadership they produce in the conference.

The historical mission of the ANC has always been to liberate our people but with our people be-

ing the active participants of their own liberation struggle.

It is precisely the reason why in the declaration we commit ourselves to make *“ANC an even more effective instrument of liberation in the hands of the people”*.

This implies that our organisation must always be strong on the ground, and this means strong branches. We need to continuously secure the support of the masses through organisational strength, ideological sharpness, high quality leadership and programmes of action that are rooted amongst our people. The masses are history makers, and therefore branches should be their authentic homes to oil and sharpen their readiness to advance their struggles, aspirations and demands.

The current state of our branches also leads to the discussion of the subject matter: Is the state of our branches ready to advance the National Democratic Revolution in order to build a demo-

cratic society which is non-racial, non-sexist, and united? Can our branches stop the patronage networks, factionalism, selfishness, dishonesty, and arrogance within the movement?

Can our branches be independent from the powers that be and be able to stand up and speak truth to power?

Can our branches genuinely rise against the abuse of power and authority exerted on them by some in the national, provincial, and regional leadership?

Can our branches stand up and fight against corruption and crime within our ranks and all levels of state including state parastatals and SOEs?

If the answer to these questions is NO, then there is an urgent necessity to discuss this subject. *(To be continued)*

**Ketso Toto Makume** is a Member of the IPC in the Free State

# The rise of populism in escalating Afrophobia

■ By **Busisiwe Nxumalo**

**W**HEN describing the violent attacks perpetuated against migrants in South Africa, the term 'xenophobia' is often employed. However, as Professor Rothney Tshaka argues, it is incorrect to define these attacks as xenophobic.

Xenophobia is defined as the dislike of people from foreign countries. However, in South Africa, xenophobia is not carried out against all foreigners. While the presence of African migrants in RSA is highly not tolerated, there is an acceptance of foreigners from western countries. Therefore, one can agree with Prof Tshaka's claim that 'Afrophobia' is the correct term to use when describing violence against migrants in South Africa.

Afrophobia attacks occur mainly in townships, where the majority of the black poor and working class communities reside. The latter could prove that the violent acts carried out against migrants are racially and geographically motivated.



Afrophobia has been occurring since the early 1990s. However, more recently, the rise of populist narratives – such as Put South Africa First and Operation Dudula – have been direct contributors to the continued Afrophobia and the societal ill we are witnessing.

The anti-immigrant sentiments in these narratives are centered on pseudo populist beliefs that migrants are to be blamed for the increase in the current issues faced by the country. These sentiments, which seek to legitimize

colonial differentiation and segregation among Africans, tear at the social fabric that defines us as human.

The vicious attacks on migrants are defeating our democratic gains, which are founded on the values and principles of human rights for all people. Migrants form part of a broad spectrum of vulnerable groups and must be protected. We need to find solutions to the root causes of issues the country face and not use migrants as a scapegoat.

The continued failures of the government to deliver on the promises of addressing issues of inequality, poverty and unemployment have escalated to violent attacks on those most vulnerable in communities, and those often take the form of migrants who are black, poor and African. Migrants have been used as a scapegoat for the failures of government.

The rise in unemployment, lack of service delivery, and the general disillusionment with the formal political space has generated animosity amongst the poor





and working class, resulting in violence meted out against those who are black African migrants.

It is challenging to come up with solutions to structural issues while not adequately addressing the current societal issues. The responsibility to find solutions to the complex problems that society faces today needs to be a collective responsibility. It cannot rest on the government alone.

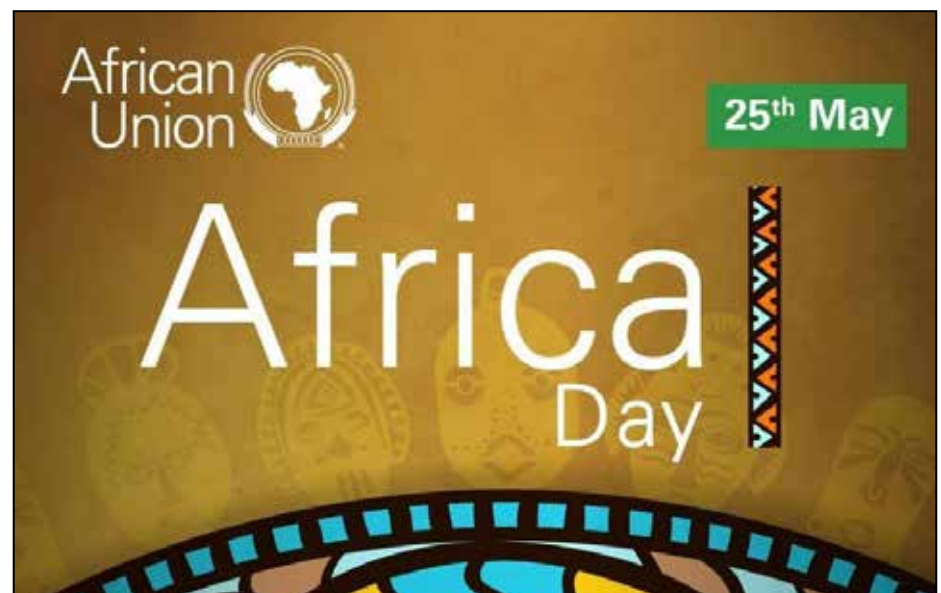
There is no one body that is solely responsible to build a society, nation, and international community. Collectively as a society, we all have a responsibility to build a better society. The ANCYL is not absolved of this collective societal responsibility and should be at the forefront of finding pragmatic solutions.

When we begin to adequately address the interconnected intersectional problems that exist,

we will then begin to find tangible solutions to the problems we are facing. The proposed solution would be that we need to start working together through strategic partnerships to find more solutions to the social issues, primarily centering those that are often left out of the mainstream discourse within societies, as

they are most vulnerable to the spillover of populist ideations of the social and political elite.

**Busisiwe Nxumalo** is the Deputy Chair of the ANC Gaby Shapiro branch, Convenor of the ANCWL LGBTIAQ+ desk and ANCYL PCPC member in the Western Cape. She writes in her personal capacity





# How to rebuild your business after a national crisis

■ By **Progressive Business Forum**

**C**RISES. They come whether global or local, your small business will encounter a crisis at one time or another but how can you rebuild when you have been brought to your knees? The first step is to stand up and brush off the dust from your knees and prepare to put the first brick back in place.

Let's look at six ways to rebuild your business.

## 1. Assess your finances

Look at your current sales, cash flow and profits. When you have these figures, compare them to last year or the year before and see how you are doing. You may be surprised by how much or how little the difference between the two years is.

This is looking at the hard cash, but you also need to look at what has happened between the years to see if there are things that could have influenced the difference. They could be layoffs, or you may have had to downscale your advertising or marketing budgets.



If you need help to navigate your finances, there are some options available to guide you:

NSBC's COVID business relief and recovery centre has many options to help you through the current COVID crisis from low-interest loans to encouragement through webinars and e-publications.

The South African government has some schemes available to help businesses to get back on

their feet.

Profit share's Get South Africa Working campaign gives SMEs an opportunity to enter a competition to win a portion of R100 million to help your SME to grow.

## 2. Review your business plan

With a crisis, your environment and industry may have changed substantially since you drew up your business plan. You may have



## Review Your Business Plan



had to pivot your business during the crisis or open new avenues of income. With the crisis coming to an end, can you go back to your original business plan or do you need to adopt some of the new business processes into your original plan? To decide, you can look at what is happening with your competitors and what are the latest trends in your industry?

You may find new opportunities in this research. A crisis may have also brought to light some of the strengths and weaknesses within your business. Continue to build on the strengths and review your weaknesses and work on improving them.

You should also review your business goals and make any adjustments. Some goals may be irrelevant in the new circumstance you find your business, or you may need to extend the goal a little bit.

### 3. Choose your funding wisely

Do you need an injection of cash

to help you get your business back on its feet? If so, what funding do you want to use? There are a wide variety of ways to fund your business and you need to find the best option for you. Before you investigate funding opportunities, you need to review your business' and your credit score to see how likely it is that you will receive funding.

### 4. Create a budget

Look at your business core and see what you need to keep it running? Now is the time to cut the

fat out of your budget and focus on the essence of what makes your business successful. Try to avoid monetary waste and focus on those things which help to increase the revenue of your business.

### 5. Design a timeline

In a crisis, many areas of your business may have been affected and you may feel overwhelmed by the number of tasks you need to do to get back into business. Write down all the tasks you need to do and rank them in order of importance. At the start, try to focus on those tasks which will bring in revenue. Review your timeline every week to make sure you are heading towards your goal. When your business has stabilised, you can start to review your timeline monthly rather than weekly.

### 6. Learn from the crisis

Finally, while in the crisis, you were in battle mode. Now that it is over, you need to review the lessons you learnt in the battle. Try to keep a record of what worked well and what didn't. You can also try to consider other scenarios which you may encounter and apply the lessons you learned to those scenarios and the plans you had to overcome them.





# Ode to Comrade Mlungisi 'Bazooka' Tshona

■ By **Mbulelo Musi (MK: Moss Thema)**

Under the trees of far- flung Angola;  
In the swimming pool of Viana transit;  
under those thick bushes in Northward Quibaxe, Caxito and Pango;  
In Westward Cacuso, Caculama, Hoji ya Henda and Cuanza Sul;  
we sang songs;  
songs of freedom;  
our voices loud and crystal;  
*"e rile ba boyela haye; ba hlahlohela Zimbabwe, Bazooka ya bolaya motho"*  
'RPG 7' was the artillery designed for destruction of enemy armour;  
so was it that after he earned the name; befitting of his tall stature;  
his imposing presence exuded the Bazooka;  
his baritone crowned it all.

Yet, underneath that intimidating presence;  
lay a gentle soul,  
a clover of peace and harmony;  
an ever smiling; quintessential human being;  
Yet, another gallant son has fallen;  
how many and for how long must we carry their corpses;  
carrying them to eternal rest;  
their cherished dreams and aspirations yet to be fulfilled;  
their quest for a better life for all;  
remains an elusive mirage.

For how long?  
For how long should our patience endure?  
Renew, Unite, Redress  
is our clarion call.  
It's now or never.

Fare ye well Bazooka! Your noble journey continues;  
your spear stays sharpened;  
the race to the finished line has begun.

Hamba kahle Mkhonto! Cry not family;  
Stay proud; Stand up; Shout loud;  
His was not in vain!.



# "Shireen Jenin Sumud"

■ By **Ronnie Kasrils**

Shireen!

Shireen!

Struck down on Street Jenin

Bloodhounds

Snarl and bite

Her home they storm

Her corpse still warm

They salivate

Gobs of hate

Dogs of war

Raid hospital ward

Bereft respect

Dispensing pain

Like acid rain

Rioting police

Obstruct procession

Berserk with hate

**JOURNALISM  
IS NOT A CRIME**

**Shireen Abu Akleh  
1971 - 2022**



Horse hooves drumming

In-human boots

Truncheons flaying

Erupt disrupt

Funeral march

Beating mourners

Breaking bones

Battering hearse

Bash the casket...

Freezing time

In the maelstrom

Coffin slanting

Crazily

Hold on

Steadfast

Sumud

Inhale exhale

Under blows

Of frenzied foes

One more heave

Onto shoulders

Never give up

Sumud

Homage

Serenity

The church

The cemetery

Where faithful tread

The Hallowed Way

Laid to rest

In tender peace

Tears shed

Solidarity spread

Shireen

People's voice

People's eye

Twenty-five years





Witness for the nation

Mentor to each generation

And loved as such

Along and beyond freedom road

Narrating

Recording

Repression

Resistance

Texture of trail

Homes bulldozed

Groves destroyed

Plundered land

Apartheid walls

Water theft

Lives wrecked

Widows bereft

Dispossessed

Heads erect

The youth on fire

Intifada

Sumud

Around her head

Phosphorous bombs

Piercing lead

Innocence dead

People risen

Midst settler mobs

Fearless calm

Truth spread

Intifada

Sumud

Shireen in death

Infusing light

Undying presence

Uplifting night

Birthing life

Onto victory



Legacy bright  
Intifada  
Sumud  
Children laugh  
Swim and play  
Refugees home  
Prisoners free  
From River to Sea  
Sabra Shatila  
Gaza Galilee  
Insha'Allah  
Sumud  
Olive trees  
Distilling breeze  
Shireen  
Adored  
A priceless queen  
Shireen Jenin Sumud.

Ronnie Kasrils is a veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, and South Africa's former Minister for Intelligence Services, activist and author. This piece was first published by *The Palestine Chronicle*.



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

21 – 27 May 2022

Source: SA History Online, O'Malley Archives and The Africa Factbook (2020)

**21 May 1936****Conference on Protection of the African elephant and rhinoceros**

On this day in history, an international conference was held to implement legislation to protect the African elephant and rhinoceros. This is because due to their prized ivory tusks and horns, which were valuable trade commodities, African elephant and rhinoceros populations were on the decline. Although specific information about this particular conference is difficult to find, records show three years earlier the *“Convention Relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in their Natural State (1933)”* was put forward. This convention promulgated the protection of certain animal species, which included the African Elephant; the White Rhinoceros and the Black Rhinoceros. Governments all over the world agreed to the terms of this convention, including the Union of South Africa, Belgium, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. This convention was put into force on 14 January 1936, the same year that the conference was held in London.

**21 May 1946****Women Organises Food Strikes**

As a (albeit divided) participant and contributor in the Second World War, South Africa faced severe food shortages during the 1940s, with the poor especially vulnerable. Wholesalers and others hoarded food and sold it at exorbitant prices. A non-racial women's organisation formed in 1946, the Cape Town Women's Food Committee, organised food queues so that everybody could get food. Founders and leaders of the CTWFC included Katie White, Dora Tamana, G. Anthony, Hettie McLeod and Cissie Gool. On 21 May 1946 the women stormed warehouses and other places where food were hoarded to demand that they be released to the general population. These protests were known as the *‘Rice Strikes’*. The Women's Food Committee mobilised women under the slogan ***“Today we fight for food, tomorrow for the vote, and then freedom for all.”***

**21 May 1884****King Dinizulu rises to Throne**

HRM King Dinizulu succeeds his

father, Cetshwayo as monarch of the Zulu Kingdom, at the age of 15 years.

**21 May 1978****Moses Kotane passed on**

Moses Kotane, South African Communist Party and ANC stalwart passed away in Moscow, Russia where he was hospitalised after a long illness he suffered since 1968. In 1931 Kotane became an active member of the South African Communist Party before it was banned in 1951. Later in 1946 he took African National Congress membership and became National Executive Committee member of the party. Like other prominent political leaders of the time, Kotane was harassed by the Apartheid government agencies and repressive legislations. He was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act of 1951. In 1955 Kotane and I.M. Cachalia sneaked out of the country without proper documents to attend the famous Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia. These two activists



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

were sent by the ANC as observers. In 1963 he left the country for Tanzania. In exile Kotane worked tirelessly in the African National Congress external missions.

### 22 May 1942

#### **ANC Intellectual and Veteran, Z. Pallo Jordan born**



Zweledinga Pallo Jordan, ANC leader, intellectual and veteran was born in B Location, Kroonstad, Orange Free State. He is the son to Professor Archibald Campbell Jordan an African novelist, linguist and academic and his mother, Dr Priscilla Phyllis Jordan, was a teacher, researcher and lecturer. He became politically active in the early 1960s, first in the Non-European Unity Movement, and later in the ANC. In exile, he worked in ANC offices in London and various African states. He also served as administrative secretary of the NEC Secretariat (1985–1988), on the NEC's Strategy and Tactics Committee as convenor (1985–1989), on the NEC's sub-committee on negotiations and the NEC's sub-committee on Constitutional Guidelines, and as the Director of Information and Publicity (1989). After 1990 unbanning, he served in various positions within the ANC, including in the Depart-

ment of Information and Publicity, the ANC Elections Committee and as member of the ANC National Executive Committee. From 1994, Cde Pallo served as a Member of Parliament, as the first Minister of Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting (1994–1996), as Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (1996–1999), and Minister of Arts and Culture (2004–2009). An ardent patriot and intellectual, he continues to contribute to debates in the movement and the country, edited *Oliver Tambo Remembered* (2007) on the life of the ANC President in exile; and is the author of *Letters to my Comrades. Interventions & Excursions* (2017).

### 22 May 1945

#### **SA Bureau of Standards established**

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is established by an Act of Parliament. The SABS is responsible for quality control and safety of all products, and issue regulations and standards, running a product certification scheme and also provides testing and related services.

### 22 May 1970

#### **Campaign against all-white sports team**

The anti-apartheid movement called for a cancellation of the all-



White rugby South African team due to tour the UK. Veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain led a campaign called Stop the Seventy Tour. The campaign threatened to disrupt any matches played during the tour. African and Asian countries also threatened to boycott the Commonwealth Games that would be held in Edinburgh in the same year should the South African team be allowed to be a part of that tour. In May 1970, the British government requested that the English Cricket Council reverse its decision to invite the South African cricket team on tour. The English Cricket Council withdrew the invitation on 22 May 1970.

### 23 May 1699

#### **Sheik Yusuf, father of SA Islamic Faith passed on**

In the late 1600s many Muslim men of wealth and influence were banished to the Cape from their homeland in the East because the Dutch feared them as a threat to their hegemony. Shaykh Yusuf of Macassar is the best known of the Orang Cayen from Sumatra. Shaykh Yusuf [ʿAbidin Tadia Tjoessoep] was born in 1626 of noble birth in Gowa in the East Indies. He fought alongside and supported Sultan Ajung of Bantam, Gowa, in his war against the Dutch. Sheikh Yusuf was banished, along with his family and followers, first to Castle in Colombo, Ceylon [now Sri Lanka] and later to the Cape of Good Hope ten years after his initial surrender. The Sheikh arrived on board 'De Voetboog' on April 02, 1694 along with his entourage of 49 which included his two wives [Carecontoe and Carepane], two slave girls [Mu'minah and Na'imah], 12 children, 12 imams [religious leaders] and several friends with their families. They

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

were moved to a farm in Zandvleit on June 14, 1694 as a means to isolate him, but Zandvleit became a rallying point for 'fugitive' slaves and other exiles from the East. It was here that the first cohesive Muslim community in South Africa was established. Since many of the Sheikh's followers hailed from Macassar, the district around Zandvleit is still known today as Macassar. Sheikh Yusuf is regarded, by many, as the founder of the Islamic faith in the Cape. He died in Zandvleit on 23 May 1699. His Kramat has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

### 23 May 1994

#### South Africa admitted to the OAU

After the first fully democratic elections, South Africa was officially admitted as the 53rd mem-

ber of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a summit, held in Tunis, Tunisia. The South African delegation was led by the Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, who was applauded after membership was authorised at an OAU Council of Ministers meeting. After joining the OAU, South Africa participated actively in all activities and structures, such as the Secretariat, the Centre for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, the Central Organ, the Council of Ministers and the Annual Summit.

### 24 May 1973

#### South Africa to start Uranium enrichment project

South African Prime Minister, BJ Vorster disclosed in July 1970 in the House of Assembly that the government had decided to make

funds available for a uranium enrichment programme. Uranium was used to manufacture nuclear weapons by the South African government.

### 25 May 1963

#### OAU formed in Addis Ababa

The Pan African movement, born out of the early 19th century anti-colonial and anti-slavery movements, debated approaches to African unity after colonialism, in the context of more and more countries gaining independence. Two strands emerged, the Casablanca group of countries advocated for the immediate unity of the African continent (along the line of a united states of Africa), whilst the Monrovia group of countries called for a more gradual approach. Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie convened a conference of both groups, and this Pan African conference of independent African states (and anti-colonial and national liberation movements) met in Addis Ababa, and on 25 May signed the Charter which gave life to the Organisation of African Unity Charter (OAU). The Charter was signed by thirty-two (32) independent states. The OAU regarded as its *raison d'être* to support the remaining countries still under colonialism and apartheid, mainly in east and southern Africa, through the liberation committee. In July 2002, the OAU was transformed into the African Union in Durban, with the adoption of its Constitution Act. 25 May is celebrated across the country as Africa Day.

## OTHER MAY BIRTHDAYS

### ■ 23 May 1926

**Joe Slovo**, SACP General Secretary, Umkhonto we Sizwe and ANC leader



### ■ 23 May 1939

**Evelyn Dalberg**, Opera diva

### ■ 23 May 1943

**Rejoyce Mabudafasi**, UDF Northern Transvaal Secretary, FEDTRAW and NECC organisers, ANC NEC member, and former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism



### 25 May 1986

#### Witdoeke attack Crossroads

The Cape Town City Council, after years of trying to move informal settlements of Crossroads



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

near the Cape Town Airport to Khayelitsha, eventually succeeded when on this day the so-called Witdoeke, a third force group attacked residents of Crossroads, leaving over 6,000 homeless.

### 25 May 1994

#### Term Apartheid used for first time

Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, used the word Apartheid for the first time in Parliament to refer to his government's policy of separate development and white privilege and domination. The word apartheid became part of a global lexicon.

### 26 May 1989

#### Upington 14 sentenced to death

On this day, fourteen of 25 accused – also known as the Upington 14 – were handed the death sentence by Justice J. Basson for the murder of Lucas Tshenolo Sethwala, a police constable who fired at demonstrators attacking his home with stones on 13 November 1985. The rest of the twenty-five accused, the largest group ever to be convicted of murder in a single SA trial, received sentences ranging from six to eight years imprisonment and another six defendants were sentenced to community service. The group

was all convicted on the basis of the “common purpose” principle, “a legal doctrine that imputes criminal liability on the participants involved in criminal activity for all that results from such activity.” Campaigns for the release of the Upington 26, especially the fourteen on death row, amongst them one woman (Theresa Ramashamola) were conducted across the world and in South Africa.

### 26 May 2003

#### Sibusiso Vilane conquers Mount Everest summit

Sibusiso Vilane, a game ranger with dual South African and Swazi nationality reaches the summit of Mount Everest, where he plants a South African flag. 32-year-old Vilane is the first Black South African to successfully ascend Everest.

### 27 May 2007

#### International Cricket Council President Percy Son passed on

International Cricket Council president Percy Son (57) passed on in a Cape Town hospital. An anti-apartheid campaigner for non-racial sports, after 1994 he served as vice-president on the South African Cricket Board and was president of the new

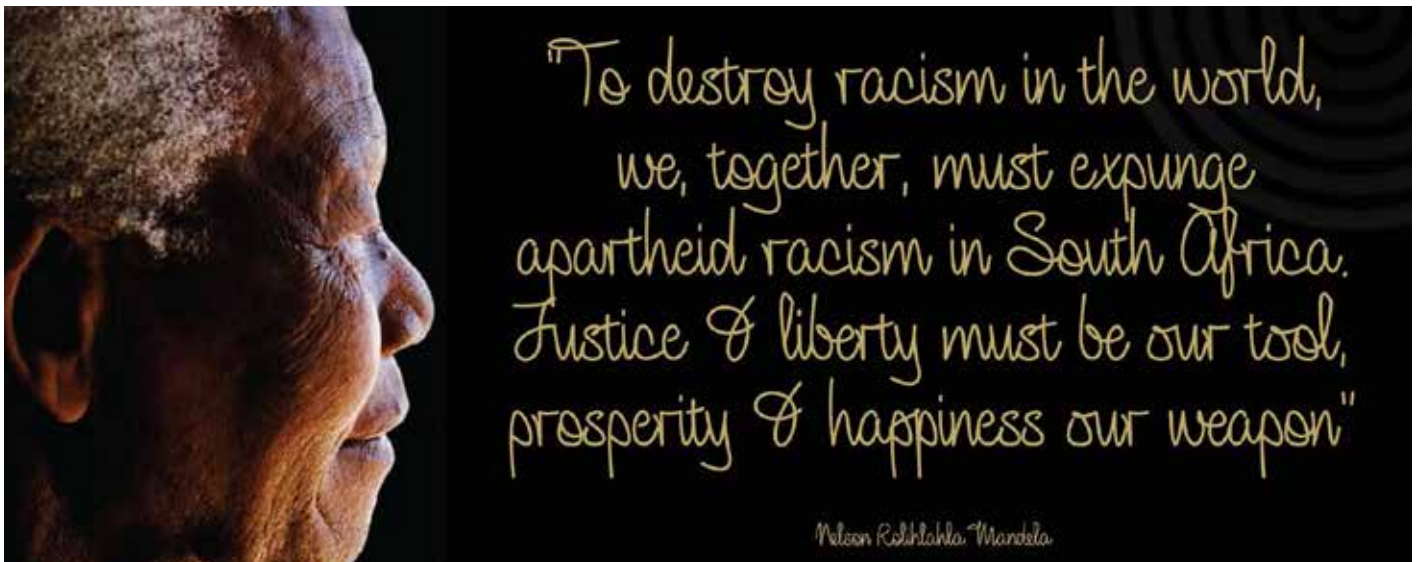
United Cricket Board of South Africa for three years until 2003.

### 27 May 2016

#### Lulu Dube passed on



The youngest daughter of former ANC President John Langalibalele Dube died in Durban at the age of 84 years. Lulu Joan Dube was born in Inanda Durban in 1931 and was the last surviving daughter of John and Angelina Dube. She is well known for the community leadership she played in her home town. She was described as a humble servant, community leader and a freedom fighter. Lulu Dube, also known as Mama Lulu is survived by three daughters, two sons, thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was buried alongside her parents, John and Angelina Dube at the Ohlange Institute in Durban.





## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

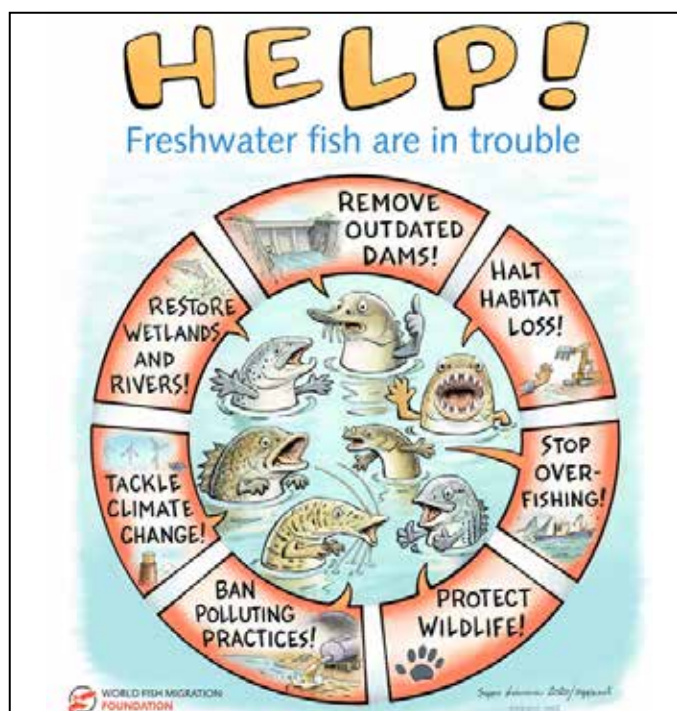
# INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

21 – 27 May 2022

Source: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) and *African Factbook* ([www.au.int](http://www.au.int))

### 21 May

#### World Migratory Fish Day



Migratory fish travel throughout rivers to fulfil their life cycles, some swimming more than 10,000 km! They navigate using the currents, magnetic fields, even their sense of taste and smell. Today, many migratory fish species are critically endangered or threatened. The main causes are man-made barriers which disrupt the natural flow of rivers and prevent their usual migratory routes, especially dams and disruptions to the flow of rivers, especially in cities. The World Migratory Fish Foundation recently published **The Living Planet Index for Migratory Freshwater Fish**, the first comprehensive global report on the status of migratory fish.

### 21 May

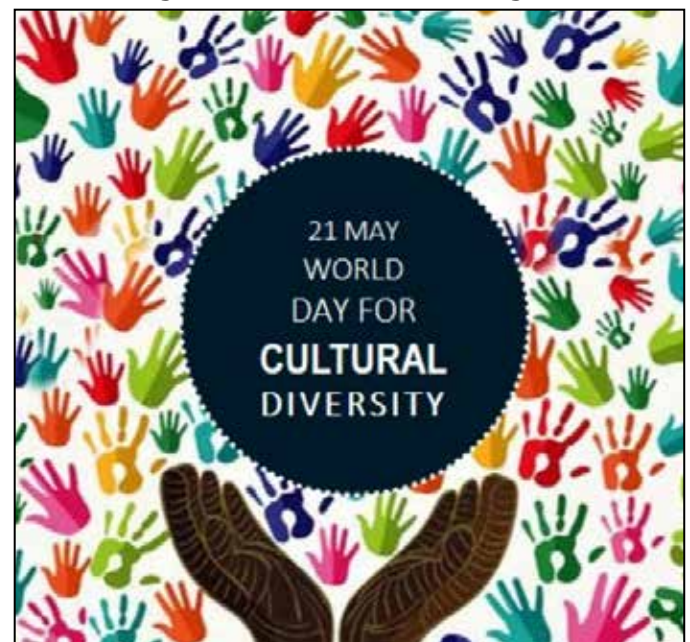
#### International Tea Day

Millions across the world start their day with a cup of tea, or drink it during the day. The International

al Tea Day raises awareness of the rights of those who make it possible, the workers in the tea value chain, to enjoy our favourite brew. The International Tea Conference in New Delhi came out with an International Declaration on the rights of workers and small growers to help regulate uneven competition, land ownership, safety regulations, rights of women, social security and living wages. Major African tea producers, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa account for about 30% of world exports in tea. As we also celebrate Africa month, buy local.

### 21 May

#### World Day for Cultural Diversity



Culture is defined as the ideas, customs, and social behaviour shared and/or manifested by people, groups or a society. All societies have a degree of cultural diversity, as well as the things that bring them together across cultures. The South African Constitution recognises this, when it talks about our 'Unity in Diversity.'

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### 22 May

#### International Biodiversity Day

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal species in a particular environment, and the more, the better. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of protecting and promoting biodiversity, which are being destroyed by human activity such as mining, agriculture, urbanization and deforestation. The theme for 2022 is ***"Building a shared future for all life."***

### 22 May

#### Sherlock Holmes Day

The eccentric yet effective detective featured in books and short stories by author Arthur Conan Doyle, who was born on 22 May. The books were also made famous by television series featuring the detective.

### 22 May

#### World Goth Day

Goth is a subculture which originated in the UK in the 1980s, initially around goth and punk music, with its own style in fashion, aesthetics, anti-mainstream and often morbid sentiments.

### 23 May

#### International Day to end Obstetric Fistula

Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries. A hole between the birth canal and bladder and/or rectum, is caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment. It leaves women with incontinence problems, and often leads to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty. This problem is preventable with the correct medical assistance and its occurrence is a violation of human rights and a reminder of gross inequities. ***"Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!"***

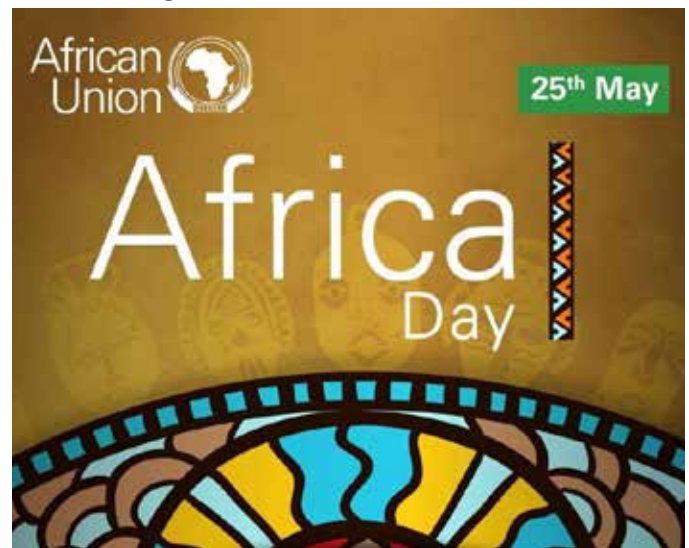
### 23 May

#### World Turtle Day

Turtles are a species of reptiles, with their bodies encased in a hard shell; it includes sea turtles as well as land tortoises. There are more than 350 species living on land, and in both sea and freshwater. Tortoises, the sub-species that live exclusively on land, have an average lifespan of between 80-150 years.

### 25 May

#### Africa Day



This year marks 58 years since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1963. The continental union played a major role in supporting struggles against colonialism and apartheid, and for the self-determination of the African continent. The OAU in 2002 transformed into the African Union, with its overarching objective of building an Africa that is peaceful, integrated, democratic and prosperous, and takes its rightful place in the world. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU in 2013, the continent resolved and committed towards a vision for the next 50 years, Agenda 2063. The Africa We Want. The theme for Africa Day 2021 is: ***"Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we Want"***.

### 25-31 May

#### International Week of Solidarity with Non-Self-governing Territories

The UN Charter defines a 'non-self-governing' territory as a territory *"whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government."* In many of these territories, the UN Declaration on Decolonization of 1960 apply, and there is a UN list of such places. In Africa, Western Sahara is still on this list, and we must therefore during this week reaffirm our solidarity with the Saharawi people, and their right to self-determination.





# African Regional Integration Report 2021

(15 March 2022. African Union Commission)

**T**HE African Union this year celebrates twenty years (2020) since its transformation from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into a continental union. Following the end of apartheid in Namibia and South Africa at the beginning of the 1990s, it was felt that the OAU core mandate of ensuring

the decolonization and independence of African countries have overwhelmingly been met. The need for a new continental union, with a mandate appropriate to new challenges, was therefore identified, culminating in the Fourth Extra-Ordinary Summit of the OAU, held in Sirte, Libya where the decision was taken to

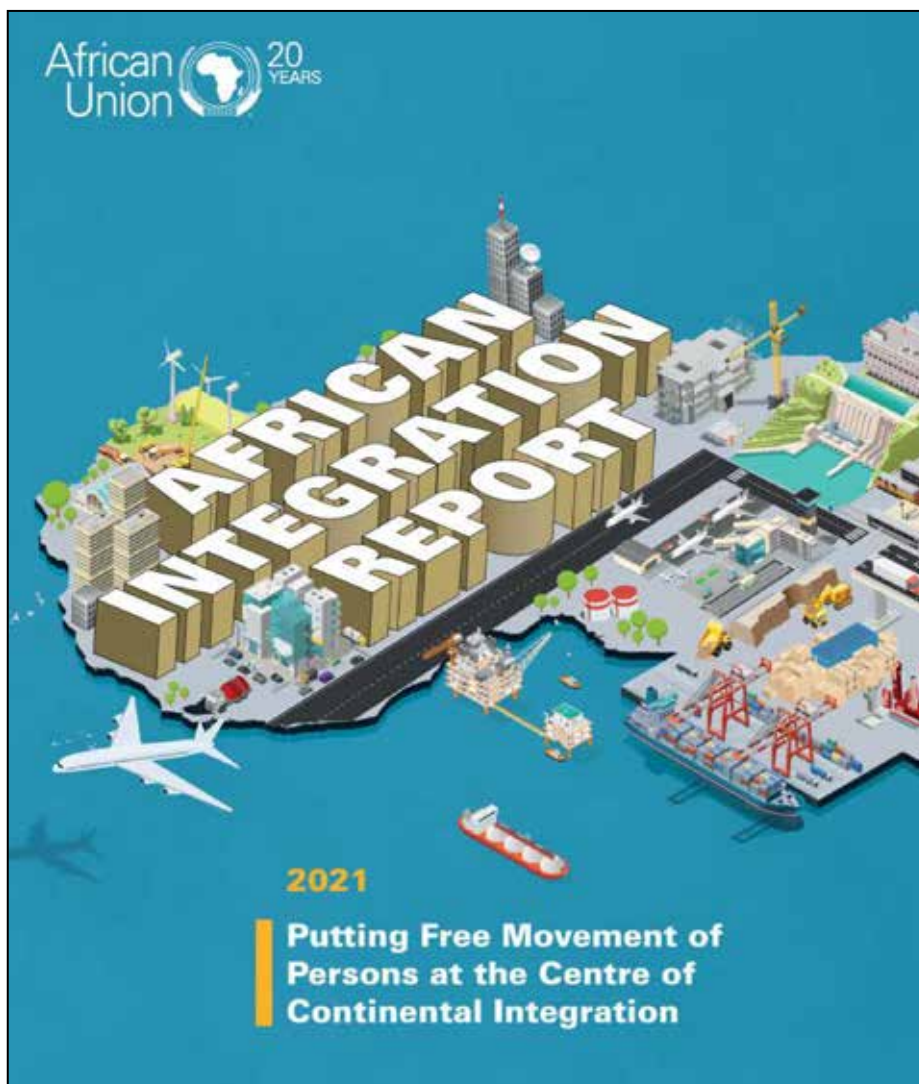
form the African Union.

An enduring part of the mission and vision of the OAU and now the African Union have been the issue of continental integration. The form and pace of such integration were behind the Cassablanca and Monrovia blocks before the formation of the OAU in 1963, and also characterized the Grand Debate in Accra Ghana at the African Union Summit in 2007 on a United States of Africa, an African Union Government and related matters.

Of course, both in the formation of the OAU in 1963 and the AU in 2002, a middle road of gradual integration was agreed upon, with integration set to take place in incremental steps. These various steps are set out in the Abuja Declaration of 1991 and African Union Agenda 2063.

The **African Regional Integration Report**, along with the *African Multidimensional Regional Integration Index (AMRII)* is an important reporting and tracking instrument of the AU and other continental institutions on progress and challenges on the road to African integration.

It serves as a working document for the mid-year African Union Summits with the Regional Economic Communities, which are building blocks of integration.





This year's **African Integration Report** provides an overview on the status of the eight integration dimensions that the AMRII tracks in these reports (see Fig. 2). The second part of the report focuses on one of these dimensions namely the Free Movement of People, an irony as South Africa continues to grapple with its migration challenges.

The report highlights three integration achievements during period 2020-2021 namely: Firstly, the launch of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area with effect from 1 January 2021, and the start of the process to phase out 90% of tariffs on goods and services within a decade. Secondly, learning from the HIV and Ebola pandemics, Africa integrated its responses to the global COVID-19 pandemic with a common strategy under the aegis of the African Centres for Disease Control, with common procurement platforms for vaccines and international engagements. Thirdly, the appointment of the Head of State of Ghana as Champion of Financial Institutions to help the Commission in advocacy with African States in order to accelerate the ratification and the implementation of pan-African financial institutions. Finally, the successful elections for the AU Commission based on the AU institutional reforms in February 2021.

Apart from these achievements, the Report notes that *“regional integration can be promoted through common policies as well as physical and institutional infra-*



*structure. Specifically, regional integration requires cooperation between States in trade and investment, transport, information and communication technologies and energy infrastructure, macro-economic and financial policies, management of shared or trans-border natural resources, security, education and financial and political institutions. Cooperation in these areas may take different institutional forms, with different levels of policy commitments and priorities and having different levels of shared authority.”*

The AMRII scores the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 as the ideal state of integration envisaged. In 2021, the overall continental score was 0.62.

According to the report, the RECs which are making the most effort are EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC and ECCAS, with their multi-dimensional scores exceeding 0.6 in a rating range between 0 and 1. On the other hand, IGAD, CEN-SAD and AMU

are just above the average value of 0.5. The fact of not having defined plans or programmes in certain dimensions of integration such as free movement, financial and monetary integration is one reason for the poor overall performance of these RECs.

On Free Movement of People (FMP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC) far exceed the other RECs, having almost fully achieved the various instruments mea-

sured by the AMRII, such as ratified regional Protocols on For the Free Movement of People, a community passport, etc.

ECOWAS and EAC are also front runners on Social Integration, Political and Institutional Integration, and on Trade Integration; whilst SADC leads on the Financial Integration (probably the influence of SACU); and ECCAS leads on Environmental Integration. SADC and ECCAS lead the pack on both Monetary Integration and Infrastructure Integration. This year's report again raises concern about the slow process of integration of the Maghreb region.

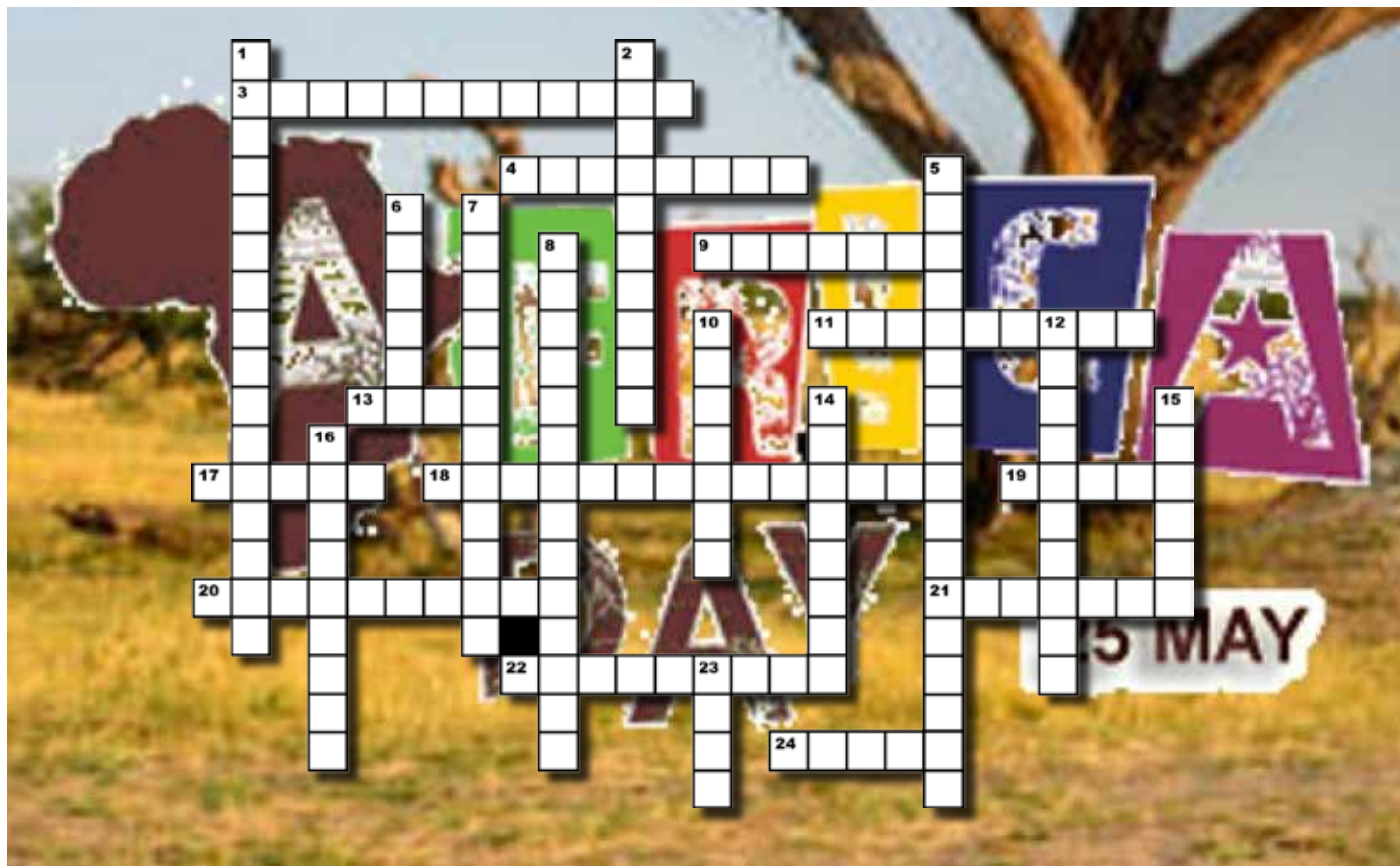
The **2021 African Integration Report** is a rich assessment of the state of integration on the continent, but also of each of the Regional Economic Communities. It further makes recommendation on how we can ensure that integration benefits development and contribute towards the prosperous African continent we want.

**The report can be accessed at:**

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41587-doc-African\\_Integration\\_Report\\_2021\\_-\\_Final\\_Design.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41587-doc-African_Integration_Report_2021_-_Final_Design.pdf)

## X-WORD

### Africa Day 2022



#### ACROSS

3. African art from West Africa in British Museum.
4. Mozambican author of *Sleepwalking Land* (1992).
9. Species of chameleon only found in Madagascar.
11. Smallest African country, not an island state.
13. Lake in Ethiopia formed as result of volcanic activity.
17. Country with pyramids.
18. Ethiopia's first female president.
19. Invaded by NATO in 2011.
20. Malian singer known as the Golden Voice of Africa.
21. Country formed by former US slaves.
22. Precious stone only found in one country.
24. Africa's most navigable river.

#### DOWN

1. 2019 African Literature Nobel Prize winner from Tanzania.
2. State in Indian ocean consisting of 115 islands.
5. Most translated work from Africa by Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *The ...*
6. Africa's highest waterfall.
7. The Queen of AfroPop (1964–2004).
8. Egyptian author of *Women at Point Zero* (1983).
10. Largest African country by population (203 million).
12. Author of *Maru* (1971), citizen of South Africa and Botswana.
14. Hip hop artist and author of *Small Country* (2016) set in Burundi.
15. Country of author Moses Iseigawa who wrote *Abyssinian Chronicles* (1998)
16. Only African country with Hinduism as largest religion
23. Longest river in the world.

#### WORD BANK

Upright Revolution  
The Gambia  
Uganda  
Tanzanite  
Salif Keita  
Congo

Abdulrazak Gurnah  
Seychelles  
Bessie Head  
Mia Couto  
Libya  
Nile

Nigeria  
Mauritius  
Gael Faye  
Brenda Fassie  
Benin Bronzes  
Tugela

Liberia  
Nawal El Saadawi  
Sudan  
Sahle-Work Zewde  
Tana  
Panther