



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

10 – 16 June 2022

Conversations with the
President



Rising cost of living calls for a united response

■ By **President Cyril Ramaphosa**



OVER the past few months, South African consumers have been hit by steep price increases that have dramatically affected their quality of life. It has become increasingly more expensive to buy food and other essentials, to pay for basic services and to use public or private transportation.

While these rising costs affect everyone, low-income households are feeling them the most. The latest Consumer Price Index for April 2022 published by Stats SA shows there has been little respite for hard-pressed South Africans.

Food inflation was recorded at 6.2 per cent. The most basic foodstuffs cost more than a year ago, with staples like cooking oil recording the highest increases.

Dear Mr President
From Alexandra to Loeriesfontein: Relief in Sight

4

MK Liberation War Veterans pledge to advance Renewal and Unity

16



The price of fuel, which affects the price of almost everything else, has risen by a third in the twelve months to March 2022. South Africa is not alone in this regard.

A recently published poll for the World Economic Forum shows that nearly a quarter of people globally, including those in developed economies, are struggling financially due to rising prices.

These increases, particularly the price of fuel, are the consequence of events over which we have little control.

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has had a significant impact on the price of fuel and food. Both countries are major exporters to international markets of fertilisers, grains and oilseeds that are needed for a range of items such as cooking oil.

Another factor is lower agricultural output due to extreme weather events caused by climate change, such as flooding and droughts.

While many of these events are beyond our control, government is doing what it can to shield the South African from current and future price increases.

One of our greatest advantages as a country is a strong, independent Reserve Bank that has managed to keep inflation within a narrow target range, well below what many other countries are experiencing.

Last week, we announced that the fuel levy will be suspended for another two months to August, which will bring some relief to households. The suspension of the levy has provided essential relief to South Africans since it began in April.

Since the suspension of the levy comes at a significant cost to public finances, which affects other programmes of government, it will be difficult to continue this indefinitely. There are, however, other things we can do.

Improving our nation's food security is vital to withstanding this and future shocks. We have a strong agricultural sector that continues to grow and create jobs.

To further increase agricultural production and strengthen our food sovereignty, we are investing heavily in improving local capacity, supporting commercial and small-scale farmers alike and helping more people to grow their own food.

Through the Presidential Employment Stimulus, input vouchers



have been given to over 65,000 smallholder farmers, and work is underway to reach 250,000 such farmers.

Government is also providing subsistence farmers with fertilisers and equipment to produce food, and helping groups or individuals to start their own food gardens.

In provinces like North West, small-scale farmers are supported with agricultural 'starterpacks' of seedlings and poultry, in partnership with local agricultural colleges.

Through the Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy and the release of state-owned land for agriculture, we are supporting more small-scale farmers to expand their businesses and make them commercially successful.

We are also focusing on establishing more public-private partnerships to support the expansion of black commercial farming through initiatives like the Partners in Agri Land Solutions and the Agricultural Development Agency.

To enhance biosecurity and safeguard animal health against diseases like foot-and-mouth, we are strengthening our animal movement control measures and vaccine production capabilities.

In addition to boosting local food production, our extensive social grants system and zero-rating of basic goods helps to protect the poor from rising costs. Through free basic services like water and electricity for indigent households, we can ensure that no family goes without basic services.

To get through this difficult period, all of society should get involved. For our part, government will continue to monitor the situa-



In addition to boosting local food production, our extensive social grants system and zero-rating of basic goods helps to protect the poor from rising costs.



tion closely and will do everything within its power to protect South Africans from unsustainable increases in the cost of living.

Corporate South Africa should ensure that consumers do not pay more for food than they have to.

We welcome the indications from food manufacturers and retailers that they are putting measures in place to help consumers get more for their money.

In March this year the Competition Commission released for public comment the terms of reference for a market enquiry into

the fresh produce market. It noted that the cost of fresh produce has been increasing at above-inflation levels, and that this has had a disproportionate effect on the poor.

The inquiry will examine if there are any distortions in the value chain that make food more expensive. We will use our competition policy to protect consumers against unjustifiable price increases and anticompetitive practices by businesses, as we did during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ongoing process of structural reform of our economy will support these efforts. Reforms in the energy, transport and telecommunications sectors aim to reduce the cost of electricity, logistics and data in the long term through greater competition and efficiency.

We should be paying less, not more, for these services in the future. Though oil prices and extreme weather are events over which we have little control, there is still much we can do, as government, business, labour and communities to help the people of South Africa through this difficult time.

From Alexandra to Loeriesfontein: Relief in Sight

Dear Mr President

S EVEN months ago, Maria Siya from Clovedene in the East Rand was worried and frustrated. The National Treasury had just announced there was no money to sustain the COVID-19 social distress relief grant beyond March 2022. The 35-year old Siya told The Sowetan that she did not know how she would survive without the R350 monthly grant.

"I literally began counting down the months after watching the budget speech. It's been very hard and the little money really saw me through the rainy days," she told the newspaper.

"I sell every little thing I can to make extra cash as I lost my job long ago. The grant is to pay rent for our shack, for food, school and transportation".

Similarly worried was Gladys Makwakwa, the 32-year-old mother of four from Alexandra.

"I am not happy at all. The R350 helped me a lot. I fear I am going to struggle and not be able to buy more bread for my children. Food is expensive nowadays. Without the R350 I will not be able to afford more food," Makwakwa said. She receives a R1 840 child support grant for her children aged 15, 12 and twins aged seven.



Comrade Pule Mabe

She qualified for the R350 grant after it was extended to caregivers who are receiving the child support grant. Makwakwa said the R350 was a much-needed financial boost for her.

"The R350 helped me to buy more meat and bread so that it can last us for the whole month. I also used it to buy clothes for my children and give them pocket money. Now that it won't be extended, I fear that I would have to go and ask for loans from people," she said.

The grant was first introduced in 2020 and distributed in terms of the Disaster Management Act to

assist those who were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While this was meant as a stop-gap measure to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on people who lost livelihoods, the grant has proven to be a lifesaver for many households.

The caring government of the African National Congress heeded the cries of Makwakwa and Siya and duly extended the grant to March 2023.

The grant, which will resume this month, comes in handy to almost 9 million recipients.

Mr President, it is not a secret that hunger had been stalking our land even before the pandemic worsened the situation.

The pandemic has ravaged lives and livelihoods and forced all of us to think outside the box to alleviate the burden, particularly on the vulnerable.

The National Treasury has had to pull a rabbit out of the hat to ensure that our people continue to receive this vital social security grant without which many go to bed hungry.

The grant has undoubtedly brought relief to people who have no income and cannot be allowed

to fall between the cracks.

In the little town of Loeriesfontein in Namaqualand, part of the Western Karoo, the social relief of distress grant has made a major difference. The Daily Maverick reported in July 2020 that even before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, almost 60% of households had a per capita income at or below South Africa's poverty line (R1 227 per month), with 50% of the economically active population unemployed and almost two thirds of households receiving at least one SASSA grant.

The Daily Maverick calculated that in a context of not simply severe poverty, but widespread and chronic unemployment, the injection of the additional grant money and other established grants lifted 27% of households currently falling below the official upper poverty line, above the threshold. *"Almost perversely, from a strictly income perspective, a significant proportion of Loeriesfontein households could be considered financially better off during the COVID-19 pandemic than they were before and will be after the pandemic is over, and the grant top-ups removed,"* reported the media outlet.

It has been said that ours is one of the most unequal societies in the world, and this incubates unimaginable social upheavals such as we witnessed during the July riots in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng when people went on looting sprees.

Anecdotal evidence also shows that during the months when people have access to the grants, there are fewer cases of household robbery reported to the police.

During these days when the cost of living has escalated, we acknowledge that R350 is not adequate to address the nutritional needs of our people. However, we further recognise that the money goes some way to alleviate poverty and makes a difference in their lives.

Our high rate of intractable unemployment and low economic growth has exposed the deep fissures that threaten our stability as a country.

The provision of the COVID-19 distress relief grant has fostered social cohesion and its uptake by the millions demonstrates the need to continue its provision.

The detractors of the grant would have us believe that it breeds dependency without providing a solution on how to deal with present difficulties faced by the poorest of the poor. It is true that without a growing economy battered by the pandemic, it would not be possible to create jobs that would absorb the masses of the unemployed. Of course, Mr President, the grants are not the panacea to

the problems we face as a country. It is a fact that quality education and a growing economy would go a long way in reducing poverty, inequality and joblessness. Hence the government has expanded access to basic and higher education through no-fee schools and free education. It is for this reason there are learnerships to upskill young people to enter the world of employment.

The ANC further welcomes the expansion of COVID-19 grant to be accessed at retail outlets to alleviate the pressure from the South African Post Office (SAPO). We have always seen the desperation outside post offices across the country when our people queued for their much-needed grants and this measure will go a long way to ensure quicker access on days they are supposed to be paid.

Yours sincerely

Pule Mabe

National Spokesperson and Head of the Department of Information and Publicity

Covid-19 grants are making a difference in this little Namaqualand town



The story about Loeriesfontein in the Daily Maverick.

PART 1

Land Reform for Social and Economic Development

■ By **Prof Mathole Motshekga**

On the 21st May 2022, the National Institute of the South Africa (NISA) and the University of Johannesburg held a colloquium on land reform for social and economic development. This theme was in line with the ANC 2012 conference resolution which said that the country had entered the second phase for social and economic transformation.

The resolution was also in line with the struggle of the African people for political, social and economic self-determination. With the democratic breakthrough of 1994, South African people achieved their right to political self-determination which empowered the democratically elected ANC government to introduce a new constitution and to dismantle all the apartheid institutions and build a united, non-sexist and democratic society. This phase of the struggle was defined as the national democratic revolution (NDR).



Thus in 2012 the ANC correctly resolved that the country had entered the second phase of the transition to social and economic transformation. This means that for the past ten years the people of South Africa have been striving to achieve their right to social and economic self-determination which is necessary to address the legacy of British and apartheid colonialism.

It appears that little, if any prog-

ress has been made in this regard. No wonder that South Africa has been characterised as the most unequal country in the world. Analysts are already characterising South Africa as a failed state. Be that as it may, many political analysts and opposition parties who criticise the ANC for failing to deliver services including the infrastructure, house, water and jobs, lose sight of the impediments to social and economic needs of the people.

South Africans do not search for some of the impediments to social and economic development in the constitution itself. We are complacent in the belief that South Africa has one of the best constitutions in the world, but we do not ask why such a constitution represents the most unequal country in the world.

The winds of change

When European imperialist powers realised that the winds of change were unstoppable and

that their African colonies were involved in the struggle for freedom and independence, they quickly granted their colonies political independence and issued them with bills of right which restricted their social and economic rights, in particular, land, property and water rights. Thus, newly independent African communities continued to provide cheap labour to their former slave and colonial masters, and they remained consumer communities. Thus, many independent African states are still economically dependent on their former colonial masters

South Africa adapted a home-grown constitution which was not imposed by any outside power. The ANC constitutional options were informed by the constitutional guidelines for a democratic South Africa of 1988 and the Harare declaration of 1989. In their preamble, the guidelines identified and expressed the root cause of the South African problem as follows:

“Under the condition of contemporary South Africa, 87% of the land and 95% of the instruments of production of the country are in the hands of the ruling class which is solely drawn from the

white community. It follows, therefore, that the mass of the people would continue to be constitutionally trapped in poverty and remain as outsiders in the land of their birth”.

The guidelines contained clauses on the economy and land.

On the economy, the guidelines called on the state to ensure that the entire economy service the interest and well-being of the population and to reserve all the right to determine the general context in which economic life takes place and limit the rights and obligations attaching to the ownership and use of productive capacity.

On land, the guidelines called on the state to devise and implement a land reform programme that would, inter alia, abolish all racial restrictions on ownership and use of land and to implement land reforms in conformity with the principle of affirmative action, taking into account the status of victims of forced removals. In paragraph 16.8, the Harare declaration called for the creation of an economy which would promote and advance the well-being of all South Africans.

The Home grown South Africa Constitution

Although the South African constitution was homegrown and not impressed by an outside power, the ANC was forced to make concessions which restricted the powers of the democratic state because negotiations took place under unfavorable conditions caused in particular, by the peace accord signed by PW Botha and Samora Machel. These restrictions are contained in Section 25 of the SA Constitution.

Section 25 provides for three methods of land reform including restitution, redistribution and security tenure. It is generally agreed that the restitution of land to the victims of forced removals who are the majority of the landless masses has dismally failed. According to the Motlanthe Report, it would take some 300 years to reconstitute the land to victims of forced removals.

The Constitutional Court has also decided to prohibit further land claims until the old order land claims are resolved. This means that new land claimants must wait for 300 years before lodging their land claims. This situation is absurd and must be addressed.



The obstacle to land restitution lies in the Land Restitution Act (No. 22 of 1994) which created a bureaucracy which makes land restitution virtually impossible. Besides, land claimants which were successful have not been benefiting from the restituted land because water and lights were retained by former land owners.

The biggest obstacle to land reform is contained in Section 25 (7) which limits the right of victims of forced removal to claim only the land which was lost after 19 June 1913.

The National Land Claims Act (No. 27 of 1913) which provided for this was based on the Lagden Commission which recommended the legislation of the land robbery which occurred before the outbreak of the second Anglo Boer War 1899–1902. This means that the Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913) visited the great historic injustice on African people.

The Candle of Hope, which represents Khoisan communities



The biggest obstacle to land reform is contained in Section 25 (7) which limits the right of victims of forced removal to claim only the land which was lost after 19 June 1913.



who lost their land before 1913 have instructed lawyers to challenge the current interpretation of Section 25(7), which prevent them from claiming the lands they lost before 1913. Since the government failed and/or neglected to approach the Constitutional Court itself, it should provide financial resources to the Khoisan and others who are approaching the courts to enforce their rights under international law and the

dictates of historical injustice.

Alternately, the government should abide by the prevalent view of eminent jurists who say that section 25 does not prohibit victims of forced removals who lost their land before 1913, from claiming their land. Thus, the government should bite the bullet and expropriate the land without compensation for restitution to victims of forced removals who lost their land before 1913.

South Africa is now the most unequal society in the world with half of its population unemployed. The government interventions have not borne fruits because they have not addressed the land question which is the elephant in the room. The crisis situation facing South Africa has nothing to do with the ability or inability of the ANC government to govern. It is the legacy of British and apartheid land policy which has been carried over into the democratic South Africa.

The historical injustice visited on the victims of forced removals lies in the fact that the British and apartheid authorities violently dispossessed African people of their land and its natural resources before the formation of the union of South Africa in 1910, leaving the African majority with less than 7% of the total surface of South Africa. Violent dispossession of land and its natural resources was legitimized by the Natives Land Act (No. 27 of 1913) which was based on the recommendations of the Lagden Commission (1903–1905), which was appointed by Lord Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner in South Africa. It means that the reservation or restriction in Section 25 (7) legitimates and entrenches a historical injustice contrary to the preamble of the Constitution.



Khoisan activists raising issues affecting their community.



Towards the 2022 ANC National Policy Conference – A NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH

■ By **George Magoma**

THE African National Congress (ANC) is a mass based organisation firmly rooted in and oriented in the mantras “A Government of the people by the people for the people”; “The People Shall Govern”; “A people centred and people driven development”; and that “No government shall claim just authority unless it is based upon the will of the people”.

Sometime this year the ANC will be congregating under two milestones with serious ramifications and impact on the lives of the people.

To these “people” are a myriad of interest and civil society organisations where there exist a social compact and contract with the ANC – student organisations, the

labour movement and the working class under the South African Communist Party, and others.

Out of these two gatherings, at the end, inter alia, three things are expected:

- Election of an impeccable leadership with the wherewithal to lead and unite the ANC and advance development under common purpose predicated upon societal wishes and a people-driven and people-centred organisation.
- An ethical leadership that would rid the ANC of the albatross of corruption and the heavy yoke incapacitating it to drive much needed development in the ugly face of starvation, high food and oil prices and rising unemployment and

abject poverty; and

- Concrete economic interventions and carving a new growth path for the country as a way of extricating the economically depressed from the mortifications of poverty and economic doldrums that have been a feature for the country, exacerbated by the ailing global economy and the economic impact occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic.

In light of these two gatherings, the mass based character of the ANC and its closer proximity, its intrinsic link with communities warrant a drastic shift in policy formulation processes. This should assume prominence as the ANC approaches these milestones, and beyond.

This would herald a new approach that not only cements its symbiotic relationship with the broader society but as a way of inculcating and re-instilling societal confidence as a socioeconomic key driver based on societal aspirations and as a drastic departure from a setup that's not reflective of the views of all interested in the developmental trajectory of the country and the nature of society we aspire, its ability to eradicating the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and equality.

Undeniably, the mass base character of the ANC is gradually eroding thus leaving policy formulation in the hands of a few – a few that by omission or commission, acts of corruption and maladministration, decaying infrastructure and local government can rightfully be accused of the many problems besieging the ANC, thus accounting for the electoral decline and the proliferation of new political parties that graze into the ANC electoral base.

These are the wedge drivers that would hang on anything on the feeding trough, assassinate their own comrades for parochial ends to the detriment of the ANC and the country.

What is the role of civil society rooted in the Congress tradition? Many attempts were made in diagnosing the ANC as being on its death bed.

These include many symptoms, especially the semi fatal wounds inflicted by the ANC on herself through the voracious and deadly hand of its members.

In the midst of these, can civil society be a spectator? What are the implications of the death and/or ANC's loss of power on the National Democratic Revolution (NDR)?



ANCVL delegates at the 5th National Policy Conference

Progressive civil society, the Congress of the South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party have advocated for novel and radical interventions for the renewal and unity of the ANC.

If we were to rebuild the ANC, what are the features of a renewed and united ANC?

And what inhibits the ANC to redeem itself in the face of all these glaring challenges and weaknesses?

What type of leadership do we want?

What do we do with chairs and fists throwers, including the bought voters who have no love for the ANC and the people but patronage for egocentric interests?

It's time for progressive forces united under the Strategic Dialogue Group and other progressive forces to rise and assume a space in the political sun by providing much needed leadership including inputs and contributions in any blueprint reflective of the voice of society.

This falls within the mass-based character of the ANC, social con-

tract, societal and civil society leadership.

This intervention alters an antiquated model where a few traditionally elected amongst themselves, detached from communities and spitting upon society through conspicuous consumption and crass materialism would no longer exclusively decide over the future of millions of South Africans across the political divide through the National Policy and National Conferences that are not reflective of the aspirations of society and devoid of a popular voice designed to extricate the ANC and the country out of the current morass whose putrid smell is all over the political atmosphere.

This threatens the future of the country and that of the ANC, with serious implications on the NDR. And the Freedom Charter.

SDG should collaborate with the progressive civil society movement, lobby and advocate for policy interventions congruent to essence upon which the ANC pivots.

George Magoma is Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Dialogue Group and a member of the ANC Ward 9 Branch, Mogale City. He writes in his personal capacity

Why Racism did not simply wither away after the 28 years of democracy

■ By **Bishop JM Moshodi**

LET me join the discussion published in ANC Today 27 May 2022, in its section **Conversation with the President** titled ***"Racism is still part of our daily South African experience"***, by saying why racism did not wither away after the 1994 democratic breakthrough.

Indeed, Mr. President, *"race"* and *"racism"* has a long history, according to the rationale of Hegel. What was eminent in the crudest terms, Europeans philosophers *"neutralized"* inequalities in order to justify slavery and oppression of Africans.

The ideas of Social Darwinism affected South Africa in the long colonial and apartheid history, in the ethnic and racial terms. Categories of white, African, coloured and Indian became part of the identity. This is because laws that existed were applied according to these categories. South Africa was constructed on the false ideas of Social Darwinism that categorized racial and ethnic labelling.

The recent outrageous act at the University of Stellenbosch that has sparked widespread anger

in the country is a case in point. This was followed by 25th May 2022, when Africans and people across the world were celebrating Africa Day. An ANC Mayor of Mqohaka found himself in hot water after using the *"K"* word in an attempt to explain and describe how Blacks are inherently violent.

Recently, an old white woman was caught on video spewing vile epithets on how she hated Blacks. Both find themselves still trapped in *"race and racist"* ideas of Social Darwinism, as the ANC

mayor said *"Blacks are born violent"*, and the old white woman believed that *"Blacks"* are associated with *"stealing and killing"*.

Historically, South Africa was distinguished as an apartheid state, legally structured along the line of *'race'* resulting in gross social inequality. The word apartheid was introduced in the mid-1930s. The previous regime's objective was to maintain *"cultural identity"* separate from other national groups in South Africa.

Apartheid, literally means *'apart-*



ness' or separateness in the Afrikaans or Dutch languages is the name given to a policy of separating people by 'race'. This is with regard to where they lived, where they went to school, where they worked and where they died. This notion became apartheid policy and that remained the official practice. Apartheid saw its demise in 1994 which became a milestone in the South Africa history. The country experienced a big shift in the balance of forces. However, Naicker (2010) agrees that *"the most salient feature has been the racial boundaries that existed among black, white, coloured and Indian"*.

The ideology as a midpoint of the Nationalist apartheid government committed to the maintenance of racial separateness and purity, which on the one hand, posited the idea of the dominance of white population and on other hand, exploited and marginalised black South Africans. During the reign of the apartheid regime, the social construction was intertwined with inequalities and injustices. This was not innocent. Its makings can be traced to laws such as the Population Registration Act of 1950 which ruled that South Africans would have different rights and privileges based on 'race'.

Apartheid, a political and economic system built on 'race', required that each citizen be issued an identity document stating his or her race as either Native (Black), White or Coloured. "Coloured" defined people who were neither white nor "native", a catch-all category primarily for people of mixed race. Other legislation was in place to categorise people of Indian descent.

Race identity heightened in 1961,



Historic 1994 Elections

when Hendrik Verwoerd the Nationalist Party (NP) enforced Separate Development Act stemming from the Groups Areas Act of 1950. By promulgating racism, apartheid defined the South African nation as consisting of white people only, therefore making black people's claims to equal rights in South Africa null and void by definition. African culture was constructed as an indelibly different and immutable feature of all black people, such that to allow black and white 'race' groups to co-exist was to encourage conflict akin to two warring nations. This concept was defended by apartheid's supporters using quasi-multiculturalists arguments that constructed separation as being in the best interest of black people themselves who, by nature, belonged with and could only achieve intimacy and self-contentment with 'their

own kind'.

In South Africa the impact of racism has been profound. It structured the ownership and frontiers of the country and the memories and minds of millions of people. It continues to undermine optimism and the nation's will to realize wealth for all.

Racism and inter-group relations are talking points in South Africa today, quite surprisingly, after 28 years of the passing of apartheid. The intensification of race issues has been amplified in recent months by more media reporting. It has been on instances of racial friction or conflict in various parts of the country and in a diversity of situations. So frequently do such reports appear that at times the society seems trapped in the old categories and attitudes of the apartheid system.



Celebrating the "New" South Africa

Lodge (2014) makes a pronouncement that what happens next is a phenomenon that occurs on such a regular basis, it upholds a structurally unequal status quo. Of the same mind, Schlemmer (2012) throws four questions namely: *'is this a case, however? To what extent are the attitudes and interaction of people in the new South Africa still structured by racial definitions? Are racial patterns persisting or ameliorating? How do race-linked issues rank among the other very serious socio-economic problems that exist in our society?'* What needs to be fully understood is to why racism did not simply wither away after apartheid. Of course, an appropriate anti-racist strategy cannot be developed without a correct diagnosis of the problem.

In 1994, a democratic government was born and formulated an aim to restore human dignity and high on its agenda was rec-

onciliation between races. Therefore, a rainbow nation was born.

Former President Thabo Mbeki (2000) quotes Antjie Krog in a book titled *"Country of My Skull"*. Here Krog recites Constant Viljoen's remark during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission *"the Afrikaner can no way detach himself from the past. But we must be allowed to make for ourselves*

an honourable role in the new dispensation. The Afrikaner feels disempowered, unsafe, his language is threatened, his educational structures are in pieces – in short, the Afrikaner feels flooded by the majority and he has nowhere to turn".

The official formal shift from apartheid to the 'new South Africa' has not been conterminous with economic, political and social situations of the majority of citizens. This observation vindicates Van Marle's assertion that the search for a post-apartheid jurisprudence *'might forever be postponed'*; that the 'post' in 'post-apartheid' will be delayed. According to Magubane, Africans under the British rule experienced the full meaning of the application of the race master theory (Magubane, 2001). The basic social processes invoked by the term racism are quintessentially social phenomena. It is about labeling and social learning group categories, identity, feelings, beliefs, and related cognitive structures.

Bishop JM Moshodi is a member of the ANC Fidel Castro Branch, Ward 27 in Mangaung, Free State and ANC FS Elections Manager. He writes in his personal capacity.



The dangers of the enlarged Eye of The Needle

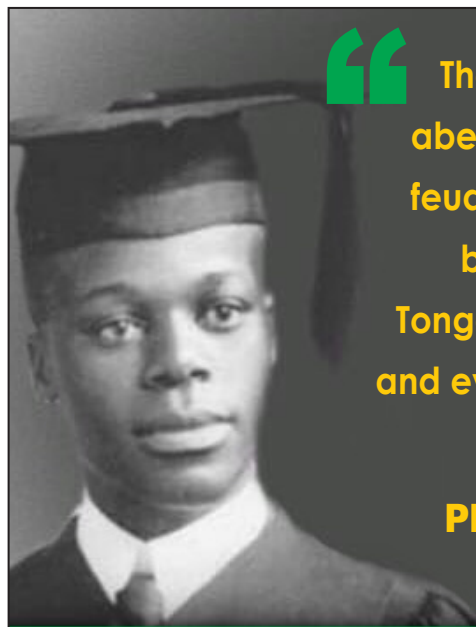
■ By **Ben Sediane**

IT would be interesting to know how the inaugural leadership of the ANC under John Langalibalele Dube would have reacted to the current state of the ANC. Often times, when things are not going the way it's expected, human beings tend to take a pause and reflect.

The situation now in the ANC requires that kind of manifestation, and not only short term clarification, rather long lasting explanations and solutions. All these will require men and women of character to embody, both in spirit and action, the original clarion call made at the conceptualisation and initiation of the ANC by Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, *"The demon of racialism, the aberrations of the Xosa-Fingo feud, the animosity that exists between the Zulus and the Tongaas, between the Basutos and every other Native must be buried and forgotten..."*

The words of Pixley Ka Isaka Seme are but part of the whole manifestation needed today to reinvigorate our innate love to our people and the country.

It is common understanding that such men and women subscribe to the policies and owe their allegiance to the oath of the ANC: *"I, [...], solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims and objectives of the African National Congress*



“ The demon of racialism, the aberrations of the Xosa-Fingo feud, the animosity that exists between the Zulus and the Tongaas, between the Basutos and every other Native must be buried and forgotten... ”

PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME

Founding Member and
5th President of the ANC

as set out in the Constitution, the Freedom Charter and other duly adopted policy positions, that I am joining the Organisation voluntarily and without motives of material advantage or personal gain..."

Again, notwithstanding that the ANC is a voluntary organisation; at no stage will one be coaxed to join it against his/her will.

Cogently, everyone joins the ANC as an individual, having understood both the policies and constitution in their entirety.

Through the Eye of the Needle

The document, *'Through the*

Eye of the Needle', coupled with the constitution, and the oath taken are guiding us as to what kind of character, ethical and moral compass are needed and/ or required to be eligible for being voted into leadership positions.

The point which needs emphasis is that, it is not compulsory for anyone to be elected to leadership positions. It's important to take note that leadership of any organisation is there and/ or exist to pursue organisational programme; and had to be elected through rigorous process of ensuring that the elected comrade will meet the set guidelines of the ANC constitution, conform to the oath of the ANC and fit the Eye of the Needle.

The Enlarged Eye of the Needle

Surely, we'll all agree that immediately after the unbanning of the ANC and other liberation organisations, especially those who were in the alliance and affiliated to the MDM fold; should have moved with speed for the rebuilding and renewal of the ANC. Be that as may be, the material conditions under which we found ourselves operating, especially when we had to contest the parliamentary/municipal elections, should have propelled us and afforded us an opportune time to have renewed the ANC.

Looking at all the reputational damages the organisation did go through, the question then arise – which eye of the needle was applied to deploy this comrade/person? In answering that question; will anyone saying that *'the comrade/person was deployed through the enlarged eye of the needle'* be wrong?

Where to now

We need to make the ANC to have the membership which will in all material time, fight corruption in every form it presents itself. In this way, we will earn our mantle in society and we can with no shred of doubt claim to be the leader of society. This is the better way to own up to the membership of the ANC.

In order for the ANC to be alive with the above mantle, an intensive review of the current membership is needed as the current ANC membership has been diluted. There's been an illusion and believe, which is contrary to what the oath stipulate, (... ***that I am joining the Organisation voluntarily and without motives of material advantage or per-***

sonal gain ...); that joining and/or being in the ANC is to accumulate wealth and prestige.

Through the eye of the needle document has been and still continues to be altered to accommodate some amongst us who haven't gone through the trials and tribulations of the struggle, who never bothered to make self-introspection to check whether they can fit the eye of the needle, and who bypass, ignore and belittle every single prescripts that seeks to guide the member of the ANC.

The character of some people who have joined the ANC has left some of us wondering what kind of people we accept/allow to be in the same ANC with us. The example to the latter assertion can be cited to this growing tendency of launching social media campaigns to have "comrade so and so to be our chairperson, secretary etc." Can't we as honest, loyal and committed cadres of the movement use our energy and time towards rebuilding and renewing the ANC first.

Although we're not prohibited to lobby for our preferred candidates, but there can be better ways which will not tear the ANC apart, and derail the organisation in its programmes. The other tendency is the one of *"hands off Comrade so and so"*, which has become prevalent against certain decisions that are taken by the mandated constitutional structures or bodies entrusted with powers to make those decisions or verdicts.

In our endeavours of rebuilding and renewing the ANC, let's act in consonant with each other as the descendants of those great revolutionary ancestors and af-

firm the clarion call made by Pixley Ka Isaka Seme *"...These divisions, these jealousies, are the cause of all our woes and of all our backwardness and ignorance today."*

The ANC used to make boundless efforts to have anyone applying and/ or recruited to join it being vetted. Internally, in the MDM structures, comrades used to be very vigilant and got to great length of being cautious for those who are planted in the structures by the security branch as agent provocateurs to come and sow confusion and divert the organisation from its core objectives.

All those measures have been abandoned, whether intentionally or unintentionally (a question that needed to be addressed).

For the ANC to find itself in an environment where it can cleanse itself, let's make sure that everyone re-join the ANC and he/she is subjected to rigorous screening and vetting (the modalities can be worked out by our comrades who were in the ANC Security Department).

Critical to all these processes, let us all be honest, loyal and committed to the ANC. Let's put the ANC, our people and country before our personal desires.

Let's all be the real and honest disciples of what has been started many years ago by our revolutionary ancestors. Let's not fail them and their movement, the ANC, solely because we are greedy to be in the leadership so that we control the state coffers.

Let's put our country and our people first.

ANC LIVES! ANC LEADS!

MK Liberation War Veterans pledge to advance Renewal and Unity of the ANC and former MK Combatants

■ By **Mbulelo Musi**

THE Renewal and Unity programme of the ANC constitutes perhaps one of the most critical and significant programmes in the 110 year of existence of the ANC.

Taken as a Resolution of the 54th Conference held at NASREC in 2017, it is fast gaining momentum and capturing the imagination, hearts and minds of the nation across the sectoral spectrum.

The recent All Inclusive ex-MK Unity Conference (AIEMKUC) held on 27–30 April 2022 in East London, has landed its full weight behind the ANC Renewal and Unity programme.

The majority of the delegates, representative of all the ex-MK generations declared in unison that never will they allow their glorious movement to die in their lifetime and certainly not under their watch.

That ex-MK gathering was the first of its kind since the advent



of the formation of uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) as the people's army led by the ANC on 16 December 1961.

In their sequence and numbers, they stood up to be counted. The Luthuli, June 16, Moncada, Isandlwana, Madinoge, Young Lions, Barney Molokoane Detachments, as well as those internally trained and Self Defence Units (SDU's) came out in droves to pledge their unwavering support to Renew and Unite the ANC.

Perhaps more importantly, they made a strong call for the urgent redress of the dire socio-eco-

nomic conditions facing the former MK freedom fighters.

It is saddening and indeed an indictment to the entire society, that after 28 years of freedom and democracy that the nation now enjoys, the majority of those men and women who sacrificed their all to bring it about continue to live in dire socio-economic conditions.

While there are some achievements, albeit small relatively speaking, like the provision of housing, education support and skills development, there is still a lot to extricate many from squalor and destitution, high unemployment and poverty that continues to be their way of life with their families.

The delegates were determined to pursue the realisation of the aspiration as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic which states that:

"We, the people of South Africa; Recognise the injustices of our

past Honour those who fought for justice and freedom in our land”.

Also, of significance was the presence under one roof of those who were erstwhile rivals under the banners of MKMVA and the MK National Council.

Robust and at times very hot debates ensued leading to almost two-day delay to the commencement of the Conference.

Those hot debates also included disagreement on the recognition of the ANC National Working Committee decision to vote on whether the conference should proceed as was planned.

The majority voted for the Conference to go ahead whilst the minority voted against. The latter unfortunately decided to leave Conference.

Persuasions of those dissenting were engaged by the Conference Steering Committee but could unfortunately not yield the desired outcomes as only a few returned to the Conference.

“We will continue to open doors for engagement with all in order to achieve maximum unity of Ex-MK as resolved by the 54th Conference of the ANC held at NASREC in December 2017,” said the member of the NEC of the ANC and Chairperson of the NEC Peace and Stability Sub-Committee Comrade David Mahlobo.

The sixty years of MK history instructs that throughout its existence, MK and its veterans have always considered themselves as ANC cadres first; as disciplined cadres who through their Code of Conduct and other instruments of discipline, have always been guided by the ANC



Constitution, Code of Conduct as well as policies.

Thus far, there is no record of MK cadres seeing themselves and their existence outside the ANC.

The commonly accepted reference is of the ANC as *“The Mother Body”* by all MK generations.

The two historic ANC Consultative Conferences at Morogoro and Kabwe in 1969 and 1985 respectively reflect that MK has always been a very critical, robust yet constructive component of the ANC. It has always raised very strong criticism of some of the outdated and ineffective policies of the MK and proposed revolutionary alternative changes.

Thus, MK earned the honour of being referred to by the late President of the ANC and Commander in Chief OR Tambo as “the most advanced detachment of the ANC and the liberation struggle.”

Its hallmark has throughout its 60 years of existence been that of a disciplined, politically and ideologically well trained cadreship which is unwavering in its loyalty and commitment to the total liberation of the people of SA.

For that, MK earned the respect of the ANC and the Alliance, the people of South Africa and progressive humanity the world over.

MK’s hard-earned place of honour and glory was through supreme sacrifices and heroic deeds of the likes of Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayingo, Zinakile Mka-ba, Joe Gqabi, Chris Hani, Solomon Mahlangu, Gordon Dikebu; Basil February, Janet Schoon, Nokuthula Simelane; the Moroka Trio, Matola, Maseru and Gaborone raids, and the Angolan war casualties. The list is endless.

It was in recognition of that glorious history of ex-MK cadres that the Deputy President and the President, Cdes David Mabuza and Cyril Ramaphosa, in their opening and closing addresses of the AIEMUC, made a clarion call to ex-MK cadres to join the efforts towards Renewal and Unity of the ANC.

They both urged former MK Commanders and Commissars to join the fight against rampant fraud and corruption, factionalism, as well as other alien tendencies and malfeasance afflicting the ANC.

The AIEMKUC, held under the theme **Renewal, Unity, Welfare**

and Discipline, successfully concluded its deliberations on 30th April 2022 with the adoption of the Conference Declaration and Resolutions that reiterated those commitments.

An Interim Structure (IS) composed of three representatives from each Detachment and two provincial representatives was nominated at the AIEMKUC to lead henceforth for the period of 24 months.

The IC is representative of the cross spectrum of ex-MK in terms of race, creed, gender, generations and geographic spread.

The AIEMKUC resolved that henceforth, the envisaged renewed and united ex-MK organisation would be referred to as MK Liberation War Veterans (MKLWV), its mandate being amongst others to lead the new Constitution making process for two years.

The Interim Committee (IC) of 6 comprising of 4 males and two females was in turn nominated from the Interim Structure to lead the new Constitution-making and other relevant programmes over the two years:

- a) **Dan Hato**
Convenor
- b) **Nonkonzo Molai**
Deputy Convenor
- c) **Mottoman Nkosi**
Coordinator
- d) **Nomfundiso Kulati**
Deputy Coordinator
- e) **Dr. Lulamile Xate**
Treasurer
- f) **Mbulelô Musi**
National Political Commissar.

Given the mammoth tasks ahead, and in-line with the AIEMKUC



President Cyril Ramaphosa closing the ex-MK Unity Conference

mandate, two additional members were co-opted:

- g) **Buyiswa Sizani**
Women portfolio
- h) **Thami Ntente**
Spokesperson.

The IC of the MKLWV is already hard at work to take the ex-MK Unity Conference Resolutions forward with a sense of urgency, unity of purpose and action.

These include inter alia the following:

1. The relentless advocacy for the urgent redress of the dire socio- economic plight of ex-MK combatants.
2. The continuation of the efforts towards the unity of all ex-MK combatants.
3. The preservation and promotion of the great legacy and heritage of MK and the liberation struggle, starting with the immediate roll out of the 60th Anniversary of MK celebrations.
4. Facilitating the speedy review of the legislation affecting the liberation struggle, Military Veterans in general and MK

veterans in particular such as the MV' Act 18, 2011. (Act)

5. Engage the DMV with the view to transform and improve its capacity to deliver effectively and efficiently, all the 11 Benefits and services outlined in Section 5 of the Act.
6. To work tirelessly towards the advancement of Renewal and Unity of both exMK community and the ANC.
7. To embark on provincial visits to give feedback to all the ex-MK cadres and stakeholders as well as facilitate the establishment of interim coordinating structures.
8. To champion the fight against Gender Based Violence, mainstream women emancipation issues and paying particular attention and focus in ex-MK women freedom fighters.
9. To promote and preserve the rich liberation legacy, heritage and culture of MK towards social cohesion and nation building.

Mbulelo Musi is MKLWV National Political Commissar.



The impact of small businesses on the economy

■ By **Progressive Business Forum**

SOUTH Africa has hundreds of thousands of small businesses – so many that they contribute over 40% of our country's gross domestic product and employ two-thirds of all South African workers. This means that, the more support they receive, the more people they can employ, and the more successful our country becomes.

Small Business Friday is South Africa's biggest small business movement and it's back for the eleventh consecutive year. Today is the official launch of the Small Business Friday 2022 season. The movement is brought to the nation by the National Small Business Chamber (NSBC) and sponsored by Absa. 'Small Business Friday is when we salute and celebrate the mainstay of our economy and the engine of our society, placing extra emphasis on mobilising the nation to go big by supporting the small' says Mike Anderson, NSBC Founder & CEO.

Anderson says that the NSBC and Absa anticipate enormous, nationwide support for this un-



matched and meaningful movement again this year. It's a 365-day drive that elevates every Friday and peaks on Small Business Friday – the biggest small business day of the year, which is always the first Friday of Spring every year.

The aim is to mobilise and encourage the nation to give greater support to small businesses. If more can support local small businesses, these small businesses will be

able to build their infrastructure and employ more people from the local communities, therefore alleviating unemployment and driving job creation. This is meaningful nation building.

Small Business Friday continues to put small businesses across South Africa firmly in the spotlight, by encouraging consumers, business, and Government to support, visit and spend at a small business all year round, especially on Fridays, and particularly on Small Business Friday.

"As part of broader efforts to transform the economic competitiveness of the country, Absa is fully committed to support SMEs along their journey by building strong relationships with them and creating innovative solutions that meet their unique needs," says Christine Wu, Managing Executive for Customer Value Management at Absa Retail and Business Bank. "The launch of the Absa Small Business Friday campaign underscores our commitment to this vital segment and connecting individuals to communities."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

10 – 17 June 2022

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

10 June 1990**Miriam Makeba returns to South African**

World music icon, actress and anti-apartheid campaigner returned to South Africa after 31 years in exile. Her iconic career earned her the name Mama Africa of music, and she also starred in films *Come Back Africa* (1959) and *Sarafina* (1992).

11 June 1977**Police arrest Student leader Dan Montsitsi**

Almost a year after the June 16 Soweto Student Uprising, Security Police announced the arrest

of Soweto Students' Representative Council (SSRC) leader Dan Sechaba Montsitsi. Four NUSAS members were also arrested for the same reason, namely plans to commemorate the Soweto uprisings. Dan Montsitsi went on to become a leader of the civic and mass movement, and a member of parliament after 1994. He passed on in August 2021.

11 June 2010**Opening game of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa**

Opening of the FIFA Soccer World Cup Finals in 2010, the first to be held in Africa, with the match between South Africa and Mexico (1:1 draw). Later that day France played against Uruguay in the second match of the day, also with a draw and no goals.

12 June 1917**Ansuyah Ratipul Singh, medical doctor, community worker, poet born**

On 12 June 1917, Dr Ansuyah



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; with *Behold the Earth Mourns* (1961) her most well-known. 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. Dr Singh was also an accomplished pianist, and a talented amateur dramatist. She continued her medical work until her death in 1979.

12 June 1963**Hitherto Coldest day in Pretoria**

The coldest day in Pretoria in

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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 judgment 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 James Kantor were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Pretoria Supreme Court. The accused may have re-

ceived 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

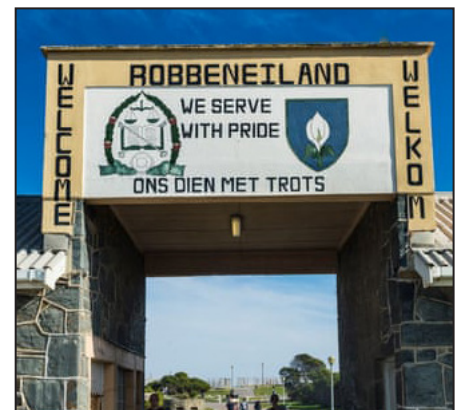


On 12 June 2005, Rain Queen Makobo Modjadji VI died in a hospital in Polokwane, Limpopo Province. Rain Queen Modjadji VI is a direct descendent of one of the royal houses of Monomotapa, which ruled over the

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 arrives 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.



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.



13 June 1912

South Africa Defense Act paves way for Union defense force

The South Africa Defense Act was 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



StaySafe



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."



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 the 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 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, is 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

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



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."



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 and annually commemorating the bravery of the 1976 generation.

16 June 1983

Rev James Calata born

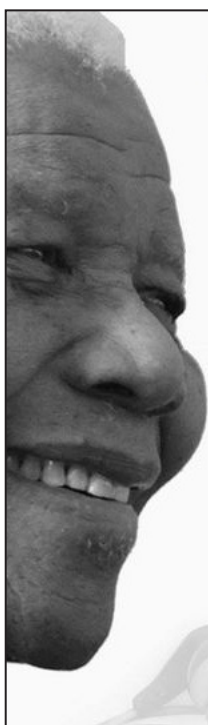
Rev. James Arthur Calata, born in Cradock in 1930, a founder

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.

17 June 1991

De Klerk's whites-only parliament repeal some Apartheid laws

The whites-only Parliament vote 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 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 non-whites. This was seen as part of the process of removing the legal basis of apartheid.



"The future belongs to our youth. As some of us near the end of our political careers, younger people must take over. They must seek and cherish the most basic condition for peace, namely unity in our diversity, & find lasting ways to that goal"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

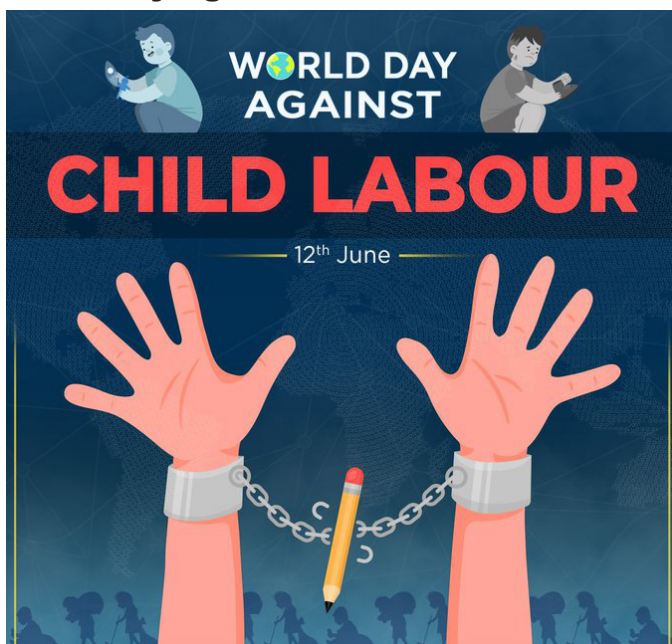
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

10 – 17 June 2022

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

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.

11 June

World Knit in Public Day

Although we now buy most of our jerseys and woolen clothes ready-made, knitting remains a creative way for thousands across the world to make something with their own hands. Knitting is not only creative, but also relaxing and World Knit in



Public Day bring together knitters, men and women, young and old, to share their love of knitting. South Africans use this day to also do the “67 blankets for Madiba”, to contribute warm knitted blankets to homeless people.

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. One of the most prominent South African persons living with Albinism was 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

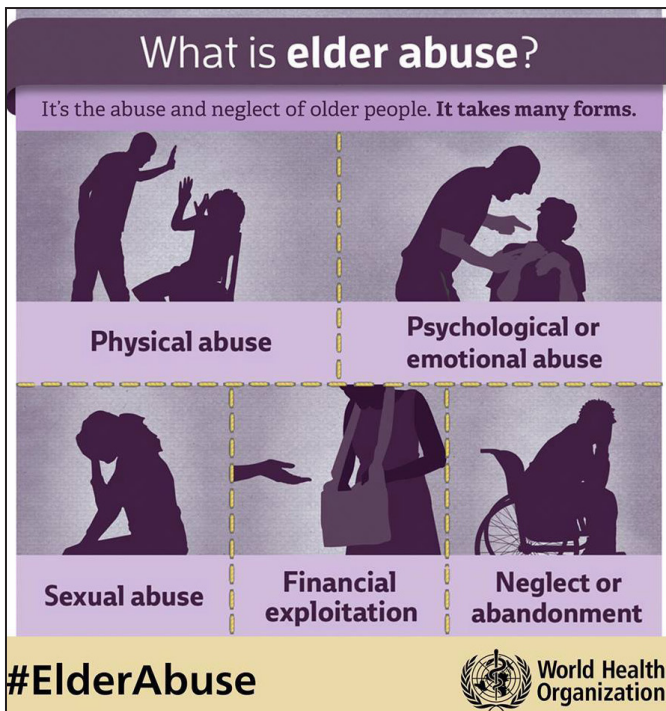


blood and the role that they play in health systems. According to the WHO, very few seconds, someone, somewhere, needs blood; and transfusions of blood and blood products save millions of lives every year. Blood and blood products are essential to care for women with pregnancy and childbirth associated 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 Day Against Elder Abuse

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 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. Sources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/elder-abuse/> and StatsSA

16 June

African Union Day of the African Child



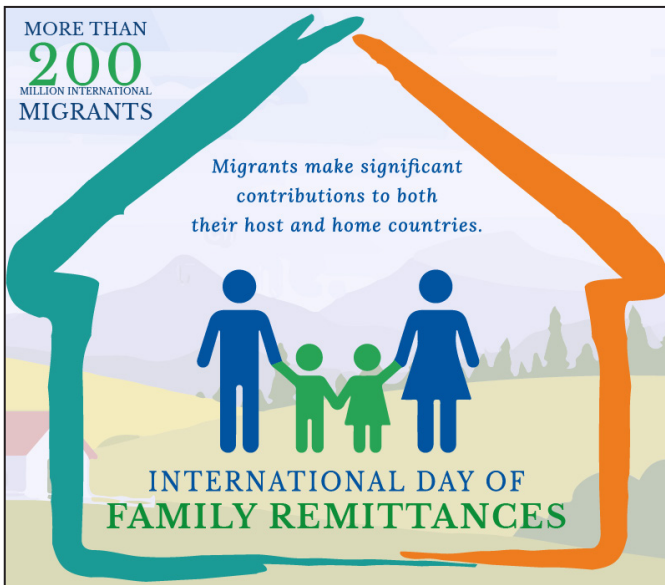
This day was adopted in 2011 by the African Union Heads of State and Government, to focus attention each year on the situation of children in Africa. It coincides with the celebration of the contribution of youth and students to the struggle in South Africa. The AU has an African Charter on the Rights 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.

16 June

International Day of Family Remittances

This day is observed by the United Nations, to draw attention to how migrants (internal and in-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



ternational) 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 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.

17 June

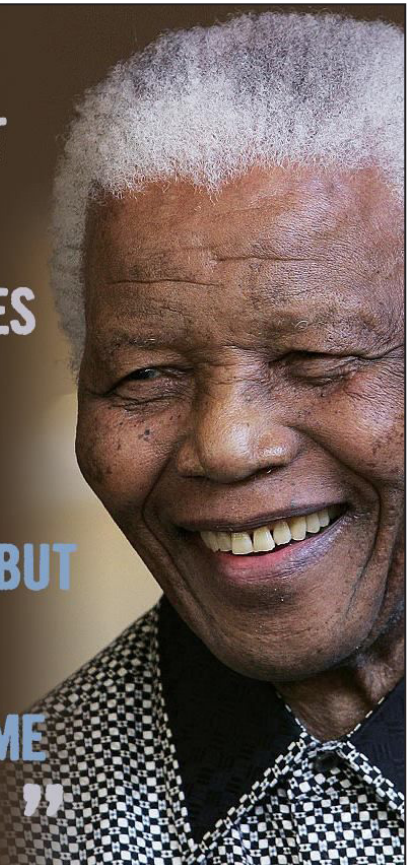
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

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.

“THE
GREATEST
GLORY IN
LIVING LIES
NOT IN
NEVER
FALLING, BUT
IN RISING
EVERY TIME
WE FALL.”



The Dynamics of Marginalized Youth.

Not in Education, Employment, or Training Around the World

by Levels et al (Eds).

(2022. Routledge)

IN an article on the Statistics South African website ahead of June, Youth month this year, it noted that “South Africa’s youth continues to bear the burden of unemployment”. The article notes that there are 10.1 million young people in the 15-24 year age group, and 37% of them are in the Not in Employment, Education or Training or NEET category.

As has been so often repeated, youth unemployment in our country, including such sub categories as NEETs and unemployed graduates, constitute a national crisis, with the unemployment rate for 15-24 year old’s standing at 63,9% and for those aged 25-34 years, at 42,1%.

The book “**The Dynamics of Mar-**

ginalised Youth”, edited by Levels and others focuses on OECD countries, with specific attention to the problems of NEETs in these mostly first world countries. It notes that 7% of young people in the Netherlands fall within the NEET category, as against over 30% in Turkey, with an average for OECD countries of 15%. The book seeks to understand the phenomena, as well as examine the efficacy of policy interventions – both labour market and educational – interventions to address the NEET problem.

The interventions are worth examining in our context, because they do not prescribe a silver bullet, but instead a continuum of policies, from (a) Early interventions; (b) Policies to reintegrate

NEETs, divided into policies aimed at making youth school to work transition easier as well as active labour market policies (ALMP); (c) Profiling and tracking of NEETs, and (d) effective institutions, policies, funding and programme. What’s left out here is the need to focus on increasing the aggregate demand for labour.

As South Africa celebrate Youth Month in 2022, with the theme focusing on Youth Unemployment, we should examine these interventions and develop a comprehensive youth employment strategy for the country, instead of the current interventions that may be working to one degree or another, but not part of an overall strategy and therefore lacking impact.

Policy Interventions to Address Young People Not in Employment, Education and Training NEETS

Adapted from *The Dynamics of Marginalised Youth*, Levels et al (Eds) (2022. Routledge)

Early Intervention policies

[Target youth at risk, of dropping out of school]

- 1) Investment in quality ECD
- 2) Mentorship for ‘at risk’ children and youth
- 3) Financial support to lower income households.
- 4) In schools: alternative curricula, more vocational and technical subjects, partnerships, identifying the triggers for disengagement from school, raising the school-leaving age.

Profiling and
Tracking
system (M&E)

Institutions,
Policies,
Funding and
Delivery
models

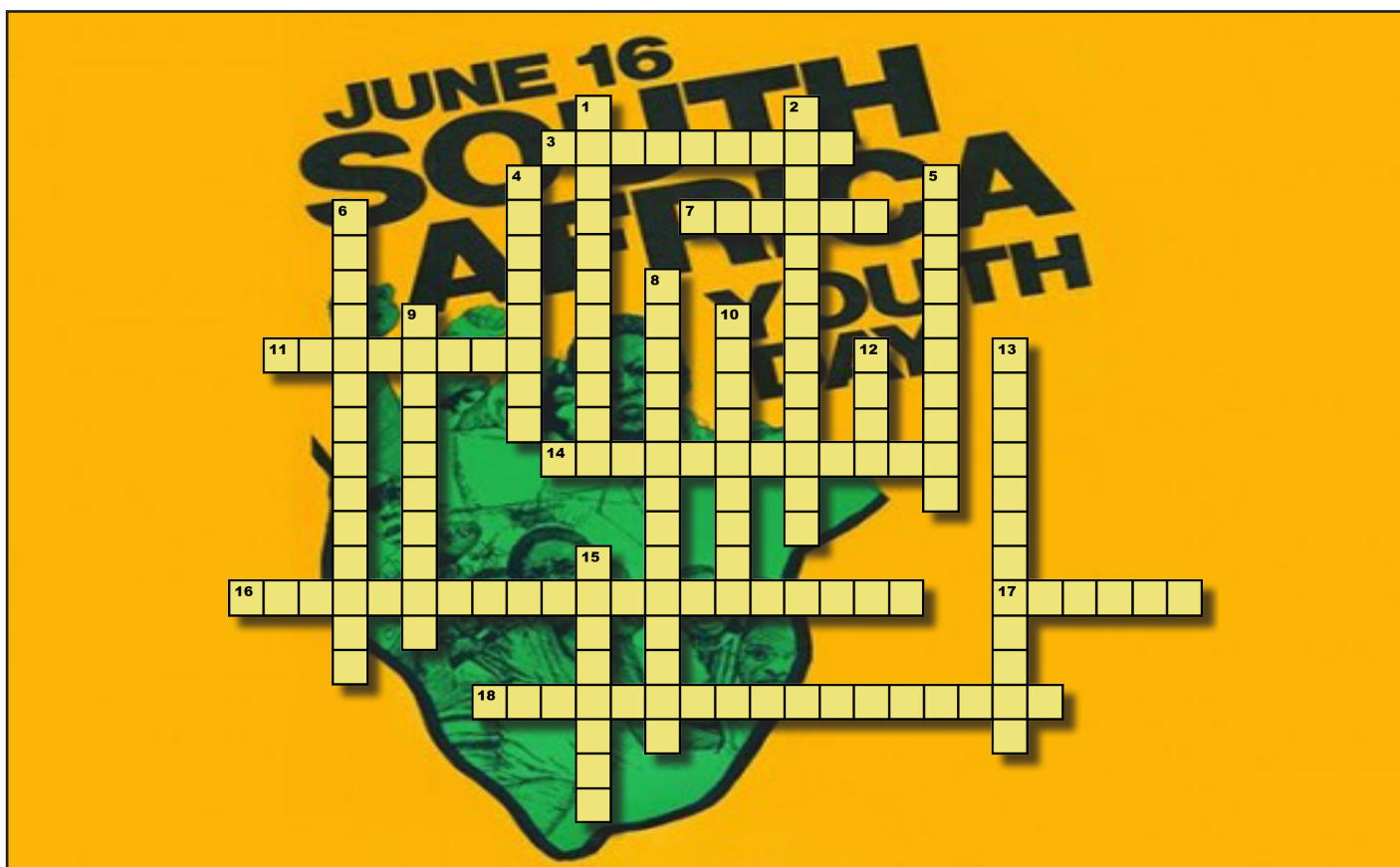
Reintegrating NEETS

[Young people already dropped out of school, in labour market but NEET]

- Providing financial support mechanisms, intensive support (from trained advisers) and tailored education, and employment and training solutions.
- Support **youth transition into the labour market**:
 - Stimulate demand for youth in labour market through youth wage subsidies or tax incentives.
 - Work experience placements, apprenticeships
 - Entrepreneurship training
 - Work preparation training
- **Active labour market policies** to prevent and reduce youth unemployment:
 - Job search assistance
 - Training and skills programmes
 - Subsidised employment
 - Direct job creation and public employment programmes:
 - Start-up subsidies, self-employment assistance, and support
- **Increasing aggregate demand for labour** by growing the economy, through investment in infrastructure, beneficiation, skills and meeting basic needs.

X-WORD

#YouthDay2022



ACROSS

3. Author who published book before age of 16.
7. Young people in ... report more ageism than other groups.
11. Youth Employment Accelerator and social enterprise.
14. Current NYDA chairperson.
16. Programme touted in the RDP started again by government.
17. Prejudice or discrimination based on age.
18. Inclusive approach solidarity.

DOWN

1. Think about something, people as a single story.
2. Youngest PhD graduate, she was 24 in 2021.
4. Voting age in South Africa (and other places).
5. NYDA has to ensure youth ... in society.
6. Combat ageism by policies against
8. First National Youth Commission Chairperson (1996).
9. Discrimination affects young people in health, politics and ...
10. Social ills faced youth.
12. Structure for youth in government.
13. Skateboarder and youngest African at 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
15. In 2008, almost a quarter of a million of young people under 30 were ...

WORD BANK

murdered
eighteen
stereotypes
Asanda Luwaca
Stacey Fru

Harambee
ageism
Europe
mainstream
Boipelo Awuah

National Youth Service
intergenerational
discrimination
drug abuse

NYDA
employment
Mahlengi Bhengu
Dr Rose Muthuri