



ANC TODAY

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

1 - 7 September 2023

Conversations with the
President



PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC REFORMS WILL REVIVE GROWTH AND JOBS

By **ANC President, Cde Cyril Ramaphosa**

This week we released a progress report on the economic reforms we are implementing through Operation Vulindlela, our reforms initiative in the Presidency and National Treasury, working with the relevant government departments.

Since Operation Vulindlela was established, we have built significant momentum in economic reforms to create growth and jobs.

Through these reforms we are steadily laying the foundation for a revival of economic growth. By restructuring our network industries like energy, telecommunications, ports and rail, we are opening the space for investment and a renewal of our nation's infrastructure.

This new report highlights a number of key milestones that have been reached during the past quarter.

The first of our reform milestones was the digital migration process we have implemented by switching off analogue transmission for all frequencies above 694 MHz on 31 July 2023. This marks a significant step in migration from an analogue to digital signal. This means that radio frequencies that were being used for television broadcasting can now be used for mobile telecommunications, which will make network communications more

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accessible and increase the speed and reduce the cost of data. The implementation of this reform will bring new investment in the telecommunications sector.

Work is underway to implement necessary reforms in our logistics sector to address the challenges that have held back the growth of South African exports. The lack of investment and the increased cost of doing business have added to the many challenges that we need to address.

A key milestone was reached with the selection of an international terminal operator to partner with Transnet at the Durban Pier 2 container terminal. This terminal handles close to half of South Africa's port traffic.

This partnership will increase investment for upgrading equipment and expanding terminal capacity. A key aspect of this partnership is that port infrastructure will remain state-owned and all jobs will be protected.

This month, two critical pieces of legislation were tabled in Parliament that will advance economic reform.

The Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill will support the restructuring of Eskom into three separate companies owned and controlled by Eskom Holdings, including an independent grid operator. Through this bill we will introduce competition in electricity generation, enabling a number of independent generators, alongside Eskom, to produce electricity to meet our country's demand. This reform will fundamentally transform, modernise and improve South Africa's energy sector to ensure energy security into the future.

Meanwhile, the reforms we have implemented through the Energy Action Plan have unlocked new investment in renewable energy sources, both to end load shedding and to use our unique wind and solar resources to power economic growth.

One of the key reforms we have prioritised is in the water sector. We have introduced the South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Bill to establish a dedicated national water agency to design, plan and finance water resource infrastructure.

This agency will enable significantly greater investment in bulk water infrastructure to guarantee water security in the years and decades to come, while creating jobs and unlocking new agricultural potential.

We are implementing a range of other reforms to unlock economic growth, from creating an enabling regulatory environment for hemp and cannabis production to eradicating the backlog of title deeds for subsidised housing.

Despite difficult global conditions, investors continue to see value in the South African economy and the benefit of the reform agenda we are pursuing.

We are pleased that the BRICS Business Forum held last week was attended by 1,500 investors and business people from all five member countries. We were able to showcase the potential of South Africa and the African continent as the next frontiers of productivity and growth.

Many of the participants remarked on the enormous potential of our economic reform agenda to drive growth in the green economy, the digital economy and other key sectors.

In all of the work that we do, our ultimate goal is the same: to build an inclusive, fast-growing and dynamic economy and thereby create a better life

‘There shall be peace and friendship’: BRICS offers symbol of hope for Global South

■ By **Nomvula Mokonyane**

The Freedom Charter, a policy and visionary document crafted by our predecessors, includes a powerful declaration emphasising the importance of establishing peaceful and friendly relationships: “There Shall Be Peace and Friendship”.

This vision aims to use those friendships to promote and maintain global peace.

The 15th BRICS Summit, hosted by the ANC-led government, was held under the theme “Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.

Under this theme, the government centred its multilateral approach on development, industrialisation, regional integration, inclusive growth and trade, not only with the BRICS member states but with the African continent with the clear vision of building a better Africa and a better world.

This Africa-centred approach is the



realisation of the Pan-Africanist aspirations of our forebears while promoting south-south cooperation and advancing progressive internationalist values of international and con-

tinental solidarity with those marginalised from the post-World War 2 international order. In doing so, we reaffirm our historic mission of creating a more humane, just, equitable,

democratic and free international society.

The 15th BRICS Summit was a watershed moment in the history of our post-colonial international system as the countries convened to mark the end of the brutalities of unipolar world order and reaffirmed the existing reality of a multipolar world. The ability of the government to convene more than 50 heads of state and government to deliberate on some of the most pressing issues of the day exemplifies the respect, credibility, integrity, and fortitude the ANC government has in addressing the world's problems.

At the 5th BRICS Summit hosted in South Africa in 2013, leaders resolved to the creation of a New Developmental Bank (NDB). To date, the NDB has supported 98 investment projects amounting to approximately \$33bn (about R613bn) for 2023 and for 2024 they have 76 projects totalling \$18.2bn (about R338bn).

On August 15 2023, the NDB issued R1.5bn in ZAR Bonds, making it the highest issuer since 2015. These are examples of how visionary leadership by government has longer-term benefits for the local economy. The additions of Argentina, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe to the NDB are welcomed, as they will contribute to the further development and strengthening of the bank.

The diversification of export economies is key to South Africa's economic growth and development. More than 81.5% of exports in 2022 were delivered to 25 international partners. Hence, trade diversification also strengthens South Africa's risk profile and enables us to leverage untapped markets, especially when there are downturns or cyclical flows

in markets predominantly seen in commodity-driven economies like ours.

In addition, as mentioned on platforms, the extractive nature of our trade relations and the structure of our economies impede our development without beneficiation. This renders us consumers of our wealth instead of us being beneficiaries.

The discussions around industrialising economic investments by BRICS partners, including investments plugged into the continent's integration efforts through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, could prove to be a game changer for SMMEs. This is a departure from the historic colonial resource extraction model that remains a legacy on our continent.

Our historic mission as the ANC is to achieve peace through friendship, including diplomacy and multilateralism. Our position of non-alignment is premised on finding peace through dialogue, creating platforms for multilateral engagement, and ensuring lives are saved.

The African Peace Initiative led by ANC president Cyril Ramaphosa remains the cornerstone of Africa's approach to resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The BRICS Summit also created platforms for international actors to engage on possible entry points to resolving the bottlenecks in coming to amicable solutions to international challenges.

The expansion of the BRICS bloc merely reaffirms the existing emerging powers of this world, which have often been ignored in the international system due to certain countries imposing their hegemony on others.

The interest from more than 20 countries to join BRICS shows the embedded win-win approach of its partners. We welcome the inclusion of Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates into the BRICS family. Their inclusion and contributions to this grouping will be invaluable in creating a more multipolar world.

Moreover, the BRICS Women's Council will definitely benefit significantly from the expansion of the BRICS family. Of course it goes without saying this development, falling within Women's Month in the South African context, is indicative of our determination to ensure gender equality and empowerment, and is not a rhetorical statement but has its own distinct agenda in developmental affairs.

The 15th BRICS Summit is a symbol of hope for the Global South with a clear intent to place the youth at the centre of humanity's development by creating a BRICS youth council. It marks a turning point in history where those who have suffered under the tyranny of others can join together for a future that includes everyone.

This also represents a new era of friendship and collaboration with the rest of the world as we move beyond the constraints of a colonial past. Let us honour the legacy of OR Tambo, ZK Matthews, Ruth First and Dulcie September by continuing to build a better Africa and a better world ■

Nomvula Mokonyane is deputy secretary-general of the ANC: head of international relations

Tell no Lies, Claim No Easy Victories

In 2019 the African National Congress committed to improving the quality of life of all South Africans under the theme “Let’s grow South Africa together. A better life for all”.

■ By **Maropene Ramokgopa**

For many, the 2024 national general election will be a litmus test for the governing party, the ANC. And with the sixth administration drawing to an end, and 2024 marking 30 years of democracy under the ANC, it will inevitably be asked to what extent the governing party has achieved its 2019 goals.

Introspection, environmental scanning, and evaluating all subjective and objective factors has become necessary – for the past five years specifically, and for the past 30 years more broadly. This evaluative period will guide us all in navigating the complex challenges that arise in striving towards advancing the aspirations of the people and fulfilling our obligation to society. This includes civil society’s role in ensuring social cohesion, businesses’ role in promoting socio-economic transformation, and other stakeholders in all aspects of society.



The ANC approaches the 2024 National General Elections conscious of the significant bottlenecks in the provision of basic services which has reflected poorly on the organization's overall performance.

Whilst we recognize them, we must also acknowledge the breakthroughs in many other areas that give practical realization to our mandate.

The ANC's 55th National Conference emphasized the importance of acknowledging and addressing the organization's weaknesses to serve the people's struggle better.

This includes improving the capacity for policy and planning, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating policy implementation and its impact on society.

The ANC 2019 Manifesto Review process therefore, is not just a gesture of goodwill, but a necessary step of assessing the policies, legislation, and programmatic implementations of the current term of the ANC government against the set Priorities and Commitments enlisted in the 2019 Manifesto. It also sets the tone for the next five years.

The ANC acknowledges that it needs bold interventions, invoking its strategies and tactics for a renewed organization capable of advancing people's interests, winning people's hearts, rekindling society's confidence as a leader of society, and building a capable and ethical state for a better life for all.

To achieve this, the organization has to make bold pronouncements to give effect to the 55th Conference resolutions on interalia ethical leadership, closing the gap between society and the organisation, rooting out acts of corruption and empowering the Integrity Commission, dealing with disunity and factionalism, and strengthening local government and its capacity to deliver services.

The upcoming review of the manifesto for the 2024 General Elections will allow us to reflect on our past actions, both positive and negative. By working together, we can overcome many obstacles and build a brighter future.

Subsequently, the manifesto review aims to reassert the ANC as the people's movement and parliament.

Our organizational processes consistently underscore the value of active citizenry, participatory democracy, and societal input in the context of working together with communities.

The ANC always seeks to connect with the people and lead according to their will – be it in candidate selection or in determining development priorities in communities through the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) of municipalities.

The ANC, as a leader of society, is the only organization that voluntarily subjects itself to performance scrutiny, thus reaffirming its hegemony in society, believing in communities, and building public trust.

Our assessment of the election manifesto must be a truthful reflection of our setbacks and deficiencies, particularly in the area of service delivery but also the energy crisis, crime, illegal migration, gender-based violence and other pressing issues.

Nonetheless we can also register major successes of the 2019 manifesto. They include an economic recovery to pre-pandemic levels; the passage of the National Health Insurance Bill; the increase in life expectancy; the massive scaling up of HIV treatment to reach 77 per cent of all HIV positive persons; and the impact of the SRD grant on approximately 8,4 million beneficiaries.

The upcoming Manifesto review must serve as an avenue for our organization to reconnect with communities and receive their input on ways we can enhance our governance as a party.

By undergoing this meticulous but vital process, the ANC will demonstrate its dedication to serving the people and its commitment to fostering a genuinely participatory democracy. The principle of people-centred governance will prevail and in the process we will, in the words of the Bissau Guinean and Cape Verdean revolutionary Amilcar Cabral: “tell no lies and claim no easy victories ■”

**Maropene Ramokgopa, the
Second Deputy Secretary-
General of the African National
Congress (ANC)**

Treasurer General kicks-off online voter registration in Western Cape

The TG visited Barrydale, in Swellendam (Western Cape), to drive online voter registration.

This week, Comrade Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa visited the small town of Barrydale in the Overberg region of Swellendam, in the Western Cape, to support the local ANC leadership on their online voter registration campaign, ahead of the 2024 National Elections.

The visit also comes as a promise fulfilled by the TG, after she promised the local community a re-visit, following a convincing win of the recent bi-elections, where the ANC wrestled Ward 2 from the DA. According to the TG, it is important to restore synergy and trust between the local ANC leadership and the community it serves.

“Well, firstly, I am very proud of our comrades here in Swellendam, led by comrade Ellis Burn, the Chairperson of the local Florence Mophosho branch. I think the work they are doing with the Deputy Chairperson, Amanda Swart, and the entire Branch Executive Committee (BEC) must be commended,” says the TG. “Winning a bi-election is no easy task. You win only if the communi-



ty feels that you have the capacity to meet their everyday needs. That is no easy task, as the needs are diverse, often difficult, and dire in many instances. So, they require strong leadership and a lot of empathy and understanding,” says the TG.

The event, which saw the TG visit some families in their homes before addressing a packed hall, was interestingly attended by many young people.

“The most impressive thing today for me is that we are seeing more



young people coming forward to register to vote for the ANC next year. As you know, we live in a very young country, and seeing young people come out in numbers is testament that, despite some challenges we have had in the past, also around issues of service delivery, the community still sees the ANC as the party to vote for in 2024. So today, I am here to support the on-line voter registration campaign because next year's elections are very important for us," says Dr. Ramokgopa.

Councillor Ike Ferguson said that he wished that the TG could visit all Barrydale just to show the com-

munity that the ANC leadership, at national level, has not forgotten about them.

"Next time, I want to allow the TG to visit every corner of Barrydale. We do still face some problems, but we are working very hard to resolve some of them. As you know, the municipality is still run by a DA-led coalition and so there have been key issues that the community is not happy about. But our plan is to continue to serve the community and then mobilise ourselves to take control of the municipality because we have a firm grasp of what the community needs," says Cllr Ferguson.

Concludes the TG: "Seeing so many young people here coming to register to vote ANC is very encouraging. When the youth stay away from politics, then we should be worried because that means we have a bleak future not just as an organization but as a country. But what I saw today is a confidence booster and has reassured me that we have a conscious youth, and a generally active citizenry, and that is as it should be. I also wish to thank the entire regional and provincial leadership for the work that they continue to do in the whole of the Western Cape ■"

Liberal Views of the BRICS+ Have no Nuance

■ By **Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri**

The outcomes of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit should be a cause for celebration rather than negativity. Even the dyed-in-the-wool critics of the African National Congress (ANC)-led government acknowledged the success of the recent BRICS Summit hosted in our country. South Africa's pivotal role garnered international acclaim, raising our nation's global profile.

In our vibrant democracy, embracing a broad spectrum of opinions and recognising dissent as fundamental to human rights is essential. Still, it is paramount to include the ANC's perspective in discussions of its governance and actions.

In an article published by Eyewitness News on BRICS expansion, it seems as though the author heavily leaned on the views of two experts, Professor John Stremlau from Wits University and global politics analyst, Professor Jannie Roussow, as well as the official stance of the Democratic Alliance.

While I deeply respect their professional insights, I think the narrative can be nuanced. Both experts critiqued the perceived "lack of democracy and poor human rights record" in BRICS nations and, par-

ticularly, the six newcomers (Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates).

Yet, even a cursory exploration of geopolitics would have revealed the misnomer of so-called American democracy as a paragon of human rights.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) 2022 report concluded that the United States of America (USA) has "faced dark moments in our pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice for all" in the past year. The union says racism and fascism are on the rise in the USA, accompanied by hate-driven acts of violence.

It decried the right-wing Supreme Court's erosion of the constitutional protections of *Roe vs Wade* and the weakening of gun regulations. The report insists that systemic inequality, anti-democratic attacks on voting rights and election integrity, and assaults on LGBTQI+ rights continue.

Similarly, Amnesty International's 2022 report highlighted that the USA re-engaged with international human rights institutions when it was reviewed by the UN CERD Committee for the first time since 2014. The committee's concluding obser-

ations touched upon "the USA's lack of progress on several fronts, including the increasing prevalence of hate crimes, gun violence, law enforcement's excessive use of force, and violence against women." Furthermore, the report concluded that the US courts curtailed human rights protections by halting the administration's efforts to end the exclusion of asylum seekers at the USA - Mexico border.

Therefore, to single out certain BRICS member states as unworthy of South Africa's friendship due to perceived or actual human rights issues is devoid of truth and nuance. How many G7 countries are championing the rights of the Sahrawi people in Western Sahara (Morocco) to achieve self-determination?

To the best of our knowledge, none of the BRICS countries have ever initiated a "war on terror" that led to the immense suffering of the people of Iraq under the guise of searching for "weapons of mass destruction" that turned out to be non-existent. Furthermore, the article did not appreciate the seismic shift in global politics marked by the 15th BRICS Summit. BRICS is already more significant than the G7, which consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States ■



These countries are better known as the association of Western “wealthiest” (imperial) nations. According to the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) 2022 report, BRICS countries contribute 32.1% to the global gross domestic product (GDP), up from 16.9% in 1995, surpassing the G7’s 29.9%. BRICS represents 43% of the world’s population (3.24 billion people) and 16% of global trade, while the G7 accounts for 10% of the world’s population with 0.8 billion people.

It is critical to consider the expansion of BRICS on the one hand and criticism of new members on the other within the ANC’s long-standing foreign policy. At its recent 55th National Conference, the ANC reaffirmed support for a multipolar world, calling for a more balanced and equitable world.

Truth be told, South Africa’s involvement in BRICS aligns seamlessly with the ANC’s enduring ethos of internationalism, pan-Africanism, and continental solidarity. Since its inception, the ANC has championed a world that is humane, just, equitable, democratic, and free. At its conferences, the ANC has consistently underlined the need for a counterweight to former imperial forces, positioning BRICS as instrumental in actualising the ANC’s historic mission of “Building a Better Africa and a Better World.”

Unsurprisingly, the liberals’ narrative about BRICS does not interrogate Western countries and doesn’t perceive the oppression of Palestinians by apartheid Israel as an aberration. Similarly, Cuba endures a severe economic blockade for choosing a path divergent from Western nations’ colonial exploitation policies.

As South Africa, while championing our forebears’ mission of human rights, the rule of law, and social justice, we respect each State’s sovereignty and refrain from meddling in their internal matters, refusing to play the role of Uncle Sam in global affairs.

The ANC-led government’s pursuit of the interests of the global South, side-by-side with our friends in the BRICS member States should not be portrayed as an attack on the global west. We will not likely alienate our biggest trading partners from the global west, such as the European Union, United States, and others.

Our job remains to encourage all countries, including the USA, to improve their human rights record in the pursuit of freedom, equality, and peace.

Right-wing denialism of race and racism is disingenuous

■ By **Mdumiseni Ntuli**

“Them belly full, but we hungry”. With these words Bob Marley poignantly conveyed the anger evoked by economic exclusion and marginalisation. Economic inclusion is indeed a key determinant of social and political stability. Marley warns: “A hungry mob is an angry mob ... A hungry man is an angry man” and laments: “Pot a-cook, but the food no ‘nough.”

This is why we must talk about South Africa’s race-based poverty, inequality and unemployment — generally referred to as the “triple challenge”. Albeit for different reasons, commentators of different political persuasions often refer to this phenomenon as a “ticking time bomb.”

Surely this most unsettling metaphor should long have spurred economic and political actors to urgent concerted national action to detonate the explosive by adopting practical measures that would ensure that every citizen can shake off the torments of hunger.

But such is the depth of division in our society that many of the historical beneficiaries of colonialism and apartheid have, since 1994, implacably opposed every policy effort to right the wrongs of the past. In such quarters, it is perversely considered that redressing the imbalances of the past, which is a constitutional injunction, is the sole responsibility of government and equals racism in reverse.

This amnesiac trivialisation of the socio-psychological violence of colonialism and apartheid, which spanned a protracted period of more than 350 years is gravely painful. Proponents add insult to injury when they argue that the best way to construct a non-racial society is to forget that the past ever existed.

This denialism of racism is repeated relentlessly on mainstream and social media platforms. It haughtily scoffs at and seeks to block any discussion of how the past continually shapes the present and how it will persist long into the future unless we confront racism. But if we do not talk about the past,

how can we hope to build the necessary anti-racist consciousness and cohesion in our society? How else, except by honest discussion and debate, can we identify and implement measures that can redress injustices and set the country on a truly transformative, inclusive non-racial path?

We must surely worry, when any reference to race and racism as a currency of advantage and disadvantage is dismissed contemptuously as “playing the race card.” In many respects, South Africa is where United States academic Robin DiAngelo says about racism in her own country: “Today we have a cultural norm that insists [that] we hide our racism from people of colour and deny it among ourselves, but not that we actually challenge it. In fact, we are socially penalised for challenging racism.” She has also said: “Colour-blind ideology allows society to deny the reality of racism in the face of its persistence, while making it more difficult to challenge than when it was openly espoused.”

Such right-wing stratagems will inevitably fail but may deliver us to the apocalypse whereby the “ticking time bomb” explodes in our faces because the anger of which Marley spoke, means the majority can never accept to continue living on the fringes of society forever.

“Right-wing” in this context refers not just to conservatives but also to liberals who espouse denialist and anti-transformation positions. Those who are unfamiliar with South Africa’s history would be forgiven for thinking that the right wing’s proverbial ostrich position on matters of race and racism is a mere fallacy. It is not. Rather, it is an attempt to cleanse the post-1994 non-racial democratic project of all social content so that the past continues under new conditions because, as DiAngelo puts it, “We [white people] have a deep interest in denying the forms of oppression which benefit us.”

Yet the irony is that the socio-economic position of white South Africans has not always been what it is today. It was created over time, starting with a conference of the synod of the Dutch Reformed Church held in Stellenbosch in 1893 to investigate “the poor white problem”. The conference gave birth to the Transvaal Indigency and Carnegie Commissions of 1908 and 1932, respectively — both of which stood on the firm foundation of colonial dispossession — and later the post-1948 apartheid project.

Right-wing political discourse seeks to airbrush this blatant preferential treatment of whites and, in so doing, presents a distorted racial history and thereby fuels rac-

ism by denying that advantage and disadvantage were socially and politically engineered processes. By decontextualising today’s inequalities, it lends subliminal credence to racist notions of superior whites over inferior blacks.

Policies such as affirmative action and Black Economic Empowerment arose from the constitutional injunction to recognise the injustices of our past. Admittedly these policies, similar to the ANC’s deployment policy have, over the years, been subject to abuse by the unscrupulous amongst our ranks, who have sometimes favoured their friends and those of limited capacity with positions in the civil service to the detriment of the ANC and the people whom the government is meant to serve. These are part of what the right-wing berates as “racism in reverse”.

In contrast, from the mid-1950s until the early 1990s, the predominant economic consensus in the ANC was, as the phrase held, “nationalising the commanding heights of the economy”. By 1994, the ANC had revised its position to embrace a mixed economy in which the state would, “based on the balance of evidence” as stated in the Ready to Govern document, retain ownership of certain state assets while others would be partially or wholly privatised.

Ironically, one of many things that never gets a mention in post-apartheid South Africa is that the right-wing – racist and in principle opposed to egalitarianism – is more than eager to lay the blame for poverty, inequality and unemployment on the doorstep of

an ANC whose economic inclusion policies it has opposed since April 27, 1994.

Viewed from the perspective of South Africa’s socio-economic and cultural history of privileging white people and disadvantaging black people, it is abundantly obvious that right-wing affronts against BEE, affirmative action and other policies seeks to produce a moribund ANC that is unable to change colonial and apartheid social relations.

Even if the ANC were to become politically impotent, would this achieve the permanent derailment of the transformative ideals for which it stands? The answer is there in the pages of our history.

When they sentenced the Rivonia treason trialists in 1964, the architects of apartheid thought that they would now live happily ever after without fear of restless natives for whom there was no place “above the level of certain forms of labour.” They had, in their faulty estimation, successfully dealt a deathblow to the ANC and the struggle for liberation. Right-wing follies never flag!

South Africa cannot afford to be led down the path of the apocalypse whereby the hungry masses get uncontrollably angry and the “ticking time bomb” explodes to the ruin of us all. We must be vigilant!

Ntuli is the ANC’s Head of Elections and Campaign, and a member of its National Executive Committee. He writes here in his personal capacity ■

What is the ANC renewal about?

*Abridged remarks by ANC Veterans' League NEC Member
Cde Mac Maharaj at the Eastern Cape ANC VL Induction and
 Strategic Planning Workshop held on 26 – 28 August 2023 in
 East London.**

The achievement of our constitutional democracy has re-defined the conditions under which we have to address the challenges that face our country. We accept the challenge of periodic and regular elections that constitute an essential element of our democracy. We regard these elections as providing us with the opportunity to continue with the mobilisation of the people, which constitutes a renewal of our mandate to address the development of our country.

What then is nature of the challenges we face in current day South Africa and who should we define as the enemy? We need to do this in a way that broadens and deepens our reach in the society we strive to change.

The ANC has defined this task as the achievement of the transformation embodied in the National Democratic Revolution.

Colonialism and apartheid determined that our society should be based on inequality and discrimination based on racial categorisation and patriarchy. Removing the basis of this inequality and creating a society based on equality is a fundamental aspect of the NDR.



Unemployment was structurally embedded in the economy that we inherited. And the record of 30 years into our democracy shows that we have not managed to overcome this structural aspect. Furthermore, unemployment has increased especially in the second half of our 30 years of democracy.

Accordingly, the struggle to eradicate poverty becomes the enemy we are facing.

Our strategy to build a developmental state is critical for overcoming these obstacles to the creation of a society based on equality. The creation of a growing economy with the goal of creating a full employment economy remains crucial to the concept of the NDR.

The goals of the NDR are embedded in our Constitution and it accordingly provides us with the mechanism to address these issues. We need to embrace this opportunity



because it accords fully with the concept on which the ANC strategy is founded, namely, the mobilisation of the masses. With this difference, that it is part of the DNA of the ANC and its allies that we do not see the role of the masses in the era of democracy as a passive one.

We see the role of the people as a crucial element in which our public representatives are not only held to account but are also participants in delivering the change that we envisage in the NDR.

The 54th Conference recognised that there has developed a growing loss of confidence in the ANC because of social distance, corruption, nepotism, arrogance, elitism, factionalism, manipulating organisational processes, abusing state power, putting self-interest above the people, leadership weaknesses and loss of integrity characterised by competition to control state resources, because of vote buying which has left us with leaders

who have difficulty driving our programmes and commanding respect from society and our supporters.

Accordingly, Conference recognised that without such a renewal we would be failing to deliver on the promise that we have inserted into the Constitution of 1996.

Organisational renewal therefore is a pre-condition for re-building the trust of the people in the ANC. We cannot re-build this trust and would be unable to motivate and mobilise activists, civil society, supporters, and voters if our leaders and members lack basic leadership, organisational and communication skills.

Organisational renewal therefore must address:

a) the creation of a leadership at all levels of the ANC that is continuously engaged in mobilising our different communities, keeping them informed of the actions we are undertaking through the institutions that

exist in our democracy, as well as making the people participants in the process of making change happen;

b) ensuring that members of the ANC are equipped with organising and communication skills. This would enable the ANC branch to engage with the communities in which the branch operates in a constructive manner with civil society and speak to the communities as a whole and not just to its membership.

What then is the role of our Veterans League in this enormous struggle to renew our organisation?

The Veterans League emerged from its July 2023 Conference by re-organising itself in all provinces within a tight time frame. We held a conference where political and developmental issues dominated the agenda of conference. Competition for positions became a side-show.

The difficulties that our organisation faces cannot be underestimated. It is important that we share with our mother body and fellow Leagues the manner in which the VL Conference chose to elect its national executive when it realised that the customary way in which we conducted elections would not deliver a leadership that manifestly upheld geographical spread, gender equality and non-racialism. Our constituency and the public were therefore able to recognise that the principle focus of our conferences is to change the conditions under which the people live and begin to understand that the elimination of poverty is in the interest not only of the poor and unemployed, but of society as a whole. Veterans, who are normally seen as people who are bound by existing practices and customs, showed at this conference that they can be pathfinders in being adaptable, and in adjusting to particular conditions under which they find themselves.

We exist as a Veterans League in order to support, strengthen and help our mother body the ANC to rise to the challenges we face. This means that every level of the ANC, from the national to the provincial, to the regional and the branch level, the VL needs to assist in facilitating the renewal process.

It is important that while measures are being taken to try and improve the calibre of the leadership structures, we must not lose sight of the necessity to change the calibre of the membership at the branch level. The ANC branches are not entrusted with tasks that compel them to interact not just within themselves as a branch but



with the community in which the branch is operating. We have to change this. The branches must become mobilisers of the people with a perspective that goes beyond organising protests. ANC branches have to: a) become mobilisers of the community as a whole to become participants in our democracy and (b) to engage as a community with the State structures so that those State structures are assisted to deliver on the task they are entrusted with. Our aim in this regard should be to make democracy deliver. We want to build the people's confidence not just in the ANC, but also in our democracy. Building confidence in our democracy is an essential part of building confidence in the ANC.

The Veterans League that emerged from the July Conference has shown that it is able to call on its

experience and demonstrate an ability to adapt to changing conditions. We do not claim sole ownership of this ability. We are mindful that the task of transforming our country rests on the shoulders of other generations. We are also mindful that the youth who bear the brunt of the lack of opportunities for employment are becoming restless. We recognise that it is the youth who always bring into any struggle a sense of daring and courage without which no fundamental change can take place. We have shown at our conference that we, as veterans, can combine experience with adaptability. We have to carry that message forward into all structures of the ANC ■

***Please use the following link <https://www.ancvl.org.za/what-is-the-anc-renewal-about/> to access the full remarks of Cde Mac Maharaj.**

Unveiling the Realities: Gauteng's ANC Government and the Battle for Narrative Dominance

■ By **Sello Maeco**

In an era of information overload, it becomes increasingly important to decipher the truth from the noise. The African National Congress (ANC) led government in Gauteng is not exempt from this challenge as it strives to communicate its actions and initiatives amidst a sea of opinions and critiques. The spotlight recently fell on the government's efforts, shedding light on the intricate dance between governance and media portrayal.

Undoubtedly, the ANC government in Gauteng has been diligent in its efforts to deliver services to the people. Roads have been paved, schools have been improved, and healthcare access has been expanded. These accomplishments, however, have not gone without scrutiny and skepticism. Prominent voices like Justice Malala have raised questions about the government's actions, leaving some wondering about the accuracy and mo-



tives behind the criticism.

Critics argue that while transparency and accountability are crucial in a democratic society, it is equally important to avoid sweeping generalizations that undermine the progress made. The government's service delivery initiatives deserve fair assessment that takes into account the complexities of governance. It is undeniable that governing a province as dynamic and populous as Gauteng presents challenges that cannot be easily overcome.

One recent incident that encapsulates this dynamic is the accusation

launched by Justice Malala, directed towards the ANC Chairperson and Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi. Malala's accusations of a scam raised eyebrows and ignited debates, with some quick to condemn and others demanding a thorough investigation. Such allegations are a reminder that a healthy democracy necessitates not only effective governance but also a vigilant media and an engaged citizenry.

It is important, however, to approach these accusations with a balanced perspective. While the media plays a pivotal role in hold-



ing governments accountable, it is imperative to remember that sensationalism and bias can distort the truth. Constructive criticism and rigorous fact-checking are vital components of a functional democracy, but they must be rooted in objectivity and evidence.

The NASI iSPANI initiative in Gauteng has emerged as a pivotal point in the ongoing discourse surrounding the ANC-led government's commitment to addressing youth unemployment. As this dialogue unfolds, it becomes increasingly important to delve into the various claims and counterclaims, shedding light on the intricacies of the program and the narratives that surround it.

Central to the heart of the debate

is the notion of cadre deployment, a practice often criticized for prioritizing political affiliations over merit-based recruitment. However, supporters (like myself) of the NASI iSPANI initiative assert that there exists a transparent and equitable recruitment process. While critics may dismiss these assertions, a closer examination of the facts reveals a more multifaceted reality.

A crucial aspect of NASI iSPANI lies in its recruitment of wardens, affectionately known as Ama-Panya-Panya, from within the communities. Advocates argue that this approach underscores a recruitment process that transcends partisan lines. Notably, many of these wardens are not card-carrying members of the ANC; rather, they belong to various other organiza-

tions. This narrative counteracts claims of political favoritism and suggests that the programme genuinely seeks to address youth unemployment without bias.

Mr. JJ Tabane's call for recognizing achievements where they are due highlights the importance of maintaining a balanced perspective. Importantly, the NASI iSPANI initiative has played a significant role in reducing unemployment rates, as evidenced by the recent Quarterly Labour Force survey. This positive outcome adds another layer to the discussion, highlighting the effectiveness of the programme in tackling youth unemployment.

Justice Malala's critique of ANC initiatives, specifically his scrutiny of the NASI iSPANI programme, has ignited a flurry of controversy. Some like me contend that his criticisms are driven by a desire for relevance rather than an unbiased evaluation of the programme's impact. In a media landscape where accountability is essential, distinguishing between constructive critique and sensationalism becomes paramount.

The evolving narrative surrounding NASI iSPANI demands a tempered response. Acknowledging both the achievements and the challenges of the initiative is imperative. This entails evaluating its impact on reducing youth unemployment while addressing any shortcomings that could arise. Indeed, data unequivocally suggests that the NASI iSPANI initiative has significantly contributed to the reduction in unemployment rates ■

Since 1994 the University Sector has Grown at a Rate of 155%

■ By **Buti Manamela**

The 55th conference of the African National Congress (ANC) has highlighted the importance of addressing weaknesses and advancing the people's struggle. The party's organisational culture and traditions have always prioritised planning, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and their impact on society.

Throughout history, the ANC has been the people's voice, creating policies and a broad vision that appeals to South Africans of all races, genders, and classes.

The ANC is dedicated to building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa. Although there have been obstacles, in the higher education space, we have made an indelible mark.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has led efforts to bring about transformation. Established as the Tertiary Education Fund for South Africa (TEFSA), the organisation provides financial aid to underprivileged students who wish to study at universities.

Despite facing allegations of financial mismanagement, interfer-



ence in the tender process for the student-centred payment model, and fraud amounting to billions of Rands, the NSFAS has been a game-changer in South Africa's higher education landscape for the past 30 years. While the media has portrayed the NSFAS negatively, all allegations have been subject to due process, and any guilty parties will face the consequences.

The organisation has been instrumental in transforming the lives of countless students, but its accomplishments are often overshadowed by the negative press it has received.

When Nelson Mandela initiated the process of what we now know as NSFAS in 1993, it had only enough funding to cover approximately 7000 students. At that time, the university sector had a mere 470,000 students, with a staggeringly low representation of Africans and Blacks compared to their White counterparts.

The higher education system was a continuation of the apartheid regime, which was entirely inadequate for serving the needs of a new democratic state. It was merely used to sustain the apartheid pol-

icies of exclusion, inequality, and violence. The quality of research, learning, and teaching favoured White compatriots, while almost all Black universities resembled the slum townships and villages where the students came from.

The university programmes were meant to satisfy apartheid spatial development, preferential employment, and sustain the Bantustan regimes. It's essential to mention this not to bore you with stale historical facts but to illustrate the extent to which the success of the democratic government can be attributed to the work done in this sector by the ANC.

This is also for the naysayers who argue that the evil apartheid regime has done far better than the ANC. Given the horror of apartheid exclusionism, expanding the higher education system was the first significant change facing the ANC government.

Since then, the university sector has grown at an exponential rate of 155%, with 1.2 million students, 75% African and Black. Women, who comprised 40% of the student population, now account for more than 58% of all universities.

Many institutions have significantly grown, with the University of South Africa being the largest on the continent and two new universities opened in Mpumalanga and Northern Cape.

There is a significant correlation between the increase in student funding by the state and the increase in the participation rate of black and women students. Yes, this was an essential function of policy and planning, but it required

the boldness of leadership to redirect the national fiscus towards realising the objectives of transformation and redress.

When NSFAS was launched, it was a hybrid of loans and grants, with students performing better academically benefitting the most. Today, any student who qualifies to study further is not only granted financial aid for their tuition from R49 billion (from a mere 5 billion some five years ago) but also receives living, books and travel allowances.

Many graduates are the first in their families to wear the academic garb, and the political, economic and social impact cannot be underestimated. It contributes to changing the educational landscape of the population, changes the face of professionals in the public and private employment sphere, and significantly advances our society's human and economic development goals.

Importantly, we have more blacks and women in professions apartheid would not have allowed, including academia, the sciences, arts and culture, medicine, finances and technology. The changes effected in our technical and vocational sphere are even more pleasing.

The sector was divided, uncoordinated, and untransformed, followed the racial and gender exclusionism of apartheid, and was the untended orphan of the post-school system. From a meagre 170,000 students, the TVET sector has demonstrated a potential capacity of more than 700,000 students, most of whom are funded by the NSFAS (at the same level as university students).

With local and international partnerships, including with countries such as China, Germany and India, we have entirely changed the face of TVET colleges from its infrastructure, the quality of teaching and learning, the diversity of its programme and the quality of its graduates.

Many TVET students now make this academic choice not because they couldn't make it in university but because of the significant changes made in this regard. Yes, there will still be challenges in meeting our country's skills and human resources.

Some graduates remain unemployed (at 10%, the highest since 1994). Over three million young people are left out of education institutions and employment. The rate at which the system is growing cannot cope with population growth and the increasing number of students being churned out by the schooling system.

And yes, the NSFAS has faced some challenges, including with the student-centred model (which has serviced more than 85% of its beneficiaries). However, these should not deter us from the giant transformation leaps made and should never be compared with the apartheid system.

Together, with all South Africans, we shall consolidate these gains and ensure that every deserving young person gets their higher education qualification if they so wish. We must recognise these critical interventions as we review our manifesto on the impact of the ANC-led government ■

Thembi Mmoko's hatred of oppression has seen her fight and win many battles

Thembi Mmoko is the longest-serving ANC councillor in the Tshwane metro with more than 20 years as a public servant.

■ By **Amos Mananyetso**

I was reluctant to conduct the interview, citing a possible bias. But the editor dug in her six-inch heels and insisted, "You are better placed to interview her. She's the Winnie Mandela of your village."

With that, I grudgingly headed to Pretoria east and after exchanging pleasantries with ANC Women's League leader and City of Tshwane councillor Thembi Mmoko, I shot my first question, one that I had been itching to ask since the 1980s.

"Why did they say you were a bad woman when I was growing up? They said you hid 'terrorists' in your house."

With that, Mmoko, 64, opened the floodgates and took me on a journey that started when she was 17, while attending boarding school where she organised a protest march against a hostel matron.



Mmoko, nee Magubane, later got married to Alpheus and the young family settled in the small, dusty village of Stinkwater in Hammanskraal in 1974. It was here that Mmoko would harbour 11 young “comrades” who had fled Soweto after the 1976 student uprisings.

These young activists, who included today’s SA National Defence Force chief General Solly Shoke, his predecessor Sipiwe Nyanda and former Limpopo premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, would later be spirited out of the country into exile for military training.

On return, some of them became members of the feared uMkhonto weSizwe G5 unit that launched a number of attacks on police stations, courts and other strategic installations like power stations.

“I have always detested inequality and any form of oppression. When I got to Hans Kekana boarding school in Hammanskraal in 1971, I realised that the matrons at the hostel were behaving like dictators over the learners.

Activist Mmoko stands next to a photo of her relative Pauline Moloise, mother of hanged poet and activist Benjamin.

“One day we came back to our dormitory and found our neatly ironed school uniforms on the floor. She just tossed everything upside down claiming that we didn’t follow the rules on how we were supposed to hang the uniforms.

“I organised a few girls and we marched to the tribal authority offices in Majaneng, not far from

“

I wanted to empower all women in the village because I didn’t like the conditions of subjugation that they were living under

”

the school. The school was built and run by the Kekana royal family. They listened to us and came back to school with us.

“After having a meeting with our principal, the matron was suspended. I was happy because I felt like the good had prevailed over the bad.”

Mmoko said her contact with the young activists started when her cousin Benjamin Moloise ran away from Soweto after the June 16 1976

uprisings and needed a place to hide.

“He came to stay with us and soon I was asked if I could take in more. I hid them in one of the outside rooms and soon started slowly integrating them into the community.

“My husband ran a football club called Pull Together and we made them part of the players. We also ran a grocery store and the guys would take turns manning the counter.

“I had to later convert one of the bedrooms in the house into a secret room where we kept guns and arms like limpet mines. I also had to learn how to handle these weapons.”

The fiery mother of two sons said she did not know where she got her bravery from but she was also used as a conduit to distribute money and weapons.

“I also smuggled messages to those in prison.”

Mmoko said her world almost ended when her house was raided and one of the comrades was shot and wounded before being arrested.

“Thabo Marcus Motaung was shot while trying to clear a fence behind the shop. Solly Shoke ran away and went to hide in the nearby village of Trust Farm. Benjamin was arrested while he walked into the home of his girlfriend. But they couldn’t find the weapons. Some of them were hidden in washing powder boxes and packed like any other goods in the shop,” she said.



Winnie Mandela's legacy is not about exploiting women

No one takes women seriously; Women's Month is yet another capitalist dream. 5 years ago

Mmoko said after Joe Slovo's wife Ruth First was killed with a parcel bomb in Mozambique, anger grew and ANC president Oliver Tambo took a decision that the apartheid government had to be confronted.

That was when the G5 unit was formed under the leadership of Nyanda. When the comrades came back as trained soldiers, Mmoko found them a safe house and helped them build a base in the bush close to the feared SAP Training College in Hammanskraal.

The base was later given away by a cattle herder. Police surrounded it and arrested Motaung, Jerry Mosololi and Thelle Mogoerane.

Nelson Hlongwane escaped and Mmoko helped him to skip the country into Swaziland.

"My comrades were hanged on June 9 1983. It was the most painful period in my life as a freedom fighter. I felt like they should have executed me as well. Two years later, it was my cousin Benjamin who was executed. I had tried everything to save him, including criss-crossing Europe to try and have him reprieved. He was executed on October 18 1985," she said, with tears rolling down her face.

Just when Mmoko thought she was defeated, she received a letter from Tambo acknowledging her work. This breathed new life into her.

After the unbanning of political parties and the release of political prisoners in 1990, Mmoko was in action again leading a committee

that was receiving returning exiles and helping them reintegrate.

She also turned her attention to the development of women and children in the village.

She registered Masana Rural Development Centre and ran everything from a vegetable garden to adult and computer literacy classes as well as sewing and knitting classes.

"I wanted to empower all women in the village because I didn't like the conditions of subjugation that they were living under."

Mmoko was also instrumental in the formation of Moretele FM, a community broadcaster.

Her work has won her numerous awards and until two years ago, when the ANC lost control the City of Tshwane, she was the MMC for corporate and shared services ■

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

2 - 8 September 2023

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

■ 2 September 1879 British-Zulu Peace Treaty



In mid-January 1879 Lt-Gen. Lord Chelmsford invaded Zululand with three columns of British troops, starting the war that ended Zulu independence. After the initial crushing defeat of the British at Isandlwana, the tide turned against the Zulus. Ulundi, the capital of Chief Cetshwayo was burnt down and his soldiers defeated. Cetshwayo was captured on 28 August and on 2 September Britain signed a peace treaty with the Zulus. According to the treaty, Zululand was divided into thirteen separate chiefdoms under a chief elected by the British. The treaty ensured that future unification of the Zulu was not possible, creating ripe ground for internal divisions and warfare. Cetshwayo was exiled and dispatched to Cape Town on 15 September 1879.

■ 2 September 1894 Stone Town, Old Dispensary

One of Africa's most ornate buildings in Stone Town, Zanzibar was completed on this day. It became known as the Old Dispensary, after its first floor was used as a medical dispensary in 1900. It was restored in the 1990s and is one of the island's tourist attractions.

■ 2 September 1929 Sir Jeppe passed away in London

Sir Julius Gottlieb Ferdinand Jeppe passed away in London on 2 September 1929, age 70. He was a mining and property magnate who was knighted for his pioneering role in the development of Johannesburg. He was born in Rostock, Germany in July 1859. Jeppe and his family immigrated to South Africa in 1870.

■ 2 September 1932 Limpopo artist David Mogano born

David Phaswane Mogano was born in Polokwane in 1932. After high school, he left for Johannesburg where he got a job in a hotel as a cook. Blessed with a natural talent, Phaswane began training in fine art at the Polly Street Art Centre in 1959, under artists such as Cecil Skotnes and Sydney Khumalo. He mastered the watercolor medium

and painted exclusively in it, joining the group of artists known as Artists Under the Sun, exhibiting annually at Joubert Park, Johannesburg. One of his biggest exhibitions was of a collection spanning 25 years, at the Standard Bank Gallery in 1999.

■ 2 September 1947 Tales of Amadou Koumba published



The publication of the short story collection by Senegalese writer Birago Diop, in the tradition of West African Griot story-telling, became a pioneering book for post-independence African literature.

■ 3 September 1935 Songstress Dorothy Masuku born

Influential singer and composer, Dorothy Masuku was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Her singing career took off in the 1950s in South Africa. Commenting on apartheid, she was banned and was forced into exile in 1961.

■ 3 September 1953 Simba chips arrive in Africa



The potato chip, invented in 1853 by African-American George Speck, arrived in Africa with the introduction of Simba Chips by South Africa's Greyvensteyn family Food company onto the market, manufactured in South Africa from 1957. The Simba brand was acquired by PepsiCo in 1999, holding 63% of the crisp market in the country.

■ 3 September 1978 ZIPRA shot down Rhodesian airliner

The Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army shot down a Rhodesian airliner flying over Kariba, using a surface-to-air missile.

■ 3 September 1994 Vaal Triangle Erupts



Boipatong, Bophelong, Evaton, Sebokeng and Sharpeville, the five Black townships in the area known as the Vaal Triangle exploded. The catalyst for the uprising was rent increases. Three township councilors, including the deputy mayor, Kuzwayo Jacob Dlamini, were killed on this day. In the weeks following the killings, five men and one woman known as the 'Sharpeville Six' were tried, convicted and sentenced to hang for the killings.

■ 3 September 2004 AIDS film Yesterday release

The film directed by Daryll Roodt and starring Leleti Khumalo about an HIV positive woman's devotion to her daughter, was released and nominated for an Oscar for best international film.

■ 4 September 1899 Pioneer naturalist Mary Elizabeth Barber passed on

On 4 September 1899, an 1820 Settler and early South African naturalist, Mary Elizabeth Barber died in Malvern, Natal Province. Barber had an extensive knowledge of natural history, especially botany and entomology and supplied Charles Darwin with valuable information for his work *On the Origin of Species* (1859). She was elected to the Hungarian ornithological society. She helped to establish the stratigraphic geology of South Africa for the first time, and initiated the examination of its ethnology, archaeology and paleontology.

■ 4 September 1909 Architect Theodore S Clerk born

The Ghanaian architect was born in

Larteh in the Akuapem mountains, and became the first certified architect in Ghana. He pioneered the science of urban planning, winning international awards for his work as architect and urban planner, for his design of the port city of Tema.

■ 4 September 1998 UN Tribunal on Rwanda sentenced former Prime Minister

The United Nations Tribunal on Rwanda, held in Arusha, Tanzania, passed a life imprisonment sentence on former Rwanda Prime Minister Jean Kambanda. Kambanda pleaded guilty to all counts of genocide pressed against him.

■ 4 September 2019 Cape Protests against Gender-based Violence

On 4 September 2019, people gathered outside parliament in Cape Town to address gender-based violence in South Africa. They carried posters 'Asphelelanga kushot' uNene, /"We are not complete, we are short of Nene". The protest was triggered by rape incidents, including one of a 19-year-old first year student, Uyinene Mrwetyana from the University of Cape Town who was raped and killed by a man in a Cape Town Post Office. National Assembly speaker, Thandi Modise addressed the protesters. She said that a minimum sentence for perpetrators must be a life sentence in jail.

■ 5 September 1890 Composer Benjamin Tyamzashe born

South African composer, choir conductor, organist and teacher, Benjamin Tyamzashe, affectionately known as 'B-ka-T', was born in Kim-

berley in 1890. His music enjoys a wide popularity within the education sector and is preferred during schools music festivals. He was the only composer and choir conductor of his generation to have his song "Zweliyaduduma" sung to the British Royal family in Umtata, during their visit to SA in 1947, B-ka-T conducted the song to a mass choir of 3000.

■ 5 September 1909 Yusuf Dadoo born



On 5 September 1909, a tireless fighter for national liberation, Dr. Yusuf Mohamed Dadoo was born in Krugersdorp. Dadoo was known by many for always forging closer links between oppressed groups of Indian, African and Coloured people in the struggle for liberation. He left an impressive political legacy, covering a number of fields spanning the relationship between transnational identity, racial identity, national liberation, socialism, non-racialism and internationalism. Dadoo died in exile in London in 1983.

■ 5 September 1939. Astronomer Ian Stewart Glass born

Born in Dublin and migrating to South Africa, Glass pioneered work

in infrared astronomy and instrumentation at the South African Astronomical Observatory and authored more than 220 scientific papers.

■ 5 September 1945. Freddy Mercury born in Zanzibar

Freddie Mercury was born Farrokh Bulsara in Zanzibar, Tanzania. His parents were Parsis from Bombay (now Mumbai), India. Mercury was sent to boarding school in India and grew up there. At the age of seventeen he and his family left Zanzibar and settled in Britain. In 1970, he formed the band Queen with guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor. Queen was one of the most successful bands of the 1970s and 1980s. Mercury wrote most of the hit songs that the band recorded and a few that he recorded solo.

■ 5 September 1978. Camp David talks

The Egypt-Israel peace conference start at US Presidential retreat, convened by then President Jimmy Carter. The peace accord which results from the talks, eventually earned Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin a joint Nobel Peace Prize.

■ 5 September 2014. WHO on Ebola in West Africa

As the Ebola pandemic spread in parts of West Africa, the World Health Organisation estimated that 2,000 people had died, more than half of the 3,500 people reportedly infected by the Ebola virus in Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

■ 5 September 2019. Military coup in Guinea

A military coup d'état deposes democratically elected Guinea President Alpha Condé. ECOWAS immediately suspended Guinea's membership, called for the President's unconditional release, and sent envoys to Conakry to attempt a "constitutional" resolution to the situation. The African Union also suspended Guinea's membership in response to the coup.

■ 6 September 1910. Artist Gerard Bhengu born

Pioneer South African artist Gerard Bhengu was born at Mission Station at Centecow, Bulwer. Bhengu's remarkable skill attracted wide attention. His paintings were exclusively in watercolour and sepia ink on paper, with his earliest paintings and drawings date from 1926. His art works are seldom inscribed with a date, although they are almost always signed. Bhengu died in 1990 in Umlazi, Durban. His paintings are part of the collections of Museum Africa, the University of Fort Hare and the Albany museum in Graham's Town.

■ 6 September 1939. South Africa joins Second World War

After the invasion of Poland by Germany in September 1939, SA Prime Minister Gen. J.B. Hertzog tried to pass a resolution in parliament, proclaiming South Africa's neutrality during the war. Hertzog's attempt was rejected by 80 votes to 67. After the refusal of Governor-General Sir Patrick Duncan to dissolve the parliament, Hertzog was left with no option but to resign from his position. The minis-

ter of justice, Gen. J.C. Smuts, took over and formed a new cabinet and South Africa joined the war against Germany. This step caused bitter dissent amongst the pro-war and anti-war sections in the white community.

■ 6 September 1945 Artist Bheki Manyoni born

On 6 September 1945, Bhekisani Manyoni was born in Greytown, KZN. He attended the Rorke's Drift Art School and later took classes in fine arts, in particular ceramics and weaving. Here Manyoni also befriended John Muafengejo, who influenced his work. In 1970, Manyoni was appointed as curator of the Pandora Gallery in Mbabane, Swaziland, and in 1979 he began to teach at the Katlehong Art Gallery. Manyoni specialised in ceramic sculpture and lino design, and has exhibited in many countries, including Holland and Germany. Manyoni also creates wood carvings and has received several awards, including the Hans Merensky Trust Award.

■ 6 September 1991 Western Sahara-Morocco ceasefire



A ceasefire is reached, ending the Western Sahara War between Polisario Front and Morocco over

the right of self-determination of the Saharawi people. The war started in 1975 and claimed the lives of over 20,000 people.

■ 6 September 2003 Queen Mother Mamohato Seeiso of Lesotho passed on

The Queen Mother Mamohato Bereng Seeiso was born in 1941. She was the youngest child of Chief Lerotholi Mojela. The princess was sent to study at Bath Training College of Home Economics in the United Kingdom. In 1962, she married King Moshoeshoe II and they had three children. As the Queen Mother, she ran several charities and organisations in Lesotho. She was passionate about farming and was involved in poultry, livestock and crop farming and has been highly praised for her work in uplifting the lives of Basotho women. The Queen Mother Mamohato Bereng Seeiso died on 6 September 2003.

■ 6 September 2017 Namibia lowest population density

A national census shows Namibia has the world's lowest population density, with 3.08 people per square km.

■ 6 September 2019. President Robert Gabriel Mugabe passed on

President Mugabe, a liberation icon and Pan Africanist, founder of the Frontline States, was Prime Minister and President of Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 until 2018. He passed away in Singapore where he was undergoing medical treatment.

■ 7 September 1971 Artist James Cudjoe born

One of the best-known painters in Ghana, James Cudjoe was born in Tokoradi. His cityscapes of contemporary West African life, especially his series of paintings featuring market women, are legendary.

■ 7 September 1986 Tutu ordained as Archbishop of Cape Town



The Anglican Church ordained the bishop and anti-apartheid icon as first black Archbishop of Cape Town, which made him the head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana and Eswatini.

■ 7 September 1992 Bisho Massacre

80,000 protesters gathered outside Bisho, capital of Ciskei, demanding an end to the military government of Brigadier Joshua Gqozo and the re-absorption of the bantustan into South Africa. The protest was led by several senior African National Congress (ANC) leaders, including South African Communist Party Secretary General Chris Hani, Cyril Ramaphosa, Steve Tshwete and Ronnie Kasrils. Demonstrators tried to cross the Ciskei



Defense Force lines and enter into Bisho. Soldiers opened fire and continued firing indiscriminately into the crowd for about five minutes using machine guns and rifle grenades, killing 28 people and over 200 injured.

■ 7 September 1997 Mobutu Sese Seko dies

Mobutu Sese Seko (66), former president of Zaire (DRC) from 1965 to 1997, died in exile in Rabat, Morocco, three months after the end of his nearly 32-year reign. Sese Seko was exiled after he was ousted from power by Laurent Kabila's rebel movement, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

■ 7 September 2004. Beyers Naude, struggle icon and Afrikaner cleric passed on

Oom Bey, as he was affectionately known, passed away on 7 September 2004 at a retirement home in Johannesburg, with his wife, Ilse, by his side. Beyers Naudé was born in Roodepoort on 10 May 1915. One of eight children, he was born into a family fully committed to Afrikaner nationalism. His father was a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) and a founding member of the Afrikaner Broederbond.



Beyers Naude joined the Broederbond as one of its youngest members at the age of 25. He however defied his upbringing, aligning himself with the struggle of the oppressed after the Sharpeville Massacre, and in 1963 resigned from the Broederbond, after 22 years of membership. He condemned apartheid from the pulpit and was called a traitor by his community, harassed and eventually banned by the security forces and the apartheid government. Forced to resign as a dominee, he continued his ministry and the struggle through the Christian Institute, which was banned in 1977. In 1985 he succeeded Archbishop Desmond Tutu as Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches, and was a leading figure in the Dakar meeting between Afrikaner leaders and the ANC in 1987. He opened the inauguration of President Thabo Mbeki in 1999; in 2001 he was given the freedom of the City of Johannesburg and one of the major roads named after him.

■ 7 September 2015. Ibukun Awosika breaks finance glass ceiling

Nigerian financier Awosika is the first woman to be appointed chairperson of the First Bank of Nigeria, the first to hold a top job in the

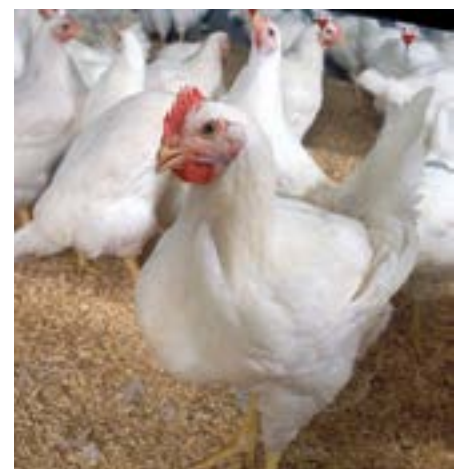
country's male dominated finance sector.

■ 8 September 1998. Mpush Makambi wins World Boxing Title



Former APLA member and South African Middleweight Boxing Champion, Mpush Makambi defeated Adrian Dodson of Britain to take the Middleweight Title Fight. He was later voted Boxer of the Year because of his exploits in that title match.

■ 8 September 2017. Large scale culling of chickens



The agricultural department of South Africa ordered the culling of poultry following an outbreak of avian flu in the industry■

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS

2 - 8 September 2023

Source: www.un.org, www.au.int, *The Africa Fact Book (2020)*, www.daysoftheyear.com

■ 2 September.

World Coconut Day.

World Coconut Day is observed on September 2 to commemorate the formation of Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC). The APCC is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia and all major coconut growing countries are members of APCC. Leading African producers of coconut are Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Guinea, Benin, and Togo. Tanzania is ranked as 11th largest producer of coconut (FAOSTAT, 2015).

■ 5 September.

International Day of Charity

Charity, like volunteerism and philanthropy, provides real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies. Charity can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises, supplement public services in health care, education, housing and child protection. It assists the advancement of culture, science, sports, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. It also promotes the rights of the

marginalized and underprivileged and spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations.

■ 5 September

World Samosa Day

Samosas are a fried pyramid-shaped dish filled with onions, potatoes, cheese, peas, with several other filling options. They are extremely popular in India, rest of South Asia, Egypt, South Africa, and the Middle East. This popular and delicious snack has a day in its honour, to encourage more and more people to try it.



■ 6 September

World Read a Book Day

The day is celebrated to encourage reading and the joys of books. On this day, we are all encouraged to share a quote from a book, talk about your favourite book or author, to give, read, donate, collect and share books, and to popularise your libraries and bookshops.

■ 5-11 September

National Book Week

South Africa commemorates National Book Week every first week of September. It is an initiative of the South African Book Development Council and the Department of Arts and Culture. Reading statistics report that only 14% of the South African population are active book readers, and a mere 5% of parents read to their children. National Book Week is an important initiative in encouraging

the nation to value reading as a fun and pleasurable activity and to showcase how reading can easily be incorporated into one's daily lifestyle. With more black and women authors being published, more people are interested in reading, and are forming book clubs all over the country.

■ 7 September.

International Police Cooperation Day

On the inaugural commemoration of the International Day of Police Cooperation, which was designated by the General Assembly during its 77th session, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, together with INTERPOL, highlights the role of women in policing. Women police officers play a crucial role across the full spectrum of policing, from crime prevention to criminal investigations, the protection of human rights, and

safety and security. Evidence shows that their full, equal and meaningful participation in all policing functions is vital to achieving more effective, efficient and accountable services.

■ 7 September.

International Day for Clean Air and Blue Skies

The day aims to raise awareness of air pollution and its impact. It is a global problem with far-reaching impacts owing to its transport over long distances. In the absence of aggressive intervention, the number of premature deaths resulting from ambient air pollution is estimated to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2050.

■ 8 September.

International Literacy Day.

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills today.

■ 8 September.

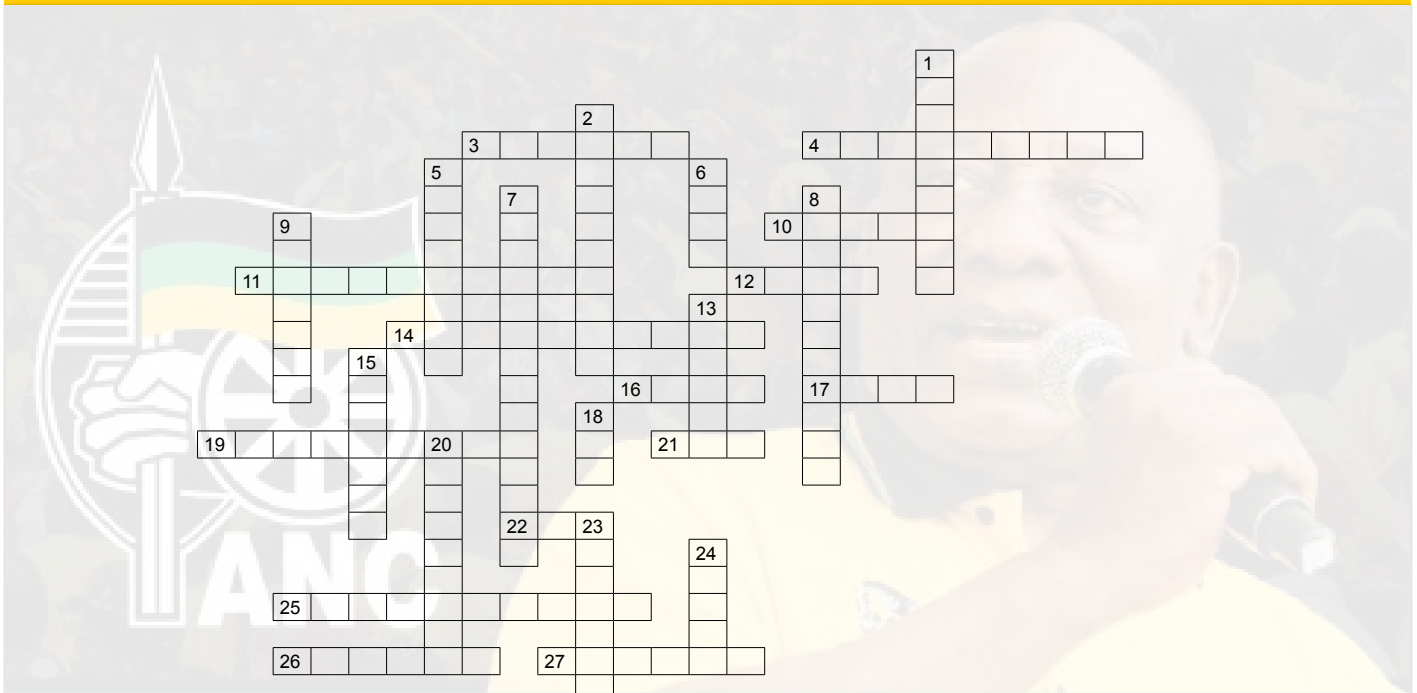
Star Trek Day.

The television series about space exploration is an important part of global pop culture, its first episode airing on 6 September 1966, and with films and books based on the popular series. The series was amongst the first with a diverse cast, including Officer Nyota Uhuru (later fleet admiral), played by actress Nichelle Nichols, who recently passed away ■



NATIONAL BOOK

ANC 2019 Manifesto Review



2019 MANIFESTO REVIEW

Across

- 3. Advancing ...transformation
- 4. Safeguard the ... of the state
- 10. Address the ... unemployment crisis
- 11. ... strategy to support localization
- 12. Reduce cost of ...
- 14. Since 1994, over 3.2 million free built
- 16. Promote the African ... industry
- 17. ... as backbone of public transport
- 19. In April 2019, we celebrated 25 years of ...
- 21. Towards a united and fair health system with
- 22. Comprehensive ... package
- 25. Step up fight against
- 26. A ... Life for All
- 27. Step up fight against ...

Down

- 1. Broadening
- 2. National Minimum wage improved the lives of ... workers
- 5. ... policy must take into account employment creation
- 6. More..., more decent ...
- 7. An ... is within our South Africa is within reach
- 8. Let's Grow ... Together
- 9. This is a moment of ...
- 13. Establish a Sovereign ... Fund
- 15. A ... Economic Zone for clothing, textile and footwear
- 18. More than 5.4 million people living with ...receiving ARV treatment,
- 20. Transforming the economy to serve ...
- 23. Shape a common ... future
- 24. Support for poor students for TVET and university through

WORD BANK

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