



What is SONA (State of the Nation Address)?

Edited from a brochure produced by Public Education Office, Core Business Support Division, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa For more information on how to get involved and participate in YOUR Parliament please visit the website www.parliament.gov.za

The State of the Nation Address (SONA) is one of the most important annual events in the parliamentary calendar.

- *The President delivers a speech focusing on the plans of government for the coming year.
- *The speech is delivered to Parliament during a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).
- *SONA commonly known as the "Opening of Parliament".
- *All three (3) Arms of the State, namely; the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary attend SONA.

Why is SONA important?
It grants government (Executive) an opportunity to account to Parliament and the South African public. It is also about celebrating our nation and nation-building.

What happens during SONA?
The President uses the occasion to address the nation as both Head of State and Government to:

- *Set out the government's priorities for the coming year.
- *Highlight the achievements and challenges of the previous year.



*The full SONA ceremony comprises a ceremonial Military Guard of Honour; a military band; a 21-gun salute and a South African Air Force flypast while the President takes the national salute.

When and where does SONA take place?

The President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, called for a Joint Sitting of the NA and the NCOP on Thursday, 9 February 2023, at 19:00, to deliver the State of the Nation Address. He did this in terms of Section 84 (2)(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa,

1996 read with Rule 7 (1)(a) of the Joint Rules of Parliament.

The venue for SONA is usually the NA Chamber. After the chamber caught fire on 2 January 2022, the Executive Authority of Parliament decided that SONA will take place at the Cape Town City Hall. The Speaker of the NA and the Chairperson of the NCOP jointly preside over SONA.

Public involvement and participation in SONA

During the State of the Nation Address, the public is informed about government's planned priorities for the year ahead. Every year the public can further participate by sending recommendations to the President in the lead-up to SONA by using the Parliament of RSA Facebook page.

The public can usually watch SONA live on;

- *Parliament TV (DSTV channel 408)
- *View SONA on YouTube
- *Request an invitation to virtually attend and observe the SONA debate which happens after SONA. Access can be arranged through the Public Relations (PR) office, publicrelations@parliament.gov.za

SONA and Parliament's oversight function

One of Parliament's key functions is to monitor and oversee the actions of government.

- *SONA forms part of Parliament's oversight (monitoring) function to improve service delivery and to achieve a better quality of life for all living in South Africa.
- *This year, the official language of SONA was isiZulu and a praise singer from the KwaZulu-Natal province ushered the President into the City Hall. *A candle lighting vigil to honour the late Dr Frene Ginwala who was the first Speaker of the NA of our democratic Republic and signing of a book of condolence.

SONA and the Budget

Two weeks after SONA, the Minister of Finance introduces the Budget for the coming year. The budget speech is based on government's priorities set out by the President in his speech.

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(Read more about SONA inside)

Tseba baetapele ba ka sehlohong ba ANC Profensing ya Foreisetata



Mxolisi Dukwana
Mohloli (Mohloli)
Modulasetulo



Ketso Makume
Mohloli (Mohloli)
Motlatsa-Modulasetulo



Polediso Motsoeneng
Mohloli (Mohloli)
Mongodi



Dibolelo Mahlatsi
Mohloli (Mohloli)
Motlatsa-Mongodi



Mathabo Leeto
Mohloli (Mohloli)
Motshwaramatlotlo

Ba kgethilwe sebokeng sa Profensi ho latela ho qhalwa ha boetapele ba pele ba Profensi ke Lekgotla le Phahameng la Molao nakong e fetileng.

(Bala hape ka ditaba tse amang ANC ka hare)

ANC e sa na le monyetla wa ho ntlafatsa maemo

Baahi ba ngata ba feletswe ke tshepo phanong ya ditshebeletso tse phethahetseng ho tswa mmusong boemong bo fapaneng. Sena, har'a tse ding ho bakwa ke ho fokola ha boetapele ba dipolitiki le tsamaiso ka hare ho masepala.

Le ha ho le jwalo ho sa na le tlhasenyana e kunkelang ya tshepo. Ntlheng ya pele; boetapele bo botjha ba makala, didika le ba profensi ba ANC bo kgethilweng bo hlalositse boikemisetso ba bona ba ho kena tshebetsong ya ntjhatso; kaho le ho tlisa kopano ka har'a ANC. Sena se tla etsa hore ho nkwe mehato e matla ho lokisa bofokodi bo teng mmusong; ho putlama ha ditshebeletso le diphephetso tse ding tse ngata ho phatlalla le profensi.

Ho dumaduma ho teng setjhabeng kajeno ha ho fe boetapele ba batjha sebaka sa ho iketla le ho futhumatsa ditulo tsa boetapele. Ho dumaduma hona setjhabeng ho lokela ho ba etsa "bo-mmesa-mohlwana-ha-a -panye" ka mehla. Ho amohela maemo a boetapele ho bolela hore ba etsa boitlamo ba ho sebeletsa setjhaba, ho lokisa moo ho senyehileng, le ha e se

bona ba bakileng tshenyho. Baetapele, jwaloka ha re ile ra bolela nako e fetileng; ke 'dipelesa tse meuba' (beasts of burden), mme ba lokela ho kena mosebetsing ntle le tieho kapa tikatiko ya letho, ntle le kgefutso. Nako ya bona e kgutshwane. Kajeno ba kena ditulong ka ditlatse empa ba ka tshoha ba tswile ka pele mme ba tloswa ditulong ka kgalefo ha ba sa etse mosebetsi.

Ho bohlokwa ho dula ba kopnya dipuisano le ditho, mahatammoho le setjhaba. Ho se etse jwalo ho ka tswa ho bakile tahlehelo ya tshepo le ho baka pelaelo ya hore ha ba a fapana le smokgopi wa pele. Bofokodi bo boholo ho boetapele ke ho bua ba le bang, ba thabela ho bua mehloding ya ditaba ho feta ho bua le batho ka ho otloloha. Athe ho bua mehloding ya ditaba empa e le katoloso kapa tlatsetso ya boiteanyo ba puisano pakeng tsa batho, mme ho ke ha feta puisano ya molomo le molomo.

'Puisano tsa mehlodi ya ditaba di lokela ho rerwa le ho lokisetswa ka ho phethahala ke ba tsheheditse bo-radipolotiki. Ho se etse jwalo ke ho papalla mollong le ho ba fetola diswasi kapa metlae jwaloka "di-PRO" tsa mehleng tsa bolo ya maoto Afrika Borwa. Tseo ba di buang ha nako e ntse e ya ha

ngata ha di sa nkelwa hloohong di fetoha 'entertainment' ho ba bang. Boradipolotiki ba lokela ho tseba hore sena se ke ke sa eketsa tshehetso, tshehetso e tlišwa ke dipuisano tse otlolohileng le tshebetso e bonahalang.

Setlhare sa momahano ya moetapele le setjhaba ke boiteanyo ka ho otloloha ka puo esita le ho etsa mosebetsi e bonahalang; le ha e ka ba menyane hakae; batho ba kgahlwa ke ha tema e kgathwa, e seng dipuo feela mehloding ya ditaba. Ho etsa ditshepiso tse se nang motheo, tiisetso le nako ya ho di phetha ha ho molemo, ho mpa ho fetola sebui sa tsona motho ya senang nnete. Sena e ba qaleho ya ho theoha ha seriti le tshepo.

Ntlheng ya bobedi, boiteko ba mafapha a mang ka hara mmuso a tlisa tshepo ya tsoseletso ya ditshebeletso le tokiso. Boiteko bona mafapheng bo ka bonwang ka diketso bo tla fanaka tshepo le tumelo ya hore efeela diphethoho di tliile. Phano e fokolang ya ditshebeletso e bakwa hara tse ding ke: kgaello ya tsebo, ya ho rala maano, diketso tsa ka boomo tsa tshitiso ya tshebetso, tlhokeho ya mehlodi bakeng sa disebediswa, kgaello ya theko ya dikarolwana tsa ho lokisa metjhini le disebediswa tse ding, kgaello ya bahlanka ba nang le boitsebelo le

boiphihlelo ba mesebetsi mafapheng a fapaneng le kgaello ya tjelele esita le tshebediso e mpe, e bohlaswa ya ditjhelete. Ena ke ntlha e e kgolo e nang le tshwaetso tshepong le tumelong eo setjhaba se nang le yona ho baetapele. Ha ho sena pokello ya mehlopi e nepahetseng, ho sena maano le mehlodi ya matlole le ba phethahatsi ba mesebetsi ba nang le boiphihlelo tsamaisong ya ditaba tsa mmuso, mehlopi yohle e metle ya sepolotiki e se entse e foloditse!

Ha feela boetapele ba ANC bo kgethilweng ba didika le ba profensi bo sa nke mehato e bonahalang ho lokisa maemo, tshepo ya setjhaba e tla fela hanyane-hanyane. Ha feela makala a ANC profensing a sa iponahatse le ho etella mesebetsi ya setjhaba pele diteko tsa ho lokisa maemo di tla fetoha lefeela. Tieho ya ho nka mehato ya tokiso le ho phecola bokowa bo teng ha e fedise tshepo feela, empa e fana ka monyetla wa kgolo ya mathata le diphephetso. Ha mathata a eketseha ho tla ba thata ho kgutlisetsa dintho setlwaheding le ho hapa maikutlo a setjhaba dikgethong tse tlang.

ANC e sa na le monyetla wa ho ntlafatsa maemo le ho ikgabela dikgetho ka phesente e eketsehileng profensing ena ha feela ho ka fetolwa ditlwaelo le mekgwa ya tshebetso ho boetapele le bahlanka ba mmuso.

Mxolisi Dukwana and Polediso Motsoeneng, who are they?

They are leading figures in the ranks of ANC Provincial Executive Committee, namely; Provincial Chairperson and Provincial Secretary respectively

Mxolisi Dukwana

Comrade Mxolisi Dukwana is currently appointed as the MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements. He was born in Odendaalsrus in the Free State Province. After completing his teacher's training course at Mphohadi College in Kroonstad, he taught at Rearabetswe Secondary School at Kutlwanong, in Odendaalsrus from 1986 to 1993.

He played a leading role in the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) activities in the 1980s. In 1994, the first year of the new democratic dispensation, he assumed the role of Commissioner for the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

In 1996 he was appointed MEC for Education, a post he held until 1998. This was followed by a year as the African National Congress (ANC) Chief Whip of the majority party represented in the Free State Legislature.

From 1999 until 2001, Cde. Dukwana became the Deputy Speaker of the Free State Legislature serving in various committees in both the Legislature and the ANC. In 2001 he was elected as the Speaker of the Free State Legislature. In January 2008, Cde. Dukwana was appointed as MEC for Community Safety and Transport. He was also a Board Member (Trustee) of the Political Office Bearers Pension Fund. In October 2008, Cde. Dukwana was appointed as MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs until February 2012.

Cde Dukwana was elected as the ANC Provincial Treasurer in 2005. In 2008 he was re-elected as ANC Provincial Treasurer.

This is a particularly complex and vexing portfolio, that demands a value-driven, purposive, ingenious, prescient and pragmatic leader because, all else is affected by municipal governance and human settlements.

He previously served as the ANC Free State IPC Convener after the NEC dissolved the previous PEC, to stabilize, unite and renew the Province.

Comrade Mxolisi Dukwana is the newly-elected ANC Free State Provincial Chairperson elected at the ANC Free State 9th Provincial Conference held in January 2023.

He has played a pivotal role in providing valuable testimony at the State Capture Commission, popularly known as the Zondo Commission, to unravel the web of state capture in the Free State.

Polediso "Dihelele" Motsoeneng was born on 29 February 1968 in Bohlakong – Bethlehem, where he attended Motshepuwa Primary School. He completed high school at Thabo Thokoza High School and proceeded to Western Cape to pursue his studies at the Peninsula Technikon, where he took part in political activities of UDF and SASCO such as Release Mandela Campaign.

Like many politically conscious youth of the time, he was agitated by the tragic happenings of Soweto uprising and the subsequent events,

he became involved in student politics at an early age, took part in the struggles against Bantu education, and was actively involved in the political work and campaigns of UDF and SASCO, such the Release Mandela Campaign.

He was again active in organizing for the formation of Bohlakong Youth Congress, and affiliate of SAYCO and Bohlakong Student Congress linked to COSAS. He also became active in the programmes of civic formations until the unbanning of the ANC and other political parties.

Though not employed, he was instrumental in organizing for the formation of trade unions such as BOPTU (Bohlakong Progressive Teachers Union) a forerunner to SADTU, SAHRU, POTWA and others in his hometown of Bethlehem. His fearless activism led to his detention under the Internal Security Act and under state of emergency between 1985 and 1989 where spent time at Ventersburg Prison and again detained to spent time at Kroonstad prison. His painful story of run-ins with the security forces was recorded in detail in the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Following the unbanning of the ANC, in 1991 he joined the ANC and became active in the organising and launching the 1st branch of the ANC in Bethlehem, where he served in various positions, including being a regional executive committee member, and regional secretary of the reconfigured region of Thabo Mofutsanyana.

He also joined the national campaigns and organising team, where he was deployed in the areas such as North-West and Gauteng to support the elections campaign machinery in those provinces. In 2000, he was elected a ward Councillor of the ANC, served as a member of EXCO responsible for public works and later

deployed as the Speaker at Dihlabeng Local Municipality. He was again deployed to Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality as the MMC and Chief Whip. He also joined the public service, worked as a Director in the office of the Minister at the National Department of Sports and Recreation and later moved to join office of the Minister of Police until his redeployment to join the Free State legislature where he served as member of PROPAC.

In 2019, he was appointed together with others to serve as members of the PTT, later IPC after the disbandment of the then PEC by National Executive Committee. He served as IPC Deputy Coordinator until his election to the position of Provincial Secretary in January 2023.



"Arrest us, arrest us, if we have broken the law". Polediso and his comrades in an archive video screen grab, dare the police during one of many confrontations in the 90's



"The ANC must continue to make sure that our revolutionary struggle is revolutionary in every respect, and obeys the rule of any revolution, follows definite defined rules.

A Revolutionary behaves in a certain kind of way -

And he is distinguished and distinguishable from the criminal, from the vigilante, from the enemy agent."

President Oliver Tambo

Caleb Motshabi SACP District embarks on Red Saturday campaigns

Inspired by the historic and annual Red October Campaign Inspired, the South African Communist Party, Caleb Motshabi District, in pursuit of continuation of the Red October Campaign that focuses on increased activism for acquisition of land food and work among other things, has embarked on Red Saturday activities.

The Red Saturday is aimed at listening to and recording communities' concerns on issues including, inter alia, service delivery. The campaign started in the Che Guevara Branch, ward 32 in Botshabelo earlier this month.

According to the statement issued by the SACP in the district, the branch (Che Guevara), embarked on a Red Saturday activity which focused on listening to and recording of service delivery concerns of the Community and distribution of pamphlets that



SACP members, Che Guevara Branch, ward 32 in Botshabelo out to hear and take peoples concerns as part of the The Red Saturday activities

introduce the South African Communist Party to the people.'

“Some of the concerns people raised included unattended burst water pipes with water running in front of houses, illegal dumping sites which result in air pollution, very bad and neglected roads with potholes, regular water cuts often without prior warning, and the general complain of unresponsiveness of Councillors to Community

The current Red October Campaign will run up to October 2023 with the main focus, apart from issues of general service delivery, being on ensuring that the working class and the poor people have access to land, food and employment. concerns.” Says the Party in the statement. The party says: “People

need land - for settlement, for business purposes and land for producing their own food. We'll also be focusing on the building of co-operatives during the Red October Campaign as our Party's contribution to job creation.

The Red Saturdays and related activities will be rolled - out to different wards in the district going forward, and announcements will be made as to where these will be happening.”



Poor maintenance. and broken infrastructure are frequent and great concern to many communities

Books are critical tools in acquiring knowledge

Inculcating a culture of reading in children at an early stage does not only provide them with entertainment and leisure, or assist in sharpening their literary prowess, but it is an important part in acquiring knowledge in various fields of life.

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AGES 3-7

Renewal of the ANC top priority in the Free State

It is a common knowledge that one of the ANC's foremost priority is its renewal.

This process comes in the form of fixing the cracks and uniting members as well as mounting a strong recruitment drive. All these will contribute toward a strong and vibrant ANC. It will possibly edge the ANC closer to its former glory, its rightful place as a leader of society.

This process is perhaps more needed in the Free State than in any other area in the country. First, because the province is the birth place of the ANC; that in itself is a legacy that the people of this province should rightfully claim, be proud of and dearly protect.

Secondly, and more importantly, the recent debilitating and divisive tendencies that found their way in the belly of the province did not only cause weak structures, uninformed membership, but were also a direct blow to the ANC's image in the eyes of the public, especially the electorate. The latter is therefore a cautionary signal to the new leadership to also remember the election campaign as an important in the renewal process.

The Lekgotla document 'identified negative tendencies such as careerism, factionalism and gate keeping as key amongst challenges facing the ANC Free State.

To combat this, the Lekgotla resolved to develop a renewal charter which will elucidate the conduct of each member of the ANC

throughout the renewal process.' It

further 'reaffirmed the alliance is

a strategic centre of power and thus directed that an alliance summit must be convened within six months to strengthen the path to organisational renewal and carve out a common political programme.'

the mood has been set, and the timing is right!

While it is good to state that 'branches must intensify recruitment of new members and spare no effort in reaching out to members who got disillusioned by un-ANC tendencies of the past.' it is important to avoid the mistake of collecting 'dead wood' membership in the form disillusioned members and eschew the notion that quantity is better than quality.

The resources (institutional, leadership and time) are available, it is all systems go; the mood has been set, the timing is right!



South Africa and China trade dynamics



CHINA - SOUTH AFRICA

In 2020, China exported \$14.7B to South Africa. The main products that China exported to South Africa are Broadcasting Equipment (\$1.12B), Computers (\$784M), and Other Cloth Articles (\$456M). During the last 25 years the exports of China to South Africa have increased at an annualized rate of 13.4%, from \$640M in 1995 to \$14.7B in 2020.

In 2020, China did not export any services to South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA - CHINA

In 2020, South Africa exported \$11.9B to China. The main products that South Africa exported to China were Diamonds (\$3.18B), Manganese Ore (\$1.67B), and Iron Ore (\$1.28B). During the last 25 years the exports of South Africa to China have increased at an annualized rate of 14.4%, from \$408M in 1995 to \$11.9B in 2020.

In 2020, South Africa did not export any services to China.

COMPARISON

In 2020, China ranked 28 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI 0.96), and 1 in total exports (\$2.65T). That same year, South Africa ranked 54 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI 0.086), and 36 in total exports (\$102B).

LATEST TRENDS

DECEMBER, 2022

OVERVIEW

In December 2022, China exported \$2.16B and imported \$1.85B from South Africa, resulting in a positive trade balance of \$310M. Between December 2021 and December 2022 the exports of China have increased by \$249M (13%) from \$1.92B to \$2.16B, while imports decreased by \$-611M (-24.8%) from \$2.47B to \$1.85B.

TRADE

In December 2022, the top exports of China to South Africa were Refined Petroleum (\$248M), Cars (\$94.2M), Telephones (\$84M), Electric Batteries (\$80.7M), and Computers (\$56.3M). In December 2022 the top imports of China from South Africa were Gold (\$448M), Diamonds (\$240M), Chromium Ore (\$237M), Manganese Ore (\$199M), and Iron Ore (\$188M).

(\$199M), and Iron Ore (\$188M).

ORIGINS

In December 2022 the exports of China were mainly from Zhejiang Province (\$539M), Guangdong Province (\$343M), Shandong Province (\$229M), Jiangsu Province (\$204M), and Fujian Province (\$112M), while imports destinations were

mainly Beijing (\$545M), Guangdong Province (\$321M), Zhejiang Province (\$223M), Shanghai Province (\$131M), and Fujian Province (\$105M).

GROWTH

In December 2022, the increase in China's year-by-year exports to South Africa was explained primarily by an increase in product exports in Telephones (\$43.1M or 49.1%), Large Construction Vehicles (\$21.8M or 124%), and Electric Batteries (\$17.7M or 119%).

In December 2022, the decrease in China's year-by-year imports from South Africa was explained primarily by a decrease in product imports in Diamonds (\$-245M or -65.5%), Iron Ore (\$-141M or -22.8%), and Ferroalloys (\$-88.5M or -50.2%).

SOURCE: OEC WORLD

Qabathe on an oversight excursion

The MEC for Social Development in the Free State, Ms. Motlagomang "Mamiki" Qabathe mounted a drive to two local municipalities in the south-western part of the province as part of oversight responsibility. The two municipalities are among many in the Free State that are unable to provide proper services to residents resulting in increased social and economic burden.

She paid a visit to Kopanong Local Municipality to engage with the municipality's leadership regarding the Departmental Programmes in the area, with specific reference to the proposed Community Care Centre.

The municipality's mayor, councillor Xolani Tseletsele, led the delegation that met with the MEC and her entourage to discuss issues relating to the proposed community care centre. The facility will provide integrated services for orphans and vulnerable children, sex workers, men and women and LGBTQIA community.

In the discussions Qabathe highlighting services that Free State Department of Social Development is providing in that community. The building that is to be used as the proposed community care centre, has been provided by National Department of Public Works. Qabathe went on to see this place and also visited a project in the community (Risiba), which provides services for vulnerable children who are affected by HIV/AIDS and orphans within Kopanong Local Municipality.

She also went to Letsemeng Local Municipality for engagement with stakeholders that included SASSA, NDA and the Commission for Gender Equality. The visit provided an opportunity to see the status of the work the Department is doing in the area. The area's mayor, councillor Bonolo Mocwaledi and officials of the municipality took part in the oversight exercise. In the process. The Department and associated departments gave a comprehensive report in terms of the department's footprint in Koffiefontein, including the services that are rendered in the area.

UNICEF, more than 75 years providing humanitarian services

UNICEF, is a United Nations agency that is known and active in many countries around the world.

Originally called United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the agency is today officially known as United Nations Children's Fund.

UNICEF is responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. It is among the most widespread and recognisable social welfare organisations in the world. It is said to be active in 192 countries and territories, including the Republic of South Africa.

It was established in 1946 by the resolution 57(I) of the United Nations General Assembly, initially focusing on organising an action to raise a fund for the benefit of children, mainly children who were victims of war. It was thus started as a temporary emergency relief agency for providing food and clothing to children and mothers displaced by World War II. It became a permanent United Nations' agency in 1953 broadening its scope toward general programmes of children welfare. UNICEF's activities include providing immunizations and disease prevention, administering treatment for children and mothers with HIV, enhancing childhood and

maternal nutrition, improving sanitation, promoting education, and providing emergency relief in response to disasters.

Under apartheid in South Africa, UNICEF worked through non-governmental organisations to reach the most vulnerable. With the coming



UNICEF South Africa officials' visit to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of SA, Mr. Lechesa Tsenoli recently. From left: Christine Muhigana, Country Representative of UNICEF in SA, Mr Tsenoli, Muriel Mafico, Deputy Representative, UNICEF SA and Makiba Yamano, Chief, Child Protection, UNICEF SA.

of democracy in 1994, the Pretoria office opened and we have continued to work towards bettering the lives of all children in South Africa. In their website UNICEF South Africa explains: "UNICEF supports the South African Government in building a strategic response to the challenges faced by children in the areas of health, education and protection. We work closely with the National and Provincial Departments of Health, Basic Education, Social

Development and the Department for Women, Youth and People with Disabilities. Additionally, we also work with Statistics South Africa and the National Prosecuting Authority.

To assist with the implementation of plans and programmes, UNICEF partners with several non-governmental organisations and bodies such as the National Child Care and Protection Forum, The Nelson Mandela Foundation, the South African Council of Faith-based Organisations, The Jim Joel Foundation, Save the Children, UNFPA and UNAIDS.

In their website they further state: "We also work with academic and research institutions to assist with child-focused research and the development of concrete evidence to inform advocacy and policy dialogue. The Human Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Universities of Limpopo, Cape Town and Stellenbosch are our key partners in this endeavour. These partnerships contribute to the generation of child-centred statistics that can be used to monitor programmes to ensure they reach the most deprived children and women." (Source: UNICEF, WIKIPEDIA)

COMMENT



January and February are usually agenda setting months for the ANC and for the state. It is, in both instances, delivered through the president on behalf of his collective in the movement and for his collective in the cabinet respectively.

To remain in charge of this agenda setting responsibility it behoves us relating better, being responsive to and engaging the people frequently and regularly as we rebuild, renew the movement in general! Acceleration of progress in addressing the multiple crises meaningfully is crucial. We have an excellent opportunity to win back peoples confidence if we act urgently across all three spheres of government and the entire legislative sector as well.

We have to build on the strengths of the past victories in all six, five year terms in local, provincial and national elections. We remain the most significant presence in the majority of wards in the country!

Increasing the levels of coherence within our ranks, actively working together on the ground has huge potential to change the mood for the better for the movement! Mindful of putting people first we have to pursue social justice harnessing science all the time. We illustrate the challenge of doing so to deal, for example, with climate change.

On science and technology, we must take cue from the president of China when he said in 2018: "We must take satisfying the people's yearning for a better life as our stance on technology innovation, and take the key direction of technological innovation as favouring the people, benefiting the people, enriching the people and improving people's livelihood."

This is what Batho Pele, people first, means! *Our agenda!*



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



CONTINUOUS LEARNING TO DEVELOP CAPACITIES TO BE SUPPORTED - MASONDO

Cape Town Parliament

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Chairperson, Mr Amos Masondo said the capacitation of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Officials, and improvement of the overall support system, are the necessary interventions needed to increase Parliament's contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens.

He was speaking at the NCOP's training and development workshop for Members and officials held in Cape Town recently.

Mr Masondo said, as an institution that plays a great role in strengthening the creation of society where human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms are realised, it is incumbent upon Parliament to provide the necessary support to the public representatives and officials who support them.

He highlighted the importance of continuous training and capacitation of Members to maximise the institution's law-making, oversight and public participation efforts. He said possibilities presented by innovative ways of working explored during the period of the limitations that were imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fire that gutted the parliamentary precinct early last year, must be expanded.

The training session forms part of the 6th Parliament's capacity-building programme which commenced with the orientation and induction of MPs in June 2019. In attendance are NCOP MPs, Special Delegates from Provincial Legislatures, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) leaders, officials from Parliament and various legislatures.

Mr Masondo said the purpose of the training and development session is to ensure a viable Member-centric integrated personal development and to empower MPs to undertake their constitutional function of holding the Executive accountable.

He said over the years, further interventions to enhance experiential learning of MPs were organised and covered areas that are critical to the work of Members of Parliament. This training exercise, however, will revisit some of the items from previous years, and also deal with, among other things:

- * The usage and interpretation of laws and policies for effective and robust oversight;
- * Developing an effective municipal support and intervention mechanisms;
- * Parliamentary support systems; and
- * Building a training and development curricula.

Among the speakers on the first day, was the former Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Advocate Michael Masutha who made a presentation on the effective usage and interpretation of laws and policies for effective and

robust oversight. He also highlighted that Parliament's law-making function must always fall within the parameters and provisions of the Constitution.



Mr Amos Masondo

Other speakers included the Chief State advisor, Advocate Susan Masapu, the Gauteng Provincial Whip, Mr Mohammed Dangor, Professor Wessel Le Roux from the Dullar Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, NCOP Chief Whip, Mr Seiso Mohai, as well as MP, Kenny Mmoiemang and House Chairperson, Mr Jomo Nyambi.

Voting Procedures in the house, the effective usage and interpretation of the Parliamentary Rules, and interpretation of the Constitution for effective oversight are amongst key topics that were discussed on the first day. The Secretary to the NCOP, Advocate Modibeli Phindela addressed the session on the rules and procedures of Parliamentary sittings and meetings.

Mr Masondo said this training intervention must be understood in the context of the National Development Plan which directs state institutions to improve their performance through, among others, a commitment to high performance and a willingness to learn from experience; and in line with the 6th Parliament's efforts, over the years, to ensure that public representatives are empowered to facilitate the effective and efficient functioning of Parliament.

(EDITED VERSION ISSUED BY PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA)

SONA

Issues that concern South Africans the most

Load shedding

Immediate priority is to restore energy security. Action plan: to address the electricity shortfall of 4,000 to 6,000 MW. The plan outlined five key interventions:

- First*, fix Eskom's coal-fired power stations and improve the availability of existing supply.
- Second*, enable and accelerate private investment in generation capacity.
- Third*, accelerate procurement of new capacity from renewables, gas and battery storage.
- Four*, unleash businesses and households to invest in rooftop solar.
- Five*, fundamentally transform the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security.

Unemployment

- * The 4th South Africa Investment Conference raised R367 billion in investment commitments
- * Companies invested in new factories, call centres, solar power plants, undersea fibre optic cables, the expansion of production lines and the adoption of new technologies, resulting in new jobs and new opportunities for small emerging businesses.
- * Unlocking investment in the hemp and cannabis sector; The Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development and the Department of Health will address existing conditions for the cultivation of hemp and cannabis to allow outdoor cultivation and collection of harvests from traditional farmers.
- * Almost 1,000 black industrialists participating in the black industrialists programme.
- * Achieving greater levels of worker ownership in the economy; there are now more than 400,000 workers who own shares in the firms they work for.
- * The Employment Tax Incentive has been expanded to encourage businesses to hire more young people in large numbers

- * Amendments to the Businesses Act will be finalised to reduce regulatory impediments for SMMEs and co-operatives and make it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses.
- * There is a plan, through the Small Enterprise Finance Agency – SEFA – to provide R1.4 billion in financing to over 90,000 entrepreneurs.
- * The National Skills Fund will provide R800 million to develop skills in the digital and technology sector
- * The number of students entering artisan training in TVET colleges will be increased from 17,000 to 30,000 in the 2023 academic year
- * 150,000 school assistants started work at more than 22,000 schools.
- * Government in partnership with the SA SME Fund is working to establish a R10 billion fund to support SMME growth.
- * Presidential Employment Stimulus has now created over 1 million opportunities, reaching every province and district in our country.

Poverty and the rising cost of living

- * There are more than 25 million people who receive some form of income support, with around 60% of the budget is spent on what is known as the social wage.
- Government will continue the Social Relief of Distress Grant, which currently reaches around 7.8 million people and will ensure that existing social grants are increased to cushion the poor against rising inflation.
- * National Treasury is considering the feasibility of urgent measures to mitigate the impact of loadshedding on food prices
- * Take steps to unlock massive value for poor households by expediting the provision of title deeds for subsidised houses.
- * The number of children who receive the Early Childhood Development subsidy has more than doubled between 2019 and 2022, reaching one-and a half million children. The Department of Basic Education is streamlining the requirements for ECD centres to access support and enable thousands more to receive subsidies from government

- * The Sanitation Appropriate for Education Initiative – known as SAFE – together with government's Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative has built 55,000 appropriate toilets with resources from the public and private sector.

Crime and corruption

- * More than 10,000 new police recruits graduated from police academies and a further 10,000 will be recruited and trained this year
- * Multi-disciplinary Economic Infrastructure Task Teams are now operational in 20 identified hotspots
- * The police have been cracking down on cable theft; Government introduced a temporary ban on the export of scrap copper cable and certain metals to disrupt criminal syndicates and enable a new trading system to be put in place.
- * More funding will be made available in this budget for the police, the NPA and the Special Investigating Unit.
- * Second Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, held- to assess progress in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan, which adopted as a comprehensive, effective and united response to this pandemic
- * Singed into law are three key pieces of legislation that afford greater protection to survivors of gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are no longer able to use legislative loopholes to evade prosecution
- * Continue with improvement of the accessibility and functioning of Sexual Offences Courts and expand the network of Thuthuzela Care Centres.
- * The Industrial Development Corporation has earmarked approximately R9 billion to invest in women-led businesses
- * The National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, consisting of people from across society, is in place to advise on suitable mechanisms to stem corruption, including an overhaul of the institutional architecture for combatting corruption.
- * Working to capacitate the Witness Protection Unit and will introduce amendments to the Protected Disclosures Act and Witness Protection Act to strengthen protections for whistleblowers.
- * Over R7 billion has so far been returned to the state from state capture cases. To date, R12.9 billion of funds and assets have been frozen.

CHINA and US tension

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi



In a blunt internal memo leaked to the media, US Air Force General Michael Minihan predicted that the United States would be at war with China over Taiwan by 2025 and ordered his commanders to implement detailed preparations. Minihan claimed that that US and Taiwanese presidential elections in 2024 would provide China with the opportunity to act. In reality, it is US imperialism that is goading Beijing into war over Taiwan and actively planning and preparing for war against China, as the rest of Minihan's memo clearly demonstrates.

The memo continued: "We spent 2022 setting the foundation for victory. We will spend 2023 in crisp operational motion building on that foundation." Minihan ordered his commanders to: "Go faster. Drive readiness, integration, and agility for us and the Joint Force to deter, and if required, defeat China. This is the first of eight monthly directives from me." He said that the goal was "a fortified, ready, integrated, and agile Joint Force Maneuver Team ready to fight and win inside the first island chain." The first island chain is off the Chinese mainland in East Asia, running through Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. It is a key element of US strategic planning for war with China. Control of the first island chain would hem in Chinese aircraft and ships, paving the way for a naval blockade of China, and set the stage for a massive missile and air assault on mainland China, as envisaged in the Pentagon's AirSea Battle strategy.

In 2021, Admiral Phil Davidson, as he was about to retire as chief of the Indo-Pacific Command, predicted war with China over Taiwan by 2027. The prediction is referred to in US strategic circles as "Davidson's window." Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Patrick Ryder reiterated that the US national defence strategy identifies China as "the pacing challenge"—in other words, the chief threat to US global dominance. There is no doubt that even as the Biden administration is escalating the US-NATO war against Russia in Ukraine, it is preparing at breakneck speed for war with China. Not only is it consolidating its own military forces in the Indo-Pacific but it is strengthening its military alliances and strategic partnerships throughout the region.

The recent feverish accusations by US authorities and media outlets of an alleged Chinese spy balloon "hovering" over ballistic missile launch sites in Montana highlight a simmering tension between the two countries. From China's response and expert accounts, however, it appears that a clumsy, hard-to-manoeuvre, high-altitude weather test balloon was blown by winds across North America. On its current course, the balloon was expected to drift off the US east coast.

The claim that China would use

such outmoded and difficult-to-control means to conduct surveillance over sensitive nuclear war sites, rather than sophisticated low-orbit satellites, is patently ridiculous. But the hysteria points to the increasingly strident war propaganda emanating from Washington against China, as well as the potential for such an incident to be inflated to trigger a military conflict.

In publications that are written primarily for those within the state apparatus, a more sober assessment can be found. The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a leading think tank connected to US intelligence agencies, commented that "the most likely explanation is that this is an errant weather balloon that went astray—lost weather balloons are the basis of many 'UFO sightings.'" But in the media, such an appraisal is nowhere to be found. That the white orb is a "spy balloon" is taken as fact, and no section of the US media has even suggested the possibility of the most routine and reasonable explanation—that this was a peaceful research mission just like US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has conducted dozens of times.

The Pentagon said it had readied fighter jets, including F-22s, to shoot down the craft if ordered to do so by President Joe Biden. The White House abruptly used the incident to postpone a major two-day visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. Prominent figures in the US ruling establishment, including 2024 Republican presidential candidates ex-president Donald Trump and former South Carolina governor and UN ambassador Nikki Haley, demanded that the US military immediately shoot down the balloon.

Biden apparently took Pentagon advice not to blow up the errant balloon, citing the danger of falling debris from the craft, which was said to be the size of three buses. Yet the administration took the confrontational step of calling off Blinken's trip, just before he was due to embark. The top-level visit had been agreed between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping at a summit last November in Indonesia. Blinken was due to meet Xi to discuss the worsening US-China relations. The Chinese foreign ministry maintained that the balloon was a civilian airship used mainly for meteorological research. It said the airship had limited "self-steering" capabilities and "deviated far from its planned course" because of winds. "The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into US airspace due to force majeure.

Pentagon press secretary Brigadier General Patrick Ryder said "However, the fact is, we know that it's a surveillance balloon. And I'm

not going to be able to be more specific than that. We do know that the balloon has violated US airspace and international law, which is unacceptable." Singapore-based security analyst Alexander Neill, an adjunct fellow at Hawaii's Pacific Forum think tank said that "China has its own constellation of spy and military satellites that are far more important and effective in terms of watching the US." Therefore, the spy allegations are ridiculous and based on the anti-China hysteria.

An editorial in the *China Daily* issued a scathing statement that "Surveillance balloons being used as military technology dates back to the early 20th century, the technology is outdated, one can hardly imagine any nation like China still resorting to it today; at the same time, the shortest route between Beijing and Montana is over 9,000km, which makes it impossible to precisely control the flight of this or any balloon."

The Chinese Foreign Department responded that China strongly disapproves of and protests against the US attack on a civilian unmanned airship by force. The Chinese side has, after verification, repeatedly informed the US side of the civilian nature of the airship and conveyed that its entry into the US due to *force majeure* was totally unexpected. The Chinese side has clearly asked the US side to properly handle the matter in a calm, professional and restrained manner. The spokesperson of the US Department of Defence also noted that the balloon does not present a military or physical threat to people on the ground. Under such circumstances, the US use of force is a clear overreaction and a serious violation of international practice. China will resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the company concerned and reserves the right to make further responses if necessary.

The extraordinary outburst of anti-China propaganda is entirely hypocritical to say the least. The US military undoubtedly uses its network of satellites to spy on Chinese military bases and activities. These are supplemented by ongoing intelligence gathering by US aircraft and spy ships operating close to the Chinese mainland. Moreover, the Pentagon has orchestrated one military provocation after another in the South China Sea by sending warplanes and warships through airspace and waters claimed by China, in the name of "freedom of navigation."

The Chinese government and people strongly believe Taiwan to be their territory; and the official in the U.S. government visiting Taiwan is a clear provocation. Taiwan was invaded by Dutch colonists in 1624, only to be repulsed in 1662 by the Chinese national hero Zheng Chenggong. Taiwan became a full province in Qing Dynasty China in 1885. Ten years later the then Qing government lost Taiwan in a war with imperialist Japan. The Japanese were backed by the United States.

The then US President Nixon visited to China in February 1972 and the

countries issued the China-US Joint Communiqué in Shanghai, marking the normalization of China-US relations. The US stated: There are essential differences between China and the United States in their social systems and foreign policies. However, the two sides agreed that countries, regardless of their social systems, should conduct their relations on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, nonaggression against other states, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is only one China, and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. With this prospect in mind, it affirms the ultimate objective of the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan. In the meantime, it will progressively reduce its forces and military installations in Taiwan.

Taiwan is intimately connected to the U.S.'s overall strategy of developing a NATO-like infrastructure in the Pacific. U.S. military strategists and talking heads have become obsessed with likening Ukraine to Taiwan. Their argument is that Russia's special military operation in Ukraine means that the U.S. must escalate in Taiwan to protect the island from China. The US sees in the Taiwan question both a profitable venture for its defence industry and an opportunity to build the case for war with China. But the U.S.'s legitimacy is on the decline and China's prestige in Asia, the Pacific, and the rest of the world is on the rise. The U.S. doesn't merely seek alliances; it needs them.

Military encirclement and the host of aggressive policies that the US employs against China cannot succeed in isolation if they can succeed at all. The US understands that any conflict with China over Taiwan would require a level of support in the region like the servitude demonstrated by Europe against Russia.

Such a pursuit is incredibly reckless for a host of reasons. First, China presents no tangible military threat and in fact makes peace a fundamental priority in the international arena. China has only a single military base abroad and has not participated in a military conflict in more than four decades. Furthermore, while China seeks peaceful resolution to the issue of reunification with Taiwan, it will not tolerate any attempt by the U.S. to engineer independence or separatism. The so-called Taiwan "independence" is China's red-line, just as Russia's red-line was NATO expansion into Ukraine and beyond.

The U.S.'s provocations in Taiwan thus risk a hot war with China that would inevitably lead to nuclear exchange. A hot war with China would destroy whatever stability exists around the world and create an economic and human catastrophe far greater than what has occurred over the course of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine. The accelerating war with Russia and preparations for war with China—both nuclear-armed powers—testifies to the incredible recklessness with which US imperialism is pursuing its geo-strategic goals of dominating the vast Eurasian landmass and its human and material resources. The willingness to risk a nuclear catastrophe also underscores the depth of the economic and social crisis confronting global capitalism and the fear in US ruling circles of the re-emergence of the class struggle.

Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi
SACP Free State PEC Member
Writes in a personal capacity

(This article is based on the presentation to the SACP Caleb Motshabi District Weekly News Analysis on 07 February 2023)

ANC encouraged by ousting of Israeli representatives from African Union Summit

The African National Congress (ANC) is encouraged by the African Union's (AU) ousting of Israeli representatives from the African Union Summit presently underway in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This occurred against an attempt to undermine the current sitting AU Summit from considering a report that is supposed to guide discussions on whether Israel must be granted an observer status.

The ANC's stated views on apartheid Israel remains relevant to this day. Independent reports of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch firmly define the character of Israel as that of an apartheid state. Instead of awaiting outcomes of deliberations on their possible observer status, Israel simply chose to undermine the AU's 55 African member states.

Only a two-state solution, based on agreed international parameters, can bring an end to the hardships suffered by Palestinians at the hands of Israel forces.

The people of Palestine that includes women and children are subjected to the most horrendous deeds day in and day out. All peace-loving nations rooting for a world premised on a better life for all should be consistent in their call for apartheid Israel to be respectful of human life as well as past agreements on how to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The ANC calls on Israeli government to stop expropriation of ancestral Palestinian lands. Israel is reportedly escalating this expropriation and essentially transgressing international law. This provocation is done instead of directing efforts and energies towards creating conditions for meaningful talks between apartheid Israel and Palestine.

The ANC is against the AU granting apartheid Israel any observer status. Africa's colonial history and apartheid Israel's present oppressive nature towards Palestine demands that all pressures be applied for the sake of all Palestinian people, including women, children and families.

(Issued by the African National Congress)

FOCALpoint

Amílcar Cabral

African Marxist liberation leader

murdered 50 years ago by agents of Portuguese colonialism

By Carlos Lopes Pereira, Posted on 20 Jan 2023, WORKERS WORLD

(Continued)

Nothing can stop the march of history

Son of Cape Verdean parents, Cabral was born on Sept. 12, 1924, in the city of Bafatá, in the then-colony of Guinea. Years later, the family moved to the island of Santiago, in Cape Verde, and there, the young Amílcar finished elementary school. Between 1938 and 1944, he attended São Vicente High School. A brilliant student, he promoted cultural initiatives, wrote poetry, presided over the students' association and played soccer.

In 1945, Cabral came to Portugal with a scholarship and enrolled at the Instituto Superior de Agronomia in Lisbon. In the post-World War II environment, with the defeat of Nazi-fascism, the growing prestige of the Soviet Union, and the emergence of emancipatory struggles of peoples in Asia, Latin America and Africa, Cabral studied and socialized with other Portuguese and African youth.

Among his colleagues were Agostinho Neto, Mário de Andrade and Lúcio Lara, from Angola; Marcelino dos Santos and Noémia de Sousa, from Mozambique; Alda Espírito Santo, from São Tomé and Príncipe; Vasco Cabral, from Guinea, among others. Cabral participated in the activities of the Empire's Student House, created an African Studies Center (for the "re-Africanization of the spirits"), gave literacy classes to workers, demonstrated against the rise of NATO and was an active member of the Youth Democratic Unity Movement (MUD), which opposed the fascist dictatorship.

After finishing his degree and internships with high marks, he chose in 1952 to work for the Guinea Agricultural and Forestry Services. In the then-colony, as an agricultural engineer, Cabral held several positions and directed the agricultural census of the territory, thus deepening his knowledge of the reality on the ground. In 1954, he tried to create a sports and recreational association in Bissau, but the colonial authorities considered it subversive, forbade it and forced him to leave his native country.

Cabral builds a liberation movement

Cabral went on to live and work in Portugal and Angola – where he came into contact with patriots who would later form the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) – with brief trips to Guinea. On one of these trips, on Sept. 19, 1956, he founded the African Independence Party (PAI) in Bissau with other patriots, which later became the PAIGC. In January 1960, he left Lisbon for good, and in May he set up the PAIGC leadership in Conakry, in the Republic of Guinea [a former French colony bordering Guinea-Bissau].

From then on, Cabral and his companions – among them Luís Cabral, his brother, and Aristides Pereira, who would become the first presidents of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Republic of Cape Verde – prepared the conditions for the coming struggle. First he attempted, once again, a peaceful solution for the liquidation of colonial domination in the two territories. On Dec. 1, 1960, the PAIGC sent the Portuguese government a memorandum proposing negotiations on independence. It received no response.

Thus, faced with the total intransigence of the Portuguese fascist and colonialist dictatorship and, on the other hand, with the widening of the political struggle and the increase of international support, on Jan.

23, 1963, the PAIGC opened the armed struggle for national liberation in Guinea with an attack on the military barracks of Tite, in the south of the territory.

From then on the struggle developed constantly, both politically and militarily, and diplomatically, with successive successes by the PAIGC, which coordinated the liberation struggle with the MPLA, which began the armed struggle in Angola in 1961, and FRELIMO, which proclaimed a "general armed insurrection" in Mozambique in 1964.

In desperation, the colonialists tried to stop the PAIGC's advances – especially the proclamation in the liberated regions of the national state of Guinea-Bissau, the first in its history – by assassinating Amílcar Cabral.

A few days before his death, in his New Year's message to his party militants in January 1973, the PAIGC leader warned that



"the situation in Portugal is deteriorating rapidly, and the Portuguese people are asserting, with increasing vigour, their opposition to the criminal colonial war." And that for this reason, "the fascist colonial government and its agents in our land are in a hurry to see if they can change the situation before they are completely lost in their own land."

Anticipating the future, Cabral predicted: "But they are wasting their time, and they are wasting in vain and without glory the lives of the young Portuguese they send to

war. They will commit even more crimes against our people; they will make many more attempts and manoeuvres to destroy our Party and our struggle. They will certainly carry out many more acts of shameless aggression against neighbouring countries.

"But all in vain. Because no crime, no force, no manoeuvre or demagoguery of the criminal Portuguese colonialist aggressors will be able to stop the march of history, the irreversible march of our African people of Guinea and Cape Verde toward independence, peace and the true progress to which they are entitled."

(Continued)

The author, is a former member of the Secretariat of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), writes of African events for *Avante*, the newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party. Translation: John Catalinotto.

BNC STATEMENT

Mayor of Barcelona suspends all institutional ties with Israel

By Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC)

Barcelona Mayor suspends institutional relations with apartheid Israel, including twinning agreement with Tel Aviv, "until the Israeli authorities put an end to the system of violations of Palestinian human rights and fully comply with the obligations imposed on them by international law and the various United Nations resolutions."

The Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), the largest Palestinian coalition leading the **BDS movement** for freedom, justice and equality, **salutes the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and the grassroots groups** who helped end institutional links with



Ada Colau

apartheid Israel. **Barcelona has become the first city council to suspend ties with apartheid Tel Aviv** in solidarity with the Palestinian people, a move that is reminiscent of the historic and courageous city councils that pioneered cutting links with apartheid South Africa.

With the **current Israeli government, the most far-right, racist, sexist and homophobic ever**, accountability is more needed than ever to end its impunity and **#DismantleApartheid**. We call on institutions worldwide to follow in Barcelona's footsteps and end their own involvement in sustaining Israeli crimes against humanity.

OPEN LETTER

Palestinians in Gaza Salute Barcelona

Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC)

The Mayor of Gaza has written a letter to the Mayor of Barcelona saluting her decision to suspend ties with apartheid Israel.

On behalf of the people of Gaza and Palestine, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for your ongoing support and commitment to promoting human rights and justice for the Palestinian people.

Your recent decision to stand with the people of Gaza and Palestine has sent a powerful message of solidarity and support, and we are grateful for your leadership in raising awareness of the injustices faced by our people, including the ongoing system of apartheid.



We recognize that your support extends beyond this recent decision, and we are grateful for your continued efforts to promote equality and justice for all. Your actions provide hope and encouragement to those who have been struggling for justice and equality, and we are confident that other cities and countries will follow your lead in standing up against the injustices faced by the Palestinian people.

Once again, we offer our heartfelt thanks and commend your ongoing commitment to creating a more just and peaceful world for all.

Sincerely,
Dr. Yahya R. Sarraj

Mayor of Gaza
Head of Gaza Strip Municipalities Union



Re kgaba ka Diratswana



Mapotso Kena, Ph.D., Plant Pathology

O re fa dikeletso tsa tjalo e atlehileng ya meroho le dijalo tse ding diratswananeng tsa hae. *Ditaba tsena di fetolwetse le ho ngolwa ka Sesotho e le tsela ya ho ntshetsa pele le ho kgothaletsa ho bala puo ya Sesotho. O re ngolla mona boemong ba hae.

Tjalo ya Dihwete

Tsela ya ho jala dihwete

Lokisa sebaka sa tjalo ka ho phethola mobu botebo ba 30cm, e ba sedi hore sebaka ha se na majwe, kapa le mobu o entseng dikweleta. Ho kgothaletsa ho phethola mobu makgetlo a mabedi e le ho nolofatsa mobu le ho etsa bonnete ba hore ha ho majwe mobung oo. Se ke wa kenya podiswa kapa manyolo mobung hang pele o jala, ka ha sena se kgothaletsa ho hlaha ha mahlaku ho feta ho hola ha motso-tona (motlwang wa sehwele).

Mobu o nonneng haholo le ona o kgothaletsa kgolo e kgolo ya lekgaba la dihwete, le metso e petsohang ka lehare, mme e etsa le metso-boya e mebe. Masingwana a lokela ho arohana ka bophara ba 1m, mme ditselana dipakeng tsa tjalo di arohane ka 40cm ho isa ho 50cm. Masingwana a lokela ho phahamiswa ho lekaneng ho dumella metsi ho monyela hantle.

Ho kenya peo

Kenya peo ka ho otloloha masingwaneng.

Etsa ditselana tse fatilweng (*diforo*) tsa botebo ba lenala (1cm), mme e be di qaqolohana bophara ba matsoho a mabedi ho isa ho a mararo (20cm - 30cm). Kenya peo mobung e arohane sebaka sa manala a mabedi, 2cm ka hara ditselana tseo tse fatilweng.

Nosetsa hantle feela kamor'a ho kenya peo mobung. Maamong a ommeng, a tjhesang, kwahela ditselana tseo peo e kentsweng ho tsona ha sesane ka masalla a jwang bo kutilweng ho fihlela peo e mela matsatsing a supileng ho isa ho a leshome le metso e mene. Tlosa jwang e be o bo hasanya ha sesane pakeng tsa ditselana tseo ho jetsweng ho tsona.

Peo e lokela ho kenngwa ka ho otloloha seratswaneng (kapa hohle moo e ka jalwang teng) ho ena le ho tsetolla dimelana tse nyane tsa dihwete e le ho di jala nqa e nngwe. Dihwete ha di rata ha metso ya tsona e tshwenywa.

Keletso: Leka ho qalakanya peo ka ho lekana hore e se hole ka ho teteana.

Peo ya dihwete e nyenyane haholo mme ho bobebe ho e jala e teteane. Ha eba o le letshoho le sa tsitsang ha o jala, keletso ke hore o tswake peo le lelabathe le le sesane hore o tle o kgone ho e kenya hantle ka ho lekana mobung. Ke moo jwale o ka jalang motswako oo ka ho o tsipatsipa e le ho etsa hore peo e wele mobung hantle ka ho lekana. Kwahela peo ka masala a jwang bo kutilweng.

Etsa mobu o dule o le mongobo ka ho nosetsa ha sesane nako le nako. Hore peonyana ya sehwele e mele, mobu o e kwahetseng ha o a tshwanela ho ba thata ka hodimo, kwahela ka lebathe le le sesane, kapa ka se bitswang *vermiculaete* (se etsang hore mobu o bulehe, o fumane moya hantle empa o tswara mongobo), kwahela ka jwang bo kutilweng kapa

tse telele, athe ha ho le metsi haholo ho fana ka sebopelo se fapaneng le sa moo mongobo o haellang teng, mme mona moo ho leng metsi haholo ebile dihwete di ba le mmala o hlakileng ho feta tekano.

Dihwete di na le hore di nke nako pele di mela. Di hloka matsatsi a isang ho 14 - 21 ho hlaha, kahoo se ke wa tshoha ha di sa hlahe ka pele!

Ha o jala dihwete le *rapa* ho thusa hore bokahodimo ba mobu bo se be thata, mme ho bontsha hantle moo peo ya dihwete e kentsweng teng. Ho sebedisa sebaka hantle le ho fokotsa lehola - jala *rapa/mustard* tseo peo ya tsona e melang kapele pakeng tsa mela ya dihwete. Rapa e tla mela kapele hoo e reng ha dihwete di qala ho hola, yona e tla be e se e loketse ho koutlwa. Bakeng



Qaqolohanya mela bophara ba diatla tse pedi ho isa ho tse tharo. Kwahela ka podiswa ha sesane ka mor'a hore o kenye peo ya dihwete mobung. GrowVeg.com

podiswa e le ho thibela ho thatafala ha mobu ka hodimo. (Ha o kenya monwana mobung oo, o lokela ho ba mongobo, e seng ho ba metsi, boleleleng ba senoko se bohareng ba monwana). Ha mongobo o haella sena se baka dihwete tse tshesane,

sa kotulo e tswellang, lema dihwete 'bekeng tse ding le tse ding tse 4 ho tswella bohareng ba lehlabula.

(Di tswela pele)

COMMERCIALISATION OF EMERGING DAIRY FARMERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Dr Karabo Molomo



Commercial farming in South Africa has generally been associated with white commercial farmers. The commercialisation of emerging farmers (in dairy) has mainly been understood from a restricted perspective. Commercialisation of dairy emerging farmers is a successful participation and the ability to participate successfully in the commercial dairy value chain and output markets of South Africa.

This also entails increased recognition of dairy farming as a business venture, participation in input and output markets, updating and investing in efficient technologies, and formal solid links with other value-added dairy products.

African dairy sector comprises of a high-input commercial system and a smallholder or emerging industry.

Most emerging dairy farmers are found mainly in the former homelands. The efforts to transform emerging dairy farmers into commercial farmers in

South Africa over the past decades have not been successful.

The successful commercialisation of emerging dairy farmers requires government support, skills development, partnerships, and access to markets and finances. Market penetration is critical in

bringing emerging dairy farmers up to the commercial status.

Policy-makers had implemented commercialisation in many developing countries, like Ethiopia and Kenya, by increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and

alleviating poverty. Market-based output leads to more benefits than living production and, thus, household consumption.

Milk Producers Organisation (MPO) stressed that commercialising emerging dairy farmers is crucial for the South African dairy industry's long-term sustainability. It is also vital for national food security and will contribute to the government's strategic goal of developing and empowering previously disadvantaged farmers.

The level of success in achieving such commercialisation would be measured by how many emerging dairy farmers progress from emerging to commercial status.

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"From the cow to the customer - women in Bangladesh organise themselves". It is an indication of self-reliance and resourceful by ordinary people
Credit: FAO / Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

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