



Happy Ramadan
Ramadan Mubarak
رمضان مُبارك

ELECTIONS 2024
Let's do more together



A message to South Africans

Over the past 30 years, the people of South Africa, led by the ANC, have been at the forefront of a movement to construct a new South Africa.

Our country has come a long way. We have made incredible strides and achieved so much. However, even after 30 years of freedom and democracy, our journey towards the South Africa that our people truly desire is far from over. We still have more hills to climb.

In the 2024 elections, we will therefore go beyond celebrating accomplishments. We learn from the past, from mistakes and setbacks, as we learn from achievements.

We will focus on six priorities that are critical to speeding up transformation and improving the lives of the people: our jobs plan; building our industries to

include an inclusive economy; tackling the high cost of living; investing in people; defending democracy and advancing freedom; and building a better Africa and world.

We will do better, we will do more and we will do it faster. Together.

At the same time, there are forces that seek to use this election to undo the progress of democracy. It is crucial that together we defend our hard-won freedom.

By renewing the mandate of the ANC, we build on the foundations of the 30 years of freedom. We continue the journey towards a better life with equal opportunities for all South Africans, now and into the future.

Together, we will accomplish so much more.



Tlhokahalo ya mobu wa bodulo ke bothata Mangaung

Ho ipeha ha batho mobung bakeng sa bodulo ntle le ho latela tsela ya tshebetso ke taba e supang boima ba tshebetso ya ditaba tsa mobu naheng ya Afrika Borwa.

Ke taba e bonolo ho tlosa baiphehi ka taelo ya lekgotla la molao, empa ke ketso e sa faneng ka tharollo ya moshwelella ho tlosa batho moo ba seng ba ipehile teng. E boetse ke taba e nang le ditlamorao sedikadikweng sa dipolotiki. Sena se ka bontsha boikmisetso ba masepala ho sa dumelle le ho mamella diketso tse ka thoko ho molao le tseo ba bang ba nkang di sena boikarabelo. Athe hona ho ka supa hape ho sa kgathalle baahi ba tsielehileng ke masepala.

Thuo ya mobu ke e nngwe ya dintlha

tse ka sehlohong Afrika Borwa, mme ke taba e bakilweng le ho tshwaetswa ke maemo pusong ya *apartheid* ka ho otloloha. Maemo ana a siile bongata ba batho ba batsho ba sena mobu bakeng sa bodulo kapa mobu wa kgwebo. Batho ba futsanehileng ke bona ka sehlohong e leng diphofu tsa ho hloka mobu.

Ho ipeha ha ho bake mathata feela phanong ya ditshebetso tsa mantlha sebakeng sa ho ipeha. Ho boetse ho tlisa tiehiso kapa tshitiso kahong ya marangrang. Ntshetsopele ya ditshebetso tsa bophelo, thuto, tsamaiso ya batho le dithoto, ditshebetso tsa tshohanyetso



Mong Gregory Nthatsi IMAGE OR TAMBO SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

le ditshebetso tsa kgwebo mmoho le tshireletso ya setjhaba, ke dintlha tse ding tseo boipehi bo nang le kahlamelo e mpe ho tsona.

Ho sa tswa hlahella diketso tsa ho ipeha haufi le Lourier Park, Mangaung, moo baahi ba ileng ba phallela ka bongata ho ipeha. Sena se ile sa baka dipuopuo moo lehlakore le leng le neng le hlalosa ha ho ipeha ha baahi sebakeng sena e le ketso e lokileng, e tswalwang ke tlhokeho e kgolo ya mobu, athe ka lehlakoreng le leng e bile batho ba nyatsang boipehi bona.

Le ha ho le jwalo, taba ena ka sehlohong e ile ya kena makgotleng a dinyewe ho tiisa tharollo. Ena ke tharollo ya nakwana hobane bothata bona bo ke ke ba lokiswa sa moshwelella ke makgotla a dinyewe. Ke bothata bo lokelang ho lokiswa ke masepala ka taolo ya sepolotiki.

Majoro wa Phethahatso wa masepala wa Mangaung, Monghadi Gregory Nthatsi, o ile a hlalosa bothata ba kabelo ya mobu wa bodulo baahing ba masepala. O hlalositse ha ho lokelwa ho lokiswa taba ena ka maikutlo a phodileng e le ho qoba diketso tse tjena ka moso. O bontshitse kutlwelobohloko ho baahi ba tsielehileng ka lebaka la ho hloka dibaka tsa bodulo, empa ka ho tshwana a kgesa kgothaletso ya ho ipeha ha batho ba hlohang.

Ho sa le jwalo Nthatsi o sa tswa etela Botshabelo, ward 29, moo a neng a il'o fana ka *di-title deeds* ho ba bang ba baahi. Masepala o aba *di-title deeds* ka mekgahlelo e fapaneng ho kenyeletswa ho aba *di-title deeds* ho baahi ba nang le nako e telele ba dulang mobung o ba leng ho ona esita le ho batho ba ileng ba ahelwa matlo a di-RDP ke mmuso.

Ona ke mosebetsi o tswelang pele wa masepala o eteletsweng pele ke ANC wa boitlamo ho latela Lengolo la Tokoloho, *Freedom Charter*, hore ho tla le matlo, tshireletso ...!

ANC 2024 MANIFESTO

SIX PRIORITIES TO TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS

PRIORITY 1

Put South Africa to work

PRIORITY 2

Build our industries to achieve an inclusive economy.

Expand and modernise our industrial capacity.

Invest in infrastructure

Transform the financial sector to support employment and industrialisation.

Pursue a developmental macroeconomic framework.

Create more opportunities for young people

PRIORITY 3

Tackle the high cost of living.

Strengthen comprehensive social security.

Reduce the cost of living

PRIORITY 4

Invest in people.

Ensure local government delivers.

Provide clean water for all

Improve public transport and roads

Improve education and skills

Ensure health care for all

Use science and innovation for development

Build more houses and provide basic services to all

PRIORITY 5

Defend democracy and advance freedom.

Keeping our homes and streets safe, protect our borders

Support and assist military veterans

Fight Corruption.

Build the developmental state.

Promoting nation building and social cohesion.

Transformation led by Honest, Dedicated and Capable Leaders

PRIORITY 6

Build a better Africa and World

Ho hlokahala ha Chaine ke tahlehelo e kgolo

Majoro wa mehleng wa Phethahatso wa Setereke sa Motheo sa Mangaung Me. Faniswa Chaine, o hlokahetse. Ho hlokahala ha hae ho tlisitse maikutlo a tahlehelo e kgolo le maswabi ho mokgatlo wa ANC le ho baahi ka kakaretso.



Chaine e ne e le e mong wa diqhoku tsa pejana ditabeng tsa basebetsi le dipolitiking mokgatlong wa ANC. Polelong e ntshitsweng ke ANC e hlalosa ha a ile a kgethwa ho sebetsa jwaloka Motlatsi wa Majoro Lekgotleng la Motse la Nakwana la

Botshabelo pakeng tsa 2006 le 2011, mme kamorao ho moo a kgethwa e le Majoro wa Phethahatso wa Setereke sa Motheo – sena ke pele setereke se phahamisetswa boemong ba masepala wa Metropolitan.

Mongodi wa ANC boemong ba Profensi Monghadi Polediso Motsoeneng o boletse ha ANC e lahlehetswe ke motho ya neng a sebetsa ka thata mme a na le tjehebelopele.

“Batho ba tshwanang le Comrade Chaine ba tla ha nngwe bophelong. Re lehlohonolo jwaloka ANC ho bileng le moetapele wa boemo ba hae mokgatlong wa rona. Thuto le boikokobetso ba hae di tla tswela pele ho ba lesedi la tataiso ditkekong tse tswelang tsa ho ntjhafatsa mokgatlo o kgabane wa rona. E se e ka moya wa hae o ka fumana phomolo ka dinako tsohle.” Ho rialo Motsoeneng polelong e ntshitsweng ke ANC.

Mokomishenara ya Phahameng wa Afrika Borwa naheng ya Singapore, eo e kileng ya eba Mongodi wa Profensi wa ANC Foreisetata, Mme Madiepetsane Charlotte Lobbe, o ntshitse maikutlo a kutlwelobohloko le ho tlotla bophelo ba Faniswa Chaine.

Registered and first-time voters



A group of Mitchells Plain youth (recently registered and first-time voters) visiting Parliament of the RSA library today and engaging with the Public Education Office about parliament, its roles and functions and the importance of public participation in our democracy.

This was a programme jointly organised by Mitchells Plain Advice Office, Parliament's Public Education Office (PEO) and the Mitchells Plain Parliamentary Constituency Office. (CREDIT:PEO)

*'Learn from life,
learn from
people, learn
from books,
learn from the
experience of
others'*
**NEVER STOP
LEARNING'**
Amilcar Cabral



Baahi mmoho le Setho sa ANC sa Palamente, Monghadi Seiso Mohai mosebetsing o moholo wa ho qala seratswana sa setjhaba sa tjalo ya meroho e le karolo ya ho kenya moya wa ho iketsetsa tlhahisong ya dijo le kgothaletso ya kgwebo tse nnyenane setjhabeng, Ward 29, botshabelo, kerekeng ya Medium Catholic Apostolic.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN official warns of possible war crimes, rape as a weapon in Sudan

UN human rights chief says humanitarian aid is being blocked and sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war.

The United Nations human rights chief has said that the apparent deliberate denial of safe access for humanitarian agencies within war-torn Sudan could amount to a war crime.

“Sudan has become a living nightmare. Almost half of the population – 25 million people – are in urgent need of food and medical aid. Some 80 percent of hospitals have been put out of service,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, said.

The Sudan crisis “continues to be marked by an insidious disregard for human life”, he told the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, saying that many of the violations of international humanitarian law committed by the warring parties “may amount to war crimes, or other atrocity crimes”. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has been fighting Sudan’s army for control of the country since April last year in a war that has killed thousands, displaced millions inside and outside the country, and sparked warnings of famine.

Both sides “have killed thousands, seemingly without remorse”, Turk said, noting the use of heavy artillery, even in densely populated urban areas.

He said in 11 months, at least 14,600 people had been killed and 26,000 others injured. “Actual figures are undoubtedly much higher.”

Noting the implications of the apparent

denial of aid, he called on the warring parties to “meet their legal obligations by opening humanitarian corridors without delay, before more lives are lost”.

Aid supplies have been looted and humanitarian workers attacked, while international agencies and NGOs have complained about bureaucratic obstacles to get into the army-controlled hub of Port Sudan to get humanitarian assistance into the country.

Last month, the UN urged countries not to forget about civilians, appealing for \$4.1bn to meet their humanitarian needs and support the more than 1.5 million people who have fled to neighbouring countries.

“With more than eight million forced to flee within Sudan and to neighbouring countries, this crisis is upending the country and profoundly threatening peace, security and humanitarian conditions throughout the entire region,” Turk said.

Rape as a weapon of war

The rights chief also highlighted another weapon in Sudan’s continuing war.

“Sexual violence as a weapon of war, including rape, has been a defining – and despicable – characteristic of this crisis since the beginning,” he said.

Since last April, his team has documented 60 incidents of conflict-



Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees who have fled from the war in Sudan carry their belongings while arriving at a Transit Centre [File: Luis Tato/AFP]

related sexual violence, involving at least 120 victims across the country, the vast majority women and girls, he said but added that “these figures are sadly a vast underrepresentation of the reality.”

“Men in RSF uniform and armed men affiliated with the RSF, were reported to be responsible for 81 percent of the documented incidents,” Turk said.

According to a report to the UN Security Council, obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday, sexual violence by the RSF and its allied militia was widespread.

The panel of experts said that, according to reliable sources from Geneina, a city in west Darfur, women and girls as young as 14 were raped by RSF elements in a UN World Food Programme storage facility that the paramilitary force controlled, in their homes, or when returning home to collect belongings after being displaced by the violence. Additionally, 16 girls were reportedly kidnapped by RSF soldiers and raped in an RSF house.

“Racial slurs toward the Masalit and non-Arab community formed part of the attacks,” the panel said.

“Neighbourhoods and homes were continuously attacked, looted, burned and destroyed,” especially those where Masalit and other African communities lived, and their people were harassed, assaulted, sexually abused, and at times, executed.

The panel stressed that disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians – including torture, rape and

killing, as well as destruction of critical civilian infrastructure – constitute war crimes under the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

“Perpetrators of the horrific human rights violations and abuses must be held to account, without delay,” Turk said “And without delay, the international community must refocus its attention on this deplorable crisis before it descends even further into chaos. The future of the people of Sudan depends on it.”

SOURCE: NEWS AGENCIES

CHINA

Serving the people: How the CPPCC promotes consultative democracy

As a chief physician at Anhui Provincial Hospital, Liu Lianxin has been advocating better medical and healthcare service system in China. Liu, also a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), filed a proposal on adjusting medical service cost last year in this regard.

His concerns got the attention of the authorities, and more policies have been introduced to address issues such as over-treatment and excessive fees. Mechanisms for dynamic adjustments to medical service prices have been established in all provincial-level regions across the country, and medical service pricing has been put under government supervision and management.

Serving the people

The CPPCC National Committee, China’s top political advisory body, has adhered to the people-centered development philosophy and helped secure and improve people’s livelihoods, Wang Huning, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, said.

He made the remarks when delivering a work report at the opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC in Beijing.

The CPPCC National Committee has committed to serving the people, with CPPCC members serving the public based on reality, Wang said.

In-depth research was conducted in various areas of the people’s interests, such as the expansion of quality medical resources, employment and education, he added.

The work report also outlined the key tasks for the CPPCC National Committee in 2024, calling for staying on the frontline to learn the aspirations and demands of the people as well as the difficulties in the implementation of policies. Proposals adopted in

Over the year, CPPCC members have been active in submitting proposals and much of their concerns have been addressed in China’s policies. A total of 5,621 proposals have been filed.



The opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, March 4, 2024. /Xinhua

Of the 4,791 proposals registered, 99.9 percent were handled, according to Wang.

Economic development is a main area of concern for CPPCC members. Over

2,200 proposals have been put forward on building a high-level socialist market economy system and promoting high-level opening up over a year.

Proposals for accelerating the construction of world-class enterprises and optimizing the distribution and structural adjustment of state-owned capital were adopted in the action plan for deepening reform and upgrading of state-owned enterprises.

While proposals to optimize the business environment for small- and medium-sized enterprises and guide private enterprises to strengthen their self-construction have been reflected in the guideline on boosting the growth of the private economy.

The CPPCC aims to improve the effectiveness of democratic supervision, put the whole-process people’s democracy into practice, and better serve the scientific and democratic decision-making, Wang said. CREDIT CGTN

Part 2 ... (From Part 1 in Edition 51)

IN ADDITION TO THESE CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHTS:

The ANC has passed Laws to protect and give rights to workers which we never tasted under Apartheid. Apartheid is to blame for ills facing the workers and the working class, this includes the difficulties facing the ANC in Government. The ANC has done this through enacting Employment Legislations that include the following:
The Labour Relations Act of 1995 (LRA) prevents, Unfair Dismissals, Unfair Labour Practices, and Victimisation. It regulates the Registration and Governance of Trade Unions while promoting orderly Collective Bargaining. It further set up the CCMA (Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration) to expeditiously resolve unfair dismissals, unfair labour practise, retrenchments, and other related disputes. The LRA also creates the specialised employment related courts being the Labour Court and the Labour Appeal Court. The LRA regulates the Right to Strike and introduced a detailed process to ensure that workers could take part in a Protected Strike. This Act also promotes Centralised Bargaining that helps workers to supply solidarity to vulnerable workers.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act No 75 of 1997, which provides that all workers decent minimum conditions; including leave, reasonable hours of work and overtime pay. In support to the BCEA the ANC Government has also introduced the National Minimum Wage Act 9 of 2018 (NMWA) that sets the National Minimum Wage and allows the CCMA to resolve disputes of unpaid workers. The Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 (SDA) in the main introduces the Sector Education Training Authorities (SETA's) requires all employers to contribute 1% of employee reward to the Skills Levy to support the skills levy grant system. The skills levy supports the Learnership and Skills Programme Grants, Bursaries, and Workplace Experience for Unemployed Learners. The SDA supports recognition of workers' existing skills gained through experience called Recognition of Prior Learning.

Workers and unions have a voice in developing Training Plans in Workplaces and Industries. The Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 (EEA) prohibits unfair discrimination in the workplace and introduces affirmative action. It requires employers to do more to promote representation of Black people and Women workers in more senior and better paying positions. The health and safety laws (e.g. Health and Safety Act, Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA) and the Mine Health Safety Act (MHSA)) have been consolidated and give workers many rights, including the right to form Workplace Committees to ensure health and safety, the right to compensation for job-related injuries and diseases, and the right to refuse doing dangerous work.

The ANC government has also prohibited compulsory testing for diseases such as HIV and AIDS. These laws provided workers with a comprehensive package that workers all over the world would feel lucky to have. Political Parties who are asking workers to vote for them opposed these laws protecting workers in parliament, and still want to weaken them. Like the employers, they complain that these laws give too much protection to workers which often impedes investment. The ANC has given our people a Voice in the State through Democratic Institutions at all levels.

The ANC government has set up consultative processes, including NEDLAC that let poor people's organisations like COSATU influence policy decisions. It has set up a framework for strong, participatory local government through Local Labour Forum, Ward Meetings of all categories. It has also set up School and Hospital Boards and other structures to aid communities in overseeing their Local Institutions. If the ANC loses power, the right-wing political parties like the DA, Action SA, Freedom Front, African Christian Democratic Party do not make it a secret that they will reverse these gains made by the ANC.

SOCIAL GAINS AND RIGHTS

In addition, the ANC government has built a million houses that supply shelter to millions of people. Improved access to education by building thousands of new classrooms

and ensured that 4.5 million children receive free meals at school. Extended social grants to Seven million more people, including both old-age and childcare grants. Extended clean water to over 80% of all households, and electricity to over 70% of households. Ensured all our people have fair access to healthcare, with free healthcare for mothers and children under six years old and built hundreds of new clinics. Developed plans to roll out treatment of AIDS with anti-retroviral drugs, which can stop the disease from worsening for years. We know that progress has often been slower than we expected when we won the great victory against apartheid ten years ago. We could not overcome three hundred years of colonialism and apartheid in a single decade. Only the ANC can make government do even more for transformation and, where needed, deal with problem areas.

COSATU stays unhappy with government's record on jobs. COSATU is unhappy with job losses, and job creation has been terribly slow. Moreover, casual, outsourced, and informal jobs have replaced permanent, quality jobs. It must be known that COSATU still disagrees with the government's Austerity measures. We will continue to campaign against privatisation of basic services. We believe Government should have moved much faster to develop a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Strategy for HIV and Aids. We are happy on how the ANC Government managed the pandemic although there are sizeable wastages, disregard of vaccines from China, Brazil, Russia, and Cuba, possibly because the funds were controlled by the IMF and the World Bank. Still, the gains of the past thirty years far outweigh the setbacks. As an independent organisation, COSATU can always disagree with the ANC Government on issues.

Endorsing the ANC during the elections does not mean those disagreements suddenly disappear. But the areas where we agree far outweigh the areas of disagreements. Hence the request to workers. In contrast, we can never agree on key principles with the other parties aligned to the Bosses and the Rich. COSATU will continue to engage the ANC around Key Policy issues. But we can only reach our goals if we as workers make sure that the ANC scores a strong win in this election. We must take forward our programme toward 2035, which we agreed at our Congress last year. In it, we said COSATU must make sure workers have a strong voice in elections, in ANC structures, and in all Democratic Institutions. Therefore, critical that all our Shop Stewards, activists and members work for an ANC Victory and close ranks. We must campaign so that all workers and communities vote ANC in defence of hard-won achievements. That is the only way we can Protect Workers' Rights and their Political and Social Gains. Every worker must vote ANC.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING.

Elections have consequences. Every vote matters. You have the power to make key decisions on the quality of life you want for yourself, your family, and your community. Voting is your chance to stand up for the issues you care about like affordable housing, economic justice, environmental protection, and quality education, quality jobs, self-employment, skills development and total emancipation of the workers and the working class. It is your right. Not voting is giving up your voice. Today, most South African citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to vote in National and Provincial elections, but voting was not a right prior to 1994.

The right to franchise in South Africa has a complex history. Before the Union in 1910, the franchise was discriminatory. However, the journey towards universal adult franchise began, and achieved in 1994 when all South Africans, regardless of race, were able to vote in Democratic Elections. The process involved significant struggles and changes in legislation over the years. We now have the Constitution which guarantees us the right to vote, remember right became limited soon after the WW1 and WW2 wars which we fought side by side with our fellow citizens but at the end of it they disposed us, and unleashed separate development, underdevelopment, and other forms of hubris conundrums. Today we have this right at the behest of unwavering sacrifices of our people

who sacrificed their lives and for us to gain freedoms we have that cannot be compromised by chronic pseudo politicians whose intentions is to collapse the revolution by selling it to the highest bidder. Our vote is not free, has conditions attached to our list of demands from the ruling party. It is your money.

One way or the other, every person in our community pays taxes – both citizens and non-citizens. And yet, most people do not know the use of money. Voting is your chance to choose how your taxation, such as added funding for the national Health Insurance, Health Care Services, and a comprehensive and responsive Social Security Services. This happens both through your vote on specific propositions and ballot measures, as well as those we elect to leadership positions that commit to supporting key social services in our communities. Deal with the crisis of social reproduction, abject poverty, destitute and homelessness, apprehend crime against citizens, eradicate backwardness and behaviours and live within the spirit of UBUNTU.

Advance the worker control phenomenon for workers to penetrate the key sites of production through progressive collective investments to better the lives of the workers and the working across generations. Voting is an opportunity for change for the better. It cannot be business as usual for politicians who after being voted then decide who to align with in their luxurious board rooms, in fact we need to delink luxury from political responsibilities, more emphasis be on accountability, transparency, and that there is no law shall be passed without our voices of endorsement.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Voting gives you that chance! There are social issues affected by elections, including (but not limited to) gay marriage, reproductive rights, environmental issues, public education. Social issues affect everyone in one way or another. To have a say in who gets to decide social agendas, it is essential to vote. The community depends on you! Our communities of family, friends, loved ones, neighbours, siblings and children. We may not know how important voting is, while others cannot vote. Make the decision to vote to be a voice for yourself and those around you. Make sure your voice must be the loudest and your vote is your Health. VOTE ANC! To help have influence in your community during these general elections. COSATU, SACP, SANCO and progressive forces says VOTE the ANC to Protect yourselves from subjugation. Seize the moment and never regret!

URGENT ACTION BY ALL WORKERS

By visiting our website, you can check your registration status, voting locations, and download other resources to help get out the vote in your community. If you do not qualify to vote, you can still take part through volunteering.

GET INFORMED.

Read up on issues (both Local and National) and figure out where you stand. Be able to offer helpful information about what to expect on next year's ballot, the face of the campaign is President Cyril Ramaphosa, and each voter must know the ANC brand in totality as there are black green and gold parties who look to confuse voters.

NEVER GET CONFUSED.

Your vote is in defence of the Revolution Against Capitalism, Right Wings, Conservatism and White Supremacy to forever subjugate Africans.

DO NOT GIVE UP NOR SUBMERGE.

The overly confident ANC must relook how the electoral act has been compromising it for years in memorial.

GET OUT AND TALK TO PEOPLE.

Even if you cannot vote, you can still voice opinions in public forums. When people engage each other about the issues, we stand to become better-informed citizens. Volunteer.

ALUTA CONTINUA!

Mandela condemns US and Europe (Germany) for continued atrocities against Palestinians

Nelson Mandela, the global icon and South Africa's first democratic President's grandson, Member of Parliament, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela of the Royal House of Mandela, delivered a hard-hitting - yet heart-wrenching speech delivered at the invitation by the Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine, Manu PINEDA in Strasbourg France a short while ago.

Mandela said his address is dedicated to to the babies and young children of Gaza, who many have lost their lives. "Their lives motivate me and should motivate all of us to continue the struggle for a free Palestine and a new world in which the lives, dignity and fundamental human rights are accorded to all." He said.

"It is indeed an indictment on all of us that Palestinians who are struggling and striving for no less than these very values, yet for more than seven decades now are denied these values and have faced occupation, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity on a grand scale whilst the world watches on in shock and disbelief." He added.

He said "the prevailing political climate in the world has been shaped by the hegemony of the West and its advancement of its own self-serving interests at the expense of the very values it purports to defend. Apartheid Israel and its occupation and genocide exists and persists because it advances the geo-political agenda of the USA in the Middle East. "Despite the professed Charter of Fundamental Human Rights it appears that Europe has aligned itself with the Zionist entity and does its bidding. There are noteworthy exceptions to this."

Mandela says despite this, many citizens of the world sees through the base behaviour of humanity - those who support Israel's genocidal acts against the Palestinian people: "that the prevailing political climate in the world has been shaped by the hegemony of the West and its advancement of its own self-serving interests at the expense of the very values it purports to defend. Apartheid Israel and its occupation and genocide exists and persists because it advances the geo-political agenda of the USA in the Middle East.

He fingered Germany as one of the countries in Europe that supports Israel. "We must consider what legal action is open to us in the light of German complicity with the unfolding genocide in Palestine." He said.

He made a call to institutions like the the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine, to drive the call for an immediate ceasefire, intensify lobbying efforts for the implementation of the interim measures pronounced by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in respect of the flow of humanitarian aid given the looming catastrophe evident from daily fatalities and menacingly creeping in of hunger and malnutrition, with deaths directly caused by the Apartheid Israel's carpet bombing, especially in Rafah, Gaza.



COSATU mourns the passing of a revolutionary, Professor Eddie Webster

The celebrated activist and academic Professor Edward 'Eddie' Webster's passing has prompted a wide of reaction - sympathy and condolences. These echoed his work, a true testament of the sacrifice he made in advancement of society.

His role in advocating the cause of workers is evident in the statement issued by one of South Africa's biggest worker organisation, **Congress of South African Trade Unions, (COSATU)**. The statement read in part: It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to a comrade who contributed so much to the development of workers' struggles and



credit.wits.j

our progressive labour laws and through his voluminous research and collaborations with the labour movement. COSATU sends its deepest condolences to the Webster family, his colleagues, comrades and friends.

Professor Webster dedicated his entire life to the field of sociology, economics, labour and politics. The cultivation of his knowledge included many qualifications from various institutions. His illustrious career included his many years at the University of the Witwatersrand where he served as Professor Emeritus in the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP) for almost 40 years until his passing.

Throughout his time at the University of the Witwatersrand, as the Head of the Department of Sociology, in 1998 -1995 and in the year 2000 to 2002, he spearheaded the transformation of the curriculum and the empowerment of staff, particularly that of African scholars.

He played a significant role in the introduction of disciplines in this field, which have produced numerous key industrial relations scholars.

Professor Webster was passionate about research in particular the evolving labour landscape and left an indelible mark in the study of the sociology of work and labour in South Africa.

His work earned him widespread international recognition, including though his seven books and over 100 academic articles. In 2004, Professor Webster was rated top sociologist in South Africa by the National Research Foundation.

His devotion to workers, the trade union movement and the liberation of South Africa saw him leave an indelible mark on those who crossed his outstanding career.

COSATU and its Affiliates are particularly indebted to the leadership role he played in the development of the Global Labour University offering academic opportunities to many trade union activists across the world as well as the Chris Hani Institute as a resource for the Federation and the South African Communist Party.

He will be remembered as one of a unique generation of young white university students in the darkest days of apartheid, who not only refused to allow universities to continue on the path of white privilege but sought at considerable risk to their careers and lives, to place their skills at the disposal of the trade union movement experiencing the most brutal suppression by the state.

Edward Webster was born on 29 March 1942 and educated at Selborne College. He obtained a BA Honours degree and University Education Diploma from Rhodes University, an MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University, and a Bachelor of Philosophy from York University. He obtained his PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand.

COMMENT



Come Wednesday, 29 May 2024, so that we register our convincing victory in the election to continue the painful work of cleaning ourselves- we know *Lewatle le a itlhatwa!* We need time to continue the urgent task to clean our state to pursue the six priorities reported on here.

The pace of improving the quality of lives of the people must be accelerated. We have to do that even as we rebuilt the trust between us and the people here at home and globally in solidarity with Palestinian people, the Cuban people among other places! *Free Palestine. Free Palestine! Free Cuba* from the tyranny of their neighbour the United States of America.

Proactive work to deal with people's need for land and services is urgent. The state of the economy is improving, the result also of investment the president campaigned for and is bearing fruits as time progresses. The state-owned entities /companies have turned a corner for the better, we heard during SONA giving hope to expansion and retention of jobs.

Work is underway to implement the national health insurance for the betterment of the quality of health services improves seriously toward all in our country! To achieve the above we need stability, peace in our neighbourhoods especially for women and children - violence against women and children must be stopped where we live, where we work, where we play and rest, where we walk.

Safe and secure must be visible, practical in all these places. And, toward May 29 and afterward we must make sure no one disrupts this crucial now historical peaceful and fair outcomes. Our people, the country deserves that as we rebuilt to impose ethical conduct and integrity in the management of public and private affairs!

The courts are hard at work dealing with many cases that the NPA, the Hawks and the SIU have submitted trying the accused and claiming huge amounts of money from those who got the money irregularly.

We have to defend the National Democratic Revolution against counter revolution. We have to ensure the alliance retains the power to continue the fight both internally and externally in defence of the people!



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



NA & NCOP PASS SEVERAL BILLS

The two Houses of Parliament have both passed several bills, this pursuant to the Parliament's legislative mandate.

The National Assembly, NA, on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 passed the following bills:-

the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, the Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill, the Deeds Registries Amendment (DRA) Bill, as well as the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill.

Revenue Laws Amendment Bill

The Revenue Laws Amendment Bill brings changes to the retirement fund system in South Africa, specifically the introduction of a two-pot retirement system.

The two-pot retirement system aims to provide flexibility for fund members to access their retirement savings during emergencies, without necessitating resignation. Traditional retirement systems primarily focus on long-term savings, often lacking the adaptability to address immediate financial crises.

This reform strives to strike a balance between long-term security and immediate needs, recognising life's unpredictability. It permits fund members to access a portion of their savings during crises.

Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill

The Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill aims to improve the current phytosanitary system in South Africa to meet the requirements of major trading partners and international agreements and treaties. The Bill also supports the government's goals of sustainable natural resource management, effective national regulation, and risk management systems, as well as increasing the agriculture sector's contribution to the country's economic growth and development.

The main objectives of the Bill are, among others, to provide phytosanitary measures that will prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of regulated pests, ultimately safeguarding South African agriculture and natural plant resources. These new measures will support safe and fair international and domestic trade, maintain current export markets, establish new markets, promote crop production and food security programmes, and create jobs.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development briefed the Committee on the Bill on 19 May 2023. The Bill was advertised from 23 June to 21 July 2023, inviting members of the public and interested parties to submit written comments. The Committee concluded its deliberations and adopted the Bill on 5 December 2023, recommending that the National Assembly adopt it during its sitting today.

Deeds Registries Amendment Bill

The Deeds Registries Amendment Bill seeks to, among other things, amend the Deeds Registries Act of 1937. The amendments aim to streamline certain administrative provisions. It also seeks to provide for the recording of land tenure rights; further regulating the powers of the Minister and the Deeds Regulation Board as well as the Boards composition; extend the application of waivers of preference; and introduce further punitive measures for deviant conduct.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development briefed the Committee about the Bill on 19 May 2023. The Bill was advertised, inviting members of the public and stakeholders or interested parties to submit written comments from 23 June to 21 July 2023. The Committee held various deliberations on the Bill and adopted the report on 5 December 2023.

Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill

The Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill seeks to, among others, empower the Minister of Finance to make regulations for the effective implementation of matters relating to development charges and to amend the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) of 2013.

Some of the technical amendments made to the Bill include the change to the development charge definition. The current definition clarifies that a development charge may contribute to the cost of capital infrastructure assets for engineering services or such cost, as well as the cost of land for parks and open spaces in respect of an application for the use of land for residential purposes.

Another amendment includes the capital infrastructure assets definition. The proposed amendment defines capital infrastructure asset as land, property, building, or any other immovable asset, including plant and equipment that accede thereto, which is required for the provision of an engineering service, parks and open spaces, or a municipal service. The Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill, and the Deeds Registry Bill will now be sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence. The Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill will be sent to the President for assent.

Later on Tuesday, 27 February 2024, the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, during its virtual plenary passed the Eskom Debt Relief Amendment Bill, the Divorce Amendment Bill and the Cannabis for Private Purpose Bill.

Eskom Debt Relief Amendment Bill:

The Eskom Debt Relief Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament on 1 November 2023 when the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, presented the 2023 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS).

The Bill aims to amend the Eskom Debt Relief Act of 2023 (which currently provides for interest-free loans) to provide for payment of interest by Eskom on amounts advanced as a loan. The Bill's new adjustment provides an opportunity to the Minister of Finance to set the rate of interest and should Eskom not comply with the established requirements, the Minister can reduce the amounts paid to this state-owned electricity company.

Furthermore, the Bill allows the National Treasury to closely monitor Eskom's compliance with the conditions through a newly formed Eskom Quarterly Monitoring Task Team. Also, the Bill recommends that if Eskom does not fulfil any of the considered measures there can also be a delay in the conversion of the loan, the balance being carried over until 31 March 2026, higher payable interest, and various other related restrained actions for non-compliance. One of the most noteworthy conditions of the loan is that the reduction may not exceed five percent of the total amount for the applicable financial year and must be disclosed in the National Treasury's next quarterly report to the relevant parliamentary committees.

In adopting the Bill, the House has also endorsed that National Treasury, together with Eskom, should - within 60 days of the adoption of the Report by the House - take steps to ensure that the interest charged to Eskom is not passed on to poor and vulnerable consumers and Parliament, through its relevant committees, should continue to monitor the implementation of the Eskom debt relief programme.

Divorce Amendment Bill:

The Divorce Amendment Bill (B22 of 2023) seeks to amend the Divorce Act, which the Constitutional Court in the *Women's Legal Centre Trust v President of the Republic of South Africa and Others* case earlier declared unconstitutional since it excluded Muslim marriages. The non-recognition of Muslim marriages in civil law meant that a person who is married in terms of Islamic law only had no right to approach a court of law for a decree of divorce. This resulted in a failure to safeguard the interests of Muslim women and minor or dependent children of Muslim marriages in the same way as children of other marriages on the

dissolution of the marriage. Furthermore, the Act failed to provide for the redistribution of

assets and to provide for the forfeiture of patrimonial benefits on the dissolution of the Muslim marriage on the same terms as other dissolved marriages.

The Bill seeks to rectify these failures and allow persons in Muslim marriages to get divorced in terms of the civil law. The Bill, however, does not constitute or replace an Islamic divorce and persons, who are in Muslim marriages and wish to be granted a religious divorce, will still need to follow Islamic law.

Cannabis for Private Purpose Bill:

The Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill was introduced in Parliament on 1 September 2020. This Bill aims to address the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development and *Others v Prince (Prince)* judgment, which broadly focused on considerations relating to the right of privacy of adults using cannabis for private purposes.

This rewording of the Bill as tabled and deliberated on by the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services up until its meeting on 12 September last year, had a narrow adult-centred focus of the private-purpose utilisation of cannabis.

Following this meeting, the committee requested permission from the National Assembly to extend the subject of the Bill to include considerations for what is in the best interest of children. This means that the committee had to extend its scope and also look at the use and/or possession of cannabis by a child.

According to the Bill, there is a prescribed quantity of cannabis that an adult can cultivate and possess in private and smoking and consumption of cannabis in public is prohibited. In this regard, the Bill expresses that it is an offence to smoke cannabis in a public place, in a vehicle on a public road, or in the immediate presence of any non-consenting adult person/child.

The Bill proposes certain limitations for utilisation, possession and cultivation of cannabis particularly in the presence of children. Any person who uses cannabis in a private place in the immediate presence of a child or non-consenting adult person as contemplated in section 2(2)(a), is guilty of an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R2 000.

It is also worth noting that, the Cannabis for Private Purpose Bill also does not propose protection and neither suggesting any provision to use cannabis for traditional purposes and it is not at all aimed to condone the use of cannabis for commercial intentions. Also, as afore-mentioned the Bill extremely prohibits children to possess, deal and smoke or consume cannabis.

Having considered all the committees' recommendations, the NCOP has adopted the reports, and the Bills will now be sent to President Cyril Ramaphosa for assent. (Edited)

issued by Parliament, RSA



Declaration of the 7th African Continental Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba

Mbombela, South Africa 15-17 January 2024

...Continued from previous edition

For 31 years since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution annually for the United States to end its illegal blockade of Cuba. Of all countries, only the US and the apartheid Israeli regime, which has unleashed a genocide of the Palestinian people, have consistently voted against the resolution. The United States has intransigently disregarded both the United Nations and the global community, which have condemned and called for an end to its blockade of Cuba. Also, it has maintained its occupation of the Cuban territory of Guantanamo Bay despite international condemnation and calls to end it unconditionally with immediate effect.

The 7th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference believes that Now is the time for additional efforts in the struggle for a peaceful and just world order. Consistent with our continuing condemnation of the US blockade of Cuba, its extraterritorial impacts and foreign occupation of Guantanamo Bay, the Conference adopted a Programme of Action (an Addendum to this Declaration).

The Programme of Action contains concrete actions of united efforts to raise awareness and intensify peaceful political protests, directed at United States embassies in our countries, against the unjust and illegal blockade of Cuba; against the unjust occupation of Guantanamo Bay; against regime change agenda and other destabilisation mechanisms in Cuba; and against the inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of states that allegedly sponsor terrorism

We further commit to deepen collaborative ties between Cuba and Africa (starting within our respective countries) in various sectors, strengthen people to people and diaspora solidarity; and cooperation in the areas of health, education, science and technology, as well as culture, sports, government to government, tourism, diplomatic and a range of other areas, and amongst various sectors, especially women and youth, set out in the Programme of Action.

Conference welcomes the commitment by FRELIMO, the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) to host the next, 8th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference in Mozambique.

The conference reiterated its commitment to stand firmly with all oppressed people of the world, especially in Africa and South America, including the struggle against patriarchy and vow to continue to work for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. In this regard, the Conference adopted a special resolution on the genocide in Palestine.

Conference pledged our unwavering support to and solidarity with the Cuban revolutionary government and people in defence of Cuba's fundamental right to self-determination, not least their right and pursuit of socialism as their chosen transformation and development trajectory.

The 7th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference held in South Africa rises determined to continue and expand Africa's unwavering support and solidarity with Cuba. We make a Clarion call to the peace and freedom loving people, organisations and governments of our continent to rally support for the Cuban people, and to work tirelessly for an immediate end to the unilateral economic blockade and other imperialist actions against the people and government of Cuba.

Adopted on 18 January 2024, Mbombela City, South Africa

Resolutions of the 7th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference on Palestine

We, the delegates at the 7th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference, held in Mpumalanga South Africa from 15-17 January 2024 condemn the fascist genocide being perpetrated by the apartheid Israeli Zionist regime against the peoples of Palestine.

We equally, condemn the United States of America support for the genocide being perpetuated in Gaza. President Biden like Prime Minister Netanyahu's hands will forever be stained with the blood of the thousands of non-combatant innocent men, women and children of Gaza.

We strongly condemn the mass detentions, continual occupation of Palestinian homes and land, and other violations of human rights against the peoples of Palestine.

The daily mass murder of citizens by the Israeli Defence Force has turned Gaza into a concentration camp and death chamber of Palestine. By allowing and being active participants in the above heinous acts, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Biden have taken over where Hitler and Goebels left off. We condemn the genocide committed at their behest and sanction.

We support the principled internationalists decision of the South African government for having arraigned a charge of genocide against Israel at the Peace Palace in the Hague, Netherlands.

We pledge our support for the struggle of the people of Palestine for human rights, dignity, freedom and their inalienable right to self-determination.

We urge an urgent cease fire and the immediate end of hostilities, and for urgent humanitarian assistance to the peoples of Gaza.

ADDENDUM

AFRICA CUBA SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME OF ACTION

As presented, amended and adopted by Plenary on 17 January 2024

The 7th Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference, held in White River Mpumalanga in South Africa, from 15- 17 January 2024, adopts the following programme of action until the next Conference, in order to galvanise and unite all progressive forces on the African continent in solidarity to the Cuban Revolution:

On Education, Health and Science and Technology

* Strengthen cooperation on health, including telemedicine, pharmaceuticals, combating disease, health promotion, training of medical personnel, and support the work of the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specialized in Disasters and Serious Epidemics.

* Encourage cooperation and exchange programmes between universities, academics and students.

* Maintain partnerships in training doctors and engineers, consider Cuban teachers at the high school level, and ensure appropriate recognition of Cuban degrees.

* Embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution, integrate technology in education and administrative systems, job creation and collaborate with Cuba on telemedicine.

* Support cooperation amongst continental, regional and country research institutions on technology with relevant Cuban institutions.

* Explore how Cuba addresses climate change, analyse media narratives, and partner with institutions for educational initiatives.



On Pan African Solidarity Action and Coordination

* Adopts the declaration of an annual Cuban Solidarity Focus Week, culminating in an African Day of Solidarity with Cuba on 23 March each year. The day of action should have mass protests to the US embassies, and also highlight the issues of US financial and economic blockage against Cuba. The focus week should include lectures, cultural activities, screening of documentaries and other local and national actions in all countries, to raise awareness, educate our citizens on Cuba and campaign for the immediate end to the economic blockade against Cuba. Add important Cuban dates, such as 26 July to our calendars, to raise further awareness on Cuban Solidarity.

* Promote and be consistent with the legacy of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz and the Cuban people in Africa, in the form of in-person and/or virtual events, conferences, exhibitions, panels, political events in different countries to remember their contribution to the liberation struggles.

* Establish a Pan-African Continental and In-Country coordination network/mechanism to streamline collaborative efforts, and encourage to create Cuban friendship societies in countries where they don't exist.

* The coordination network should coordinate the implementation and monitoring of African solidarity efforts agreed on at this and future conferences, with the host country reporting to the next Africa Cuba Solidarity Conference on the implementation of this programme of action.

* Stress the need to create a Cuban Pan African Solidarity Fund to support solidarity, with fundraising activities such as crowdfunding and contributions from individuals and states.

* The pan African coordinating mechanism should also create a database of all organisations, networks and societies working on Cuban solidarity in the continent, in order to facilitate cooperation and exchange of information so that we support each other's solidarity activities.

On Economic Solidarity and Cooperation

* Strengthen economic cooperation between Cuba and our countries in such areas as telemedicine, agriculture and agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other common sectors, including on trade, investments, business to business, entrepreneurship, exchanges and technology transfer.

* Collaborate activities in trade, finance and economy in defiance of the blockade, through state enterprises, the African Continental Free Trade Area, BRICS, the African Union and other forums, in order to promote developmental trade and self-determination, as well as country to country developmental trade agreements.

* In particular, address the inability of the Cuban embassies in our countries to use financial and other banking facilities, by developing policies that forces our banks not to defy international laws.

* Supports the active collaboration between trade unions in Nigeria, Namibia and South Africa and the Cuban trade union federations, and encourage trade unions across Africa and in the global trade union movement, to follow these examples.

* Review policy and legislative environments that prohibit trades and economic relations with Cuba.

* Encourage tourism as part of solidarity: enable free movement through liaising visa requirements, explore direct flights to Cuba and work with travel agents such as Amistur Cuba towards the establishment of an African brigade. Note the 1 May International brigade and the need to revive the initiative.

(Read more in the next issue about People to People and Diaspora Solidarity, Cultural Solidarity, Women and Youth Solidarity and more)



HOW US IMPERIALISM DESTABILISED AFRICA

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi

The Democratic Alliance has written to the US to intervene in the upcoming National and Provincial general elections on 29 May 2024. This demonstrates that the DA undermines the electoral process of our country and it owes it allegiance to its handlers in the US.

The atrocities committed by US in Africa speaks volumes. The liberation of our country came through selfless sacrifices of our fallen martyrs and assistance from the international communities. US was not one of them. In fact, US never played any meaningful role in the struggle for liberation in Africa, except destabilising the liberation movements and supporting the white minority regimes like Apartheid South Africa and apartheid Israel. The US is responsible for a countless acts of genocide committed in Africa and the world over. It is both active and complicit in the ongoing NAKBA and genocide in Palestine.

The US was a longstanding ally of a powerful dictator, Mobutu, in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The US actually supported Mobutu over the years, to drive U.S. interests in the Great Lakes Region, but by 1996, they had decided to let him go. The the invasion of the Congo by Rwanda and Uganda came just a few years after the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. When the U.S. needed a new ally in the Great Lakes Region, they felt that Mobutu had reached his "sell-by" date, and therefore, given the shifting alliances in the region, the CIA appointed someone new, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda. He was the new strongman picked by the U.S.

The US came to nurture rebellions in the Great Lakes Region, first in Uganda, then in Rwanda. Kagame's army, which was then part of the Ugandan army, invaded and toppled Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, and that triggered the Rwandan social dynamics that had been exacerbated in colonial times. The colonial masters, starting with the Germans, then the Belgians, had planted seeds of division by saying that the Tutsi cattle keepers were a race superior to the Hutu farmers. The Tutsi monarchy dominated the Hutu before then, but the colonizers worsened that class divide that erupted in the Rwandan Genocide.

Rwanda and Uganda joined Congolese rebels to take over in Kinshasa and drive the US policy agenda behind the new president, Laurent Kabila. But the US did not anticipate that Kabila would try to be his own man, and drive a nationalist agenda. He not only began to rebuild the Congolese state, but also tried to get rid of the Rwandan and Congolese troops who had helped him drive Mobutu from power. He told Rwanda and Uganda that they needed to pack their things and go. Kabila also had to die because he was challenging US interests and Bretton Woods institutions by changing the national currency and planning to pay off the International Monetary Fund and World Bank debt. It seemed that he was killed by one of his own but it has since been declassified that the US planned to kill Kabila with the Rwandan Special Forces.

The Rwandan and Ugandan militaries have both been built, trained, and funded by the United States. But their interests were not peace or development of the region but serving the multinational corporations of the United States and the Bretton Woods institutions and securing the natural resources of the DRC. By 1966, the coups in Congo and Ghana prevented the left from retaining power. Other, lesser-known coups—against Louis Rwagasore of Burundi in 1961 and against Modibo Keita of Mali in 1967—also define a continent of coups. These coups, many of them undertaken by militaries on behalf of the imperialists, were studied carefully by Ruth First in her book *The Barrel of a Gun: Political Power in Africa and the Coup d'État*, which argued that these coups came because the military was a holdover from the colonial period, other state institutions were weak, and radical forces were too fragmented to drive an agenda.

In an even more desperate move, US had unscrupulously extended the war into North Vietnam. It was turning "special warfare" into a regional war. In unleashing armed aggression to interfere in Dominican affairs and in

invading Cuba, the US has proven that it does not respect territorial integrity and constitutional sovereignty of other nations. It has done so by supporting the rebel groups in Mozambique and Angola to destabilise the post-

independence in Africa. This was post World War II where US had turned a "cold war" into a "shooting war" and escalated the war from a small scale to a medium scale, threatening to fight on a big scale. It has used every conventional weapon and threatened to use nuclear weapons. The road US has travelled and is still pursuing is the same road travelled by Hitler which led to genocide and paved way for the World War II.

The constellation of events unfolding around the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) demands a clarifying and edifying update to capture the essence of developments in the heart of the African continent. DRC has the critical mineral resources needed by the industries of the U.S. and Western Europe. The DRC is a country the size of Western Europe, straddling the equator and, unlike any other African nation, is bordered by nine other countries. It is the second-largest country on the continent in terms of area and the fourth-largest in terms of population, with an estimated 100 million inhabitants. It is a part of the second largest rainforest on the planet and vital in the fight against the climate emergency. In addition, the DRC is the largest producer of cobalt in the world with 70% of the world's production, making it crucial to the green energy transition. Cobalt is a key ingredient in the production of rechargeable batteries.

However, the US and European nations do not be directly involved in Africa, so they are using Rwanda as a proxy. The tiny Rwanda has become not only the top gold producer but also the top coltan producer in the region, thanks to minerals looted in the DRC. The US is using the same strategy by using Ukraine in a proxy war against Russia. The United States and the West have supported their own agenda but also that of Rwanda's Tutsi elite. The Rwandan population is about 85% Hutu and only 15% Tutsis, but the Tutsi minority dominates and wants to extend that domination to the DRC with the support of the United States and the rest of the West.

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood delivered the warning recently at an emergency meeting of the United Nations security council called by France as violence has worsened in Congo's mineral-rich east, which borders Rwanda. He said Rwanda and Congo, along with other "regional actors," should immediately resume diplomatic talks. The United States, as the top supporter of Rwanda, has more power to stop this war by telling Rwanda to stop, but it seems like they are only paying lip services. If it is serious about the cease fire it must tell Rwanda that it should withdraw its troops or it won't get any more money.

A recent Africa confidential report identifies key strategic and economic imperatives for Rwanda's recent resuscitation of the defunct M23. They include: Access and control of minerals such as coltan, tin, and gold; rising export earnings from the sale of Congo's gold as a reason for international confidence in its bond offerings; and control of road and trade networks. A new regional road being built by Uganda and Congo threatens to cut Rwanda out of lucrative regional trade between the port city of Mombasa and Congo. US imperialism is an ugly force. At its heart is the desire for total control. There is the desire for political control, the denial of the right of people around the world to maintain their own sovereignty. There is the desire for control of access to economic resources, to make sure that only certain countries decide on behalf of corporations what should be done to our resources.

There is the desire for control of our societies and cultures, colonizing our minds and our aesthetics, our way of life and our way of thinking. Imperialism is not a matter of the past. The habits and institutions of imperialism remain today, deeply embedded in our social life. The illegal sanctions put in place by the United States against about thirty countries—including Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and Iran—is an example

of the habits of imperialism, the arrogance to suffocate any process that is not dominated by the United States.

Given its history of undermining the world peace, the US cannot be entrusted with the internal affairs of South Africa. It is the common enemy of the people of the world which has caused countless miseries and destabilisation through its imperialist agenda. By comparison, South Africa is playing a peace keeping role in the international arena while the US is either the

perpetrator or an accomplice. This is demonstrated in countries like Palestine and DRC. DA is rapidly exposing itself as a party of white minority privileges and big capital and it sought to safeguard these with the backing of the imperialists.

Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi ia
SACP Free State Province Member. He writes in a personal capacity

Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct (IEIP)

unique platform to deliver basic and post school educational programmes *By Dr Mfanzelwe Shoji*

The concept of the Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct (IEIP) emanates from a vision of the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, who envisioned to establish the precinct to build on the unique mix of educational institutions in a relatively confined geographic space within Imbali township, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. Dr Blade Nzimande said in Indumiso Campus, April 2021, during IEIP community engagement that government has decided to pilot the Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct in Imbali township because the specific collection of education institutions in this locality provide the perfect location for an education precinct model to be implemented and piloted.

The Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct aims to align skills development and innovation which will be able to prepare intellectually astute and skilled students ready to deal with the need of the 21st century.

Imbali township is eminently suitable for this precinct development as it already has close proximity institutions which cover the full range of education tiers, including an early childhood learning facility, a variety of school and post-school facilities, including a university campus (Durban University of Technology), a school for the disabled (Ekukhanyeni), uMgungundlovu TVET campus, two high schools (Sukuma Comprehensive High School and ZibukeZulu Technical High School), another two primary schools (Mfundwenhle and Funulwazi) and other

strategic plans.

The lessons learnt from establishing the IEIP therefore offer an important model for the evolving national educational imperatives, forging a vision of education as an integral component of specific (for example, health care, teacher education and training) and broad-based development (technical and intellectual skills for urban, peri-urban, and rural development as well as concurrent primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary skills development¹ for the economy) in South Africa.

The conceptualization of the project started in 2014 and started to function optimally in 2021. The Project Manager and Project administrator were appointed in March 2021. The first three years (March 2021 to December 2023) involved community engagement and liaising with various stakeholders in the form of private sector, non-governmental organisations, tertiary institutions, faith-based organisations, and other key government departments. The aim of the engagement was to share with stakeholders, philosophy behind the establishment of the precinct and urge stakeholders to support and assist the precinct to grow.

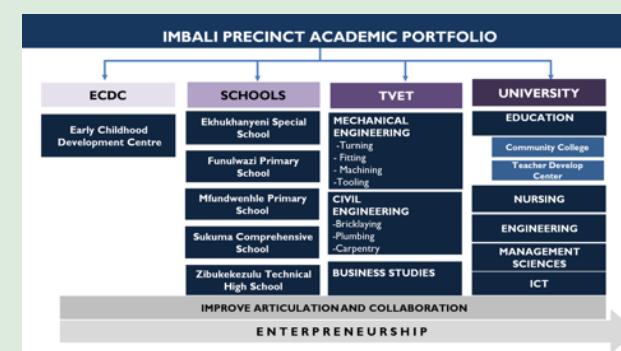
At the beginning of this year (2024), Durban University of Technology (DUT) seconded Dr Joe Molete to be the Chief Executive Officer. Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct is hosted by Durban University of Technology as the champion institution that champions all precinct programmes. The precinct has its own Board of Directors led by its chairperson. Minister has established the steering committee (Steering committee has its own chairperson whose different from Board chairperson) to oversee overall implementation of the project. Steering committee members are drawn from prominent educational institutions, community development partners and local industries.

Amongst the programmes that the Precinct will undertake in the next three years (2024-2026) include the activities.

- Refurbishment and conversion of Imbali lodge to be a state-of-the-art student accommodation.
- Development of the ICT and Tech hub which will include establishment of the community internet café, IEIP multi-media hub (Music and Video studio, Mlab coding project)
- Development of smart building hub
- Focused early childhood development programmes targeting local ECDs.
- Series of community engagement programmes (career guidance sessions with schools, soccer tournament, community healing programmes, environmental and cleaning campaign, and other human rights programmes)

In conclusion, the Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct is positioned as hub of innovation and entrepreneurship including development of a science park as part of the precinct.

Dr Mfanzelwe Shoji (Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct Project Manager)



related amenities. (See diagram below).

Imbali township boasts other historic sites like Manaye hall (which was the last place where our first democratically elected President, Dr Nelson Mandela, addressed his last political meeting before he was arrested in Howick, some 40 kilometers from Imbali township), heroes' acre cemeteries (where Moses Mabhida is buried) and other important tourist sites.

Minister Nzimande's idea is to make education relevant to the learning needs of the City and establish the Precinct as a place of innovation in education, relevant on a national scale. As such, the precinct is conceptualized as both a geographic space and as a conceptual space. It offers the potential to address learning needs in the City of Msunduzi, particularly in areas such as education and health, sport and recreation, and on-going professional development, strengthening links and articulation between schools, post-school educational institutions, industry, and other relevant partners. The precinct creates the potential to innovate and provide impetus for a number of education related initiatives that form part of provincial and national policy documents and



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.

Tokiso ya Mobu

Kamoo o ka o ka lokisang mobu bakeng sa ho jala

Jwaloka ha re ile ra bolela dikgatisong tse fetileng, mobu o phetseng hantle ke katleho ya seratswana se phetseng hantle. Ha eba dijalo tsa hao seratswaneng di sa tlokome, karabo ya hoo e mobung. Mobu o phetseng hantle wa seratswana o etsa dijalo tse phetseng hantle tse tletseng phepo, tse sa kgathatsweng ke dikokwanyana tse tshwenyang ha bobebe, le mafu le ho kgathatseha ha dijalo.

Ho latelang ke mehato e 3 e potlakileng ya ho lokisa mobu o phetseng hantle le tataiso ho isa mobung o phetseng hantle.

Mokgwa o ka pele: Mehato e meraro (3)

Ho latela ditsela tse tharo tsa sethatho tseo o ka di etsang pele o jala e le karolo ya taolo ya mobu o phetseng hantle:

- Tlosa majwe le masalla:** Ho phethola le ho ntsha jwang, sebedisa kgarafu ho seha mokote sebopeho sa mahlakore a tsheletseng a lekanang (*square*), mme o a suthisa ka kgarafu moo o tlong ho jala teng
- Phethola mobu:** Ha e ba ke seratswana sa hao sa pele, phethola mobu bonyane ho ya botebo ba 20cm (30cm e ka etsa ho lekaneng), hore metso e kgone ho fihla tlaase.

Kenya manyolo: Monontsha kapa manyolo a kgale ha a fe dijalo dijo feela, empa empa a fana ka maemo ao metsi le moya di monyelang ha bonolo mobung, mme di nolofatsa mobu hore moya (*oxygen*) e kene hantle mobung bakeng sa dijalo, ho tshisa le ho tshetsa (tiisa) metso ya sejalo. Hasanya monontsha kapa manyolo a sebaka sa 5cm ho isa ho 7 cm mobung. Haeba ke seratswana sa hao sa pele mme o batla mobu o motle, o kgothaletsa ho o kenya monontsha. Ha eba seratswana sa hao ke sa kgale, ho kgothaletsa hore o se ke wa phethola mobu empa o tlohele monontsha ka hodim'a mobu. Hona ho beha peo ya lehola powaneng mme ha ho tshwenye sebopeho sa mobu. Hona ho boela ho eketsa dinonomsane e leng se molemo seratswaneng.

Batalatsa sebaka sa moo o tlo' jala seratswaneng: Sebedisa haraka ya tshope kapa mohoma ho batalatsa mobu sebakeng sa moo o tlang ho jala teng seratswaneng.

Temoso: Haeba o dula sebakeng se phodileng, etsa sebaka sa tjalo se phahaphahame ho thusa nosetso, mobu o batang o oma kapele, mme o futhumala kapele. Hape kwahela sebaka seo o tlang ho jala ho sona ka polasitiki e ntsho kapa

cardboard ho thiba kganya le ho tshireletsa sebaka lehlweng, puleng le kgoholehong.



Tokiso ya sebaka sa seratswana e bohlokwa pele o jala. Hobane mobu o phetholwe, o lokelwa ho batalatsa ka haraka e le karolo ya tokisetso ya tjalo.

Setshwantsho: K State Research and Extension

Temoso: Haeba seratswana sa hao se le lehola le le ngata mme e le hona o qalang seratswaneng, kwahela mobu ka polasitiki e bonaletsang (*solarization*) ho ya ho feleng ha mariha. Hang ha peo ya lehola e hlaha, tsohla dimelana tseo tsa lehola kapa o di ntsho ka mohoma. O se ke wa phethola mobu, o ka tloha wa hlahisa peo ya lehola le leng e ntjha ho bokahodimo ba mobu – mohopolo ke ho

ntsha lehola le seng le le ka hodim'a mobu. Hang ha o etsa motheo wa mobu o nonneng, o mmala o leng lefifi ho feta setlwaeding, seratswana se tla ba bobebe ho sebetseha selemo ho pota le ka moso!

Ho phethola mobu ho tebileng – tseba mobu wa hao

Na mobu o letsopa kapa o lehlabathe? Na mobu ke o nang le bodila (*acidic*) kapa o se nang bodila (*alkaline*)? Na mobu o hloka dijo kapa o tletse phepo? Ha eba o batla ho ntlafatsa katleho seratswana sa hao ka hohlehole, nka nako ho tseba mofuta wa mobu o seratswaneng sa hao. Ho bohlokwa ho tseba hore mobu o

seratswaneng sa hao o bopehile jwang hobane o tla tseba ha eba hona le seo o ka se etsang ho o ntlafatsa. Ho ba le mobu o motle ke taba ya bohlokwa katlehong ya hao jwaloka mojadi wa seratswana, mme ho tla qetella ho entse tshetso ya seratswana e be bobebe.

Re tla qoqa ka dikarolo tse tharo tsa bohlokwa kgatisong e latelang

Kgwebo ya Temo le AI (*Artificial Intelligence*)

Ho sibolla ditsela tse ntjha tsa temo le thuo ho tla thusa haholo mabapi le tiisetso ya dijo le ntshetsopele ya temo. Tshibollo ena e ka tlosa hape le theho ya mesebetsi e metjha e itshetlehleng ho thekenoloji lefapheng la temo.

Ho tloha tsamaisong ya temo ya diphoofole ho ya ho tjalo ya dijalo bakeng sa tlhahiso ya dijo thekenoloji e ntjha e tla fetola sebopeho, e tla etsa mesebetsi o be bobebe, o phethwe ka pele le ka nepo esita le ka boleng bo hodimo.

Thekenoloji e ntjha e tla bang le tshwaetso e atileng temong ke ya Bohlae ba Maiketsetso, AI (*Artificial Intelligence*), bo kenyeletsang *di-robots* tsa mofuta ho phetha mesebetsi e itseng.

Tse ding tsa *di-robots* ke difofane tse fofiswang di se na bafofisi ka hare ho tsona hobane boholo ba tsona di nyane ho ka kenya mofofisi ka har'a tsona. Di tsejwa ha ngata ka lebitso la *di-Drone*.

Mekgatlolo ya temo le boramapolasi ka bonngwe ba ka sebedisa *di-drone* ho etsa meralo ya masimo kapa makgulo, katoloso kapa meralo ya dibaka tsa kgwebo. Di ka sebediswa *di-drone* ho hlahloba meralo (*infrastructure*) nako le nako polasing kapa dibakeng tsa kgwebo.

E meng ya mesebetsi ya bohlokwa eo *di-drone* di ka e etsang temong e kenyeletsa e latelang;

*Ho lekola mobu (bophelo le

popeho ya mobu, mongobo le motjheso le tse ding) tshimong kapa serapeng seo ho tlang ho jalwa ho sona.

*Ho kenya peo mobung

* Ho nyanyatsa moriana/tjhefu dijalong ho thibela dikokwanyana le mafu

*Ho lekola kgolo ya dijalo nako le nako

*Tekolo ya makgulo

*Tshehetso koduweng ya ho tjha ha makgulo le dijalo, le dikgoholeng tsa masimo le dirapa.

Athe kgwebong ya diphoofole *Di-Drone* di ka etsa mesebetsi e

latelang har'a e meng e mengata:

**Di-Drone* di ka thusa ho alosa, ke hore taolong, ho kganna kapa ho thiba mehlape

* Ho thusa ho lebelala le ho etsa *patrol* thibelong ya boshodu le polaong ya diphoofole ntle le molao.

*Tekolo le tlhahlobo ya diphoofole (ho kula, boitshwaro le kamahano ya tsona)

* ho tshwaya diphoofole bakeng sa merero e itseng

* Di ka thusa le ho tshetsa thekisong e bulehileng (*public auction*) ya diphoofole.



Credit: Geelong Advertiser