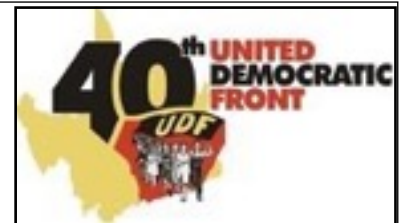


**UDF Special edition**

## UDF 40 Year Celebration

*Building active citizenry for accountability and transformation*



### **Mass Mobilisation - an Effective Strategy of the UDF40 Anniversary Intervention in Present-Day Democratic South Africa**

*This article, by Popo Molefe first appeared in the Mail & Guardian. This is an edited version of the article.*

Mass mobilisation has been a potent force in South Africa's liberation struggle against apartheid. Nelson Mandela's words in 'No Easy Walk to Freedom' accurately predicted the impact of mass struggle in crushing apartheid.

#### **UDF's Historical Perspective**

Mass-based organisations for residents, workers, students, women etc., formed the United Democratic Front (UDF) on 20 August 1983 in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town, to pursue their struggles at the local level. The focus was on raising daily bread-and-butter issues such as worker wages, costly housing, inferior education, segregated hospitals, and women's oppression, amongst others.

The UDF sought to coordinate the otherwise localised, disparate, and independent entities looking at their 'confined' struggles from a narrow

perspective. The umbrella body coordinated and connected these organisations into a formidable force with the single, shared pursuit of defeating apartheid while achieving their agenda and purpose.

The UDF experience remains a notable example of how mass mobilisation can lead to significant shifts in the political landscape and ultimately contribute to dismantling an oppressive system. The UDF's strategy focused on inclusive participation, encouraging people of all races and backgrounds to stand together against apartheid. It transcended race and class barriers, uniting South Africans under a shared vision of a democratic and egalitarian society.

#### **Mass Mobilisation and the Fall of Apartheid**

The UDF's persistent protests and resistance exerted immense pressure on the apartheid government domestically and internationally. Mass gatherings, civil disobedience, and

peaceful defiance highlighted apartheid's brutality, garnering global support for the anti-apartheid movement. Economic and diplomatic sanctions against the South African government further weakened apartheid, leading to negotiations with the ANC-led democratic forces and eventually the first democratic elections in 1994.

In the 1990s, the apartheid system began to crumble, leading to negotiations between the apartheid government and the ANC, apartheid's primary political proponent. The UDF's continued pressure on the apartheid government significantly pushed the talks towards a peaceful and democratic resolution, leading to the first representative elections in 1994, with Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black president. Thus, the slogan, 'Freedom in Our Lifetime', was realised.

#### **The Return of Mass Mobilisation**

Mass mobilisation remains vital in achieving

social and economic justice in post-apartheid South Africa. Challenges like income inequality, land reform, education, healthcare, and corruption persist. Mass mobilisation has been instrumental in movements like the Treatment Action Campaign, and Fees Must Fall, driving



**Popo Molefe, UDF40 Steering Committee member.**  
PHOTO CREDIT: SAPEOPLE

policy changes and raising awareness about critical issues.

Emphasising the importance of defending hard-won freedoms and democracy will encourage citizen participation, government accountability, and societal transformation.

#### **Conclusion**

Mass mobilisation has historically been a powerful force in South Africa's struggle for liberation, delivering incremental victories for the masses, raising political consciousness, and playing a crucial role in achieving social and economic justice in democratic South Africa. Fundamentally, the UDF40 project calls for the reclaiming of our hard-won democracy and the defence of the values and principles of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It is a call to us that we cease to be observers of the changes that impact our own lives. To do so, every citizen must register to vote in next year's general elections. In a constitutional democracy, the only way we can defend that democracy and the constitution is to participate in a free and fair election, choosing representatives who are accountable to us.

vulnerable and may ultimately die. We've seen that with organisations without activity and creativity, this can also diminish in their influence and die.

*(Continues on page2)*

### **UDF40 advocating for 'Active citizenry for accountability' for building hope amongst the masses, Lechesa Tsenoli**

The UDF anniversary is long overdue. But it's never too late. It doesn't help us to worry that it didn't take place on its 30th or its 20th anniversary necessarily.

But now that we are set to do it, it's essential to identify, as I think comrades have already done, that the Secretariat that is now in place is working on seeing how we take a cue from what OR (Tambo), for example, said when he addressed the South African Communist Party on its 60th anniversary. He said, "While it is important to celebrate and observe centenaries, the most crucial thing that marks them as important are the next steps that should be taken

and the way ahead". In other words, we look back as we do now to see better where we are going; already, elements of this have been said.

Mine is not only a message from the Secretariat, led by Comrade Popo (Molefe) and a few people drawn from the elected ranks during the founding of the UDF, purely for pulling together a celebration of this anniversary; and harvesting, reclaiming values and practices which proved decisive in unifying the majority of people in our country against apartheid. But some of the things Comrade Maggie (Govender) spoke to and the presentation done by Pravienna (Naidoo) are crucial to

the message that we are bringing to you so that there's clarity about our intentions. Working together across class, racial, religious age, young and old, youth, women, and worker boundaries - and united by a desire to rid our country of divisions of the past - was critical.

The clarity of the values of unity, non-racialism, non-sexism, and democracy fired our bellies and inspired the militant programme of action deeply involving the masses of the people. We learn from elsewhere that 'activity and creativity to an organisation are like oxygen to the body'. If oxygen is no longer available or is very little, it renders the body



The United Democratic Front (UDF) was an anti-apartheid body that incorporated many anti-apartheid organisations. It was launched in 1983, in Mitchells Plain.

Steps towards forming the UDF began in the late 1970s, and moved forward when **Allan Boesak** called for a 'united

# UDF - History pages

From South African History Online

front' of 'churches, civic associations, trade unions, student organisations, and sports bodies' to fight oppression. He was addressing the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee (TASC) at a conference in **Johannesburg** on 23 January 1983, but this part of his speech was unplanned- and even he was surprised to see the result.

At the conference, the TASC leaders proposed that a committee be formed to look into the feasibility of such a front, and the committee asked to report back the next day. After heated discussions agreement was reached on how to go about forming such a front and what the front should look like. It was decided to join with organisations, on a regional and federal structure, as long as they were non-racist. The UDF had a Christian heritage, like the **ANC**, and in many ways looked like an internal wing of the ANC, but it did not associate with the armed struggle. The UDF character however changed

in the mid-1980s with the people's insurrection, and some organisations identifying with the UDF took a more militant path. A committee was formed to take the process of formation further.

The next step was to establish regional committees to consult with organisations in that region. In May the Natal UDF region was launched, followed by the Transvaal in June and the Western Cape in July. A new Interim National Committee was formed with members from each region, which also included more black and white activists. An important two-day planning meeting was held by the committee at the end of July in Johannesburg, and was also attended by **Albertina Sisulu**, Mewa Ramgobin and Steve Tshwete. The committee discussed when to launch the UDF and, although they felt they still needed time to organise structures, decided on 20 August as the government would introduce the Tricameral legislation in August. This left the committee with only three weeks before the launch. They discussed basic principles and documents, and decided on a logo and slogan - 'UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides'.

It was also decided that groups working with government structures, those working with homeland state structures and groups that broke sport and cultural boycotts would not be allowed to join.

## UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides

The first stage of the launch was a conference of delegates, which was followed by a public rally. On 20 August 1983 the UDF was formed in a community hall in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain in **Cape Town**. Frank Chikane, who had played an important role in the preparations for the formation of the UDF, was the first major speaker. Chikane spoke of the day as being a turning point in the struggle for freedom. The keynote speaker, Boesak, spoke of bringing together a wide range of groups and unity among those fighting for freedom. A list of tasks was drawn up, focusing on organisation building and highlighting the aim of being an organisation to represent all parts of the population. In the afternoon, the conference closed and the public rally began. The doors were opened to allow in members of the public, with a marquee outside the hall to contain the overflow of the approximately 10 000 people who attended the meeting. Loudspeakers and video-screens relayed the proceedings from the hall into the tent. Frances Baard opened the rally, and successive speeches focused on Charterism. What was significant about the day was the amount of support from different organisations. Delegates of 565 organisations attended the launch, and 400 of these were already affiliates on a regional level.

The immediate reason for the formation of the UDF was to fight the introduction of the Tricameral Parliament.

However, the formation was actually the result of changes that had been taking place on a social, economic and political level since the **Soweto Uprising**. A new, more militant culture had emerged, that led to the formation of many civic, youth, student, worker, women and other organisations. There was also increased support for Charterism and a move towards mass organisation. In the immediate post-Soweto period, amid government suppression, growing curiosity among the urban black and growing political awareness, study groups began to develop in townships across the country. Some of these were very informal and were merely a group of young people gathering to discuss ideas. Others, such as one led by **Joe Gqabi** in **Soweto**, were more formal and focused more on Charterist ideals and read ANC literature. These groups spread ideas, got new people involved and spread into other circles. Initially the study groups had little or no contact with each other. In the late 1970s there were some attempts to get groups to unite, and in 1979 Popo Molefe and Vincent Mogane launched AZAPO in Soweto, with Molefe calling for a front in Soweto to unite AZAPO, COSAS, trade unions and other organisations. This was unsuccessful, and although Molefe left AZAPO, he continued to call for united resistance in the early 1980s. At the same time, the ANC started realising the need for a broad organisation based inside South Africa, united in their opposition to apartheid. These developments culminated in the formation of the UDF in 1983.

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While we correctly are not reviving the UDF, we certainly want to embed enough UDF spirit and action in our organisations to catapult us out of the problems we face today, marching along with the people - the masses - to solve our collective problems effectively. When we take this approach, we do what we did to mobilise the entire world community at the United Nations to declare apartheid a crime against humanity. When we do that, we fulfil our undertaking to rid our communities of fear and want. We are pulled by a desire also, to defend our democracy, to advance its gains, and to avert a wrong trajectory of development. We also want to encourage intergenerational dialogue to inform the young better of the roaring, decisive 80s.

But, 'lest we forget', as Brecht, the German revolutionary poet, would say, there are those who are no longer with us: *TomTom Mngobozi, Charm Govender, Cluffy Collins, Chris Ntuli (from KwaMashu), Jabu Sithole, Baba Dlamini (from Lamontville), Dorothy Nyembe, Tryphina' Mamboxela' Njokwena (from Umlazi), Phakade Mangwaza, Angel Mnyandu (from Lamontville), Archie Gumede (our President), Curnick Ndlovu, Billy Nair, and Yunus Mohamed (the Secretary of the UDF in Natal, when I was the Publicity Secretary).*

Here are other additional names of those we remember: *Shoots Naidoo, Vish Sewpersadh, Paddy Kearney, Mbuso Tshabalala, Roy Padayachee, Msizi Dube, Florence Mkhize, Ian Mkhize, Mewa Ramgobin, Sandile Thusi, Magwaza Maphalala, George Sewpersadh, Pozo Zondo, Fathima Meer, Bar Msomi, Deva Majazi, Ann Colvin, Mrs Gladys Manzi, Paul David, Mrs 'Gogo' Luthuli, and Njengabantu (from KwaMashu).*

This roll call is but a fragment of those whose shoulders our campaign depended for their creativity and success. Focused, targeted mass campaigns defined our many organisations under the UDF. Rejecting apartheid machinations, as Maggie has already said, of sham tribal, racial, and religious representative bodies; consumer boycotts in support of worker struggles; commuter campaigns (that cut across the entire Durban functional region, as an example); housing and human

settlements-related campaigns; campaigns against apartheid spatial planning and attempts which failed to demarcate some townships such as Hambanathi and Lamontville into the then-KwaZulu

Bantustan; creative song composition and poster and banner making; alternative media we ran; the art and cultural community...these, too, are but a fragment of focused activity that involved the masses. We now have websites, social media and podcasts, Twitter, and blogs to exploit, which presumably can be more effective if managed properly. Still, we must guard against the abuse they can represent.

In addition to what is listed in the Programme of Action as read out by Pravienna, we suggest, as a part integrated into it, to end illiteracy and hunger in our country. It is not appropriate that 30 years down the line, which will be next year, our State has not successfully undone the levels of illiteracy and hunger in our country, just as we will lend our hand and ideas (creativity) to end gender-based violence and femicide. This is what we mean by doing away with fear and want in our communities.

The activities we will trigger in our communities must be what we take forward there, adding the values we speak about concerning clean governance across government and state institutions, in general, and in society, as a whole. Ethical conduct with integrity must be the hallmark and the strategic objectives we embed wherever we are!

"Active citizenry for accountability" is the broad line we are advocating. It represents the most immediate requirements for building hope amongst the masses we claim to lead.

Thank you very much, Comrade Chair. I thought I should isolate and emphasise some of the points already raised and focus on the inspiration we draw from celebrating the UDF and what we did then to jolt the apartheid regime out of its power successfully. That inspiration is crucial to building a strong movement in our country that will make a difference. And, as correctly outlined, that will be embedded in all our structures across the board.



**K**gwehletso ya boitseko e reng: "Wa thint' Abafazi, Wa thint' imbokodo! (You strike the women, you strike the rock!)", e nepahetse ka dinako tsohle. Ke polelo e ileng ya tumiswa ke Mohwanto wa Basadi wa 1956 boitsekong ba bona ba ho qobellwa ho tsamaya ba tshwere dipasa.

Pejana ho boitseko bona, mmuso wa kgethollo o ile wa phatlalatsa hore morabe wa maAfrika a basadi (basadi ba batho ba batsho) ba lokela ho tsamaya ba tshwere dipasa. Basadi ba ile ba 'ba kagahlano le mohopolo ona, mme ka tlasa *Federation of South African Women, FSWA*, basadi ba etsa qeto ya ho hwantela Pretoria ho ipelaetsa ka mohopolo ona wa ho jara dipasa.

Kgwedi ya Phato e hlwaiwe e le Kgwedi ya Basadi. Sena se entswe e le ho hopola, ho hlompha, ho tlotla le ho thoholetsa basadi ba fetang 20 000 ba ileng ba isa mangolo a tletlebo ka mohwanto ho mopresidente wa mmuso wa apartheid nakong eo. Letsatsi la 9 Phato ke sehlohlolo sa Kgwedi ya Basadi. Ka letsatsi la 9 Phato 1956 basadi ba merabe yohle ba fetang 20 000, ba ila ba etsa letsholo la boipelaetso ho ya Pretoria, Union Building ho nehelana ka Lengolo la Boipelaetso ho Tonakgolo JG Strydom.

Mohato ona wa basadi o ile wa bontsha boitelo, tjhesehelo le mafolofolo a ho lwana kgahlano le kgethollo, mme mohato ona o bile pulamadiboho ntweng e kgahlant le kgethollo e ntshetswang pele ka mokgwa wa bongata ke basadi. Sena e bile sesupo se sehoho sa matla a basadi setjhabeng le dipolotiking tsa Ntwa ya Boitseko ka ho otloloha.

Nalane ya boitseko ba basadi e qadile kgalekgale moo ho bonahetseng sebete le boitelo ba basadi ho lwanela toka le tekatekano esita le matlafatso. Ho tloha leboya ho fihla borwa kontinenteng ya Afrika



(Poster ca. 1985, Phala Ndawane, Angolan Liberation Fight)

Setshwantsho se hlalosa tse ngata ho feta mantse.

## Basadi ke lejwe la motheo



Mme Masediba Lilian Ngoyi, qhoku ya ntwana ya boitseko. E bile mosadi wa pele ho kgethwa boemong ba Boetapele ba Naha ba ANC ka 1956, ho latela boitelo le mafolofolo a hae ntweng ya boitseko.

Setshwantsho: SABC File Pic., budget-accommodation-port-elizabeth website

hona le bopaki bo totobetseng ba makgabane le seabo sa basadi boitsekong le kahong ya ditjhaba. Hatshepsut, Mofumahadi wa Sheba – Makeda; Mofumahadi wa Zaria - Amina, Nehanda Mbuya, Nandi, Manthatisi le Alexandra Mikhailovna Kollontai ke ba bang ba basadi ba ileng ba hlahella ka mahetla boetapeleng ba ditjhaba tsa bo bona.

Ho na le basadi ba bang hape lefatshe lohle le naheng ya Afrika Borwa ba iponahaditseng ho lwanela tokoloho, demokerasi, toka le ntshetsopele ya setjhaba.

Rosa Parks, Leymah Gbowee, Charlotte Maxeke, Frances Baard, Wangari Maathai, Lilian Ngoyi, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, Beatrice Mukansinga, etc., ke ba bang ba basadi bao menyabuketso ya bona ya seabo sa bona naleneng ya ntshetsopele ya basadi e ke keng ya hlakoha.

Wa thint' Abafazi, Wa thint' Imbokodo, ke tiisetso ya tshireletso ya setjhaba ka tshwaetso le matla ao basadi ba nang le ona.

Ke polelo e tiisang nnete ya dipolelo tse ding tse pakang matla le tshwaetso ya basadi: *Basadi ke tau di mesana, Mmangawana o tshwara thipa ka bohalleng!*

## Ruth First



A journalist, academic and political activist, Ruth Heloise First was born on 4 May 1925. She was the daughter of Jewish immigrants Julius and Matilda (neé Levetan) First. Julius, a furniture manufacturer, was born in Latvia and came to South Africa in 1906 at the age of 10. Matilda came to South Africa from Lithuania when she was four years old. They were founder members of the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA, later South African Communist Party [SACP]) in 1921.

After matriculating from Jeppe High School for Girls, First studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, from 1942 to 1946. She graduated with a BA (Social Studies), receiving firsts in sociology, anthropology, economic history and native administration.

First helped found the Federation of Progressive Students and served as secretary to the Young Communist League, and was active in the Progressive Youth Council and, for a short while, the Johannesburg branch of the CPSA.

In 1947 First worked, briefly, for the Johannesburg City Council, but left because she disagreed with the actions of the council. She then became the Johannesburg editor of a left-wing weekly newspaper. As a journalist, she specialised in investigative reporting and her incisive articles about slave-like conditions on Bethal potato farms, the women's anti-pass campaign, migrant labour, bus boycotts and slum conditions remain among the finest pieces of social and labour journalism of the 1950s.

She was central to debates within the Johannesburg Discussion Club, which led to the formation of the underground SACP of which she was a member and closer links between the SACP and the African National Congress (ANC).

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## SALS URGED TO USE LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT MANDATE FOR GENDER TRANSFORMATION

### Parliament, Cape Town: -

The National Assembly Speaker, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, has urged the South African Legislative Sector (SALS) to effectively use its legislative and oversight mandate to ensure meaningful and impactful progress on gender transformation in South Africa.

She said the discussions over the few days highlighted the structural barriers that impede gender transformation and cemented the importance of collaboration

with all relevant stakeholders. She called on the sector to go beyond the adopted recommendations of the summit by doing due diligence in determining the implementation capacity.

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula was providing concluding remarks on the three-day gender summit in Kwa Zulu-Natal on 3 Thursday 2023. The Speakers Forum (National Council of Provinces Chairperson, Speaker of the National Assembly and legislatures and their deputies), Chairpersons of committees,

Secretaries of Legislatures, relevant government departments, the Judiciary, Civil Society groups, and the South African Development Countries Parliaments attended the summit.

She appreciated the robust discussions that reiterated the need for planning, intentional policy-making, and deliberate and responsive oversight. She said the hosting of the gender summit was a critical component in forming part of the building blocks aimed at facilitating economic transformation for the benefit of

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## Ho tjhabile le letjha Foreisetata



**Matsholo Mmolotsane**  
Motlatsamongodi



**Theo Leeuw-Mosala**  
Mongodi



**Connie Msibi**  
Modulasetulo



**Mando Shasha**  
Motlatsamodulasetulo



**Dikeledi Direko**  
Motshwaramatlotlo

**A**o tjhabile letsatsi le letjha bophelong ba mokgatlo wa Basadi wa ANC, ANC Women's League, profensing ya Foreisetata. Sena ke hobane ho sa tswa kgethwa boetapele bo botjha ba mokgatlo.

Ketsahalo ena ke ya bohlokwa hobane sena se etsahetse maemong a lokolohileng, moo ho sa bonahalang letsoho le matla la Komiti ya Phethahatso ya ANC profensing. Sena se fapane hole le dinako tse fethileng moo ho neng ho totobetse hore boetapele bo ka sehmlong ba ANC bo ba le tshwaetso e kgolo ho kgethweng ha baetapele ka hara dibopeho tse amanang le ANC profensing, ho kenyeletswa le yona ANCWL.

Semelo sa tlhodiiso ka bo sona se na le matshwao a kgang esita le dipelaolo. Ka mantswa a mang tlhodiiso e fe kapa e fe e na le mahlakore, mme hangata mahlakore a hlotsweng tlhodiisanong a ba le kgang le dipelaolo sephetong sa tlhodiiso. Dikgetho ke tlhodiiso e jwalo!

Nakong enngwe moo ho bonahalang ho sena ngangisano kapa tlhodiiso e hlaheletseng, lebaka ha se hobane bohle ba dumellana ka kgetho ya ba itseng, empa nakong enngwe ho kgutsa ho tswa ke tshabo ya kgetho. Athe nakong e nngwe ho hlahella ba llang ka hore kgetho e bile leeme le ho hloka toka.

Sena ka nako e nngwe ha se bolele hore efeela

ho le jwalo, empa ho mpa ho bontsha bolokolohi ba tsamaiso ya dikgetho tse hlohang tshabo ya hore o ka tshoha o hlonamisitse baetapele ba mokgatlo o moholo mme ba o beha lekgwegwe.

Mantswa a hlahelang mona le mane ho kgethweng ha baetapele ba batjha ba ANCWL Foreisetata, a bontshang lekgonono le ho se amohela sephetho ka hohlele ha a bolele hore dikgetho tse na ha di a tsamaiswa hantle, empa a bontsha ho tlakoma le botebo ba demokerasi. A bontsha boikemelo, matla le bolokolohi ba basadi ba mokgatlo wa ANCWL profensing - ho sa itshetlehe ka baetapele ba banna le ba ANC ka kakaretso ho ba nkela diqeto.

Tshepo ke hore baetapele bana ba tla sebetsa ka thata ho fedisa leeme, bofokodi le ho itshetleha ka ANC le moo ba lokelang ho ikemela. Ho ho bona ho itshupa ka ho hodisa le ho matlafatsa mokgatlo ka ho sebetsa ka bolokolohi ba sa hetle morao kapa hona ho thabisa baetapele ba mokgatlo o moholo.

Sena se lokela ho bontshwa ka diporogramo tsa bona tse nkang lehlakore ditabeng tse amang basadi le bana esita le ba fokolang, tse tshwanang le twantsho ya dikgoka tse etswang kgahlanong le basadi le bana, esita le mererong ya matlafatso ya basadi. Sena ba lokela ho sepheta ka ponahalo e kgolo le diketso, e seng ka dikopano tse sa feleng. Boo, e tla be e le bona boetapele ba sebele!

from page 3

women, reducing gender discrimination, promoting gender mainstreaming, and eradicating gender-based violence.

She said that given the various concerns raised about the capacity of the State to plan and execute for impact, she called on the sector to 'step up' and strengthen the legislative framework and ensure the monitoring of both planning and implementation to ensure the qualitative impact on gender transformation. She said this would be possible through a comprehensive analysis and scrutiny of the parliamentary oversight framework to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into legislative processes and decision-making.

The summit agreed to the following recommendations:

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

An intersectional lens is required to address gender mainstreaming for women, girls, LGBTIQ+ persons and gender non-binary persons. The legislative sector to implement transformational programmes for women, especially rural women and girls for economic transformation.

### LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

The legislature to engage in legislative reform that aims to address barriers that inhibit women's participation.

### BUDGETS

Legislatures must oversee the maximization of targeted financing to accelerate the achievement of gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

The South African Legislative Sector ensures that the Auditor General audits the financial analysis of departmental votes using gender indicators.

### OVERSIGHT OVER GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

The summit committed to ensuring the utilization of gender-responsive oversight tools to monitor the development and implementation of strategies and plans to address issues related to equality and justice in South Africa. The development of an oversight plan by the Sector to guide oversight of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide is required.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The summit acknowledged that men and boys must be encouraged to take an active part in and to

engage fully as agents and beneficiaries for change in the realization of women's economic transformation and the eradication of gender-based violence. The importance of civil society organizations' involvement was acknowledged as a critical component in ensuring the realization of gender rights and ensuring their participation in legislative and oversight processes.

### INTERNAL PROCESSES OF LEGISLATURES

The Legislative Sector to develop a stakeholder engagement plan and partnership framework inclusive of all sectors at all levels, business and community-based organizations to advance gender mainstreaming in South Africa.



**Speaker, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.**

(Photo. Sunday World)

Furthermore, the Legislatures encouraged to development of national action plans for oversight of the attainment of gender equality insofar as women's economic transformation and oversight where gender-based violence is concerned.

### WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

The sector is to take lessons on the systematic transformation of the gender landscape from other sectors and state institutions to address the continued gender gaps in the labour force, participation, and leadership; wages and income; occupational segregation; social norms and workplace culture. Having considered the recommendations, the Speaker encouraged the Sector to thoroughly engage and scrutinise in order to put in place mechanisms for the implementation. She said the sector has the responsibility and the power, on behalf of the electorate, to hold the government accountable for budget allocation and expenditure that supports gender mainstreaming and transformation indicators.

She emphasized the important role played by men in the struggle for gender transformation and equality. She encouraged men to be active participants in women's transformation issues. She called on women to view the physical and emotional abuse of men and young boys and their role in it in a similar vein.

Lastly, she appreciated the strong recommendations made by the summit on the historical socio-economic issues that perpetuate gender inequality, including the current practical policies for land allocation and land use. She called for effective oversight to rectify inequality and ensure equal access to land for men and women.

ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Ruth First ... (From Page 3)

She was on the drafting committee of the Freedom Charter, but was unable to attend the Congress of the People at Kliptown in 1955 because of her banning order. In 1956, both First and Slovo were arrested and charged in the Treason Trial. The trial lasted four years, after which, all 156 accused were acquitted on 29 March 1961.

First fled to Swaziland with her children, returning after the emergency was lifted, six months later, to continue as Johannesburg editor of *New Age* (successor to *The Guardian*).

She helped to organise the first broadcasts of Radio Freedom from a mobile transmitter in Johannesburg.

In March 1964, First went into exile in Britain. She left with her children to join her husband, Joe Slovo, who had already fled the country to Britain. She became active in the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. She was a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester and between and lectured in development studies at the University of Durham. She also spent periods on secondment at universities in Dar es Salaam and Lourenço Marques, Maputo.

In November 1978, First took up the post of director of research at the Centre of African Studies (Centro de Estudos Africanos), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique. She was assassinated by order of Craig Williamson, a major in the South African Police, on 17 August 1982, when she opened a parcel bomb that had been sent to the university.

Sources: SAHISTORYONLINE. WIKIPEDIA

## Alliance summit discuss issues of mutual interest and significance

The ANC, SACP and COSATU in Free State convened a successful summit to reflect on and discuss issues of mutual interest and significance to the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

The meeting recalled and expressed a deep sense of appreciation that the alliance was founded on the rock of unity which guided it (alliance) over long years of struggle against colonialism. The strategic intent of the struggle against colonialism has always been the liberation of blacks in general and Africans in particular.

Whilst the alliance member organisations remain ideologically and organisationally independent of each other, each comprises an important pillar of the struggle. The durability of the alliance between the ANC, SACP and COSATU lies in strengthening

each as an independent formation and in securing their cooperation on an entirely voluntary yet principled basis.

The alliance partners remain committed in pursuing a relationship that is complimentary and mutually reinforcing of one another in the ongoing struggle to advance, deepen and defend our common programme of the NDR based on mutual trust, reciprocity, comradeship in the battle and common struggle for national liberation.

Deliberations in the summit were robust, critical, frank and honest. Some of the decisions emanating from the summit include but not limited to the following;

\*Preserve and revitalise the alliance,

taking into consideration the changing material conditions. The alliance must continue to be a resilient fighting force in the execution of the programme of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

\*Further, the alliance formations agreed to take forward discussion on reconfiguration of the alliance, with detailed and focused discussions on all aspects of this work with the intention to improve the overall management of the NDR.

\*Ensure the involvement of the alliance in the review and development work for the elections manifesto and prepare and campaign jointly for the national general elections in 2024.

\*Intervene on pressing challenges that impede the efficient functioning of government and ensure improved service delivery.

\*Improve the financial state of municipalities including mechanisms for allocation of resources to implement the programme of change.

\*Agreed to establish a focused Alliance

Research Working Group to work on the process of the review of the Free State Growth and Development Strategy (FSGDS). The Alliance Research Working Group will also establish work streams focusing on issues like the provincial economy, the state of provincial and local government with the express intention to intensify the programme of addressing the challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

• The Alliance Summit noted and welcomed progress made towards the introduction of the National Health Insurance scheme (NHI) and agreed to unify progressive forces to defend the introduction of the NHI which guarantee universal access to quality health care for all against ongoing and planned onslaught by the private pharmaceutical interests through media, the courts and a use of Non - Governmental Organisations (NGO's).

Issued by ANC, SACP and COSATU, Free State



## Western Cape Growth Strategy is devoid of structural and systemic transformational qualities

Writes Sonwabile Ngxiza

A few weeks ago, the Premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde, unveiled his

government's Growth for Jobs - 2035 strategy with aplomb and much media fanfare. Euphemistically the strategy is called G4J, to use the Provincial government's nomenclature. At a cursory glance the strategy is timely and necessary, particularly when one considers the global economic outlook, the geo-political situation and the post-covid economic recovery period domestically.

No one can argue with the strategic necessity of long-term response and planning process for economic growth and prosperity. To its credit, the strategy draws on recent economic performance data in terms of economic output as a proportion of Growth Domestic Production (GDP) and labour participation statistics to make a compelling case about the current situation and the need for change. The ultimate goal of the G4J strategy is the "annual growth rates of 4-6% and a provincial GDP of R1-trillion by 2035."

The province must be lauded for these ambitious targets especially in light of the binding constraints besetting the Western Cape economy. Amongst the many acute challenges plaguing the province include economic stagnation, rising unemployment, spatial inequality and segregation, poverty, skills deficiency and lack of economic opportunities. Compounding these problems further is the urgent challenge of rising crime and criminal or extortionist syndicates that are running amok thus undermining investor confidence. To overcome these intractable challenges the

Western Cape requires a cogent and comprehensive strategy not an oversimplification of complex problems and taking short cuts. There are fundamental weaknesses in the substance and approach of the G4J strategy.

In setting its targets the strategy pays scant attention to the imperatives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union - Agenda 2063 and the National Development Plan (NDP) all of which contain bold actions to improve the wellbeing of communities for a better world. The G4J strategy ignores these instruments and their respective indicators because of an imagined Western Cape exceptionalism which results in a very parochial worldview.

This approach is in stark contrast for instance to the perspective from the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT) strategy 2030 which is predicated on the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and the NDP as torchbearers for long-term action plans. Rather than embrace these action plans the G4J strategy explicitly stands in opposition to the national approach to economic policy frameworks. In fact, the Western Cape strategy views national policy approach as an impediment in the form of a developmental state character hence their adoption of the so-called open market economy which is essentially a private sector led growth.

In this respect, the G4J strategy posits that,

"An open market economy, rather than a developmental state, makes possible an open opportunity society for all." There is no conceptual clarification of what exactly is an "open opportunity for all" because it is common



An aerial view showing the other side of Cape Town that indicates an endemic spatial inequality and segregation evident in the ever cramped settlements of African people. (Photo: Spirit)

knowledge that opportunity without access is no opportunity at all.

Nevertheless, the stated goal of achieving a "break-out growth" trajectory is predicated on the efficacy of the market forces as a panacea with the state creating an enabling environment. This is the essence of the discredited market fundamentalism which has produced and reproduced obscene inequality world-wide.

Further the strategy is devoid of any radical structural and systemic transformation of the foundations of the provincial economic landscape to serve the people as a whole. There are no specific interventions to accelerate industrialisation to boost the productive capacity of the economy to balance the dominance of the financial sector and

more importantly there is no express intention to break monopolies that control the economy resulting in market concentration.

On the question of inclusive growth the strategy waxes lyrically on how the disparities of the past stubbornly remain and simply pay lip-service to rural and township economies, Small Medium and Micro Enterprises as well as small scale producers. Once again, if one juxtaposes the G4J Strategy and Gauteng's GGT 2030 you find that in addition to the strategic intent there is an additional strategy for accelerating township economies and SMMEs. This is undoubtedly a critical signifier for the seriousness with which this sector is considered.

The Western Cape Strategy laments lack of economic inclusion and ascribes this challenge to skills shortage. This is partly true but the

problem is beyond skills shortage and extends to significant barriers to entry, lack of adequate support as well as discriminatory practices in terms of public procurement in the western cape government echelons.

So, in the end the Democratic Alliance run Western Cape government is determined to strive for growth without distribution and change without fundamental structural transformation. The private sector will be handsomely rewarded with incentives and investments while SMMEs will be choked and strangled to the ground.

Sonwabile Ngxiza is SACP WC 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Provincial Secretary and writes in his personal capacity.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Niger closes airspace as it refuses to reinstate president

Niger closed its airspace on Sunday, 6 August, 2023, until further notice, citing the threat of military intervention from the West African regional bloc after coup leaders rejected a deadline to reinstate the country's ousted president.

Earlier, thousands of junta supporters flocked to a stadium in Niamey, the capital, cheering the decision not to cave in to external pressure to stand down

junta representative said in a statement on national television on Sunday evening.

He said there had been a pre-deployment of forces in two Central African countries in preparation for an intervention, but did not give details.

"Niger's armed forces and all our defense and security forces, backed by the unfailing support of our people, are ready to defend the integrity of our territory," he



Coup supporters gather at a stadium in Niamey, Niger, August 6, 2023. /CFP

by the deadline following the July 26 power grab.

The coup, the seventh in the past three years in West and Central Africa, has rocked the Sahel region, one of the world's poorest.

Besides its uranium and oil riches, Niger has played a key part in Western strategies to combat jihadist insurgencies that have plagued the Sahel since 2012.

Defense chiefs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have agreed on a possible military action plan, including when and where to strike, if the detained president, Mohamed Bazoum, is not released and reinstated by the deadline.

"In the face of the threat of intervention that is becoming more apparent, Nigerien airspace is closed effective from today," a

said.

ECOWAS did not respond to a request for comment on what its next steps would be, or when exactly on Sunday its deadline expires. A spokesman earlier said it would issue a statement at the end of the day.

The bloc's military threat has raised concerns about further conflict in a region already battling the deadly Islamist insurgency that has killed thousands and forced millions to flee.

Any military intervention could be complicated by a promise from juntas in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso to come to Niger's defense if needed.

Bazoum's prime minister, Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou, said on Saturday in Paris that the overthrown government still believed a last-minute agreement was possible. CGTN, With input from Reuters

## Chinese envoy voices concern on situation in occupied Palestinian territory - CGTN

Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, called for preventing situations in the occupied Palestinian territory from spiralling out of control.

"China is deeply concerned about the accelerated deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories over the past period of time and the increasing intensity of conflicts," Zhang said

at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

Calling for efforts to advance a two-state solution, the envoy stressed that Palestine and Israel are neighbours that cannot move away from each other and should break the cycle of violence and seek common security.

On the religious holy sites, Zhang said that the historical status quo of religious holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected and upheld.

He also called for the removal of the Gaza Strip blockade and encouraged more humanitarian assistance.

Since the beginning of this year, over 100 Palestinians, including children, have lost their lives in conflict. Israel also suffered civilian casualties. On Thursday, Israeli forces



Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks at an emergency meeting of the Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York, on June 6, 2023. /Xinhua

shot and killed a Palestinian teenager when clashes erupted during an Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Noting that violence must be unequivocally rejected, Zhang said that China condemns all violence against civilians in the occupied territories and calls on all parties concerned to exercise calm and restraint and to avoid any unilateral action that exacerbates tensions.

"The United Nations, including the Security Council, and all parties in the international community must demonstrate a sense of urgency and, on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, make greater efforts to promote the relaunching of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, take vigorous action to promote the two-state solution, and make a stronger voice for the maintenance of fairness and justice," he said.

## Namibia aims for below 2 percent mother-to-child HIV transmission rate by 2028

Namibia is determined to bring the mother-to-child HIV transmission rate down to less than two percent by 2028, a health official said Monday, 7 August, 2023.



FILE PIC: Image by AFP

Ben Nangombe, the Executive Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, made the pledge at the

opening session of a joint Regional Validation Committee meeting in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, with

the aim of validating the country's remarkable progress in the path to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B virus.

Nangombe highlighted the country's remarkable progress in combating the transmission of these infections to newborn babies and children, saying the country is on track to be one of the next countries in Africa to be certified for the triple elimination of the three infections. "Namibia is joining the rest of the world in the unprecedented

opportunity to eliminate new HIV, congenital syphilis, and hepatitis B infections among our youngest citizens," he said, adding the overall MTCT rate of HIV was 4.14 percent in 2022.

Namibia launched its national roadmap for the elimination of HIV and syphilis in 2020 and established the National Validation Committee with multi-sectoral members to lead the effort.

Source(s): CGTN, Xinhua News Agency, FILE PIC: Image by AFP

## COMMENT



This month we celebrate the UDF 40th anniversary. Once launched, the Front succeeded beyond measure in pricing open apartheid jails releasing prisoners and detainees, removed prohibitions from the banned, exiled and those operating underground surfacing fully.

In fact, 1979 to 1989 could correctly be called the golden decade of resistance against apartheid, followed by another decade of consolidation of that victory! It also allowed the negotiations to begin and finally delivering the constituent assembly of elected representatives to negotiate the country's constitution.

The period we describe was costly as many died from the inevitable conflicts yet the positions for which the majority fought for prevailed. Today we remember this process above to recall the enthusiastic energy, creativity, bravery and determination of the people to engage the apartheid state and its allies at many levels. The national steering committee of the UDF calls for reclaiming the values and principles as well as practices of that period, we must continue today to inspire necessary campaigns to rebuilt our country.

Active citizenry for accountability is the clarion call for all the people to participate fully and never give up to bring about a none-racial, none sexist, democratic and prosperous society. It must - lest we forget - also involve us remembering and memorialising those who fell in the course of these struggles in many parts of our country. None of the problems we are confronting today are permanent. It is our concerted efforts that will break their back and ensure we defeat the problems of electricity/energy, land, food, hunger, illiteracy. The many initiatives aimed at the above must ensure services to defeat these problems so they are available sustainably to the majority of the people in the country. Ending corruption will galvanise society toward this agenda!

China passed on the baton for us as South Africa to host BRICS - its major outcomes will be broadening its composition, deepening its intended developmental agenda as well as its impact on transforming the geopolitical and economic space significantly! Parliaments of the BRICS countries will follow the heads of State program, taking place this month.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



## PARLIAMENT STATEMENT ON WOMEN'S DAY

**Parliament, Wednesday, 9 August 2023** – Today marks a significant moment in our nation's history as we commemorate South African Women's Day. On this occasion, we honour the indomitable spirit of the women who have shaped our nation's destiny and continue to inspire us to strive for a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

This day holds a profound significance as we reflect on the historic Women's March of 1956, when women from diverse backgrounds united against the oppressive apartheid regime's pass laws. Their unity and determination ignited a beacon of hope that still guides us today.

As we celebrate the progress we've achieved, we recognise the challenges that still persist. Gender-based violence remains a blight on our society, affecting women and girls. Parliament, acknowledging the urgency of this issue, has taken vital steps to combat this pandemic, which include passing three comprehensive laws aimed at strengthening our fight against gender-based violence. These laws reinforce our commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of all women and girls, while ensuring that perpetrators face the full force of the law.

Under the oversight of the police committee, the police department's capacity to effectively combat gender-based violence and femicide continue to undergo rigorous examination. This includes a focused evaluation of the commitment to ensuring police stations are equipped with dedicated desks specifically designed to handle cases of gender-based violence, the implementation of gender-based violence desks, provision of essential evidence collection kits to stations, addressing attitudes of certain police officers, as well as the training of police officers in victim empowerment to creation victim-friendly services.

Moreover, addressing the root causes of gender-based

violence entails a focus on the behaviours of men, who are the perpetrators of such acts. Parliament recognizes the urgency of this matter and has actively engaged with various sectors of society through initiatives like the Men's Parliament, aimed at confronting this issue head-on.

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The South African Legislative Sector (SALS) recently convened a gender summit, evaluating our progress in gender mainstreaming and combating gender-based violence. This summit has paved the way for a more

inclusive and gender-responsive legislative agenda in the seventh parliamentary term. We recognize the significance of engaging civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders to create lasting change.

Moreover, we acknowledge that women are disproportionately affected by the triple socio-economic challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty. Too often, women bear the brunt of these burdens, and this undermines the fabric of our society. Through legislation, policy-making, and collaboration with stakeholders, we are determined to create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, job creation, and access to opportunities.

It is a stark reality that despite being the majority of our population, women remain underrepresented in decision-making spheres. We must shatter these barriers and ensure that the voices of women are not only heard but actively shape our policies and laws.

Through gender mainstreaming and targeted interventions, more must be done to achieve greater gender parity in all aspects of our society. All sectors of society need to redouble their efforts, including practical policy interventions, to make this a reality. As we applaud the recent achievements of our remarkable sportswomen in Banyana Banyana and the Proteas, we draw inspiration from their tenacity and bravery. These athletes embody the spirit of our nation, echoing the resilience of the women who marched in 1956.

Addressing equal pay for equal work is not just a matter of principle; it is a fundamental step towards achieving true gender equality in all facets of our society. Women athletes, who represent the pinnacle of dedication and skill, deserve recognition that transcends gender disparities. It is imperative that all sectors, from business to sporting federations, collectively engage in rectifying this disparity. By ensuring equitable remuneration, we not only honour the hard work and achievements of our sportswomen but also reinforce the principle that equal efforts deserve equal rewards. Through collaboration and commitment, we can catalyse positive change and set a transformative example for a society where gender should never be a determinant of one's worth or earnings.

The Presiding Officers of Parliament call upon all South Africans to unite in the spirit of solidarity, to collectively combat gender-based violence, uplift the marginalised, and eradicate the scourge of poverty and inequality. We stand on the shoulders of the women pathfinders who have paved the way for us, and it is our responsibility to carry their legacy forward.

In closing, we extend our warmest wishes to all South Africans on this Women's Day. May this day serve as a reminder of the strength, courage, and unity that have brought us this far, and as a beacon of hope for a future where all women and girls can thrive, unhindered by discrimination or violence.

ISSUED BY PARLIAMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF  
SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Dumisani Ngobo, an employee of Parliament has passed away. Mr. Dumisani started working for Parliament in November, 2018, in the Household Services which is part of Institutional Support Division of Parliament.



He worked as a General Cleaner.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved family, friends and colleagues during this difficult times." Read the note from the HR on the sad tidings.



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UDF

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi

In 1982 the apartheid regime introduced their "new deal" which entails the idea of a new constitution and legislation to revamp the community council and administration board systems. In January 1983, the annual congress of the labour Party resolved to participate in the new apartheid constitution. This decision was met by anger and outrage at report back meetings in coloured areas throughout the country. In the wake of the labour Party decision there was an urgent need to demonstrate the true position of the coloured and Indian people and of all oppressed people and to reject the new deal in no uncertain terms. This became the major theme at a conference called by the Anti-South African Indian Council Committee (Anti-SAIC) and Rev Allan Boesak called for the formation of a broad front to oppose the new deal. A commission appointed at the conference discussed the issue and suggested the formation of a United Democratic Front to oppose the new constitution and Koornhof Bills. The idea was broadly welcomed and a steering committee consisting of representatives from Natal, Transvaal and the Western Cape was established.

After the idea of a United Democratic Front was raised at the Anti-SAIC Conference, intense consultation ensued throughout the country on the idea of forming a Front to oppose Botha's reforms. Hundreds of national, regional and local organisations were consulted in an attempt to design the structure and policy of the Front in a manner which would provide a home for the broadest cross-section. On August 20, 1983, the national launch of the UDF was held at Mitchells Plain in Cape Town. It was attended by 15 000 delegates from all corners of South Africa. Over 500 organisations which had affiliated to the Front in the preceding months elected a national executive and adopted a declaration and working principles for the Front. Archie Gumede, Oscar Mpetha and Albertina Sisulu were elected co-Presidents. Among the patrons elected at the launch were Nelson Mandela, Helen Joseph and Allan Boesak.

Since the birth of the UDF, the state has employed numerous measures including the most sinister methods of repression and intimidation to disrupt and in fact crush legal democratic opposition to apartheid. Many of the repressive moves by the state have served to narrow the legal terrain within which the democratic movement was operating. The regime could not achieve its objective of dividing our people, instead its deliberate effort resulted in the unity between Indian, coloured and African people under the umbrella of the UDF. In 1984 the Million Signature Campaign was launched at a rally in Soshanguve in Pretoria.

Notwithstanding the fact that the UDF had many affiliates, it was working

with forces and groups whose line is not always the same as UDF. Those alliances were important to maintain the momentum and to strengthen the struggle against a common enemy by working together towards particular goals. The other goal was to gain access to a wider range of people and organisations e.g. Afrikaans youth (eg, Conscientious objectors), church ministers etc. For these to be achieved the Front had to win the respect of its allies by the strength of its organisation, political maturity and clear vision.

By giving the new black local authorities powers to increase rents, the seeds of their destruction were sown. Despite election promises, councillors increased rents and service charges and did nothing to improve living conditions. Township uprisings began in Tumahole in July 1984, but it was the uprising in the Vaal Triangle in September 1984 which signalled the end of the BLAs throughout the country. On September 3, a stay-away and peaceful protest march against rent hikes in the Vaal turned into a bloody confrontation between residents and the police. In the ensuing conflict four councillors were killed and 66 people died in the first week. The Vaal massacre was the first in a number of massacres committed by the apartheid system. Others included Langa Massacre in March 1985, Mamelodi Massacre in November 1985 and Alexandra Massacre in January 1986. The UDF warned that the apartheid policy will intensify conflict and bring about violence. The events of the Vaal Triangle and other areas vindicated their stance. Even the Van der Walt Commission established to inquire into the reasons behind the Vaal unrest, found that residents had "genuine grievances" and that government bodies were guilty of "maladministration".

About two-third of its national and regional executive members have been out of action through death, detention or trial. Thousands of members of affiliates were in detention. Many UDF activists were murdered by the apartheid regime killing machinery. A major UDF affiliate, COSAS, was banned. Three leading members of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO) went "missing".

They are Qaqawuli Godolozzi, Siphon Hashe and Champion Galele. In July 1985, the bodies of four East Cape activists, Mathew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sicelo Mhlawula and Sparrow Mkonto were found near Port Elizabeth. On 2 August 1985 Victoria Mxenge, UDF Natal treasurer and women's leader was gunned down in front of her Durban home Ngoako Ramalepe, an Azaso activist and president of the SRC at Modjadji College, was killed by Lebowa police. In 1986, Peter Nchabeleng, Northern Transvaal UDF President, died in

police custody in Sekhukhuneland. His death comes after two months of intense conflict in the area including a campaign to isolate so called Bantustan collaborators. Siphon Mutsi, a COSAS activist from Odendaalsrus, died in police custody on May 5, 1985.

The Front had to withstand possible enemy attack and consciously prepare a wide cadre base to ensure that for each one of the activists seized by the enemy, many more others take his or her place. This leadership was rooted deep down amongst the masses of our people, ready to move into action when the need arose. Mass work, mass organisations, organs of people's power were some of the hallmarks of the UDF's guiding principles. It strived to organise a conquering force – a united front for a final victory based on the principle of unity in struggle, regardless of race and colour.

The UDF understood that people could not be organised on the basis of some abstract notion of politics. It had to begin from where the people were, from their understanding of the burning issues, and proceed therefrom. The reality of the situation was that the enemy has divided our people. It has imposed not only separation but also a hierarchy of racial oppression and class exploitation. According to the Front, the National Democratic Revolution

(NDR) involved the creation of a coalition of forces that could bring down the apartheid regime.

The main content of the NDR remains the liberation of the oppressed majority, particularly the Africans, and the transforming of South Africa into a non-racial, united democracy; this can happen by placing political and economic power in the hands of the broad masses under the leadership of the working class. The Front conceded that this could not be achieved all at once nor can it be achieved by the working people acting in isolation from actual and potential allies, from other democratic sections of the oppressed and white communities.

The task of building the front was more than building the UDF. The UDF sought to extend its political and moral influence far beyond these limits to include the widest possible range of South Africans. This means developing the capacity to intervene politically on the smallest localised instances of oppression and exploitation, up to the broad national issues. This means being able to link specific issues and struggles to the broader national liberation struggle.

The unity in action of all forces behind a democratic programme was a necessary condition for both the isolation and final destruction of apartheid. There was therefore a need for a platform on which this vast array of forces may unite and strive towards common aims. This platform was built with a full grasp of the specific conditions, the

grievances and aspirations of all involved. It must be understood what they were prepared to struggle for and how they were prepared to do it. The task facing the UDF was to enhance and reinforce the political understanding and commitment of progressive formations with a view to mobilising them into an unyielding fighting force against apartheid.

The 1986 edition of Isizwe-the UDF Journal, analysed the post-apartheid trajectory and it is more relevant in the current conjuncture in view of many challenges facing our country. The Front cogently observed: "Even in the present we must start to build the beginnings of our future society. Developing people's power now will help to ensure the fullest growth of our society in a South Africa free of apartheid. Even if PW Botha's government collapsed tomorrow, would our people be able to run the machinery of an advanced industrial society? Would women be sure of an end to their three-fold oppression - as workers, as oppressed blacks and as household slaves? Building people's power is a training ground, a school for the future."

People need to know that even after apartheid, they will have to be their own liberators. The confidence and many of the skills must be gained now, not in the distant future. By building democratic people's power we are also placing a brake on elitism and individualism that could still emerge in a new South Africa."

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

## The role of civics in the promotion of Primary Health Care (PHC)

Report by Lechesa Tsenoli

**T**he role of civics in the promotion of Primary Health Care (PHC) was a focus of a workshop held early in 1991. We sought to identify problems and obstacles that hindered provision of PHC, then identify policy options and finally formulate policy demands. Our workshop had 40 participants, more than any of the other workshops. This reflects the need felt by health workers to debate the nature of their relationship to grassroots organisations.

Two groups of problems were identified as obstacles to the promotion of PHC. First there are those resulting from the legacy of apartheid, that is, discriminatory attitudes and practices and economic exploitation. These

include: lack of funding; shortage of medical staff; high medical fees against low wages; shortage of facilities; poor or no infrastructure, for instance, sewerage and sanitation in rural areas and the urban bias in the provision of resources.

Secondly, there are problems relating to the style and approach to work, namely, undemocratic and inaccessible facilities; health workers going into communities with their own perception of needs, emphasising curative treatment as opposed to prevention and encouraging dependency rather than empowering communities; general prejudice and being ideologically sectarian; lack of coordination among health organisations and workers; and mystifying health practice.

Breaking barriers and building trust were identified as a critical element for health workers in the community.

Case studies were presented to illustrate the role civics have played in taking up health problems in the community and in campaigning so as to pressure to authorities and/or to raise awareness. In one case study a civic's health sub-committee initiated a clean-up campaign and identified problems in the community such as blocked sewage pipes, lack of finance, long queues and the closure of clinics throughout the night.

Authorities were then challenged on some of those issues, including the call for more and better recreation facilities and old age homes. Mass campaigns were organised to involve the community. The civics worked with progressive health workers and their organisations to the benefit of the community.

(Continues)





*Women in the Legal Profession*

**Commemorating 100 years**

(1923-2023)

Parliamentary Research Unit



An edited report produced by researchers in the Parliamentary Research Unit

(...Continued)

## Work – Life balance

“It is increasingly argued that all workers, men and women, desire work – life balance and require time to attend to their personal life. However, it is well documented that the so-called gender-neutral criteria and competitive workplace culture has had a profound impact on women, especially those with disproportionate family commitments.”

While flexible work environments are becoming more commonplace, it still appears that women are more likely than men to use this flexibility in most instances for domestic and childcare responsibilities. Research indicates that while many law firms support flexible work schedules, very few take the opportunities as it continues to be met with resistance. For many women taking up flexible work schedules there is also seemingly a price to pay. While many work environments have become more flexible and people centred – at least on paper - the dichotomy between being a good mother/carer and a good worker persists.

## Sexual harassment and bullying

An International Bar Association study in 2018 corroborate a previous study by Wits University’s Centre for Applied Legal Studies, which found that patriarchal bullying and sexual harassment are pervasive in the legal profession. In the survey, 43% of the female legal practitioners stated that they have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. In recent unanimous judgement in *McGregor v Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council* and others, which dealt with sexual harassment, the Constitutional Court expressed itself on this subject matter in the following terms:

Sexual harassment is the most heinous misconduct that plagues a workplace. Although prohibited under labour laws of this country, it persists. Its persistence and prevalence poses a barrier to the achievement of substantive equality in the workplace and is inimical to the constitutional dream of a society found on the values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms ... and non-sexism. Not only is it demeaning to the victim, but it undermines their dignity, integrity and self-worth, striking at the root of that person’s being.’

The Legal Practice Council and its Sexual Harassment Policy, The Legal Practice Council (LPC), is a national, statutory body established in terms of section



4 of the Legal Practice Act. The LPC regulates the affairs of and exercises jurisdiction over all legal practitioners (attorneys and advocates) and candidate legal practitioners.

The Legal Practice Council has been vocal about its implementation and publishing of its Sexual Harassment Policy. As the watchdog that regulates the affairs of all legal practitioners, it does acknowledge that sexual harassment is a major concern in society and regrettably is still a major concern in the legal profession. The aim of its Sexual Harassment Policy is for legal practitioners and candidate legal practitioners to conduct themselves in a manner, which creates a working environment in which all professional respect one another and must be treated with respect, integrity, dignity and privacy. Persons who are subjected to sexual harassment, who are in the legal profession and who may not necessarily want to go to CCMA, have a right to lay a complain t with the Legal Practice Council and appropriate action will be taken.

The Legal Practice Council also points out the challenge if it faces with receiving complaints from people who want to remain anonymous and that makes it difficult to investigate the matter where there is not enough detail. The statutory body also urges those in the legal profession and those who were in the legal profession who have faced such situation, to reach out to them. It is important that everyone takes responsibility to ensure that the Code and Sexual Harassment Policy is implemented.

(Continues ...)

# Who are at the helm of ANC Veteran`s League?



**Snuki Zikalala**  
President



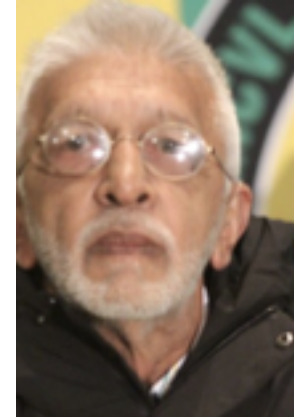
**Mavuso Msimang**  
Deputy President



**Ilva MacKay-Langa**  
Secretary General



**Connie September**  
Deputy Secretary General



**Fazel Randera**  
Treasurer General

Part of the ANC’s last crop of those who may be regarded as the ‘keepers’, the newly elected ANCVL leaders remained steadfast in keeping the ANC’s mission on track over the years.

They and many of their ilk never abandoned the NDR ship and its cargo in the raging democratic stormy waters in the country. They firmly held the helm and to this day. Never jettisoning part of the

precious load, the ANC NDR ship is sailing steadily to its destination. They are part of the crew.

Snuki Sikalala, has impeccable credentials in journalism. He has boldly adopted a biased and pro democratic changes posture to build an equitable and just information dissemination system amid the clangour of hypocrites of freedom of speech.

Mavuso Msimang, an erudite ANC disciplinarian who speaks fearlessly and eschew dishonesty carries an air of respect - this will give credence to the league.

**Ilva MacKay-Langa, a revolutionary wordsmith, both creatively and in a corporate sense is sure to be bring certainty through her interactive prowess. Her knowledge of interaction will assist the league to build an additional communication channel for the ANC.**

Connie September is experienced in trade union and labour movement matters. In her is a wealth and invaluable organisational skill that will help steady and buoy the NDR.

Quite insightful besides the medical field, Fazel Randera’s hawk-eye nature will assist to build the league into active and analytic approach, thus preemptively dealing with challenges.



# 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 tse na 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.

## Tsela ya ho jala Kale

Ha ho jala **kale** latela ditaello ka mehla ho tswa ho ba rekisang peo. Ho latela metjha e mmalwa e lokelwang ho latelwa ha ho jalwa bakeng sa diratswaneng tsa hae:

- Pele ho tjalo, tshela monontsha mme e kopangwe le mobu wa manyolo. Manyolo ana a lokela ho tshelwa ka ho lekana hodima mobu ka fereko kapa kgarafu.
- Ha eba o jala peo, etsa tiiso yah ore di kengwa mobung sebaka se qaqolohang ka ho lekana mme e ba peo e kwahelwa ha tshesane ka mobu. Ka morao hore peo e mele, dimelana tseo tse nyane di lokelwa ho fokotsa ka ho ntsha tse ding hore di se teteane e leho sielana sebaka le hore moya o sole hantle hara tsona.
- Ha o ntsha sethopo ho jala fatshe mobung, jala ka botebo ba tsona ba ha di ne di le sethopong, mme o di qaqolohanye ka ho lekana. Ka mehla di nosetse hanyane ha di qeta ho kengwa mobung hore di se kgathatsehe le ho swaba.

### Kgolo

- Dimela tsa sethopo di lokelwa ho fokotsa dibekeng tse pedi hoba di mele.
- Ho bohlokwa ho dula o nosetsa kale ka ho phethahala le ho e fa manyolo (ho tshela thoko ho dimelana manyolo a *nitrogen e hodimo*). Ha pula e

sa ne ka dinako tse itseng ka mokgwa o lekaneng, nosetsa ka mehla, empa o se nosetse ho feta tekano hoba ho etsa jwalo ho tla baka mafu kapa mahloko le kgolo e fokolang ya metso.

Kwahela mobu ka *polasetiki* kapa masala a jwang bo kutilweng ho fokotsa lehola, ho tshwara mongobo le ho etsa hore **kale** e dule e phodile. **Kale** e ka hola butle ha eba dimela di kgathatsehe (ho tjhesa haholo kapa ho bata, ho se fumane metsi a lekaneng, mafu kappa dikokwanyana tse tshwenyang).

- Ho tiisetse tlhahiso ya mahlaku a hodileng hantle mariha, kwahela ka ho phethahala ka mora' ho lala ho matla ha serame.

### Mefuta ya Kale e jalwang ha ngata

- **'Chou Moullier'** – ke mofuta o tlwaehileng o peo e ngata ka tatso e pakeng tsa tatso ya *cabbage* le *Brussels sprouts*
- **'Black Palm'** (e tsejwa hape ka lebitso la **'Nero**



**Kale e rata mobu o motle oo metsi a monyelang ha bonolo. E rata hape kganya ya letsatsi empa e ka hola hantle le moo ho seng moriti o mongata**

### Kotulo

- **di Toscana'** – ke mofuta oo ho thweng ke mpho ya *Italy* e melang selemo ho pota, le ha empa e hola hantle mariha hobane ho bata ho eketsa tatso ya yona. Ha e dula ekgwa e qetella e tshwana le palema e nyenyane ka tjhebeho.
- **'Dwarf Siberian'** – ke mofuta o hlahang *Russia*. E na le mahlaku a kgabileng, ke mofuta o mong o kgonang ho tiisetse mariheng. E kgothaletsa ho jalwa dibakeng tse batang haholo.
- **'Tronchuda'** - ke mofuta wa mahlaku a sa teteanang mme e amangwa le mopheho wa *Portuguese dish Caldo Verde*. Tatso ya teng e matla mme e etsa mahlaku a mangata a kotulehang jwaloka *spinach*

**Kale** e kotulwa ha mahlaku a yona a le boholo ba letsoho. Ekga mahlaku a ka ntle a ka tlang seatla kotulong e nngwe le enngwe, le ha ho le jwalo se ke wa kga mahlaku a fetang nngwe-bororong ya semela ka nako e le nngwe.

• Qoba ho qotha lekgaba le le holo (le mahareng a semela), e leng lona le thusang ho hlomela ha makgasi a mang.

• **Kale** e tla tswela pele ho hola ho fihlela dithempereitjha di filha ho  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . O se kgaotse ho kotula: Ho latwa ke serame ha nyenyane (*A kiss of frost*) ho e fa tatso e hlabosang le ho feta.

• Ho atolosa kotulo, kwahela dijalo tsa **kale** ka sebediswa se kwahelang dijalo,

kapa o ka iketsetse se kwahela dijalo ka kobo yak gale eo tsheheditsweng ka dithupa. (*Di tswela pele*)

## China to strengthen agricultural sci-tech innovation

CGTN

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has released a plan for promoting key subjects during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) to enhance the country's agricultural sci-tech innovation.

The subjects involve food security, nutrition and health, cultivated-land conservation, disease prevention and control, green development, intelligent agricultural machinery, basic research, frontier and interdisciplinary research, data resources and regional development.

By 2020, the rate of agricultural technological development's contribution to China's economic growth rate had reached over 60 percent, and the coverage rate of improved varieties of crops has reached over 96 percent, said CAAS president Tang Huajun.

The proportion of improved varieties



A drone helps pollinate plum trees in an orchard in Nanchong, southwest China's Sichuan Province, February 22, 2021. /CFP

and localized livestock, poultry and aquatic products are on the rise year by year, Tang said.

Science and technology have become one of the most important drivers of the country's

agricultural economic growth, Tang added. In the future, the CAAS will focus on developing basic scientific research issues, including biological nitrogen fixation, apomictic reproduction, pathogenesis and transmission mechanisms of animal diseases, and cutting-edge technologies, such as gene editing,

synthetic biology, pest monitoring and early warning.

It will also focus on developing high-yield and high-quality grain crops to ensure national food security, Tang said.

Source(s): Xinhua News Agency