



The National Assembly Speaker and leader of the South African delegation to the 8th P20 Speakers' Summit in Indonesia, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, says world parliaments have made inadequate progress towards improving women's representation in recent years and still have a long walk to achieving gender equality across the socio-economic spectrum.

Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula was delivering a keynote address on the last day of the two-day summit of Speakers of G20 countries from around the world, which was hosted by the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives in the parliamentary precinct in Jakarta.

"Women have come a long way in their struggles, not only for equality, but to also have their voice and inputs heard, both at home and in the workplace," said Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula.

She made her address during a debate titled: "Social inclusion, gender equality, and women empowerment. She commended transformative legislation aimed at improving women's participation

PROGRESS MADE IN ACHIEVING GENDER PARITY *But more still need to be done – NA Speaker*

and involvement in politics and the economy, but said the translation of legislation into pragmatic, meaningful changes in women's lives "has not been forthcoming".

Urging the P20 Speakers to accelerate the pace of change, Ms Mapisa-Nqakula said that the road remains "long and tedious". She warned that the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Agenda 2063 may not be attained unless all nations adopt different strategies to those that have gone before.

Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula acknowledged that Covid-19, the effects of climate change and economic volatility, which has increased economic insecurity in many parts of the world, have reversed progress achieved so far.

She urged the P20 parliamentarians to multiply their efforts to achieve the



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula,

targets set in the Beijing Platform for Action, to protect, advance and develop

all women, including women parliamentarians across the world. She flagged challenges still facing girl children and women in general, including gender-based violence and child marriages that still afflict many nations.

She listed areas of progress in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and South Africa, including the representation of women in leadership and management positions and the adoption of the Model Law on Gender-based Violence to guide and align legislation and improve execution outcomes.

The setting of a 50:50 quota for men and women representation across the spectrum has helped to achieve 46% women

representation in Parliament, 62% in the public service, and 45% women among 256 judges. These achievements and the recent appointment of a woman Deputy Chief Justice are commendable steps in the right direction.

Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula also had a third bilateral meeting with the Speaker of Azerbaijan, who is the current leader of the Non-Aligned Movement's Parliamentary Forum, to discuss matters of mutual interests.

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula and Ms Sahiba Gafarova agreed regarding her visit to South Africa in 2023 as part of strengthening relations to heighten the execution of the resolutions of the conference held in Azerbaijan recently.

Issued by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Plunder of arts & culture resources Finger points at senior government officials

The arrest of government officials recently brings hope that the scourge of criminality and acting with impunity by some government officials is coming to an end. This will perhaps also cause some politicians to refrain to be complicit or turn a blind eye on criminal activities in the departments they lead.

Winnie Mandela is synonymous with the struggle for liberation and fight for democratic changes. She fought for equality and stood for social justice. She fearlessly and fiercely confronted apartheid ideology and its machinery. To many she was a hope that one day justice will prevail.

Nothing was more perfect, when the idea of creating a lasting legacy came - was the 'matchbox' house in the tiny Free State town of 'Brandfort' she was banished to was thought as central to the idea of building the legacy.

It was therefore befitting, in honour of her name, courageous deeds and selfless sacrifice, to turn the house into a museum, a liberation monument.

As citizens in this province and inheritors of freedom and democratic changes in the country, which Winnie Mandela has been undeniable part of, should be shameful and gutted by the plunder of resources intended for building of the museum.

The arrest of high ranking government officials for the Winnie Mandela museum scandal has heralded a new beginning for arts and culture in the province. It aroused hope for the many cultural activists and artists in the province who have been orphaned by arrogance and wanton acts of corruption and

theft by some of the people entrusted with public service.

The arrest of former Head of Free State Department of Sport Arts and Culture and now Department of Education in the province, Advocate Tsoarelo Malakoane and others is a step in the right direction, to weed out corruption and theft in the department that is less focused on as a hotbed of corruption and theft in the province. This is partly because artists are silent and some are ingratiated with corrupt officials, and therefore will not speak out against maleficence. It is only recently that few are coming out with information that will indicate how corruption and theft have silently gnawed the meagre resources of the department over the decades.

Malakoane, who was then the head of the department, was entrusted with the development

of the museum project, is now with others, facing charges of stealing over R700 000 that was allocated to the museum project. This is alleged to have happened between January 2008 and December 2010. Malakoane was also at that time serving as a member of PACOFS' Council, an entity that (should) provides and contribute in artists development in the province. PACOFS was then lead by Spirit Monyobo. As a CEO Monyobo, who had vowed then to correct the wrongs in the institution and work in a better way to develop and improve artists, has his efforts stymied by the Council that suspended him for frivolous charges that were never taken any further. He resigned in later in October 2012.

The other accused are Mr. Monyane Sefantsi, who was also a member of PACOS' Council, Eunice Aaron, Lodewikus Celliers, Lebogang Sebeela, Georgia Thubani and two companies. The accused faces about 20 charges altogether.

The arrest alone is a good sign of rooting out criminal activities in the department and government in general.

The successful prosecution and appropriate sentences will be an act of fairness and retribution for the distrust

and pillage of public funds by those entrusted with responsibility to take care of.

It is sad, very sad, that people occupying high positions in government are the ones accused for stealing while they earn relatively well and are supposed to be moral compasses in serving the people with utmost responsibility.

While the processes for meting justice is long and arduous, what the public will take comfort into, is that at least there are people who have to answer for the plunder. It will perhaps discourage the impunity of criminal elements across the government departments in the province.

(Read more; *MACUFE in Sesotho inside*)



SACP bemoans ANC decaying politics in the province

The South African Communist Party in the Free State bemoans the evidently moribund state of affairs of the ANC in the province – the legacy of the previous PEC. The organisation is at its lowest as the National Conference nears, with fears that the province may not have a properly constituted delegation to the National Conference if there will be a delegation at all. Reconstitution, auditing and building the process towards the National Conference in the province are in disarray and pathetic. Branches of the ANC instead of being used to consolidate power towards the National Conference and the coming national elections, are now used as means to advance narrow personal interests of “leaders”.

Once believed to be the beginning of the healing process and building of unity, the interim bodies, especially the IPC has not inspired confidence as it is accused to be not only lethargic, but is actively taking part in the fermenting of meaningless political battles. Branches of the ANC have now become means of “leaders” to wage factional battles.

“As we know, the ANC practically do not have elected structures throughout the province, operating with interim structures.

These structures in our view are not succeeding in the task of uniting and renewing the ANC

in the province. Structures being put up on the ground are not rudimentary basic units of the organisation, rooted within communities- but rather, these are mostly conference branches set-up purely to advance upward leadership mobility ambitions of different groupings.” Read the statement.

The Party says critical matters are not attended to honestly by the organisation’s leadership in the province, the interim structures of the ANC in the province have become either ineffective or fighting, evidently with no interest of uniting and building a strong ANC that should reclaim its position as a leader of society. Instead they (structures) have their focus on access to State resources “The various interim structures have effectively fractured into separate groupings, organised and organising factionally, not to reclaim lost ground and societal support but mainly advancing with eyes firmly fixated on access to state positions/resources and setting up controllable ANC structures that are essentially

voting fadders.”

The Party points at the decay in Mangaung metro, the economic hub of the province: “Critical matters such as the situation in Mangaung Metro are not being entertained honestly by the political leadership. The fact is that the ANC public representatives and political leadership, both in the region and province, are not showing leadership and therefore responsible for most of the instabilities occurring in the metro.” The Party says it must continue to lobby for an alliance led intervention mechanism, with full

mandating and intervening powers to correct the situation in the metro.

“Our point of entry must be to save the municipality, restoration of governance and service delivery, holding anyone in the wrong legally responsible, deal directly with the political basis for the crisis in Mangaung, which is also responsible for the perceived ill-discipline and conduct of some ANC representatives.” Says the Party in the statement.

Further the SACP says in most municipal councils, there is lack of synergy between the political l

eadership and administrative leadership, whereas in some cases municipalities are operating with skeleton structures. The causes usually political where no regard is given to the impact of ineffective local government has on provision of services to communities.

“There are of course many other inherent challenges affecting the local government from the funding model to institutional and legislative challenges. However, the disjuncture between the councils, the executive and administrative leadership has brought about paralysis in our local and provincial state.” Says the SACP in the statement.

Tshebetso ya dimasepala e lokela ho ntlafatswa le ho matlafatswa, Stofile

Ho hloka hlahla tsebo e tebileng le kaho ya bokgoni ho etsa hore dimasepala di sebetse hantle, mme tharollo ya boemo bona e lokela ho shejwa le ho sejetswa ka katamelo ya sepolitiki, tsamaiso le boemo ba diijehete. Sena ke ho ya ka MoPresidente wa SALGA, Monghadi Bheke Stofile, nakong eo a neng a etsa puo kopanong e kgolo ya Mebuso ya Selehae le Ditaba tsa Marena e neng e tshwaretse Birchwood, Gauteng nakwaneng e sa tswa feta.

“Re na le boikarabelo, hara tse ding ho tiisa taba ya ho ntshetsa pele bokgoni dimasepaleng ka tshebediso ya District Development Model.” O rialo mme a tswela pele ka hore kopano ena e tla fana ka tshusumetso e hlokehang ho puso tsa selehae hore di be maemong a lokelang ho fumana di-sela tse tswellang tsa ho kgotsofatsa diithoko tsa setjhaba le ho ntlafatsa maphelo a batho.

Monghadi Stofile o ipileditse ho baetapele ba kgethilweng sehlang sena dimasepaleng ho nka phephetso ya ho fetola ponahalo le seriti sa puso ya selehae. O re ntho e tlang ho fetola ditaba sehlang sena dimasepaleng ke tsamaiso e sa qe ya qeyeng, e sebetse ditaba hanghang le ka boikarabelo. Sena ho ya ka yena se tla kgutlisisa tshepo ya setjhaba dimasepaleng.

O re puso ya selehae e ama motho e mong le e mong, ka tsela e jwalo bohle ba lokela ho bontsha boikarabelo ha ho tshohla le ho sebetse ditaba tsa puso ya selehae.

O ipileditse ho dikarolo tse ding tsa mmuso ho se babale karolo e eketsang tjebeho empe ya puso ya selehae. O boela a re: “Re batla ho etsa kopo e ikgethang ho ya ho mekgatlo ya basebetsi, ya hore ba tswela pele ka tokelo ya bona ya boitseko, empa ha ba etsa jwalo ba mpe ba etse jwalo ba ela hloko ditokelo tsa batho tse tiiswang ke Molaotheo tsa ho fumantswa di-shebeletso, hore mekgatlo o mong le o mong wa basebetsi, o hlokomelile hore ditho tsa

ona ha di senye marangrang ka ha seo se kgutlisetsa morao tokoloho ya nnete.”

Stofile o re bona jwalo SALGA ba ekeditse diteko tsa bona ho tshehetsa puso ya selehae ho kenya tsebo e tebileng (professionalization) ka hara puso ya selehae. O boetse a etsa boipiletsa ba hore ho se nkelwe puso ya selehae mesebetsi ya yona le matla a yona, empa ho mpe ho fanwe ka tshehetso ya tsela tse fapaneng e le ho matlafatsa tshebetso makaleng a ka reng: diporojeko, moralo wa ho batla ba fanang ka di-shebeletso, tsamaiso ya tshebediso ya matlole le tiisetso ya tshebetso. O re ba etsa boipiletsa ho tswa ho mekgatlo ya poraefete ho sebetse mmoho le puso ya selehae e le ho tsoseletsa ho nka karolo ya bona pusong ya selehae.

Monghadi Stofile o boetse a re ba etsa boipiletsa le ho ditho tsa bona (SALGA) ho kenya tshebetso mekgatlo e tlang ho tiisa taolo le tsamaiso e matla e tataisong ya boetapele, e le ho fana ka tshepo ho setjhaba le ho ba kgothaletsa ho kena ka setotswana ditabeng tsa puso dimasepaleng.

“Hodima tsena tsohle, re hloka dimasepala tse sebetse, tse nang le bokgoni ba ho phethahatsa ditabatabo le ditebello tsa bakgethi. Sena se tla etsahala feela ha dimasepala di hlophilwe hantle, di na le bokgoni mme di abetswe mehlodi e lekaneng.” Ho bolela Monghadi Stofile.

*** The South African Communist Party (SACP) congratulates its Free State Provincial Secretary Bheke Stofile, Speaker of the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and President of the South African Local Government Association, on his election as one of the Co-Presidents of the United Cities and Local Governments. Stofile was elected at the World Congress of the United Cities and Local Governments, held in Daejeon, South Korea, from 10 to 14 October 2022.**

Education is key in fighting poverty and other social ills, Mongameli Ngangelizwe

Born and bred in Welkom, and the background of the rural villages of the Eastern Cape where his father comes from poverty is extreme and illiteracy is very high. And that made him to have passion for education and development.

Equipped with National Diploma in Business Management, National Diploma in Paralegal (LAW)LLB Hons Degree Mongameli Ngangelizwe is ready to step in the real challenging work environment - the 'legal jungle'. He has just registered his Articles with the Law society, preparing to advance towards board examination in order to be an admitted Attorney of the high Court.

He says: “I want to volunteer my legal skills to aid those who can not afford to pay for legal fees who find themselves sentenced to jail terms over poor legal representatives.” He adds: “Of course opening my own Practice is my next objective.”

He says he chose education to fight poverty, sharpen his skills to uplift himself, his family and the community in which he lives. His parents encouraged him to study, he says.

He adds that growing up in the



ANC environment has also contributed in him choosing the path he is now pursuing.

“I would like to encourage all young people to go to school. That will give them independence politically, socially and economically.”

“I am very much committed to the development of this Country and continent of I am inspired by the educated generation of 1944; Mandela, Majombozi, OR Tambo and others.

Mongameli who is actively involved in the ANC structures says he believes in organisation’s truest values; integrity; commitment, accountability and transparency.

He is married, and says fondly: “I am married for four years to my beautiful wife Mrs Lwandle Ngangelizwe, with three beautiful kids Luniko, Alunamda and Milani.



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Ntuli's bones exhibition calls for a national dialogue

The exhibition Azibuyele Emasisweni, Return to the Source, should not only be regarded merely for its artistic expression, but it has a deeper meaning than imagined.

The artworks reveal a quest to connect with the past and higher consciousness in the spiritual realm where important conversation, enquiries and supplications take place. Says Professor Pitika Ntuli, the artist who has created the intriguing bones artworks at display currently in Bloemfontein.

Ntuli was speaking at the opening of the exhibition of his work Azibuyele Emasisweni, Return to the Source, held in the Reservoir at the Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein earlier this month. He says, with the exhibition he is symbolically 'throwing bones' like a sangoma to invite people to engage with each other. "If we do not engage each other we can't give each other hope, we will all be bitter and angry individuals and when we come together it will be a disaster", he added.



The bones are positioned, spaced and joined to create artwork with meanings of an immense proportions

The generative artist, who not only create visual art, but also doubles as a poet, believes that his work is not a creation by himself alone, but communication of series of instructions from higher consciousness as well as consultation with other eminent people in and outside the country.

He says the exhibition should be regarded as a consultation and engagement session, to discuss the myriad of challenges that saddle the country today and possible solutions. He says he once tried to bring the best minds in the country together to a dialogue to discuss the challenges society is confronted with and what should be done with the situation, but that effort was somehow foiled.

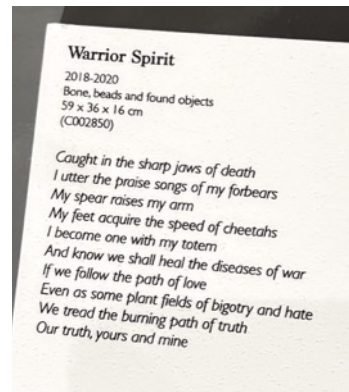
This collection, according to him, captures the essence of life, with an emphasis on the power bestowed and manifest through

women. This is seen in the symbolic and interpretive shapes of many of the sculptures that represents significance and attitude of women in a perfect natural setting.

Ntuli has ingeniously sculpted the bones individually or collectively to create different meanings. The sculptures, looked from different angles and different level of artistic meanings provide an engaging opportunity for the viewer.

The visual presentation; utilisation of space and effects of lighting, e.g. tones and shadows, in the venue, adds mystical identity to the exhibition. While the physical form of the sculptures may denote surreal or grotesque appearance, their form and presentation, including the accompanying description notes, the sculptures persuade the viewer to enquire more about their connotative meaning.

The opening, held in the clear night-sky atmosphere, with a display of kaleidoscope of magnificent stars, offered a relaxing space that encourage a true camaraderie for those who attended the occasion. The rustic atmosphere in the garden and the exhibition venue were a perfect refreshing timeout for the hustle-bustle of a typical city life.



The exhibition runs until 5 December 2022. For more information please contact Tel. 051 011 0525 (Ext. 200)

Mangaung community, people in the province and other nearby provinces has an opportunity to see and experience the mind-blowing exhibition by one of South Africa's internationally renowned artist, Professor Pitaka Ntuli.

The exhibition, Azibuyele Emasisweni, Return to the Source, is running at the Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein until 5th December, 2022.

Oliewenhuis Art Museum curator, Ester Le Roux says the public is welcome to visit the museum to see Azibuyele Emasisweni, Return to the Source and other works of art by other different artists displayed in the museum.

Le Roux says people are free to visit the museum to view the exhibition. "People must make time to come and view it. It's really a special exhibition, but also other exhibited works by other artists.

Entrance is free. We are open from 09:00 to 17:00 during week days, and 09:00 to 16:00 on Saturday and public holidays." She explained.

The exhibition has attracted a lot of interest for art lovers and enthusiasts from near and far. These included Phatsoane Henney Attorneys, who have been involved in visual art development in the province. Willie Bester, who is an artist himself; he paints and do sculpture, came all the way from Cape Town to see

Mangaung Community encouraged to visit Oliewenhuis Art Museum



Artist; Willie Bester came to witness the spectacle



Part of the crowd who eagerly listened to Professor Ntuli and other speakers.



Right: Steven Sack, art consultant, gave an informative comment at the occasion



The idyllic atmosphere created a perfect setting to reconnect and ignite conversation. **Top left:** Professor Pitaka Ntuli, Mr Lechesa and other guests relax before the opening of the exhibition.

Top right: Pitaka Ntuli at his best, churning out words of poetry in front of audience before talking about his works.

the exhibition on its opening day. He said it was amazing to see the huge bones that have been turned into pieces of art, and marvelled at how Ntuli has manipulated them into art. He said: "You can actually pick up the texture and the movement in the art pieces. It is quite amazing."

He pointed out at the past in which people were not free to express themselves because of the apartheid system. He says it is sad today, that after so many years of sacrifice people are not fully enjoying the fruits of freedom and democracy. "It seems

like some politicians have taken this opportunity to rather enrich themselves and has taken a position that says it's okay not to serve the people." He concluded poignantly. people had opportunity to engage with the artist and gave their opinion on the art pieces.

MACUFE - 'Festival gone to waste'

Bakeng sa hore e be sehlohlolo le motlotlo wa botjhaba le bonono mokete o tsebahalang wa selemo le selemo wa botjhaba wa Mangaung, o tsejwang naha ka bophara ka lebitso la MACUFE, oile wa tswarwa hape kamora ho kginwa nakwana ka lebaka la sewa sa Covid-19

Le ha ho le jwalo mehleng ya kajeno mokete ona o se o potapotiwe ke ke dipuopuo, mme o ka hara ho dumaduma le dipelaelo tse sa

feleng (shrouded in unending controversy).

Ka sehlohong ho dumaduma le ho se kgotsofale ho ho ngata ho bakwa ke se dumelwang e le leeme, bobodu, manyofonyofo le boshodu ba dijhelete lebitsong la "festival" ya setjhaba. Ho se kgotsofalle tlhophiso le tsamaiso ya Macufe ho nkile mothinya o mong selemong sena ha ba bang ba sa kgotsofallang kgetho le ho thonya ba tlang ho hlophisa le ho tsamaisa

mokete ba leba Lekgotleng la dinyewe. Ba ile ba ba ba lebisaba ena makgotleng a dinyewe e le ho thibela mokete ho thibela mokete ho tswela pele, pele toka e etswa.

Empa ho bonahala hore tlhesehelo ya mmuso ya ho etsa mokete ona e ile ya qhelela ka thoko boipelaetso ba bao ba neng ba sa kgotsofalle mokgethwa wa ho hlophisa le tsamaisa mokete.

Lekgotla ha le diya nyewe le hlaositse ha ho kgethwa le ho thonngwa ha ba kgethilweng ho tsamaisa mokete ho se molaong, empa mmuso o ile wa nawa tswela pele ka mokete.

Ruri boleng le setumo sa mokete ona se ya se qepha mme ba ba ngata ba se ba sheba Macufe ka lenyatso le ho e bapisa le boshodu le manyofonyofo a bakwang ke ba bang ba boradipolotiki le bahlanka ba mmuso.

Eric Donaldson pineng ya hae, 'What a Festival', o bina a re: Festival gone to waste, ... everybody wears a frown. Festival ain't the same - everybody says it's a shame ...', MACUFE, e bonahala e le tshenyho ho feta ho etsa phahello le ntshetsopele ya setjhaba, haholoholo le ho nyolla 'kgwebo tse nyenyane le ho matlafatsa di-artists tsa Foreisetata le di-entrepreneurs tse ka hara indasteri tse nang mang-weel.

Concourt rules that Copyright Act is unconstitutional

Court gives immediate redress for blind and visually impaired people

By Tania BroughtonLaw | Johannesburg

- The Constitutional Court has ruled that sections of the Copyright Act are unconstitutional and given Parliament 24 months to fix it.
- Meanwhile blind people may convert written material into accessible formats without permission from copyright holders.
- Parliament is in the process of amending the Act but this is taking too long - 12 years - say justices.

Blind and visually impaired people, prevented from converting written material to braille or other accessible formats without the permission of copyright holders, can now do so following a ruling by the Constitutional Court.

The court has also given Parliament 24 months to cure the "unconstitutional" defects in the Copyright Act.

In a unanimous decision on Wednesday, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Copyright Act is unconstitutional in that it limits the access of visually impaired people to published literary works and artistic works.

Before the court was a ruling by Gauteng High Court Judge Mandla Mbongwe, made almost one year ago, that the provisions, which imposed a "book famine" for blind and visually impaired people, were an unjustifiable limit to their rights and did not pass constitutional muster. While Judge Mbongwe ruled that the Act's gatekeeping provisions, enacted in 1978,

would no longer be effective from the date of his ruling, this had to be confirmed by the Constitutional Court.

In May, the court heard argument in the application launched by Blind SA, represented by SECTION27, against the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition.



The Constitutional Court has ruled that sections of the Copyright Act are unconstitutional and Parliament has 24 months to fix it. Archive photo: Ashraf Hendricks

Amendments to the Act have been in the offing for some 12 years.

Blind SA's advocate Jonathan Berger argued during the hearing that an amendment bill, which would exempt visually impaired people from its provisions, had been "held hostage" to a lengthy legislative process.

In the meantime, he said, many South Africans including people such as retired Constitutional Court Judge Zac Yacoob and Spotlight Editor Marcus Low, struggled to access books to learn. Berger argued that when permission was sought to convert

the written material to an accessible format, it was "either refused, or worse, just ignored with no reasons given".

The Minister did not oppose the application, conceding that the Act was unconstitutional and the order sought was in line with the amendment bill, currently in the legislative process.

While giving

move their eyes.

The Minister was ordered to pay Blind SA's costs.

Writing on behalf of the court, Acting Judge David Unterhalter said the affidavits of those affected "speak trenchantly of the deprivations wrought upon persons" because of the provisions of the Act.

One, a Mr Gama, a teacher at a school for the deaf and blind, had described how many special schools across the country struggled to obtain sufficient textbooks in accessible formats. This disadvantaged learners and impaired their dignity. After learners leave school, their position is often worse still. Judge Unterhalter repeated the words of Justice Yacoob, who said: "My own

experience tells me that it is impossible to express in words how urgent this is. The best I can do is say that every day that the present Copyright Act prevails in the form in Judge Unterhalter said it took little imagination to appreciate what the scarcity, relative or absolute, did for the life chances of those with these which it is, literally thousands of

blind and visually impaired people are deprived of reading material and the prejudice to them is irreparable, incalculable and very difficult to put in words."

disabilities, and that some had achieved substantial success was only testament to their personal fortitude.

While the requirement of authorisation protected the rights of copyright owners, regard needed to be had on its impact and the challenge by Blind SA was "well founded".

"No case was advanced by the Minister to show that the limitation of rights is justified. Indeed, the minister did not oppose the application."

Judge Unterhalter said the parliamentary process had already taken too long, and those affected should not have to wait further to secure a remedy. Interim relief was therefore appropriate during the 24-month period of suspension.

Regarding submissions that South Africa should ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which would increase the number of books available, he said this was a matter for Parliament and not the court.

Credits: groundup.org.za

Parliament 24 months to "cure the defect" in the Act, the Constitutional Court ruled that in the meantime certain exceptions would apply to those affected.

Those affected included government institutions and non-profit companies which provide education and training, and caregivers. The court ruled that they must have access to written works in an accessible format without prior authorisation.

It spelt out that this order affects people who are blind, or have any visual impairment and are unable to read printed works, or who cannot hold or manipulate a book, or focus or



Running for a healthy LIFESTYLE

Athletes came from near and far to take part in the Sanlam Cape Town marathon (42km) Many ran for and healthier life style.

From Left: Joe Mthimunya with his playful daughter Naledi from Johannesburg and Ben Mashwai Mpakane, from Botshabelo pose for photos.

20th CPC National Congress: China charts future of socialist modernization

China has set goals, tasks and policies for the cause of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country for the next five years and beyond, as the CPC opened its 20th National Congress on Sunday.

The CPC has secured historic achievements and seen historic changes in the cause of the Party and the country over the past decade,

said Xi Jinping, who delivered a report to the congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee.

"The next five years will be crucial for getting the efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects off to a good start," he said.

'Historic feats' in the past decade

Looking back at the last 10 years, Xi said the country has achieved many "historic feats."

"We embraced the centenary of the Communist Party of China; we ushered in a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and we eradicated absolute poverty and finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, thus completing the First Centenary Goal," he said, adding that they were "historic feats" that will be forever recorded in the Chinese nation's history and profoundly influence the world.

Toward 'Chinese modernization'

Expounding on the CPC's central task in the new journey ahead, Xi said the CPC will lead the Chinese people to realize the Second Centenary Goal and

advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through "a Chinese path to modernization."

The essential requirements of Chinese modernization are upholding the leadership of the CPC and socialism with Chinese characteristics, pursuing high-quality development, developing whole-process people's democracy, enriching the people's cultural lives, achieving common prosperity for all, promoting harmony between humanity and nature, building a human community with a shared future and creating a new form of human advancement, according to Xi.

"It contains elements that are common to the modernization processes of all countries, but it is more characterized by features that are unique to the Chinese context," he said.

To build a modern socialist country in all respects, he further stressed several major aspects, such as creating a new development pattern and pursuing high-quality development, invigorating China through science and education and improving the people's well-being.

"Our future is bright, but we still have a long way to go," Xi said, urging the Party to meet obstacles and difficulties head-on, ensure both development and security, and dig deep to surmount the difficulties and challenges on the road ahead.



CREDITS: CGTN

COMMENT



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



The country as usual is captured by developments towards what the outcomes of the ANC will be in December at our conference, needless to say it is the biggest and oldest political party with significant critical role in shaping our country to date. The outcomes of its five-yearly conference has major consequences for the country; domestically and internationally.

Those of us who carry its mandate in parliament, along with the majority of its members and supporters, are bound to be equally anxious to live up to its progressive agenda and the expectations of the people in general to ensure their lives become better, faster.

The leadership and delegates who heads to that conference need to be extremely conscious of this responsibility and undertake to do everything individually and collectively to meet these expectations of the people in whose privilege we serve.

Both the SACP and COSATU has spoken strongly and robustly about our expectations hoping these will register deeply inside the movement as a whole and lead to profound changes for the better. The strength of the South African revolution lies in the alliance and its deep historical relationships. The fracturing that has occurred over time has been costly and explains the losses we have suffered so far. To reverse these fortunes we all need, urgently, to repair in active practice our relations with the people.

The moral high ground from which we conducted the struggle all along can only be effectively reclaimed, if we assertively, consistently transparently deal with acts of corruption to preserve public resources for attacking the remaining malnutrition and illiteracy that remain today in our country. Both are dramatically unacceptable manifestations of persistent poverty, unemployment and inequality. Poor governance illustrated by weak coordination and equally poor integrated governance, both vertically across the three spheres and horizontally between municipalities and provinces, including with overlaps so to speak, with neighbouring countries in the region, is the problem. The district development model, we hope will decisively change things for the better.

Calls for basic income grant, for fighting against high food and fuel prices especially, are urgent to be responded to positively by our government to stave off the disaster in the making. It is equally urgent to unleash additional public support for employment creation by small business and cooperatives with special focus on lifting the informal sector, strengthening self reliance activities thereby!

We congratulate the speaker of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, the Provincial Secretary of the SACP in the Free State, Mr. Bheki Stofile, President of SALGA for his election internationally as the co-president of United Cities of Local Government. It's the third time South Africa leads this body. We wish him the best for his term of office. He is also now, since the last Central Committee (CC) a permanent invitee of the CC.

SA Parliamentary delegation calls for stronger measures to curtail abuse

Parliaments of the world need to establish strong, effective, responsive policies, structures and mechanisms in parliaments, including within political parties, to avert and protect women Members of Parliament from physical and psychological attacks.

This call was made by the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Ms Sylvia Lucas, (Pictured), during a panel debate on 'Gender Sensitive Parliaments: Parliaments Free from Sexism, Harassment and violence against Women' – facilitated by the Forum of Women Parliamentarian of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The panel discussion followed the official opening of the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali – Rwanda, by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda.

Ms Lucas said such legal instruments and mechanisms should cover all spheres and nodes of society where women become victims of abuse including households and all social media platforms. She made reference to the IPU studies undertaken in 2016 and 2021 on sexism, harassment, and violence against women

parliamentarians, which demonstrated fairly graphically the pervasive nature of patriarchy, which continued to undermine women's meaningful participation in all spheres of society.

Ms Lucas further indicated that "the rules of our parliaments must be accordingly strengthened, in order to make provision for the inclusion of gender sensitive rules, to govern all parliamentary proceedings, stipulating harsh sanctions against perpetrators. We must also urgently review our parliamentary immunity rules, to ensure that our rules do not afford MPs immunity from prosecution for sexual harassment, violence against women and related matters."

She called for a women-friendly mechanism for reporting and lodging complaints against all forms of violence in parliaments covering activities within political parties. She said the downfall of most systems is the absence of meaningful consequences management for those found to have violated policies and regulations.

"We have to ensure strict enforcement of zero-tolerance policies, criminalizing all forms of violence against women in our political parties.

We must stand firm in our resolve to address all forms of aggression because they are intended to impede our full participation and contribution to political and social life. The consequence of not dealing decisively with this scourge, is that it will inadvertently hinder implementation progress, on the 2030 Development Agenda, which is aimed at creating an equal and empowered sustainable world," said Ms Lucas.

Also contributing to the debate was SA Parliamentary delegation member Dr Annelie Lotriet, who called for "a right-based, gender-responsive approach to migration", as migration has been an opportunity for many women and girls to fulfil their full potential, mostly running away from deeply entrenched gender inequalities, including sexual and gender-based

violence as well as lack of access to resources in their respective nations. She said women bear the brunt of violence, discrimination, and other human rights violations meted against them at various stages of the migration process. She called for gender-responsive migration policies and presented South Africa's proposals which include "expressing deep concern at the reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, domestic and family violence, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work, and, all forms of forced labour and trafficking in persons."

Other additions proposed by South Africa included "urging governments of the world to develop, enforce and strengthen effective gender-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a holistic anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective."

(Edited. Issued by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa)

P20 SPEAKERS URGED TO BUILD ON POSITIVES, HELP IN NATIONS' POST-COVID HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERIES

National Assembly Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula says Parliaments need to build on a positive step of the G20 countries on the 'debt interest payment' moratorium to enable poorer countries to recover from the devastating Covid-19 pandemic effectively.

Addressing the 8th P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit held in Jakarta – Indonesia, during a debate on building an "effective parliament, vibrant democracy", Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula said the 'door is open to the cancellation of debt on a case-by-case basis. She said the strengthening of multilateralism progressively enables the resolution of the "world's most pressing problems including poverty, inequalities, climate change and gender-based violence.

The Parliamentary Speakers' Summit – P20, is led and hosted by the House Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament Ms Puan Maharani in line with the G20 countries' traditions,

as Indonesia holds its Presidency this year. Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula said Parliaments must play more hands-on roles in addressing global challenges by strengthening coordination on a multi-lateral basis. She said the strengthening of Parliamentary diplomacy helped boost the Parliaments' capacity to deliver on its core mandate of making laws, monitoring executive action and enhancing citizen engagement to build a better life for all.

The speakers' summit held at the Nusantara Building of the Indonesian Parliamentary Complex, was officially opened by President Joko Widodo who applauded the mainstreaming of the Parliament's role in addressing global development challenges. The G20 countries comprise mostly the world's largest economies, which are expected to play a significant role

in building a better and more equitable world order. Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula and her delegation that includes House Chairperson for Committees, Oversight

Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, Ms Olena Kondratiuk. Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula, who also serves as part of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) Task Force on War in Ukraine, described the bilateral engagement as fruitful.

She is due to continue with her bilateral meetings on the second day of the P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit today. Furthermore, she is scheduled to deliver a keynote address on Social Inclusion, Gender Equality, and Women Empowerment; which will be followed by a debate with other Speakers' inputs.

The P20 Speakers' Summit will conclude with the adoption of a joint statement and addresses by the co-organisers, the Indonesian Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Puan Maharani and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Mr Duarte Pacheco.

Issued by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa



Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) Puan Maharani addressing the 8th Parliamentary summit. PHOTO CREDIT: KOMPAS.com/NICHOLAS RYAN ADITYA



Building the working class movement through a Left Popular Front

By Pat Horn

Pic: streetnet.or.za

(This article originally appeared in Amandla issue no. 84 | October 2022)

IN 2017, THE 14TH NATIONAL Congress of the SACP adopted a resolution "SACP and state and popular power" which resolved

that: the 14th Congress mandates the Central Committee to establish a Road Map that must be adopted, with clear, indicative time-lines, by the forthcoming Augmented CC. This Road Map must include the following elements:

A programme of active engagements with our Alliance partners, and with a wide range of working class and progressive forces to share and test the SACP's perspectives. Particular, but not exclusive, attention must

be paid to Cosatu and its affiliates. These engagements must be at all levels, national, provincial and local. Based on these engagements, the SACP must play a leading role in developing a common platform for a Left Popular Front of working class and progressive forces...

Amandla 83 carries a polemical critique of the

"SACP's Left Popular Front", penned as part of an analysis of the outcomes of the following, i.e. 15th, National Congress of SACP held in July 2022.

This article is not a response to that critique – such a response deserves its own space. Rather, it aims to explore possibilities which could be realised by means of a Left Popular Front.

The significance of the above-mentioned 14th National SACP Congress resolution was in establishing an important principle and framework for working class activists in the SACP. This was to develop a Left Popular Front built on working class struggles on the ground, as we find ourselves in a context in which the working class and the poor have diminishing influence.

Existing campaigns
Already in October 2002, the SACP had launched the Campaign to Make Banks Serve the People. This was after it had constituted the Financial Sector Campaign Coalition (FSCC) in May 2001. This consisted of 26 civil society organisations which had no shared political alignment, but which did share a common interest in access to financial services for the working poor.

Not all the objectives of this campaign were realised in the ensuing years, but there were significant gains. These included the introduction of accessible Mzansi accounts by all the main commercial banks. This saw over

2 million people, previously labelled "unbankable" (such as street vendors and informal traders) being able to open bank accounts and access other financial services for the first time.

Since the 14th National Congress, many ordinary SACP members on the ground have been steadily working with other working class organisations in their communities, in line with this resolution. As in all branch-based national organisations, this work is uneven. Not all SACP branches are equally active in their implementation of this resolution, nor evenly broad in their approach. But the opportunity is explicitly there for all SACP activists to make use of this framework to build on working class struggles to start a bottom-up process of building a Left Popular Front.

In Mpumalanga, the provincial SACP has been working for many years on the ground in joint campaigns with the liberation movements in Swaziland. They have been campaigning for the

unbanning of all political organisations in Swaziland, and the release of political prisoners, including Comrade Amos Mbedzi who was serving 85 years in Mswati's prison cells until his deportation just prior to his untimely death. SACP and Young Communist League (YCL) activists in Mpumalanga continue to participate alongside COSATU, SANCO, the Communist Party of Swaziland and the Swaziland Solidarity Network, in border blockades and campaigns in solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Swaziland.

The aim of promoting a Left Popular Front is to rise above inter-organisational squabbles and focus on building or strengthening working class unity – without any grandstanding or insistence on the SACP playing a leading role in such initiatives.

More recently, since the 14th National Congress, the SACP has actively associated itself with (but not tried to lead) the People's Vaccine Campaign (PVC). This was initiated to ensure equitable access to a vaccine against Covid-19 for everyone who needs it.

The SACP has also given consistent support for the demands of the Black Sash campaign for "Basic Income Support for people aged 18 to 59 NOW". This gathered momentum after the Covid-19 lockdowns devastated the already minimal livelihoods of workers in the informal economy, and of the working poor. They do not qualify for social protection under the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), and therefore were not able to get any relief from the UIF's TERS fund. Yet they were either completely without incomes or earning lower incomes once they were able to start working again. Working with trade unions Many SACP members have worked patiently and persistently on building relationships with trade union federations, including those outside of the tripartite alliance such as Saftu, which had emerged out of divisions in COSATU. Accordingly, the SACP threw its weight behind the National Day of Action on 24th August 2022 organised by COSATU and SAFTU, their affiliates and other trade union federations. This called on government to address the cost-of-living crisis, the energy crisis and persisting high levels of inequality, unemployment and poverty.

The SACP's call on its members to support the National Day of Action was "Together, let us build a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and the poor". In joint marches held around the country in all 9

provinces, SACP leaders and members were either leading or participating in many of these. Of all the marches in the country, only one split into two separate marches, which hopefully means we are getting better at acting in unity.

SACP has 339,229 members, as at the 15th National Congress, and many of them have been working on the ground in their communities, some of them in trade unions and other membership-based organisations of workers in the informal economy and precarious workers. All are encouraged to work in alliance with the Left Popular working class organisations in their communities and workplaces in strengthening their struggles as the basis of developing a broader Left Popular Front.

SACP discussion papers Some of the SACP discussion papers which were under consideration at the 15th National Congress explored some

of the most vulnerable, sometimes-forgotten, sections of the working class. They need to be seen leading many of the bottom-up struggles in order to ensure the development of a really inclusive Left Popular Front.

The following are some extracts from documents of the 15th Congress.

On workers in the informal economy:

"they work in informal enterprises as well as in informal jobs (jobs that pay no benefits or provide no social protection) thus including own-account workers (e.g. home-based workers, street vendors, or small farmers) and paid workers in informal jobs (e.g. casual workers in

On fighting patriarchy in a Left Popular Front:

"This means looking beyond the (mass) women's organisations SACP has tended to rely on, which may or may not self-identify as feminist in the sense of fighting patriarchy.

For us in the SACP this means that we need to recognize the independent emerging mass feminist self-organisation led by young women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) with strong focus on intersectionality – and engage with such organisations/movements as part of building a left popular front movement of working-class and progressive forces to which SACP committed in the 14th National Congress in 2017."

An invitation to the Left

This article is an invitation to working class activists in all leftist organisations, including trade unions and membership-based organisations of workers in the informal economy, to join forces and work together with us on developing a broad-based Left Popular Front. One which could be mobilised at relatively short notice to engage in popular working class campaigns to confront the alliances between capitalists and the neo-liberal state with increasing unity and strategic purpose. (Pat Horn is an SACP Central Committee member and Secretary for Working-Class & Popular Power in Communities. In her day job, she works with organised workers in the informal economy through WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalising & Organising).

A donation to the SACP, represents an active expression of support and solidarity for the imperative to end the domination and exploitation of one person, a particular social group and class by another.

Donate
<https://donate.sacp.org.za>

Officials affected by Jagersfontein disaster receive donations

The MEC for Social Development in the Free State, Ms Motlagomang Qabathe (pictured) handed donations to the officials who were affected by the Jagersfontein disaster from the Department of Social Development, Department of Education, Department of Health and SASSA.

After learning about the plight of the officials, the MEC requested that data of affected officials to be collected for purpose of proper and full assistance to the affected officials.

Qabathe explained that the initiative came to her attention when one of the nurses assisting at the temporary residence of the victims approached her for assistance.



A range of consumable products were availed to the officials who dared the mine sludge to assist others.

She was humbled by the request and obliged. Wellness Units were requested to come together and formulate a strategy for continued psychosocial support to all affected officials.

A process was then begun to collect data, send requests for donations and hand over them over to the officials.

"First thing that comes in mind to those responding to a disaster is assist, remove the victims from danger and address their immediate needs. The people of Jagersfontein will know that those who heeded the call to assist have really tried." Said Qabathe when explaining the unpredictability and immediacy of a disaster situation.

Officials received food parcels, blankets, kitchen packs, hygiene packs and cleaning detergents all received as donations from Red Cross, Al Imdaad Foundation, L'oreal and Meals on Wheels.

#LeavingNoOneBehind
#BuildingACaringNationTogether
#BuildingTheFreeStateWeWant
#SocialDevelopmentMonth2022
#jagersfonteinindisaster.

(Edited.Credits: Dept. Social Development,FS)

THE ONGOING NAKBA IN PALESTINE

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi



According to figures compiled by The United Nations (UN), at least 100 Palestinians (including women and children) have been killed in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem this year, amid a massive increase in Israeli military raids.

It means this year is now on course to become the deadliest for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2015. Tor Wennesland, the UN's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process warned that "The escalation of violence in the occupied West Bank is fuelling a climate of fear, hatred and anger. It is necessary to reduce tensions immediately, to open space for decisive initiatives aimed at creating a viable political horizon." The Israeli army frequently carries out wide-ranging arrest campaigns across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem on the pretext of searching for "wanted" Palestinians.

Beginning in 1917 when British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour declared his support for the 'establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people'. Palestinians have endured – and resisted – more than one hundred years of colonial arrogance. This colonial arrogance has taken different shapes and forms over the years. This notably included the 1947 Partition Plan, in which the UN tried to, once again, give away parts of Palestine without consulting Palestinians. The Balfour declaration famously stated that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine".

The existing 'non-Jewish communities' were the Palestinians. They constituted 94% of the population, and were not consulted when their land was given away. This was a typically colonial British act of the time. These illegal settlements displace Palestinians, cutting them off from their land, monopolising scarce water resources and subjecting them to frequent attacks from armed settlers, who are protected by the Israeli forces.

More notorious yet was the 1948 Nakba or the catastrophe during which Israel forcibly ethnically cleansed Palestinian from their homeland to fulfil Balfour's promise. That brazen taking evidently fuelled further takings and the 1967 Nakba in which Israel took over the remaining parts of Palestine. Israel's unstoppable and insatiable appetite for Palestinian land has continued apace since as evidenced by the ever-accelerating settlement project.

"Not one refugee will return. The old will die. The young will forget." These words were uttered by the first Prime Minister of the Apartheid

Colonial State of Israel, Ben Gurion in June 1948, when he had completed the major part of his ethnic cleansing plan to depopulate Palestinians from their villages and replace them with Jews from 110 countries.

Every year Palestinians mark the Nakba when in 1948 around 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes during the creation of the state of Israel. 500 villages were destroyed in a premeditated campaign, and their inhabitants never allowed to return. Zionist militias, who later became the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), committed massacres in the villages of Deir Yassin, Lydda, Tantura and dozens of other Palestinian communities. The Nakba came just thirty years after the Balfour Declaration.

A predominant, and perhaps the most salient, feature of the history of Zionism and the establishment of Israel as a Jewish state has been the Zionist effort to ignore—and therefore ultimately to erase from the political landscape—the Palestinian people who were native to the land that became Israel. For many decades since Israel's creation and the Palestinians' dispossession, and for the several decades before this when Zionism was gaining strength, Zionists and their supporters in the United States and Europe have made a concerted effort to dehumanize the Palestinians, render them invisible, and delegitimize them as true claimants to a national life in Palestine.

In 1967, Israel occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the Syrian Golan Heights; and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. The only thing that the international community did in response to this occupation and annexation was get the UN to issued several resolutions calling the measures "invalid" and calling for Israel to rescind them. "All legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel," concluded the UN Security Council at the time, "including expropriation of land and properties thereon, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem, are invalid." They "cannot change" the status of the city.

All Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT)

) is a violation of international law, since the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from transferring its citizens into the territory it occupies, an act proscribed as a war crime by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This has been the position of the United Nations Security Council, United Nations General Assembly, the International Criminal Court at The

Hague, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Conventions, and others. Indeed, just a few weeks after the West Bank had been conquered in 1967, an Israeli government legal adviser explicitly stated that to colonise the occupied territory with civilians would contravene international law.

No practical measures have ever been taken against Israel to end its occupation and annexation of the Palestinian territories. Such a weak response by the international community encouraged the Israeli parliament to annex occupied East Jerusalem on 29 July 1980 and the occupied Golan Heights in 1981.

The UN Security Council condemned the annexation of the Golan Heights, but again did nothing on the ground to push Israel to rescind the move. Israel's annexation did trigger international responses, but they were only temporary. Ethnic cleansing is designated as a crime against humanity in international treaties, such as that which created the International Criminal Court (ICC), and whether 'alleged' or fully recognised, it is subject to adjudication under international law. A special International Criminal Tribunal was set up in The Hague in the case of the former Yugoslavia to prosecute the perpetrators and criminals and, similarly, in Arusha, Tanzania, in the case of Rwanda. In

other instances, ethnic cleansing was defined as a war crime.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has gone beyond being a mere political problem, beyond the stuff of cool political debate. It is a human disaster that can no longer be treated with dispassion, no longer addressed by an equal weighing of rights and wrongs on both sides.

In international media coverage of the two sides, only Israel's story is told, so that Palestinian violence has no context and no reason, whereas Israeli violence is portrayed as "reasonable" and "unavoidable." Studies of newspaper and television coverage in both the U.S. and Britain have shown that Israel is consistently portrayed as the besieged victim despite its military power, that Palestinian casualties are consistently minimized despite their far higher numbers, that Israeli grievances and justifications for Israeli actions are consistently reported, without similar reporting of Palestinian grievances and justifications. The result is that even the media-savvy publics in the U.S. and Europe know next to nothing about the Palestinians, about the Israeli occupation, about the killing of Palestinians, etc.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin recently warned: "I want to say this to the Kyiv regime and its masters in the West: people living in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia [regions] are becoming our citizens forever,".

Responding to Putin's announcement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the annexation as a "violation" of international law; a "dangerous escalation" in the seven-month war between Russia

and Ukraine. "The Charter is clear," explained Guterres. "Any annexation of a State's territory by another State resulting from the threat or use of force is a violation of the Principles of the UN Charter." In Washington, US President Joe Biden condemned Russia's move as "fraudulent" and a contravention of international law. He said that "Russia is violating international law, trampling on the United Nations Charter, and showing its contempt for peaceful nations everywhere."

The West does not have the moral high ground in such matters, and certainly no moral right to speak about democracy. It is interesting to see the international community united against an oppressive state or action that harms the interests of others, and undermines their sovereignty, security, safety, independence and other fundamental rights. However, it is both sad and hypocritical that the international community condemns such violations by one state but celebrates and protects those carried out by another. Why is Israel allowed to annex occupied land, but Russia isn't?

During the First and Second Intifada (Uprising) ordinary Palestinians took to the streets, defying the Israeli army and articulating a collective stance that echoed a seemingly eternal commitment across the generations: "Our souls and our blood are forfeited to free you Palestine." The struggle for liberation of Palestine from Zionism and colonialism, from the river to the sea must be intensified.

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

Access to justice

By Sekonyela Moeketsi



Access to justice

Access to justice is the corner stone of any democracy and an entrenchment of the Constitutional Supremacy. It means a country in which human rights of the citizens are observed hence there will be systems in place to ensure those rights. Section 34 of the Constitution, Act 108 of 1996 deals with Access to courts.

Access to Courts.

Section 34 states:

"Everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of the law decided in a fair public hearing before a court or where appropriate another independent and impartial tribunal or forum".

On the mere reading of the section, it appears that the issue of access to courts is settled and thus access to justice. This is so because it is assumed that access to courts has nothing to do with costs when in fact in many instances, that is the determining aspect, costs as would appear later in this article.

What flows from section 34 is the following: The proximity of courts in relation to where the people are. The quality of the legal minds involved in the magistrates' courts as courts of first instance. Whether or not the section answers the above questions. *You be the judge.*

Judicial System.

The issue of access to justice is further expressed with its challenges when you read section 166 of the constitution dealing with Judicial system-

"The courts are:- the Constitutional court, the Supreme Court of Appeal, the High Court of South Africa, and any High Court of Appeal that maybe established by an Act of Parliament to hear appeals from any court of a status similar to the High court of South Africa, the Magistrates' Court, and any other court established or recognized in terms of an Act of Parliament including any court of a status similar to either the High Court of South Africa or the Magistrates' Courts".

When looking at the section above, most of the population only have their disputes determine in the Magistrate court as the court of first instance in most matters and for many reasons its where it ends. This is so because not everyone who is able to pay legal fees is able to afford all costs associated with it. For instance, there may be a lot of travelling for a litigant where the court is based outside their place of residence albeit in their jurisdiction.

The second challenge comes from the fact that a litigant who is not satisfied with the decision made by the magistrate court might want to appeal such decision. They may however not be able to do so because just the costs of paying the transcribers providing services to the state might far surpass the legal fees charged in representing them in those Higher courts at times. In some areas, there are small claims courts which further addresses the issue of access; however, it cannot always be said that the needs of those using these courts are met with the intended enthusiasm by those tasked with dispensing with justice.

Is there "access to Justice in our country?" *You be the judge*

Sekonyela Moeketsi, Chairperson: BLA Free State. He writes in personal capacity.



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.

Tlhahiso ya meroho

Tlhahiso ya Dinawa tse Tala (Green beans) bakeng sa diratswana tsa hae

Di-green beans ke meroho eo e leng dijo tsa kamehla diratswaneng tsa hae hobane di jaleha ha bonolo. – esita le sebakeng se se nyenyane, mme di ba le tlhahiso e kgolo! Se latelang ke tsela eo ho ka jalwang le ho kotulwa *dinawa tse tala* ka teng, ho kenyeletsa mofuta wa dinawa tse tala tse etsang sehethole (*bushy green beans*) le mofuta o palamang (*pole green beans*).

Mefuta yohle ya dinawa tse tala (tseo hape di bitswang "*string beans kapa snap beans*" ke mofuta wa dimela tse bitswang *tender annuals*, ke hore ke dijalo tse sa kgoneng ho emela mohatsela le ho hloha ke ho lala ha serame.

Le ha dinawa tse tala ka bongata di le tala ka mmala, di tla le ka mekala e meng; perese, kgubedu, tshela esita le tse maroboko (*streaked*).

Phapang e kgolo ya mefuta ya dinawa tse tala ke ho hola ha tsona; tse etsang sehethole ha di hola kapa ke tse palamang.

*Dinawa tse tala tse sehethole di hola fatshe mme di hola ka ho teteana mme ha di batle ho tshetswa ka moralo (wa dithutswana)

* Dinawa tse tala tse palamang di hola hodimo, mme di hola di na le kutu e kebeselang e hlohang ho tshetswa ka

moralo (wa dithutswana kapa ho hong).

Dinawa tse tala tse sehethole ha di hloke tlhokomelo e kgolo ho latela sebopelo sa tsona se seng seholo, empa dinawa tse tala tse palamang di hlaha dinawa tse ngata nakwana e telele mme bohola di kkgona ho ka emela mahloko (mafu).

Dinawa tse sehethole di hlaha matsatsing a 50 ho isa ho a 55, athe dinawa tse tala tse palamang tsona di hlaha matsatsing a 55 ho isa ho a 65. Dinawa tse sehethole di hlaha se'hong kappa ka nako e le nngwe, kahoo di ka jala ka ho siyana ha dibeke tse pedi ho kotula ka tatellano. Dinawa tse tala tse palamang tsona di hloka hore 'kutu tsa tsona tse kebeselang di hole mme di ka hlaha nako ya kwedi ha feela o ntse o kotula tse seng di behile.

Tjalo
Dinawa di hlaha hantle mobung oo metsing a

Dinawatse palamang (**Ka hodimo**) di hloka tlhokomelo e kgolwanyane ho feta ya dinawa tse sehethole (ka tlase) tse ikgololang fatshe



monyelang ha bonolo mme o na le boleng ba tlhahiso bo tlwaelehleng, o nang le bodila, pH, acidity (e pakeng tsa 6.0 – 7.0). Ha ngata ha di hloke monontsha o ekeditsweng ka ha di kgona ho iketsetsa *nitrogen* mobung. Le ha ho le jwalo mobu o fokolang o hloka ho

tlatseletsa ka manyolo a kgale pele ho tjalo (beke pele ho jwalwa sehle sa selemo).

Dinawa di ka jalwa neng?

*Dinawa di hlaha hantle ha peo e tsetelwa ka ho otloha mobung ka ntle seratswaneng, ka ntle le ho kenya peo sethopong. Di ka jalwa nakong e nngwe le enngwe ka morao ho serame sa ho getela sa sehla sa selemo, moo mobu o futhumetseng bonyane dikgato tse 9°C. Ho se tatelwe ho jala ka ha mobu o batang mme o le leswe o ka diehisa ho mela ha peo mme peo e ka bola ka nako e nngwe.



*Temoso: Ha ho qalwa ho jwala, ho ka nka polasetiki e ntsho kapa sebediswa se kwahelang diratswana e be ho kwahelwa a karolwana eo ho tlang ho jalwa ho yona e le ho futhumatsa mobu pele ho tsetelwa peo.

*Ho se qalwe tjalo ya dinawa tse tala e le sethopo.

Ka ha metso ya tsona e ya fokola di hloleha ha bonolo ho nihwa sethopong le ho fetisetwa tjalong seratswaneng. Hape di holoa ka pele hoo ho seng molemo ho di jala sethopo. (*Di tswela pele*)

Baahi ba fumana dithuso diaparo le dijo ho tswa Sepetlele

Letsholo la Sepetlele sa Botshabelo le thusitse ka nehelano ya diaparo le dijo ho baahi ba hlohang haholo ka hara motse.

Letsholo lena le qadiilweng ke lefapha la *Occupational Therapy* la sepetlele, le qadiilwe ka morero wa ho phallela baahi ba hlohang ka ho ba abela diaparo le dijo tse bokeleditsweng ho tswa ho mekgatlo, eo itseng ka morao ho bokeletsa diaparo le dijo e ileng ya nehelana ka tsona ho sepetlele ho di abela baahi.

setjhaba sa lehae, Mosupatsela FM, setjhaba se ile sa tsebiswa le ho kopjwa ho tla sepetlele ho tla amohela dinyehelo.

E bile kgotsofalo le thabo e kgolo ho tswa ho basebetsi ba sepetlele ho aba dinyehelo le ho bona ka moo di thabetsweng le ho kgotsofallwa ke baamohedi ba tsona.

SASKO le Metro Fruit & Veg Botshabelo e bile tse ding tsa dikhampani tse ka sehlohang tse ileng tsa nka karolo ka



Karolo ya baahi ba tlleng ho amohela diaparo le dijo

Ka thuso ya lenane la pokello ya tlhahisoleding la sepetlele mmoho le seyalemo ya

pokeletso ya diaparo le dijo tse nyehetsweng setjhaba.

Duncan ke moithuti ya kgathallang ba bang

Ntshasa Duncan Mosala (**Setshwantshong**) ke morutwana wa Grade 11 sekolong sa Setjhaba-se-Maketse se Botshabelo. Ke morutwana ya kgethehileng. Ke mohlankana ya kgethehile hobane o sebete mme o na le matshwao a matle a boetapele, a bontshang ho kgathalla ba bang le ho sebetsa ka boitelo.



Duncan o ile a kenele tlhodisano e naheng ka bophara ya ho bokella le ho aba mesangwana e sebediswang ha batho (basadi le barweetsana) ba le matsatsing. O ile a batla dithuso tsa ho fumana mesangwana ena ka thuso ya Molekgotla, Monghadi Teboho Tukula.

O se a bokelletse mesangwana e 500, eo ka thuso ya bo-mphato ba hae; barutwana ba bang sekolong seo, a e abileng hona sekolong moo ho barutwana ba bananyana ba boemong ba ho sebedisa.

Molekgotla Teboho Tukula o re o thabisitse haholo ke letsholo lena la morutwana enwa, mme o re e se eka ba bang ba ka inkela mohlala ona o motle wa ho sebeletsa setjhaba ka motlotlo le mafolofolo.



E bile thabo e kgaphatsehang ho barutwana ka ho abelwa mesangwana.

O re baahi ka kakaretso ba lokela ho sebetsa mmoho ntshetsopeleng ya setjhaba le ho ikahela bokamoso bo tjhabileng.