

In this  
**YOUTH MONTH**  
we present a crop of young  
people in the forefront of  
the new Revolution

## BOTSHABELO DIGITAL HUB, INSPIRING HOPE TO INTERNS

By *Nthabeleng Makumane & Mbali Ngulube*

### BOTSHABELO

**N**eo Thaele and Mokete Tyabekana started as interns at Botshabelo Digital Hub, but their unwavering dedication and hard work propelled them to leadership positions within the IT department.

They now serve as the digital and innovation leads (DIL), inspiring their former interns and proving that achieving permanent positions is possible through perseverance. The former two interns' remarkable journey exemplifies the rewards that come with diligent pursuit of excellence.

The two gentlemen quickly advanced from interns to management team members in their respective IT departments at Botshabelo Digital Hub. Their exceptional skills and unwavering commitment to growth enabled them to secure leadership roles within a period of 12 months.

This rapid ascent showcases their exceptional capabilities and demonstrates the potential for remarkable achievements when faced with challenges and opportunities for development.



Neo Thaele

The digital and innovation leaders' achievements serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration to their fellow former interns, dispelling the notion that internships inevitably lead to temporary positions. Their success story proves that hard work and dedication are rewarded with long-term professional growth. By sharing their journey, they

encourage others to believe in their own abilities and embrace opportunities for personal and professional advancement, no matter their starting point.

The former two interns' story



Mokete Tyabekana

serves as a testament to the rewards that come with hard work and inspires others to believe in their own potential for success.

The Hub currently hosts interns funded by Bankseta, MICTSETA and CUT. We strive to continuously source partners in pursuit of more interns for better exposure, experience and job preparedness.

*(Nthabeleng Makumane & Mbali Ngulube are Journalism Interns at the Hub)*

*\*Meanwhile* The Hub Manager, Mr Kgabele Mule says there is a need to ready young people and expose them to workplace to get some experience.

He said the Hub currently boasts interns funded by Bankseta, MICTSETA, CUT and many other partners. "We strive to continuously source partners in pursuit of more interns for better workplace exposure, experience and job preparedness." He said.



"The idea is also to inspire other interns throughout the country that hard work pays and they should never despair." He enthused.

Inspired by the enthusiasm and energy at the hub Mule believes more can be achieved with more support. "The Hub invites potential partners for future programmes." He said.



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## Sehlopha sa bonamodi sa baetapele ba dinaha tsa Afrika se rolelwe kgaebane

Mokgatlo wa Matjhaba a Kopaneng, United Nations, o hlalosa Russia e le molato ka hore e bile dikgoka le ho hlasela naha ya Ukraine pele. Mokgatlo ona o bole ha Russia e ile ya etsa tlaselo ka sesole moyeng le fatshe ho Ukraine e neng e sa lwane.

Dinaha tse Kopaneng tsa Amerika, USA, le dinaha tsa Europa tse ka tlasa selekane sa NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), di hlalosa ha Russia e le yona e qadileng ka ho fehla ntwala le ho ntshetsa ntwala pele. Dinaha tse di boela di kgothaletsa dikotloqobello ho Russia ho e qobella ho tlohela tseko ya yona.

Ba boela ba bontsha tshehetso ho Ukraine; boetapeleng ba USA, NATO e kgothaletsa ditho tsa yona ho nehelana ka dibetsa le tshehetso ya mefuta ho Ukraine ho kgahlano le Russia.

Ka lehlakoreng le leng di naha tse welang tlasa NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) tseo bohola ba tsona e leng dinaha tsa kontinente ya Afrika, di hlalosa ntwala e dipakeng tsa Russia le Ukraine e le maemo a hloabaetsang a ntwala, ao mahlakore ana a mabedi a lokelang ho buisana ho fedisa ntwala le ho sebeletsa

kgotso le paballo ya maphelo a batho le ho imolla moruo wa lefatshe ka ho ntshetsa pele kgwebo e lokolohileng.

Dinaha tsohle tsa kontinente ya Afrika, ntle le South Sudan, ke ditho tsa NAM. Ho latela sena, mokgopi o kenyeditseng Afrika Borwa le ho etelwa pele ke Mopresidente Cyril Ramaphosa, o ile wa leba dinaheng tse pedi tse lwantsanang ho buisana le baetapele ba tsona ka dintlha tse ka lebisang kgotsong, botsitsong le polokeho ya maphelo esita le tisa botsiso moruung oo ha jwale o nang ho nang le kahlamelo e

mpe ho Afrika. Boitehanyo ba baetapele ba Afrika bo bontsha bo atlehile haholo hobane baetapele ba dinaha tse pedi – benghadi Vladimir Putin le Volodymyr Zelensky, ba ile ba ba le tsebe ho mamela mokgopi wa bona ho tswa kontinenteng ya Afrika.

Ho bonahala ha ditho tsa NATO di se na thahasello ya ho fedisa ntwala ka dipuisano, empa ba bonahala ba kgothaletsa ntwala ya dihlobo boetapeleng ba naha ya Amerika (US).

Dinaha tsa Bophirima, tseo bohola ba tsona di welang ho NATO, boetapeleng ba Amerika, di na le nalane ya ho iketsa bo-mpodi ba lefatshe le ho beha dipehelo tsa phedisano le dikamano tsa matjhaba. Ba boela ba iketsa bahlahlobi le

*(Di tswela pele leqhepeng la 2)*



## ANC mourns the untimely passing of Comrade TINA JOEMAT-PETTERSSON

MEC for Education, Arts and Culture and later as MEC for Agriculture. At the national level, she served as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from 2009 until 2014, and was later appointed as Minister of Energy. At the time of her passing, Comrade Tina was Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police.

*The* African National Congress (ANC) is devastated by the untimely passing of Comrade Tina Joemat-Pettersson, a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and National Working Committee (NWC) of the ANC. Death has robbed our movement and the people of South Africa of a humble, dependable and dedicated servant.

The ANC pays tribute to this extraordinary freedom fighter whose sacrifices and commitment to the liberation of her people remain a source of inspiration to many young cadres of our movement. All those who love justice, freedom and democracy will sorely miss her intellectual sharpness, political maturity and passion for defending those who are vulnerable in our society, especially women. In

this regard, Comrade Tina was unrelenting in her gender activism.

Comrade Tina has a rich history of struggle and service to the people of South Africa. She was a leader who had a calling to serve the people of South Africa, and who chose to surrender her own life to the service of the people. Her life was a living example that revolutionary leaders are not born, but emerge from experience. They are shaped and nurtured by the daily struggles of the people and the values of the freedom struggle.

Born in the Northern Cape, comrade Tina was an active member of the Azanian Students Organisation between 1985 and 1986. She was a teacher at Pescodia Secondary School in 1987 and at Homevale Senior Secondary School between 1992 and 1993. During the period 1989 to 1991, she was a tutor in History; and from 1992 to 1993, she was a tutor in English for the National Education Coordinating Committee, as well as for the Education Development Trust. She was also

a research assistant to the Head of the English Department at the UWC in 1990 and a member of the National People's Education Panellist in 1992.

In 1992 Comrade Tina was a national representative of the South African Democratic Teacher's Union (SADTU) for the Northern Cape. From 1992 to 1993 she served as a member of the Union of Democratic University Staff Association and a Northern Cape regional delegate to the ANC National Education and Cultural Desk. She was a lecturer in the English Department at the University of the Free State between 1993 and 1994.

Comrade Tina held a BA degree in Executive Management in Education from the University of Cape Town; a BA degree in English and History from the University of the Western Cape (UWC); and a Higher Diploma in Education from the UWC.

Following the 1994 democratic breakthrough, Cde Tina served as a member of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. She served as the

A teacher by profession, Comrade Tina continued to be a well of wisdom to those who are pursuing the goal of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. She stood firm on her beliefs, even when her stance attracted criticism or personal attacks.

The ANC urges its members and activists to emulate the example of dedication, discipline and loyalty that Cde Tina displayed. Even in death, her voice will continue to speak in defence of ordinary people. In her memory and in carrying forward the legacy she leaves behind, we must recommit ourselves to work towards a better life, anchored around the clause in the Freedom Charter that says: "All national groups shall have equal rights".

To the family, the ANC is with you in this hour of pain. We pray for strength and fortitude during this moment of grief.

*Eternal rest unto you Comrade Tina.*

ISSUED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## ANC members to remain focused and not be distracted

The ANC Fezile Dabi region in the northern Free State issued a statement following the incidence where ANC T-shirts were burned in a street in Parys recently. The region condemned members of the ANC who took part in and whatever reason(s) behind the act.

The statement reads: "The ANC in Fezile Dabi Region has noted an incident by a group of people who were burning ANC t-shirts. This is reportedly in protest of the constitutional decision of the ANC to expel its former Secretary General, Mr. Ace Magashule.

We are fully aware of the intentions of this group, which is to create confusion amongst our people. We are confident that loyal and disciplined members of the ANC understand and accept the democratic and constitutional outcomes of the National Disciplinary Committee.

Whilst we are convinced that majority of those involved are not ANC members, we

are however, aware of few members of the organization who took active part in this incident and the necessary internal Disciplinary processes of the organization will ensue with immediate effect.

We call on all disciplined members of the ANC to remain focused and not be distracted by any agent provocateurs, our task is to ensure that we continue to serve our people.

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the ANC of the oath that they have taken, which proclaims that they have joined the organization voluntarily and committed to serve as loyal members of the organization, carry out tasks given to them and defend the unity and the integrity of the organisation and its principles."

*Enquiries: Sello Pietersen Regional Spokesperson 068 663 8403*

### Ho tswa leqhepeng la 1

badisa ba kgotso, le ditokelo tsa botho. Empa ka lehlakoreng le leng ke bona ba hlokisang dinaha tse ngata botsitso le ho hatakele ditokelo tsa botho, esita le ho tloa melao ya matjhabatjhaba. Le ha ho na le ba bang ba bonang boiteko bona e le tshenyoy nako, mokgopi ona wa baetapele o lokelwa ho rolelwa kgaebane ka tsela le mafolofolo a bona a ho batla phediso ya ntwala le ho theha kgotso.

Ditholwana tsa teko ena ya bona mahlakoreng a mabedi, di tla tiisetsa theho ya maqhama dinaheng tsena tse pedi le bongata ba dinaha tse ding tsa matjhaba. Ketso ena e bontsha kgolo le kutlwisiso ya tsamaiso ya ditaba tsa matjhaba.

Ho se ho tla bonahala ha mmmila o ntshe o puta hore e be thapedi ya Afrika Borwa le bo-mphato ba yona ya ho fedisa ntwala ho tla tswala ditholwana tse molemo kapa tjhee!

## Education and Training on top of government agenda, says Mashatile

The youth of today must draw inspiration from the youth of the past to succeed. Said Deputy President, Paul Mashatile in an address prepared for the occasion of national youth day, June 16, celebration in Bloemfontein, Free State.

"We must fight for economic freedom... We are aware that economic independence is only attainable if we work together." He said following this year's theme: "Accelerating Youth Economic Emancipation for a sustainable future." He said in the statement.

He said government is determined to ensure that the youth have access to socioeconomic opportunities, for this reason education and training of young people is placed at the top of government's agenda as education is one of the most crucial enabling factors for attaining economic emancipation. He said there are many opportunities today that young people are now accessing because government is investing in real-time education, funding and mentorship opportunities. "We have developed a system that is conducive to learning, and as a result, many students are now able to choose the career of their choice." He stated emphasising the value of education as a tool of empowerment.

He added "in addition to existing government programmes of supporting entrepreneurs, through the NYDA Grant Programme, we are providing young entrepreneurs with access to both financial and non-financial business development support to enable them to establish or grow their businesses."

The programme focuses on youth entrepreneurs who are at intentional, promising and new stages of enterprise

development. For example, in the recent past the programme has achieved the following:

- 2320 youth and youth-owned enterprises funded through financial interventions.
- 34209 youth-owned enterprises supported with non-financial development interventions.
- 6796 jobs created and sustained through supporting entrepreneurs and enterprises.'

Mashatile said more than 3.9 million young people have enrolled on the National Pathway Management Network, also known as SAYouth.mobi. The network provides a platform for young people to access learning and earning opportunities that are both all-inclusive and free of charge for data usage. To date close to 350, 000 young people have secured earning opportunities through the platform, with 68 percent of these being young women.

"Fourteen thousand (14 000) Technical and Vocational learners have secured workplace experience opportunities through the support of the Sector Education and Training Authorities in the Department of Higher Education and Training. The Youth Employment Service, known as YES, is one of these. It is a partnership between Government and the private sector to address high youth unemployment. To date,

YES has placed over 100,000 South Africans between the ages of 18 and 29 in local businesses for a year of work experience." He stated, pointing at significant achievements of government in providing young people with opportunities and support.

# Cuba commemorates the Africa Day



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA IN SOUTH AFRICA

Reg. No. 273 / 2023

Pretoria, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Mr Lechesa Tsenoli

On behalf of the Government and People of Cuba, I am honored to extend our warmest congratulations on the occasion of celebrating the Africa Day.

There are many reasons for Cuba to commemorate the Africa Day this May 25.

We Cubans feel proud of our African roots and recognize the decisive contribution made to the Cuban nationality by more than 1.2 million Africans who were brought to our country after being uprooted from their home countries by the abominable slave trade and whose presence has ever since marked the history of Cuba.

The Ghanaian poet Atukwei Okai said that Cuba is African and Africa cannot be explained without Cuba. The truth is that African culture is, without a doubt, an essential component of our identity.

The deep relations between Cuba and Africa, and our presence on the continent, cannot be understood in their true extent without a complete awareness of Africa's contribution to the Cuban identity.

Our African heritage can be seen in all the manifestations of our culture: plastic arts, music, dance, literature, musical instruments, food, religion, in short, in the way of being Cuban.

With the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, solidarity with Africa became a priority for Cuba.

Throughout these years, hundreds of thousands of Cuban professionals have provided their services in the continent, in the fields of health, education, construction, sports, agriculture and many others.

The existence in Havana of the Park of African Heroes, in honor of the founders of these nations, is an initiative without precedent in the world, that proudly includes two of the greatest South African leaders, Oliver R. Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

We are confident that the close and fraternal ties between Cuba and Africa, forged over the years under the leadership of our historic leaders, are indestructible.

We deeply appreciate the firm and unanimous support of Africa in the struggle against the criminal blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States and the resolutions that the African Union adopts every year condemning this cruel policy and asking for its immediate lifting.

We are proud to have been part of the glorious history of the struggles for liberation of African nations against external forces and shameful regimes.

On this new Africa Day, we renew our friendship and fraternity with this continent to which Cuba is linked by blood, culture and history and we wish Africa success in the implementation of its social and economic development projects.

Africa grows in Cuba and we are proud to be heirs to the mother continent of mankind.

Happy Africa Day!

**Best regards, Mr. Lechesa Tsenoli**  
**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of South Africa**



Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in South Africa

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RIP

*Pat Lehlohonolo Tshabalala*



*His peers describe him as kind and affable person. Witty and skilful. Pat Tshabalala was a self-taught visual artist, specialising with pencil and charcoal. He also had keen interest in computer technology, and naturally computer technology was one of his fortes.*

*Optimistic even in the face of challenges. Pat always looked forward with hope. He he sadly passed on, on ...*

*He is a former student of Lereko Secondary school and Bodibeng High School student. His school mates at Bodibeng High School in Kroonstad include the likes of Motshedisi Chauke, Paseka Dlamini, Tsika Molebatsi and Lechesa Tsenoli*

*He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.*

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*Sincere and deepest condolences*

## UN chief calls for accelerating climate action

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for accelerating action to address climate change, as he voiced concerns over the world's off-tracking and backtracking in reaching climate goals.



"I am very worried about where the world stands on climate. Countries are far off-track in meeting climate promises and commitments," he told a press conference.

"The climate agenda is being undermined. At a time when we should be accelerating action, there is backtracking," he said. Guterres stressed it's time "to wake up and step up," to rebuild trust based on climate justice, and to accelerate the just transition to a green economy." Limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius is still possible. We must consider this as a moment of hope," he noted.

Guterres said that he has proposed a Climate Solidarity Pact and has also put forward an Acceleration

Agenda to supercharge extra climate efforts.

The pact and agenda include calls for governments, the fossil fuel industry and other stakeholders to fulfil their commitments.

commitments.

Developed countries must abide by their commitments on finance, adaptation, and loss and damage. They must also push multilateral development banks to leverage far more private finance at reasonable cost to developing countries to allow for a massive increase in investment in renewables, said Guterres.

Calling the fossil fuel industry "polluted heart" of the climate crisis, the UN chief said the world must phase out fossil fuels in a just and equitable way, and massively boost renewable investment in a just transition.

Source(s): Xinhua News Agency

## The MK dazzling [sic] Edendale Hospital Rescue

By Castro Khwela

On 5 May 1986, at approximately 16:20, Derrick McBride was involved in a meeting with Matthew le Cordier, Antonio du Preez, Greta Apelgren and Walter Khumalo at the Factorama Workshop, whereby Robert McBride was addressing the group and consistently pointing at a hand-drawn street map that was on a stuck piece of cardboard hanging on the wall, saying "This is the Edendale Hospital".

Previously, on 2 May 1986, Robert McBride had visited a 22-year-old Antonio du Preez, a twenty-two-year-old political activist in the Wentworth area, in Durban, to seek help from him about a friend who had been shot and was in intensive care in hospital. McBride's father, Derrick McBride, had also witnessed that his son was concerned about the death of a person he knew by the name of "Steve Mkhize", who, according to the report, was injured by the police in an incident related to the African National Congress (ANC). Earlier, on 19 July 1984, Gordon Webster had asked his friend, McBride, about going into exile to join the ANC and asked if McBride was going to join him.

McBride refused to go and he told him that he would try to keep in touch with him from abroad. Around November 1985, McBride met his friend Webster, who had returned from his training abroad and was recruited into Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) Webster's Special Operations Unit cell.

On 27 April 1986, Webster got involved in a scuffle with the apartheid police after they approached him and his comrade, Bheki Ngubane, on a dirt road in Edendale district, close to Pietermaritzburg, when they were standing close to an open boot of a Ford Granada, which Webster closed when the policemen approached them. These policemen demanded Webster and Ngubane to lie on the ground.

While Nxumalo was calling for reinforcement, Webster and Ngubane made a run for it in separate directions. Nxumalo ordered them to stop, and at the same time firing his weapon, thus hitting Webster with three bullets, and his comrade, Ngubane, was shot dead on the gravel verge on the edge of the dirt road. Webster was

taken to the second floor of Edendale Hospital's intensive care unit, where he was placed in a bed directly opposite the door. On the evening of 5 May 1986, after cutting a hole in the perimeter fence at Edendale Hospital, McBride took an AK-47 rifle and a put on a doctor's coat from a bag and told Le Cordier to enlarge the hole while he and his father were in the hospital. While

A policeman, Constable Edward Ngcobo, spotted them and began following them. McBride took out his AK and fired in front of him, and the policeman ran back to where he came from. When reaching the Ward, McBride found Webster's bed empty. Webster had been moved by a white policeman who drew a revolver and began shooting at McBride.

Unfortunately, he missed and McBride returned the fire hitting him in the arm. The policeman ran to an adjacent room and tried to fire other shots through the closed door.

McBride asked the nurse to help him to put Webster on the basket in the trolley, and he gave Webster the AK-47, which allowed him to push the trolley with both hands. In the passage, towards the exit door, Webster began firing a salvo into the ceiling. Outside the hospital building, they managed to get Webster out of the hole into a bakkie, and escaped in two cars until they reached Factorama, where Webster was placed on a mattress, and was nursed by Pam Cele, who was assisted by Webster's brother, Trevor.

As the bakkie and the other vehicles made off, there were people shouting their approval in the surrounding areas, with nurses at the hospital shouting "Viva ANC! Amandla!" On Saturday, 10 May 1986, McBride and Apelgren, crossed into Botswana, with Webster and his girlfriend hidden in the caravan.



Author's pictorial presentation of the operation and the role players, with the young Robert MacBride on the left.

Apelgren and Khumalo were creating an incident that was to divert the police, Derrick and Robert McBride entered the hospital building through the Hole in the fence, and at 20:30, they moved towards Ward 2R, where Gordon Webster was admitted.

## Why Africa has joined peacemakers' club on Russia-Ukraine conflict after China

A peace delegation of African leaders has visited Ukraine and Russia to help end a year-long conflict between the two countries, another effort of mediation after China sent its special envoy to Europe last month to promote a political settlement.

The delegation, led by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, also involves leaders from Senegal, Zambia, the Comoros and Egypt, as well as top envoys from the Republic of Congo and Uganda.

They held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday and Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg on Saturday.

Described by Ramaphosa's office as "the first time that Africa is united behind the resolution of a conflict outside of our continent," the effort made by leaders from the world's second largest continent to promote a peaceful solution of the Ukraine crisis is considered to be rooted in its own traditional diplomatic position, the survival challenges it suffers from the crisis, and its growing weight in the international arena, according to officials and experts.

### Non-Aligned position

Many African states have maintained a non-aligned position, which is acknowledged by South Africa as rooted in the history of the Cold War.

It is from an experience of reaching out across political divides and building relations with very different countries, coupled with a firm belief in the value of an inclusive multilateral world order and the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue, Ramaphosa said in an article published on the South African government's website a

day before he announced he would lead the peace mission on May 16.

African countries have long expressed views different from those of Western countries on international platforms. In the UN General Assembly vote to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council last year, South Africa and Egypt were among the dozens of 193 members that abstained.

In terms of the Ukraine crisis, Supa Mandiwanzira, a member of the Zimbabwean parliament, told the China Media Group (CMG) that "the U.S. and Western Europe are not interested in realizing peace. They only arm Ukraine to escalate the conflict."

"Only China has been calling for peace," he added.

Ramaphosa expounded on a peace initiative put forward by the African leaders during the trip to Ukraine and Russia.

The 10-point proposal said that the conflict must be resolved, peace negotiations must be reached through diplomatic means, all countries' sovereignty and security must be respected and guaranteed, and the smooth flow of agricultural products and fertilizers should be ensured. "Africa is now basically doing the same thing as China has been doing. We need more pro-peace forces than escalating conflicts," Mandiwanzira commented on the mission.

### 'Appeal for survival and development'

Another crucial factor for launching this mission is Africa's growing food insecurity caused by the Ukraine crisis.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said that importing grain and fertilizer from Russia and Ukraine to realize basic

food production is their appeal for survival and development.

In 2020, 15 African countries imported over 50 percent of their wheat products from Ukraine. Six of these countries (Eritrea, Egypt, Benin, Sudan, Djibouti and Tanzania) imported over 70 percent of their wheat from the region, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The AfDB notes that the Russia-Ukraine conflict triggered a shortage of about 30 million tons of grains on the continent, along with a sharp increase in cost.

This has devastating implications for Africa, as the continent has over 65 percent of the world's uncultivated land, making it a net food importer, according to a report by the UN.

Besides, faced with soaring global energy prices caused by the conflict, African governments did not have the fiscal space like those in developed European countries to protect consumers with such wide-scale, much-needed measures to counter rising energy prices, the report says.

It noted that inflation reached double digits in 40 percent of African countries and staple food prices in Africa "surged by an average 23.9 percent in 2020-22 – the most since the 2008 global financial crisis," adding that seven African countries are in debt distress as of January 2023 and 14 more are at high risk of debt distress.

"As you all know, Africa has been severely impacted by this conflict in terms of food insecurity, the price of grain, the price of fertilizer, but equally, this mission says to seek a road to peace," South Africa's presidential spokesperson Vincent Magwenya said.

### A continent 'needed by everyone'

The reason why the delegation of African leaders sees a change to advance mediation is that Kyiv and Moscow have been courting the Global South, according

to Reuters. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited the continent last year and has already visited twice this year. His Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba paid a visit last month, making his second trip to Africa since February 2022, when the crisis started.

Putin told the delegation of African leaders that Russia is open to constructive dialogue and values the balanced attitude of African countries toward the situation in Ukraine and their desire to settle the crisis.

He also said that Russia is ready to review any proposals from African states on the Ukrainian settlement.

Earlier in the week, Putin noted he would consider giving grain "free of charge to the world's poorest countries" after announcing that Russia may pull out of the Black Sea grain deal, which was brokered to allow vital grain exports from key Black Sea ports in the aftermath of the conflict.

"We are not doing this for Ukraine; we are doing this for our friendly countries in Africa and Latin America," he said.

During Friday's meeting with the delegation, Zelenskyy presented the Ukrainian Peace Formula to the leaders of African countries, noting that it would help to restore the security of Ukraine and other states that were affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. "Today, I saw the prospect of our joint work on specific points of the Peace Formula. Of course, I invited African states to participate in the Global Peace Summit, which we are preparing," Zelenskyy said.

"What is happening is that everyone wants to be involved in the resolution of Ukraine crisis, but we have to be realistic about this. Although African countries are unable to offer anything economically, politically and diplomatically,

They have the only trump card: Africa is now needed by everyone," Iryna Filatova, professor emerita at South Africa's University of KwaZulu-Natal, told CMG.

CGTN



## COMMENT

The AU peace initiative has just concluded days ago - more should flow from the occasion. A seminar about Chinese Economy outlook was held recently in Cape Town. Here's what we said:

"Your excellencies, especially Honourable You Wenze and your team, thank you for inviting us to this seminar. Sadly, we meet today with a cloud hanging over our heads following the passing away of our colleague, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, the chairperson of the portfolio committee on Police.

On the other hand we are glad our minister, Naledi Pandor, recently hosted a successful BRICS preparatory meeting with her counterparts in this city. The minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation is himself preparing to host ministers from BRICS countries for the same reason.

Hearing from experts from China such as Dr Cai Fang is, it is always welcoming, for we face serious problems in our country and clearly collaboration such as this can only be good. I mention the minister of higher education because just last December, he and our President hosted the world science forum whose declaration is; *Science for social justice*. Today's seminar is to me an illustration of what that could mean practically. The insights we were presented with are fascinating and if I know members here, those will be debated robustly. We wish our macro-economic strategy to be responsive to the challenges we face. It must for instance effectively support the real economy. Whereas China faces the challenge of an ageing population, South Africa and the rest of the continent has a huge youth bulge - a potential to be nurtured and grown.

We appreciated the opportunity to listen and exchange views.

The dominance of the dollar internationally has caused problems because the United States of America has weaponised the payment system to punish those who differ with it on key issues. Many are thus calling for de-dollarisation of the global economy and the development of an alternative. While this approach is desirable, it will understandably be a difficult path. Our Parliament too, is preparing to host parliaments from the same BRICS countries to reflect on how best to oversee implementation of agreed positions from the summit! We must however continue to call for peace in Russia and Ukraine because war disrupts development and those who stoke it only creates problems for people in the world unjustifiably!

We wish your president Xi, success in pursuing his 12 point peace proposal and the same for the IPU Parliamentary Task Force which is also mediating and pursuing peace! in similar manner. The President led AU nominated heads of states to sue for peace in that region. Thank you - we benefited from your insights!



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



# THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS THE 2023 APPROPRIATION BILL

### Parliament, Cape Town

The National Assembly at its House sitting this morning, agreed on the 2023 Appropriation Bill.

The Appropriation Bill is a piece of legislation that provides for the appropriation of money by Parliament from the National Revenue Fund (NRF) in terms of section 213 of the Constitution and section 27 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

The Appropriation Bill was tabled by the Minister of Finance Mr Enoch Godongwana in Parliament on 22 February 2023.

The Bill proposes a total vote allocation of R1.077 trillion for the 2023/24 financial year, excluding direct charges against the National Revenue Fund. The 2023 budget reiterates the government's priorities as set out in the 2022 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS).

The proposed vote allocations allocate 74% to transfers and subsidies. These are transfers to provinces,

municipalities, public corporations, and other non-profit-making entities mainly for the payment of social grants, conditional grants allocations and transfers to public entities, university subsidies and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

The Budget continues to maintain the fiscal consolidation strategy of reducing the budget deficit and stabilizing government debt as a percentage of GDP, supporting economic growth by maintaining a prudent fiscal stance while directing resources towards infrastructure investments, strengthening the criminal justice system to fight crime and corruption; and reducing the fiscal and economic risks, including through the Eskom debt-relief arrangement.

The government has committed to achieving these objectives without resorting to tax rate increases that could harm economic growth. In pursuit of higher economic growth, the 2023 budget remains anchored on the objectives of ensuring a stable macroeconomic framework to create a conducive environment for savings, investment and growth; the implementation of growth-enhancing reforms in key sectors, particularly in

energy, transport and logistics; and strengthening the capacity of the State to deliver quality public services, investment in infrastructure and fighting crime and corruption.

Having considered the Bill, the Standing Committee on Appropriations recommended amongst others that the Minister of Finance ensures that Parliament's appropriated funds through this Bill are utilised in a manner as envisaged in the Constitution and in compliance with all laws and regulations that govern the country's public finances.

Also, the National Treasury makes it mandatory for all municipalities to report monthly on all contracts that have been awarded including the successful bidders, rand value of contracts and itemized billing on the National Treasury's database.

Having considered the Report of the Committee and debated the Bill, the NA adopted the 2023 Appropriation Bill.

The Bill will now be sent to the National Council of Provinces for consideration.

ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## COSATU welcomes release of draft legislation allowing workers early access to pension funds

### CAPE TOWN

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) welcomes the release of the Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill and the Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill by Treasury. These progressive Bills provide for all workers, public and private, early access to their pension funds as per the engagements and agreements between Treasury and COSATU.

The Bills, which are still drafts and thus open for further enhancements, provide for the following key provisions:

\*Workers would be able to access a limited portion of their pension funds without having to resign from their jobs or cash out their entire pension funds.

\*This would be binding upon all pension funds, public and private, with all pension funds being required to restructure into a new two pot pension regime.

\*It will come into effect on 1 March 2024.

\*One third of the pension funds would be deposited into a savings account that workers can access once a year.

\*Two thirds of the pension funds would be deposited into a preservation account that workers can access in the event that they are retrenched or when they retire.

\*Workers can transfer 10% up to R25 000 of their existing savings when the Bills come into effect on 1 March 2024 in order to have immediate access to a portion of their savings.

\*Workers will retain access to their existing funds that were accumulated up to 1 March 2024 in the event of retrenchment, dismissal or resignation.

These are positive agreements and in line with the majority of demands that COSATU tabled with Treasury. They will provide relief, including immediate relief, to millions of struggling workers in both the public and private sectors. They will provide workers a better alternative to resignation when they are drowning in debt or confronted with a financial emergency and need to access part of their pension funds. They will help workers pay urgent bills without having to resign from their jobs and salaries or deplete their entire pension funds and thus be penniless when they retire. They will incentivise workers to save more knowing that when in need they have access to their savings pot once a year. This will boost savings and provide workers a large pool of funds when they retire and thus be less dependent on others when they retire.

Existing tax laws incentivising pension contributions and deducted from early pension withdrawals will continue to apply.

There are some areas that need further engagements and refinements with Treasury. This includes the cap 10% up to R25 000 from existing savings that can be accessed on 1 March. Ideally this should be raised to 30% or R50 000 for example to make it more substantive. Second is to ensure that workers

who are dismissed and not only retrenched are also included in the category of workers who have access to their preservation pot for future post 1 March 2024 savings.

Third is what could constitute a fair compromise for workers who are forced to resign to take care of a seriously ill relative or if the family is required to relocate to a different province. This will need further thought on the practicalities of this. Treasury has committed to further pension reforms engagements in a second phase bill.

Once public comments have been taken into account, the Bills will then be submitted to Parliament for consideration by August. Parliament will then need to ensure the Bills are processed and adopted by the end of November. This can be done as these are tax and revenue bills and are normally processed during such tight timeframes without issue. They will then be sent to the President for assent. SARS will need to adjust its taxation systems and pension funds adjust their investment portfolios in time for the 1 March 2024 implementation date. It is critical that the 1 March 2024 implementation date is retained as workers are struggling and have been looking forward to this relief. COSATU will continue to work with Treasury, Parliament and the Presidency to ensure this relief reaches workers and 1 March 2024 is maintained.

Issued by COSATU.

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## TRIBUTE TO ERNESTO "CHE" QUEVARA ON HIS 95<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 marks what would have been the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who was invariably a revolutionary, a physician, a freedom fighter, a diplomat, a military strategist, a beloved husband, a father, a communist cadre and an internationalist par excellence. Che was a man who lived his life in the future tense, in permanent rebellion against the world made by capital and imperialism, and as fighter for revolutionary transformation of that world.

With Che words and actions were never separated. He would never instruct anyone to carry out a task which he could not or was not prepared himself to carry out at any moment. He believed that the force of example was as significant as theoretical argumentation. While in the Sierra Maestra he was not only involved in the armed struggle, but treated the wounded, dug ditches, built, and organised political education and carried loads on his back. He bore the load not merely of a commander but of a rank-and-file soldier to boot. He acted just the same when he was Minister of Industry: he worked on construction sites, helped unload ships, ran a tractor, cut sugar cane.

Che's writings demonstrate not only his boundless energy but also his wide-ranging interests, his deep knowledge of Marxist literature, the history of Cuba and of other Latin American countries and of international events. Che was no pedant nor was he fond of excessive quotations. He always derived his analysis from concrete reality and endeavoured to search out that which was new and of use to the revolution for which he lived and fought and to which he gave all without reservation. He was a soldier of revolution, which he served and without which he could not imagine his own life. Everything that he wrote, said, and did have to be in the cause of revolution.

Che believed that a revolutionary Communist, particularly those in leadership position, must be modest and disinterested in self-gain. This modesty must be genuine, not just for effect. Che allowed of no compromise in this matter. These very qualities were manifested by him in the most variegated and often unexpected forms. In his answer to journalists on whether or not he was a communist, he said "If you consider that the things that we are doing in the people's interest represent manifestations of communism, then call us communists. In a speech of May 1964 he emphasised that "socialism is being built by the production of ever growing numbers of necessities which are constantly improving in quality. Socialism is not an abstract notion; it is directly linked with the well-being of the people".

Che lived modestly, worked without respite, studied diligently, and took up mathematics and economics, studied Karl Marx's Das Kapital. He remained as cordial as ever with his friends and comrades and maintained close contacts with workers, peasants, students and with people active in communist and national liberation movements abroad. Che gave his all to the building of socialism in Cuba and to the defence and consolidation of the Cuban Revolution. But at the same time, he envisioned of a larger, continental revolution and the world revolution to liberate humanity from imperialism.

The years 1965 and 1966 are defining events in the process of Che's revolutionary development; they mark the culmination and beginning of a new stage.

From the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 to his departure from Cuba in 1965 to undertake internationalist missions in the Congo and Bolivia, Che left a body of work and thought. In these writings, he aimed to express his opinions and conclusions about the construction of socialism in the so-called Third World countries, drawing from his work in Cuba and the various roles and tasks he took on. Furthermore, he also drew on the accumulated experiences of the socialist world, especially from the USSR, and he drew deeply from a detailed study of the works of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

Che was barely 39 years old when he was murdered by imperialism and its henchmen. He had trained as a doctor but had also travelled through much of Latin America before finishing his medical studies. During his brief sojourn in Guatemala in 1954, he first volunteered to take up arms against imperialism, to defend the progressive Arbenz government during the coup staged by the CIA and its mercenaries. He escaped to Mexico where he met Fidel Castro, won his confidence, and made a lifelong commitment to the revolution in Cuba. Joining initially as a doctor for the group of revolutionary exiles, he soon emerged as one of the leading commanders of the Rebel Army and quickly became something of a legend—and a major theoretician—in the annals of guerrilla warfare.

After the Cuban Revolution, Che took up key positions in the revolutionary government such as that of President of the National Bank and the Minister of Industries while also serving as something of a roving ambassador for Cuba in countless capitals of Europe, Asia and Africa, and as a spokesman for the country at numerous international forums, from Algiers to New York. Some of these trips were open and official, which included diplomatic and trade negotiations, including discussions that led to a close, multi-faceted alliance with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries; others were clandestine, with the aim of opening and/or coordinating diverse revolutionary fronts against imperialism. The last and possibly the most ambitious of those clandestine trips, to initiate a revolutionary war in Bolivia that was intended to spread into Argentina, proved fatal, as his guerrilla base was ambushed while he himself was captured and murdered by a CIA-led contingent of the Bolivian Army.

Therefore, it is in the vital interests of socialist countries that these separations take place. And it is our international duty, the duty determined by the ideology that guides us, to contribute with our efforts toward the swiftest and most profound liberation possible. Che Guevara insists that the youth must learn to lead not only their peers, but revolutionists older than themselves as well. They must be a model "for older men and women who have lost some of that youthful enthusiasm, who have lost a certain faith in life, and who always respond well to example."

Che, an indomitable revolutionary soldier and a true internationalist fighter died a heroic death on the Bolivian battlefield. Che followed the path of sacred battle to bring freedom and liberation to the people, holding aloft the banner of the anti-imperialist, Anti-US struggle from early youth, and devoted his whole life to the revolutionary cause of the oppressed. The brilliant example of Che is a paragon not only for the Latin-American people in their revolutionary struggle, but for the oppressed people of the world in their struggle for liberation. It inspires them to great feats of heroism.

In the name of internationalism, the blood he shed will never be wasted. His name and the immortal revolutionary exploits he performed will go down for ever in the history of the liberation of humankind and his noble revolutionary spirit will live forever.

Che was an indefatigable revolutionary in battle and a true internationalist free of narrow nationalist sentiments. His whole life was a fine example of the steadfast revolutionary fighter and true internationalist. In fact, the African unity so ardently desired by all those who are concerned about the future of this continent will be so possible and will be attained only if those engaged in politics and the leaders of our respective countries demonstrate a spirit of solidarity, concord, and fraternal collaboration in the pursuit of the common good of our people. That is why the unity of all patriots is indispensable, especially during this period of struggle for decolonisation and true liberation.

The aspirations of colonized and enslaved peoples were everywhere the same; their lot too was the same. Moreover, the aims pursued by the nationalist movements in any African territory were also the same. The common goal was the liberation of Africa from the colonialist yoke. We must root out the last vestiges of colonialism and imperialism from Africa. We have long suffered and today we want to breathe the air of freedom. All of Africa is irrevocably engaged in a merciless struggle against colonialism and imperialism. The enemies killed Che rushed to kill him on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1967. It is quite clear that killing a wounded and bound prisoner his enemies were not merely trying to slake an urgent thirst for revenge. A living Che—even when captured, in chains, and severely wounded—, was still a

menace for them.

The dire news of Che's death shocked people in many parts of the world. Havana was flooded with an unending stream of messages of condolence from Communist parties and other progressive organisations as well as from many individuals. On October 17, 1967, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sent a telegram to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba which said:

In paying homage to Che, the South African Communist Party wrote "Here was a revolutionary for whom the socialist revolution was the spur of a selfless and single-minded passion. Here was an internationalist for whom the brotherhood and liberation of all humankind was an inner flame. Here was a communist whose life will stand as a model even for communists. And a freedom fighter to inspire the whole world's freedom fighters." But all these traits taken together were not what made Che such an outstanding figure. It wasn't his external appearance or his erudition which stood out most, but rather the fact that he was a revolutionary made of steel, with inflexible conviction of the rightness of his views. He was selflessly dedicated to the cause of revolution and of the liberation of the working people from oppression, poverty and the other ills of capitalism and imperialism. Che was a revolutionary through and through. His central concern, his happiness and his highest idea was total dedication to the revolution. He had an ingrained sense of revolutionary honesty and duty consequently difficulties and dangers only further attracted him. A fearless man, he was always ready to give up his life for his ideas.

(SACP Free State PEC Member. Writes in his personal capacity)

## National Health Insurance Bill towards quality healthcare for all, SACP

The passing of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill must mark the development of a decisive epoch, an epoch of an irreversible rupture with the present unequal two-tiered healthcare regime.

The irrational two-tiered healthcare regime has persisted hand-in-hand with income and wealth inequalities, which have worsened with every crisis of the exploitative capitalist system. The NHI legislation must focus on a major redistribution of health-care resources to benefit all, as opposed to a tiny minority. Such redistribution requires a system-wide structural transformation approach.

South Africa cannot transform and upgrade its public healthcare sector without eliminating the imbalances between the private and public health sectors which are skewed in favour of the minority-servicing private health sector. This is not the time to tinker with the unjust two-tiered healthcare regime. The NHI legislation has to lay a solid foundation for thoroughgoing structural transformation of healthcare provision in favour of the people as a whole. Access to quality healthcare must not be determined by whether one has or does not have money to pay.

The supreme right to life is important for every person and not only for those who have the money to buy access to healthcare commoditised. NHI legislation must above all guarantee quality and comprehensive healthcare for everyone, for life.

Advancing to a NHI, especially through the core principles, enjoys popular support. The principles are, namely: \*Universal healthcare coverage and social solidarity, in which not only is everyone is and has access to healthcare on same terms, and in which healthcare resources are redistributed in favour of the majority, the working-class and poor, those with the greatest healthcare needs.

\*Comprehensive health services, from promotion, prevention and treatment.

\*Publicly funded and publicly administered NHI Fund, which acts as a single funder for the provision of healthcare services accepted by all sectors. \*Free access to healthcare at the point of service, in which the provision of healthcare services is based on need and predominantly funded through tax contributions and therefore not dependent on an individual's ability to pay.

The SACP is vehemently opposed to corporate capture of and profit-making from the NHI, and its exploitation in any form. We are against corruption and the neoliberal policy of austerity, which has also contributed to delaying the advance to the NHI. While some provisions in the NHI Bill can help deal with some of these problems, the SACP is calling on the working-class and progressive sections of our society to build capacity to tackle any of these problems should any rear its ugly head in this process of transformation.

Forces opposed to quality healthcare for all have intransigently opposed the effort to establish the NHI in our country. These include, among others, oligopolies in private healthcare provision and the administration of associated schemes. They cannot continue to succeed in blocking or delaying the establishment of the much-needed provision of quality healthcare for all through the NHI!

The NHI Bill before the National Assembly comes a long way. It is a milestone in what should be a continuing struggle for quality healthcare for all, against the background of the overall agenda by the reactionary opposition to NHI.

ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY



*Women in the Legal Profession*  
**Commemorating 100 years**  
 (1923-2023)  
 Parliamentary Research Unit



An edited report produced by researchers in the Parliamentary Research Unit

*'Women shall be entitled to be admitted to practice and to be enrolled as advocates, attorneys, notaries, public or conveyancers in any province of the Union, subject to the same terms and conditions as apply to men ...'* (Women Legal Practitioners Act 1923)

The year 2023 marks 100 years since women were admitted to legal practice in South Africa (1). Over a hundred years ago, in 1918 Melius De Villiers in South African Law Journal said, 'it is absolutely most undesirable that women should be allowed to become practicing members of the legal profession' (2). Five years later the Women Legal Practitioners Act 7 of 1923 permitted the admission of females into the profession. However, it was only three later (in 1926) that the first women were finally admitted as legal practitioners. As a result of apartheid laws and policies it took much longer for African women to join the ranks, with Desiree Finca being enrolled as the first African woman attorney in 1967(3). Up until the 1980's, the number of female legal practitioners, particularly African female practitioners, was very small.

Since 1994, the legal system in South Africa has moved from premised on racism, sexism, and authoritarianism to one that strives to provide human rights for all South Africans 4. However, while women's representation in the legal sector has steadily increased, progress remains slow. Legal Profession: Statistics: The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) indicates that as January 2022 there were 29981 practising attorneys and 5 483 candidate attorneys in South Africa. Of the practising attorneys, women constituted 42%. According to the LSSA statistics, the profession is constituted as follows:

Survey results from research on the legal landscape, undertaken by LexisNexus and the LSSA, indicate that there has been a 5% increase in female legal professionals and a 7% increase in fully female owned law firms since 2016. Of the 3 083	Total	Women as a %
White attorneys	15 779	53%
Black attorneys	14 202	47%
	Total	% of Total
White male attorneys	9 129	31%
Black male attorneys	8 138	27%
White female attorneys	6 650	22%
Black female attorneys	60 64	20%
Total female attorneys	12 714	42%

advocates with the General Council of the Bar, only 28% are women, and of the women advocates, 338 were African women. Of the 537 Senior Council countrywide, only 50 are women.'

Still no fair allocation of legal work

It is consistently reported that women receive disproportionately smaller share of work, in terms of the volume, type and quality of legal briefs. research points to the limited extend to which positive action has been used, to systematically address ongoing gender-related exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination in legal institutions. A 2017 study commissioned by the Law Society of South Africa to investigate the distribution of legal work to advocates and law firms noted that there was a significant gap between male and female advocates, with female receiving fewest briefs.



According to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development statistics:

- \* In 2018/19 a total of 5171 briefs were allocated; 41% (2 109) of these briefs were allocated to female counsel. Of the R930.6 million paid to counsel, 28% or R255.9 million was paid to female counsel.
- \* In 2019/20 a total of 5 816 briefs were allocated; 39% (2283) of briefs were allocated to female counsel. Of the R1.09 billion paid to counsel, 27% or R293 million was paid to female counsel.
- \* In 2020/21, no statistics were provided on the total number of briefs allocated to female counsel. Of the R964.3 million paid to legal counsel 29% or R278.6 million was paid to female legal practitioners.
- \* in 2021/22 a total of 6240 briefs were allocated to counsel; 40% (2488) of briefs were allocated to female counsel. of the R1.038 billion paid to legal practitioners, 29% or R301 million was paid to female legal practitioners.

The Department reports that empowerment of female counsel remains a priority in order to redress the imbalances of the past. However, it is clear that there has been little changes in the numbers of female counsel receiving briefs. According to the Department this is because the number of female legal practitioners at different associations are less than those of males, therefore the pool is not sufficient to encourage an increase in briefs. However it is clear from the statistics

that even when women are allocated briefs there is no equity in terms of financial benefits, when compared to their male counterparts.

The demographics may have slowly changed with more female practitioners practising and more female owned firms but many close due to lack of instructions and support from the private sector and other spheres of government, state-owned enterprise (SOE's) and local government. Much remains to be done to open the profession, especially for black female legal practitioners.

- \* Former chairperson of the Legal Practice Council (LPC) and current LPC member, Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu has expressed concern that black women-owned firms continue to be 'window dressing' in the name of diversity and transformation without being given the opportunity to showcase their skills.
- \* The Deputy Chief Justice Maya has urged the government to give black lawyers, especially women, quality work "so that we have a pool from which we can tap when we look for judges, and have people who are ready in these niche areas of the law". She added that women in the judiciary should get the same opportunities as their male counterparts "who by the way, are not better intellectually than those women."

If the skewed briefing patterns are to be effectively and uniformly addressed, a national policy instrument for adoption by individual Bars, private attorneys firms, the Office of the State Attorney, and corporate briefings entities, should be prioritised. Notably the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has reported that in an effort to improve gender representativity in the Office of Solicitor General:

- \* Has developed a policy on Briefing and Outsourcing of State Legal Work. One of the key objectives of the policy is to enable a standardised practice on briefing and outsourcing of legal work by effecting empowerment mechanisms to historically disadvantaged practitioners, in particular women.
- \* Is in the process of developing a guild of young female practitioners. Reportedly a database will encourage active briefing of female legal practitioners. **(Continues)**

All citations at the end of the last part of the article

# More countries to join BRICS

The BRICS alliance is going to get bigger and stronger as 24 countries now prepare to join the bloc.

the nations are looking to end reliance on the US dollar and accept the new BRICS currency for cross border transactions. the move adds pressure on the dollar and challenges its hegemony as the world's reserve currency. Nonetheless, if BRICS expands to BRICS+, the dollar and other leading Western currencies like the Euro and Pound could decline.

The 24 countries that are looking to join the BRICS bloc and trade in the yet-to-be-released currency are Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, The United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

The list also includes oil-rich Gulf countries that send millions of barrels of barrels of oil to the U.S. and Europe. If the Middle East countries begin to accept the BRICS currency, European nations could be forced to settle oil trade with the new tender. Moreover, a day won't be far away when Saudi Arabia demands the United States to pay up with the BRICS currency and not the U.S. dollar."

It is evident that these countries, including developing countries want to move

away from the straight-jacket approach of being directed into a dollar dominance. These countries are believed to want more freedom and break from the clutches of dominant currencies like dollar, Euro and Pound which make them precariously vulnerable to sanctions and restrictive for their quest for investment, trade and financial sources.

BRICS is planned to meet for their Annual Summit just over two months, in August, this year, here in South Africa.

The quest to join BRICS demonstrates the desire by more and more countries to break the West's autocracy. For far too long the West has been in control of the world affairs; determining the geopolitical and economic landscape. with African countries bearing the brunt of such dominance. Africa's wealth in raw material and natural resources made her countries more vulnerable and their engineered poverty more dependable to the western countries.

The significance of the expanding BRICS bloc should be a lesson for many of the continent's leaders it is sensible to unite. Unity of the continent is not only associated with peace but contributes to prosperity of African nations.

The expansion of BRICS will surely change the current international scheme of things in which a one or few hegemonies control the world.



# Re kgaba ka Diratswana



## Mapotso Kena, Ph.D., Plant Pathology

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

## Mafu a tshwenyang Dihwete

Tjalo ya dihwete e hloka tlhkomelo ho ka fihlela tjhai e ntle. Le ha ho le jwalo dihwete jwaloka meroho e meng, di na le dintho tse di tshwenyang.

Nako e fetileng re buile ka dikokonyana tse kgathatsang dihwete, mme lekgatheng lena re tla qoqa ka mefuta ya mafu a tshwenyang dihwete, matshwao a mafu ao esita le phediso kapa phekolo ya ona.

Lefu	Mofuta	Matshwao	Taolo
<p>Mofetshe o motsho wa dijalo (<i>Black canker</i>)</p> <p>Photo: APS Journals</p>	Hlobo (Fungus)	Matheba a sa tebang a mmala o mofubedu bo bo sootho / botsho bo bofubedu le mmala o motsho bokahodimong ba dihwete, Matheba a manyenyane a mmala o mosehla bo bosootho, ho ka ba le didikadikwe tse tala ka mmala, ho bola ha dipalesa	Kgetha mofuta o kgonang ho mela hantle kgahlanong le mafu a mangata a dihwete, kwahela boka-hodimo ba dihwete ka mobu, jala meroho ka mokgwa wa phaphanyetsano.
<p>Aster yellows / <i>Aster yellows</i></p> <p>Photo: APS Journals</p>	Baketheria / Bacteria	Dihwete tse kgutsufetseng mme di fetohile mmala bokahodimo ha tsona mme di le tshesane. Metso e boya ka tatso e babang.	Lefu le bakwa ke dikokwanyana tse tshwenyang nakong eo di jang dijalo ho ya dijalong tse ding. Fokotsa lehola. Sebedisa moriana o bolayang dikokwanyana (leavhoppers). Lefu lena le kgona ho ba teng le hara mariha
<p>Lefu le bakwang ke baketheria / <i>Bacterial blight</i></p> <p>Photo: Nunhems</p>	Baketheria / Bacteria	Matshwao a kenyeletsa matheba a masootho ka mmala mahlakung, mme a sa tshwaneng ka sebopeho. Metwa e mmala o mosootho makaleng a dihwete. Ho petsoha ho mmala o mosootho ho potoloha motso wa sehwele.	Lefu lena le hlahela haholo dibakeng tse futhumetseng, le maemong a metsi. Hlokomela dihwete tse holang. Jala peo e netefaditsweng (certified) ya dihwete hore e na mafu
<p>Lefu le mahlakung le bitswang <i>Alternaria leaf blight</i></p> <p>Photo: GrowVeg.com</p>	Hlobo / Fungus	Mahlaku a nang le matheba a mmala o mosootho bo lefifi ho isa mmaleng o motsho. A mang a matheba a mmala o mosehla ka thoko. Matheba ana a qala ho hlaha bokathokong ba mahlaku, mme hamorao matheba a ya kopana mme hona ho bontsha e ka mahlaku a tjhele. Hlobo ena e tsamaya le peo, mme e ka etsa hore dimela tse nyenyane di hloke mongobo.	Lefu lena la dihwete le hlahela haholo hlabuleng maemong a metsi, moo ho dulang hona le phoka e ngata. Sena se ka baka keketseho e nammeng ya lefu lena. Ho laola lefu lena la mahlaku a dihwete, jala mofuta wa dihwete o ka emelang lefu lena kapa jala peo e netefaditsweng hore ha e na mahlako. Dibakeng tseo lefu lena e leng bothata, se jale sebakeng seo mahlaku a diehang ho oma ha pula e nele kapa phoka e letse nakong eo lefu lena le atileng. Hape, phella ho jala dijalo ka mokgwa wa phaphanyetsano.
<p>Hlobo e tshweu / <i>White mould</i></p> <p>Photo: Wikimedia Commons</p>	Hlobo / Fungus	Hlobo e tshweu e melang dikarolong tsa dihwete tse ka hodimo ho mobu. Bokahodimo ba sehwele bo ka tshwaetswa mme ya ba sehwele se ba bonojwana le ho ba metsi.	Lefu le ba teng moo ho jetsweng ka ho teteana, mme le qala haholo moo dijalo di hataketsweng kapa di senyehileng. Lefu lena le rata ho hlaha moo maemo a leng metsi mme ho phodile. Jala ka mokgwa wa phaphanyetsano dilemong tse tharo – o jala dijalo tse sa tshwarweng ke lefu lena. O se kenyeletse meroho ena e latelang ha o jala ka phaphanyetsano: <i>green beans, lettuce le tamati</i> . Ntsha mme o senye masalla a dijalo tsohle tse nang le tshwaetsa. Jala moo ho phahaphahameng ho ntlafatsa phallo ya metsi le ho etsa hore bokahodimo ba mobu bo ome kapele.

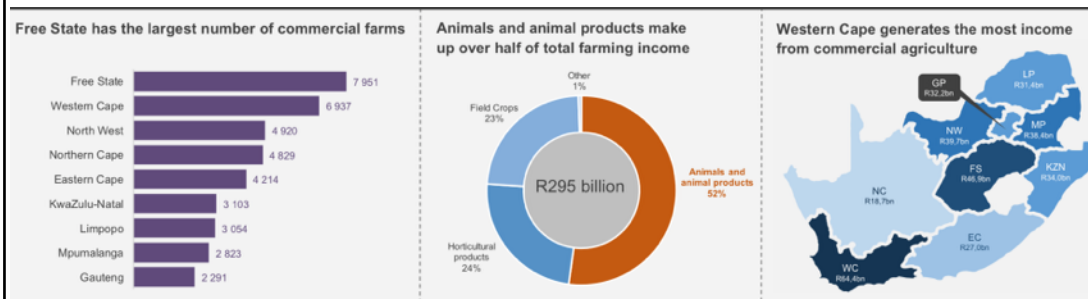
### CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017

South Africa has 40122 commercial farms. One in four of these are located in the Free State, the province that generates the second largest amount of income from commercial agriculture. Western Cape generates the most income. The country's largest outputs by volume are maize, sugarcane and potatoes.

\* The number of commercial farms in the country **40 122**

\* Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 38% of the total land area in South Africa. **46,4 million**

\* Income generated by commercial agriculture. Farming of animals is a major contributor (36%) **R332,8 billion**



SOURCE: STATSSA, commercial agriculture census