



# ANC PARLIAMENTARY Caucus

Newsletter

MAR 2025

## THE ANC AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Since the dawn of democracy, the ANC in Parliament has supported the passing of numerous laws, including Chapter 2 of South Africa's Constitution - the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights emphasises the protection of the human rights of all South Africans and ensures fundamental human right to life, equality and human dignity.

The ANC and the South African government have dedicated the whole month of March to human rights, with March 21 being a national holiday that affirms the fundamental rights and dignity of all people.

We observe this date to honour our fallen heroes, who were brutally killed by the racist apartheid police in 1960. The tragedy exposed the apartheid government's violation of human rights to the world and this tragic event came to be known as the Sharpeville Massacre. Many of those who were killed in Sharpeville were shot while escaping the scene after a peaceful march against pass laws.



Since its founding on 8 January 1912, the African National Congress has always been at the forefront of the fight against the violation of human rights and inequality. From the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996, the ANC inspired the participation of all people and laid the foundation for the struggle for inclusivity, equality, and a better life for all.



Cde Mdumiseni Ntuli





Pass laws were one of the cornerstones of instituting and maintaining racial segregation in South Africa. While laws restricting the free movement of Black people have a long history of use in South Africa, the Pass Laws Act of 1952 strengthened and extended those controls, requiring all Black South Africans over the age of 16 to carry identification booklets that showed where they were officially permitted to be and when.

***The Bill  
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The commemoration is a reminder of the sacrifices and commitment of the ANC and the people of South Africa in the fight for freedom in South Africa. It also provides the country with an opportunity to reflect on progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Human Rights Month celebration this year is marred by a series of attacks and threats by a racist minority group that seeks to reverse the gains of democracy and divide South Africans based on race. The ANC Caucus, together with other political organisations and patriotic South Africans fought and eliminated apartheid, and we will continue the fight against violations of human rights and build a better life for all South Africans •

# The strategic role of **TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP** in promoting good and **ETHICAL GOVERNANCE**

**T**he role and function of Traditional Leadership in South Africa is defined as the customary institutions and recognised structures that operate in communities according to their local indigenous systems of governance within the confines of the Constitution (1996) of the country as the supreme law. This function of leadership serves as an important link between the state, principally the local government sphere, and the citizens who are community members within the jurisdiction of traditional councils in rural South Africa.

Historically, traditional leaders performed a fundamental role in the governance and administration of their communities, serving as custodians of cultural heritage, values and customary law. They uphold and promote ethical standards that are aligned with the cultural norms, value systems and indigenous traditions. Their deep understanding of local customs and traditions allows them to resolve disputes in a manner that is perceived



**Cde Lusizo Sharon Makhubela**

as fair and just. For peace and harmony to prevail these leaders act as mediators and conflict resolvers within their communities. Democratic South Africa recognises the diverse indigenous traditional systems that existed in the pre-colonial and apartheid eras. Our cultures and languages are supported by the Constitution (1996) and other legal prescripts.

Traditional leadership has historically pursued a significant role in governance throughout many societies, particularly in predominantly rural provinces where customary practices remain

profoundly embedded in the social and political framework. While the modern democratic systems accentuate formal state structures, traditional leaders through their councils continue to influence governance by fostering social cohesion, conflict resolution, and ethical leadership. Their role in promoting moral and ethical governance is critical in ensuring stability, local development, and the preservation of cultural values.

Civil society organisations have realised that if they want to tackle important social issues in rural communities, such as HIV, gender equality, violence and crime, they must get traditional leadership on board. As heads of their communities, traditional leaders are important decision makers and the custodians of traditions, culture and values. They progressively use processes such as mediation and arbitration in achieving peace. Traditional councils are guided by moral values and belief systems that was passed down through generations.

The White Paper on Traditional Leadership and Governance, promotes traditional leaders



**Promoting  
the culture  
of values  
and good  
ethics...**

working closely with government in the reconstruction and development of rural communities, as well as building inclusive, free and democratic rural areas where people live peacefully and in harmony. Respect and tolerance amongst community members, shared value systems and human rights are enshrined in the Constitution.

The strategic role of traditional African leadership is acknowledged as being more focussed on serving communities in local affairs with clear structures, recognition of human needs and rights, service delivery, and development efforts (Mangori 2017).

Traditional leaders contribute to governance by supporting pillars in developing public involvement, land administration, and service delivery. But they often lack autonomy due to constitutional mandates that limit their authority.

Traditional leadership through local councils or authorities remains a vital component of governance in many societies. By embracing ethical leadership, fostering transparency, and collaborating with democratic institutions, traditional leaders can play a transformative role in promoting a good governance culture. They address the challenges through active

engagement that ensures their contribution to a more inclusive and ethical governance framework. They play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and resolving disputes, which contributes to stability and good governance.

Promoting the culture of values and good ethics should be the foundation of all leadership roles in society. In a rural or traditional setting, the traditional leadership is the first contact of the citizens with governance. Hence ethical leadership and governance must be promoted and practiced without fail, by the traditional leadership and their stakeholders.

The moral and ethical fibre of the country can transform government to deliver better and effective services to the citizens through ethical and inclusive decision-making. The promotion of these values, through the support government local communities can foster and maintain social cohesion and integrity. This collaboration aligns traditional authority with democratic values like equality and non-discrimination.

Traditional leadership offers many benefits by balancing traditional authority with democratic principles and addressing service delivery, accountability and representation within modern democratic governance systems•

# Bolstering our Economy and unlocking New Economic Opportunities

**A**s South Africa continues its journey of economic recovery and transformation, the 2025 Budget Speech signifies a crucial moment to align our fiscal policy with the transformative agenda of the NDR. The budget functions not only as a financial plan but also as a blueprint for inclusive economic transformation.

The 2025 budget has the potential to serve as the implementation agent for the Apex Priorities outlined in the 2025 State of the Nation Address. Given the structural inequalities in our country, there is an urgent need to implement and empower programmes that address economic transformation. The interpretation of economic transformation should involve more than just the redistribution of wealth.

It must also focus on creating an environment that enables historically disadvantaged individuals to participate meaningfully in the economy. This will necessitate targeted interventions in education and skills development.



**Cde Shaik Imraan  
Subrathie**

The 2024 budget speech introduced a comprehensive structural reform agenda aimed at tackling the challenges that have impeded our economic transformation and growth. A key focus was the role telecommunications can play in unlocking new economic opportunities.

In an increasingly digital world, access to reliable and affordable ICT infrastructure is no longer a luxury but a necessity. The ICT sector has the potential to facilitate the swift and full participation



Investing in ICT equipment manufacturing can be a game changer for South Africa. This sector holds the potential for large-scale employment and can drive export growth.

Through various localisation initiatives, we can reduce our reliance on imported goods and strengthen our trade balance while simultaneously creating jobs. The ICT sector has an immediate need for such localisation programmes, particularly in the production of technological devices.

This would also enable South Africa to build manufacturing capacity in the semiconductor industry. The country will not only take advantage of its natural mineral resources but will also enhance its entrepreneurial capacity to produce digital products.

Increasing the participation of historically disadvantaged individuals will have a direct impact on economic growth. This will ensure that everyone shares in the country's wealth.

Economic transformation resolutions should focus on investing in our people and our future. Economic growth necessitates a collective effort to implement transformation, along with a budget formulated with that objective in mind. As we anticipate the implementation of the 2025 budget, we look forward to the involvement of all stakeholders in its execution •

• *Article submitted in anticipation of the 2025 Budget presentation.*

of South Africa in the digital economy, making the country competitive through dependable and affordable ICT infrastructure.

The 2022 auction for high-demand spectrum frequencies generated an additional R6 billion beyond the initially anticipated amount. This auction is regarded as one of the most significant achievements in ensuring the sector remains competitive and inclusive.

The spectrum licensing for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) represented a crucial reform aimed at transforming mobile broadband services. The auction directly impacted the revenue generated for the national fiscus. This round of spectrum auctioning laid the groundwork for the rollout of 5G technology, ensuring that South Africa continued to advance its digital economy.

ICASA successfully licensed over 300MHz of spectrum frequency, establishing the framework for digital economic development. The digital economy must

form the basis of broader economic growth. The 2025 budget must prioritise investment in the ICT sector, ensuring that South Africa is positioned to compete in the global digital economy. This investment would include expanding broadband access to underserved areas and expanding skill development programs. This would form the basis for establishing a digital economy framework.

This framework would have clear and coherent targets for harnessing the immense potential of the digital economy, generating economic opportunities at scale, and making these opportunities more open to broader South Africans.

Digital empowerment programmes can be the driver of economic growth. Digital infrastructure is a critical enabler of many critical sectors. Investment in digital platforms can improve access to different services for small businesses and marginalised communities, converting the informal sector into the mainstream economy.

# Why investing in Digital Public Infrastructure is vital for South Africa's Digital Transformation

**I**n his State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa made the following commitment:

***"We will invest in digital public infrastructure to give South Africans access to government services anytime, anywhere, through a relaunched gov.za platform,"***

This commitment aligns with the African Union digital transformation strategy for Africa (2020 -2030) and South Africa's digital transformation Infrastructure Roadmap, led by the President and driven by the Department and Communications and Digital technologies (DCDT). Both initiatives share common goals: driving economic growth, creating decent jobs, eradicating poverty, bridging the digital divide, enhancing the quality of public services, social inclusion, and global competitiveness. For South Africa, investments in foundational digital systems and services that enable seamless interaction between

government, businesses and citizens, commonly referred to as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), is of utmost importance as it will address persistent infrastructure challenges, including:

- **Limited internet access;** Rural areas and underserved areas still struggling with a lack of high-speed internet.
- **Infrastructure gaps;** lack of broadband

infrastructure hampers efficiencies in education, institutions, healthcare, communications and e-commerce.

- **Low levels of digital literacy;** Many South Africans lack the digital skills needed to participate in the modern economy.
- **Poor workforce readiness;** in his SONA, President Ramaphosa also stated that "South Africa must adapt to a rapidly changing world, fuelled by advances in digitisation and artificial intelligence." However, a significant gap remains between the digital skills needed by industries and what is being taught at educational institutions.
- **Unequal access to E-Government services;** Many citizens struggling to access convenient online government services due to connectivity barriers.



**Cde Oscar Masarona  
Mathafa**

## **Economic Impact of Digital Public Infrastructure**

According to a World Bank study, it is estimated that for every 10% increase in broadband penetration in low- and middle-income countries result in a commensurate increase of 1.38% increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 1.21% in developed countries. If South Africa achieves this, it could significantly boost the 1.5% GDP rate forecasted for 2025 by the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to 2.8%.

The projected growth aligns with South Africa's potential for growth driven by DPI investments. The country has attracted approximately \$114.45 billion (R200 billion) in foreign direct investment for fibre optic networks and data centres. These investments have significantly improved connectivity, supported South Africa's digital economy, fostered innovation, and enhanced productivity.

### **Beyond Economic Growth: The Social Benefits of Digital Public Infrastructure**

Beyond boosting GDP, investing in DPI fosters Universal Access to The Internet, improving socio-economic conditions in the following ways:

- **Seamless flow of information between government and citizens;** increased transparency and accountability, allowing the public to monitor government activities and engage meaningfully in matters of government planning and decision making.
- **Reducing social inequalities;** marginalised communities will gain access to healthcare and education through online platforms, reducing strain on physical institutions and reducing the need for extensive travel.
- **A digital skills revolution;** Preparing young South Africans for future opportunities in the digital economy. Access to e-learning platforms, digital resources and online training programs, will enhance skills development. Recognizing this, The African National Congress (ANC) has advocated for an ICT Skills

Development Framework to align the education system with the demands of the digital era.

- **Encouraging entrepreneurship;** South Africa's localisation policy emphasises economic self-sufficiency. Improved digital infrastructure will drive innovation, create start-ups, grow Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and unlock new opportunities within the digital economy, helping address poverty and unemployment. In emerging economies SMEs contribute up to 40% of GDP and 50% of employment worldwide.
- **Positioning South Africa as a leader in regional digital integration;** Investment in DPI and international collaborations, such as Meta's Project Waterworth, which plans to construct a 50,000 km subsea cable connecting the U.S., India, South Africa, and Brazil, will improve global connectivity and economic cooperation.
- **Attract foreign direct investments (FDI);** A strong digital infrastructure will position South Africa as an attractive destination for global technology companies and research institutions looking at expand into Africa.

For the African National Congress, investing in digital public infrastructure goes beyond technology deployment, it's about reaching digital transformation to create a better future for all South Africans.

A future where society is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous. Through collaboration between government and the private sector, South Africa can create a more inclusive, innovative, and competitive digital landscape; one that benefits every citizen and positions the country as a leader in the global digital economy•

# Implementing a permanent Basic Income Grant to alleviate extreme Poverty

**T**he African National Congress (ANC) has consistently championed policies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and expanding economic participation. As part of this commitment, the ANC has prioritised the implementation of a permanent Basic Income Support Grant (BIG)—a strategic social and economic intervention designed to ensure that no South African is left behind in the fight against extreme poverty.

A Basic Income Grant is not about fostering dependency, nor is it a handout. It is a direct response to South Africa’s structural economic challenges, particularly widespread unemployment, job insecurity, poverty, hunger and the rising cost of living. By providing a stable and guaranteed income, a permanent BIG can empower individuals, create economic opportunities, and stimulate local economies, contributing to a more just and sustainable society.

## The Case for a Permanent Basic Income Grant

Extreme poverty remains a persistent challenge in South Africa, with millions of people struggling to meet their basic needs. Existing social grants play a crucial role in supporting



vulnerable groups, yet millions of unemployed youth, informal workers, and caregivers remain excluded from the system. Recognising this gap, the ANC, through its 2024 Manifesto and policy resolutions, has committed to expanding social protection through a permanent Basic Income Grant. The 2024 elections further reinforced public support for this initiative, with research from the University of Johannesburg confirming that many South Africans support the introduction of a BIG.

A permanent BIG would provide immediate relief, ensuring that vulnerable South Africans can:

- Afford basic necessities, re-

ducing food insecurity and malnutrition.

- Pursue better economic opportunities, such as education, training, or entrepreneurship, without the immediate burden of survival.
- Participate meaningfully in the economy, stimulating demand for goods and services, which in turn benefits small businesses.

## Debunking the Myth: Basic Income Support vs. Public Employment

The ANC firmly refutes the dogma and the misconception that basic income support conflicts with public employment objectives. The notion that South Africa must choose between income support and job creation presents a false ideological dichotomy.

These strategies are mutually reinforcing and collectively aim to:

- Ensure that no South African is deprived of the means to sustain themselves while seeking employment.
- Provide economic security that empowers individuals to take entrepreneurial risks, invest in education, and establish sustainable livelihoods.
- Stimulate local economies,

thereby generating increased demand and creating opportunities for small businesses and cooperatives to flourish and employ more people.

While public employment programmes like the Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) and infrastructure-driven job creation are vital, they alone are not a panacea and cannot resolve the deep-seated structural unemployment crisis. A permanent BIG acts as a foundation, ensuring that people have financial security to pursue opportunities rather than remaining trapped in cycles of poverty.

### **Basic Income Support and Public Employment: A Complementary Strategy**

The argument that suggests that a Basic Income Grant may discourage employment also needs to be corrected. The ANC rejects this false choice between income support and job creation. These two policies are mutually reinforcing, as a permanent basic income grant would:

- Provide a safety net for unemployed individuals while they actively seek work, upskill, or engage in small business ventures.
- Increase local demand, leading to more business activity and job creation.
- Encourage entrepreneurship, as financial stability enables individuals to take economic risks without fear of immediate destitution.

### **Revitalising Local Economies**

A Basic Income Grant does not only benefit individuals—it also strengthens local businesses and creates a more inclusive economic environment. By increasing household purchasing power, a basic income grant ensures that money is spent within communities, generating local economic growth. A permanent basic income grant will:

- Boost township and rural economies, as increased demand for goods and services will benefit spaza shops, informal traders, and small businesses.
- Encourage entrepreneurship, as financial stability allows individuals to invest in their ideas and skills, start businesses, and create jobs.

By linking Basic Income Support to economic participation, we ensure that recipients are not just beneficiaries, but ac-

tive contributors to economic development.

### **Funding a Permanent Basic Income Grant: A Sustainable Approach**

A key concern around BIG is its cost. However, the ANC believes that a well-structured funding model can ensure that a permanent BIG is financially viable and sustainable. Progressive taxation on high-income earners and corporations, ensuring fair economic contribution from those who have benefitted most from South Africa's economy. Wealth and financial transaction taxes, designed to redistribute excessive capital accumulation and promote inclusive economic growth.

Reallocating public spending, ensuring that resources are directed towards critical social investments rather than lost to inefficiencies or corruption. This approach ensures that a permanent Basic Income Grant is not a drain on the economy, but a stimulus for economic development, strengthening household incomes while promoting growth in the formal and informal sectors.

### **A 2025 Commitment: Implementing the Basic Income Grant**

The ANC has committed to finalising a comprehensive Basic Income Support policy framework within the first two years of this 7<sup>th</sup> administration. This implementation process will include:

- Extensive public consultations with communities, businesses, and trade unions to ensure a broad-based and people-driven policy.
- Developing a phased implementation plan, transitioning from the current Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant towards a permanent Basic Income Grant.
- Establishing clear funding mechanisms, ensuring the sustainability of the grant while promoting economic growth and development.

This is not merely a policy pledge—it is a critical step towards achieving economic justice and ensuring that South Africa's economy benefits all citizens, not just a privileged few•

# Individual Nations cannot thrive in isolation.

## South Africa approaches its Presidency of G20 with the spirit of Ubuntu



**W**e may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

This statement may have originally held a different meaning decades ago. However, it remains relevant in our current global context. Today, it



**Cde Andisiwe Nangamo Kumbaca**

the G20's mission. In today's globalised world, no country can lead in isolation. Economic growth, climate action, health crises and technological advancements require shared solutions. Collaboration remains a critical task. The G20 serves as a platform where nations recognise their interdependence and work together for collective progress.

Trade depends on global supply chains, security relies on



**South Africa's approach to its G20 Presidency will focus on inclusivity, collaboration, and solutions that benefit both developed and developing nations...**

international alliances, and climate challenges demand collective action. Even the strongest nations need partners to address pandemics, economic crises, and geopolitical conflicts.

As South Africa leads the G20, we are embracing the philosophy of Ubuntu, which emphasises interconnectedness, cooperation, and mutual support. The term 'Ubuntu' simply means "umntu, ngumntu, ngabantu" ('I am because we are'). Ubuntu suggests that a person's identity and well-being are shaped by their relationships with others. Ubuntu emphasises interconnectedness, mutual responsibility, and the idea that our well-being is tied to the well-being of others.

Just as Ubuntu teaches us that an individual thrives through community, nations prosper through cooperation. Economic growth is fuelled by trade and partnerships, security is strengthened through alliances, and global challenges, such as climate change, health matters and poverty, demand collective solutions.

The spirit of Ubuntu came into light in South Africa during the COVID-19 plight. The Batho Pele ('People First') principle took on a deeper meaning during the pandemic and the people of South Africa were literally put first, their health was put first.

South Africa's approach to its G20 Presiden-

cy will focus on inclusivity, collaboration, and solutions that benefit both developed and developing nations. It reflects the idea that global progress depends on countries helping each other rather than acting alone. It will be a stage emphasising unity despite differences.

True leadership is not about domination but about uplifting others. A nation practicing Ubuntu in diplomacy understands that helping others succeed, strengthens everyone. The world is one interconnected community, and when nations act with shared humanity, everyone benefits.

Just as Ubuntu teaches that one's well-being is tied to the well-being of others, the G20 reinforces that economic and social stability in one nation impacts the entire world. When nations embrace cooperation over competition, the result is inclusive growth, sustainable development, and a more resilient global economy.

Leading in isolation is no longer an option. Nations that refuse to engage with the world, risk falling behind. True leadership comes from forging alliances, negotiating solutions, and driving mutually beneficial development. The future belongs to those who recognise that, despite differences, we are all in the same boat and we must row together•

# THE LIFE AND STRUGGLE OF TT CHOLO

## BOOK REVIEW

Cde Saul Pelle

**I**n his foreword to this heartrending biography replete with personal human endeavour titled "Heeding the call to Fight for the Fatherland" written by Dr Tlou Setumo, Professor Shadrack Gutto extols struggle veteran Cde TT Cholo as one of the unsung heroes of the South African liberation movement ...a graduate of Robben Island, (who) tasted the life of exile for military training, returned into the country for operations before he was captured, tried and incarcerated.

As a contribution to the quest for the African Renaissance, Gutto humbly requests that this book be taken to schools for the youth. This, he says, can stimulate appetite for reading and understanding of how we are connected as people.

Cde TT Cholo was born on 20 October 1925. This means we shall celebrate his centenary this year.

Throughout this 10-chapter riveting biography, Dr Setumo traces Comrade TT Cholo's story from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, starting in Ga Matlala and Mmakala in Limpopo. When growing up in these rural area, says Dr Setumo, Cde Cholo found himself and his people living under a cruel system which dispossessed them of land, livestock, freedom and dignity. It is these life experiences that formed his earlier political consciousness.

The politics of resistance against white minority rule intensified as the ruling party (The Nationalist Party) vigorously pursued and implemented racial policies after seizing power in 1948.

It was around this time that Cde TT became actively involved in trade unionism, having worked in several companies in Johannesburg. He was mobilising his fellow workers mainly around issues of wages and racial treatment.

Cde TT officially joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1952 during the height of the organisation's



### HEEDING THE CALL TO FIGHT FOR THE FATHERLAND

*The life and struggle of T.T. Cholo*

Defiance Campaign. However, he had been attending gatherings of the South African Communist Party. The debates and discussions in the party's meetings enhanced his level of political awareness. He rose through the ranks to become one of the leaders in the broad liberation movement.

After the Sharpeville massacre, Cde TT, like his other comrades, were instructed to operate underground. He had joined the newly established Umkhonto we Sizwe, which was to become the spear and shield of

the struggling masses of South Africa.

In 1962 he skipped the country through Botswana and joined other comrades in Tanzania. Eager to undergo military training, Cde TT was eventually sent to Moscow. Cde TT was ready and willing to undertake any mission directed by the ANC in his fight for the freedom from oppression.

Of particular interest in this gripping story of Cde Cholo was the episode surrounding the “fancy” ship - Aventura. The ANC leadership, comprising OR Tambo, Moses Mabhida, Joe Slovo and Chris Hani were preparing a group of MK soldiers (naval graduates who had trained in Baku in the then Soviet Union), which included Cde Cholo, to travel back to South Africa by sea. The year was 1971.

“A crew of about 15 Greek captains departed from Somalia with the naval graduates in the Aventura. The ship began to experience problems on the way. Aventura made a u-turn back to Somalia where it was panel beaten. Again, the ship experienced the same problems of knocking, and it had to return back to Somali. The ANC-MK leadership suspected sabotage. Three of the Greek crew members were arrested by the Somali authorities. The leadership then decided to abandon the ship option and a decision was taken to fly these cadres to South Africa. At the beginning of 1972, Cde Cholo together with two of his comrades who were part of the Aventura venture flew to Swaziland, en route to South Africa.

Cde Cholo managed to surreptitiously enter the country and started operating as a guerilla.

Unfortunately, Cde Cholo was arrested in Burgwal in September 1972, after which he was severely tortured by the racist apartheid police.

During the trial, his co-accused were Justice Mpanza, Petrus Mthembu and Sandi Sijake (from the aborted Aventura venture) and included Alex Moumbaris and John William Hosey were found guilty of contravening the provisions of the Terrorism Act, Act number 83 of 1967.

He was later sentenced to 15 years which he served in Robben Island. Cde TT was released in June 1988, after which he continued with his underground work for the ANC.

#### Citation

During his January 8 Address 2025 in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, President Ramaphosa, on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the ANC, delivered, amongst others, an Isithwalandwe citation in which he intoned:

“Comrade TT Cholo represents a lifetime of struggle for freedom, dignity and justice, an outspoken voice for and servant of the people.

As a young migrant worker in Johannesburg, he joined the trade union movement, and soon after became a founder of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

Like other worker leaders of his generation, he understood the umbilical link between shop floor and political struggles, and became active in the ANC and SACP.

A militant of the ANC Youth League, when the call to arms came to form Umkhonto we Sizwe, Cde Cholo was amongst the first volunteers to leave the country for military training. He pioneered the establishment of Luthuli, Mandela, Morogoro and Kongwa military camps of the liberation forces in Tanzania. An organiser, commissar and deputy camp commander from the Luthuli Detachment, he was amongst the MK cadres seeking to infiltrate South Africa from the Indian Ocean and also preparing the way for the Huange (Wankie) and Sipolilo campaign. He attended the Morogoro Consultative Conference of 1969 as one of the MK delegates.

Dr Cholo served two jail terms for his activism, in Botswana and on Robben Island. This did not extinguish his fierce commitment to freedom of the people, and after his release, in 1988 picked up the spear and continued the struggle, relentlessly, until the dawn of democracy in 1994.

Dr Cholo worked tirelessly in the next phase of freedom, the creation of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, serving as a member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature from 1994 to 2014. A tireless champion of the working class, he ferociously spoke out against the scourge of corruption, and continues to advance education and improving the lives of the people.

We honour him this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, in Khayelitsha Cape Town, for his dedication to the people, and bestow on him the highest honour of the ANC, Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe.”

This biography of Cde TT Cholo was first published in 2011 and dedicated to Phuti D Cholo, the late son of Cde TT and the loving late Mrs MA Cholo by Fortune-d Africa Publishing. •

*Celebrating*

# HUMAN RIGHTS

MARCH 2025



**T**he African National Congress (ANC) commemorates 21 March - Human Rights Day - by honouring the sacrifices made by our fallen heroes and heroines who were killed across many communities in the country in the 1960's, during the defiance campaign, in pursuit of democracy.

It was on this day that many cadres in the various townships embarked on a protest march against pass laws. The apartheid police shot and killed 69 of the protesters at Sharpeville, many of them shot while fleeing. Many other people were killed in other parts of the country, and this brutal act exposed the apartheid government's deliberate violation of human rights to the world.

Human Rights Day is a significant day that reminds us of the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa.

In the 2025 January 8 Statement, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasized our commitment to renewal and addressing social justice issues.

The ANC commemorates this day under the government theme **“deepening a culture of social justice and human rights”**, and we remain dedicated to promoting equality, dignity, and freedom for all citizens•