

NEW

# CADRE

ANC CAUCUS STAFF NEWSLETTER

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

*Dear  
Comrades,*

It is a great honour and my distinct pleasure to receive an invitation to make an input in this year's publication of the New Cadre.

The month of April holds immense political significance to the ANC and millions of our people.

It is a month when we commemorate Freedom Month, marking thirty-one years since the dawn of democracy in our nation. The country-wide momentous democratic elections that were held on 27 April 1994 represent a firm landmark of a testing journey in the fight for freedom and democracy. They ushered in a new era of freedom and constitutional democracy.

As we embark on various events to celebrate Freedom Month, we also remember the indelible legacy of one of our foremost freedom fighters, Mme Charlotte Makgomo Manye-Maxeke, who was born on 7 April 1871.

As a movement, we draw unfathomable inspiration from her courage, her ability to unite people, her unyielding commitment to justice, her unfaltering ability to unite people, and her unyielding commitment to social justice and equality. We also use the month of April to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Comrade Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, a fearless MK combatant who gave his life for the liberation of South Africa. As we remember the fearless life of Mme Charlotte Makgomo Manye-Maxeke, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Thembisile Chris Hani and many death-defying combatants of our movement who remain resolute in standing firm to fighting for our liberation, we reaffirm our unwavering conviction to foster, promote and protect the rights of all our people across the nation.

At the heart of our commitment to equality lies the Bill of Rights, which is an inscription of our nation's commitment to the notion of fundamental equality of all men and women, irrespective of race, colour or creed. The pre-eminence of equality as the founding ideal of the new South Africa is evident in the Preamble of the Interim Constitution and its position as the first right which is listed in Chapter 3 of our globally well-regarded Constitution.

Our Constitution serves as a cornerstone of the robust legal framework that seeks to promote diversity and inclusion in our society. The laws that have been spearheaded by the ANC since 1994 seek to address the historical legacy of discrimination and promote social justice, equality. Our Constitution serves as a cornerstone of the robust legal framework that seeks to promote diversity and inclusion in our society. The laws that have been spearheaded by

the ANC since 1994 seek to address the historical legacy of discrimination and promote social justice, equality, and human rights for all South Africans. They also guarantee fundamental human rights and protections against discrimination based on gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, and other grounds.

Through the Employment Equity Plans, we have said employers must develop and implement employment equity plans that identify barriers to equal employment opportunities and outline measures to address them. These plans should also set targets for recruiting, training, and promoting employees from designated groups, including black people, women, and people with disabilities. Through the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, we have committed businesses to give preference to suppliers that are majority-owned by historically disadvantaged groups, particularly black people. We believe that this will help to increase the participation of these groups in the economy and create opportunities for them to grow their businesses.

The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act requires employers to train employees on diversity and equality. This is intended to assist us in raising awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion and promote a culture of respect and tolerance in the workplace. As we mark Freedom Month, we will use every platform to rigorously reaffirm our unshakable resolve to safeguard the rights of all our people, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, the youth, marginalised communities and minority groups. We will also emphasise the crucial role of the safety, security and justice sectors in safeguarding the rights of all citizens, ensuring equitable access to justice for everyone.

We remain resolute in our pursuit of a society that embraces diversity, fosters social cohesion, and ensures equitable access to opportunities for all our people. ■

**With best regards,**

**Kenny Mmoiemang,**

**Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces**

# REMEMBERING



**23 April 1908 - 8 May 1975**

# Abraham Louis Fischer

# STRENGTHENING OUR ROOTS

## The Vital Role of Political Education for ANC Parliamentary Caucus Staff

**Cde Luthando Nogcinisa**

**A**NC leaders have raised the importance of political education over the past few years. Political education is generally understood as the missing ingredient in what is supposed to be a magnificent organisation: the ANC. I've heard many members, especially our veterans, say, "We just need to do more political education in the ANC, and all our problems will be solved."

The assumption is that those who cause problems in the ANC do so because they "lack" political education. Political education is seen as a magic pill that miraculously cures errant behaviour.

I must admit, I'm a sceptic.

I have not seen any tangible evidence that the ANC's political education, i.e. a series of lectures, produces good cadres. On the contrary, some of the former senior leaders who fragmented the organisation did not do so because they lacked political education.

Perhaps a relevant question would be, what form of political education do we need, to produce cadres who are effective agents of progressive change in the current phase of the revolution? As the former leader of the Vietnamese people, Ho Chi Minh, once said, "The revolution is a continuous process. Each generation must take it forward."



Our foundation course, which the NEC has determined that all ANC members must undergo, is a good start. It focuses on our history, analysis of the country and the world, and renewal and ethics. However, the terrain of contestation with the class forces standing against the national democratic revolution is dynamic. It requires a high level of sophistication, capacity to synthesise large quantities of data, principled action and courage.

The ANC Caucus staff can be a strategic resource to the ANC and the broad national liberation movement. We are exposed to large volumes of information from government departments and state organs. However, I would argue that we lack the capacity and skills to analyse this information to help inform the Caucus structures on the most

progressive options. The missing link is the limited exposure to cutting-edge research produced by left-leaning academics, social movements and political parties from advanced countries such as China, Vietnam, Cuba, and even socialist and social democratic parties from the West.

We need information that helps us understand the root causes of chronic unemployment, poverty and inequality in South Africa. To be relevant, our political education must enable us to answer these questions and search for progressive answers which our Members can discuss in study groups and articulate in their committees and the Houses of Parliament.

Our study groups must revert to forums of strategic and tactical thinking. The old form of political education helps lay the foundation for understanding our movement's history and principles. The Caucus staff, however, needs to take political education to a higher level through reading and forging links with progressives outside the movement. Ultimately, our aim should be to renew our own revolutionary theory, strategies and tactics to fit the current era of struggle. ■

# GROWING UP IN THE SHADOWS OF APARTHEID

**Cde Zelda Pieterse**



I was born in the 1970s, a time of great turmoil and division in South Africa. As a coloured girl growing up in Bonteheuwel, I faced challenges that many of my white counterparts could hardly imagine.

Despite my fair skin, I was labelled as coloured, a constant reminder of the apartheid regime's rigid racial categorizations. My parents, both coloured themselves, worked tirelessly to provide for our family, often sacrificing their own dreams and aspirations in the process.

I remember the riots of the 1980s, the sound of gunfire and tear gas filling the air as police clashed with protesting students. We couldn't play peacefully in the streets or parks, never knowing when the police would arrive, chasing down school children who dared to demand equal education.

Our home was often filled with the acrid smell of tear gas, which seeped in through the windows as we huddled together, watching TV or playing in the backyard. My grandmother and mother would rush around, using cloths and water to clear the sting from our eyes.

We were constantly reminded of our place in society. Public spaces were segregated, with signs that read "non-whites only" or "whites only". I recall the humiliation of being forced to use separate train carriages, even when the "whites only" carriage was empty.

Apartheid's social imbalances were stark. I witnessed the vast disparities in education, housing, and job opportunities between black and white South Africans. My parents had to leave school early to work and support our family, a sacrifice that many black and coloured families had to make.

But then, something remarkable happened. In 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, marking the beginning of the end of apartheid. I remember the excitement and hope that filled our community as we watched the news of Mandela's release.

As the country transitioned towards democracy, I witnessed the dismantling of apartheid's institutions and the creation of a new, inclusive society. I saw people from different racial groups coming together, sharing their stories, and working towards a common goal.

In 1994, I cast my first vote in South Africa's democratic elections, feeling a sense of pride and ownership in our new democracy. It was a moment of great joy and relief, knowing that our country was finally free from the shackles of apartheid.

Growing up in the apartheid era was painful, but witnessing the birth of democracy was a testament to the power of resilience, hope, and determination. As I look back, I realize that those experiences shaped me into the person I am today. They taught me the value of fighting for equality and justice, and the need to never forget the struggles of our past.

# GROWING UNDER APARTHEID: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

**Cde Silverton Ntushelo**

**G**rowing up under apartheid in South Africa meant living under a system of racial segregation and discrimination, where Black people faced severe limitations in their lives, including restricted movement, poor education, and limited economic opportunities. Born in Peelton village in King William's Town (now Qonce) in the Eastern Cape, one has experienced the hardships and injustices of apartheid firsthand. The former Ciskei homeland was designated and inhabited primarily by Xhosa-speaking people. Former Robben Island prisoner and ANC leader, Cde Steve Vukile Tshwete hailed from the same village of Peelton.

When I was growing up, I used to sneak out in the evenings and attend secret meetings of the ANC, which was banned at the time, in the fields far away from the houses. Since we were young, we were normally instructed to sit far away and look for any indication of a police van to signal a warning to our elders who were discussing serious matters of national interest. In those years, we were often subjected to punishment even by our parents if they heard us talking of the name Mandela or the word Viva.

The only name that was permitted on our lips was the one of the Bantustan leader and chief Minister Lennox Sebe who, upon being elected following the Ciskei's inaugural election in February 1973, consolidated power in a dictatorship. Even after Lennox Sebe was overthrown by a military coup led by Brigadier General Oupa Gqozo on 4 March 1990, things remained the same. In mid-1991, Gqozo formed the African Democratic Movement to counter the influence of the African National Congress in the region and accused the ANC of planning to topple him from power.

On 7 September 1992 the ANC organized a march of about 80,000 people led by Cdes Chris Hani, Cyril Ramaphosa, Steve Tshwete, and Ronnie Kasrils to



demand the reincorporation of Ciskei into South Africa during the final years of apartheid. The soldiers opened fire on marchers, killing 28 people and injuring over 200. Although I was part of the march, I was still far from the Bisho stadium in the middle of the ANC supporters when I heard the sound of the bullets that lasted for several minutes.

As Nelson Mandela believed that "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world," I persevered in studying under harsh conditions. Having matriculated in 1992 but struggling to get tertiary institution in the Eastern Cape I left for the Western Cape and luckily was admitted by the University of the Western Cape (UWC) for a Bachelor of Arts and later Development Studies (1993 -97).

Thanks to the bravery of Professor Jakes Gerwel, then Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the Institution who rejected the National Party ideology of reserving the University for coloured students only, adopting a declaration of nonracialism and opening doors for students from all over the country.

It was under the visionary leadership of Prof Gerwel between 1987 and 1994 that UWC became known as "the intellectual home of the left" with a space for critical engagement with apartheid and its legacy. It came as no surprise when President Mandela appointed Prof Gerwel as director general in his office and as secretary of the cabinet (1994 – 1999). It was here at the University of the Western Cape, a former Bush college turned University, that I became involved in student politics, including serving in the Executive Committee of the South African Students Congress (SASCO) and leader in the Arts Faculty Students Council. Having completed the Honours degree in 1997 I worked in a few NGOs before joining the ANC Parliamentary Caucus in 2004 to date. ■



# MESSAGES FROM THE **BORN-FREES**

**CDE MASILAKHE GXIBA**  
**(Gonubie, PCO 716)**

Hearing the struggle that people went through during apartheid I personally think that we as the generation of today we would not have survived.

Black people during apartheid were not able to walk freely, had no access to free quality education and were discriminated against whites. In terms of work, whites trade unions kept whites in all the top jobs and kept the unskilled work for blacks, blacks were not part of the wage negotiations.

But today we live in a world of Democracy where people are treated equally regardless of their colour. People can walk freely and go anywhere they want to go without being discriminated, children are able to go to school to get free and quality education. Today in South Africa the rights of citizens are exercised regardless of gender, race, and religion. Tata Nelson Mandela worked hard to make South Africa a country of equality and improved the living standards of South Africa's black population. I, as part of youth in this democracy, am very grateful to the youth of 1976 for their significant contribution to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. ■

## BOR



# MESSAGES FROM THE BORN-FREES

**Cde Nkululeko Mthlane**  
**(Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pinetown PCO)**

**N**kululeko, is the name I was given by my father on the 14th -04-1994, thirteen days prior to South Africa getting its independence. This name encapsulates the era and milestone quite beautifully; it means Freedom in English. Not to mention how adamant and proud the old man was in ensuring that his post 1994 son resembles exactly that, as I was given Zulu names only, compared to my older brother and generally many others born before that.

I am told that the atmosphere was filled with unimaginable excitement, coupled with intense emotions, bearing in mind the first democratically elected and not to state the obvious, but Black and African president of the African National Congress was about to take the reigns from the very oppressive system called Apartheid. Since 1994, the ANC has ensured that our people are free from the shackles of oppression which was systemic, by putting mechanisms in place through political will. Interventions such as the Broad Based Economic Empowerment were introduced in the quest to give us equity since Black people were previously oppressed, marginalised and had no other avenues to enter into business or any other field of their choice based on the colour of their skin. Further to that, the government led by the ANC has over the years championed a plethora of policies, from the National Development Plan and many other strategic policies in trying to rectify the injustices of the past.



My testimony, under the ANC led government, is that this is factually the only government I have known since inception. I have witnessed its ups and downs, our people and the quality of life is not yet perfect, but it has advanced and continue advancing through the support given by the government as aforementioned. I have grown up through the support that I have received from this government after my father passed away in a car accident. The government paid for my needs throughout my primary school and high school years. At tertiary, my fees were covered through NSFAS and today I am the person that I am through this ANC led government, not to mention a number of programmes that helped me gain skills while getting incentives.

Through all the party's glorious victories since it took over, the ANC has not had its bread buttered on both sides, but rather it has been impacted upon by a number of issues which has ultimately seen the party suffer a serious decline in membership and support over the years. From the Schabir Shaik's case implicating the then president Jacob Zuma, to Julius Malema leaving the African National Congress, the Guptas and Fees Must Fall.

The whole corruption fiasco engulfed the party, and with the introduction of new players in the political space like the Economic Freedom Fighters led by none other than the former ANC Youth League president Julius Malema, adding to that, a Zuma Must Fall campaign was launched, and consequently led up to the State Capture Commission and its findings. This time the party has taken a firm decision and a stand against corruption, in the quest to cleanse its name and this does bring back hope to many.

Recently, in the 2024 May elections, despite all that effort, we have seen our glorious movement suffer an unimaginable defeat, with the new uMkhonto WeSizwe party. Led by the former president Jacob Zuma, they gained tremendous support in quite a

short period of time during the elections. This has seen the ANC being forced to invite other parties to govern with us, thereby introducing a whole new conundrum, as some parties in the right and the far right, have fundamental differences with the ANC on policy. A perfect example would be that of the postponement of the budget, due to differences, though sometimes due to arrogance from some GNU partners using that privilege as a platform to try and overshadow the ANC.

Now, these historical events and developments are of great importance as they serve as the trend leading up to the movement's current dilemma. This helps us a great deal as servants of the ANC in going back to the drawing board, strategically and correctly diagnosing the problem, before heading back to our people to try and gain back lost ground. I, myself have interacted and continue to engage people on the ground (Branch level) and have seen how much they love the organisation. Both the loyal ANC voters and those that opted to vote for uMkhonto WeSizwe and other parties, continue to constructively criticise the ANC, and deservedly so, which shows one that our people have been let down and felt that they were forgotten and unheard, and they looked elsewhere.

With that being said, I think that we ought to go back to the people, and the ANC leadership has done an amazing job of deploying Provincial Task Teams all around the country. The Parliamentary Constituency Offices, through the Chief Whip comrade Mdumiseni Ntuli are also quite effective and must be utilised as such, as they serve as the link between Parliament and the people. ■



**Cde Thandi Ngubane**

## HOW FAR DO OUR HR POLICIES GO IN ESTABLISHING A FUNCTIONAL, OPTIMAL, HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STAFF?

### **Promoting Health, Safety, and Well-being**

Beyond operational functionality, our HR policies reflect a deep commitment to creating a healthy and safe working environment. Policies that address Health and Safety and the Code of Conduct provide the framework for promoting our staff's physical and psychological well-being. Our policies on grievance handling, disciplinary procedures, and employment practices are designed to protect employees' dignity and ensure that workplace challenges are dealt with fairly, respectfully, and efficiently. In addition, leave policies make provision for the diverse needs of employees, recognising that well-being extends beyond the office into family and personal life.

### **Policies that Grow With Us**

Management is mindful that HR policies are not static documents - they are living instruments that must evolve alongside the organisation and its employees. In this regard, the ANC Parliamentary Caucus Consolidated HR Policy Framework Review Project has provided an opportunity to review, update, close gaps, and ensure compliance with legislative developments and best practice standards. Significantly, this process is also being shaped by engagement with staff.

Draft 1 of the reviewed policies has been shared with staff for their comments and input, which will inform the development of the second draft to be submitted for adoption and implementation. This inclusive approach reflects our commitment to best practices in HR - where employees can contribute to shaping the policies governing their working environment.

While the timing of the first edition of the New Cadre's publication in 2025 and the final adoption of the reviewed ANC Parliamentary Caucus Consolidated HR Policy Framework may overlap or follow one another, what remains clear is that the process itself reflects the values we seek to embed- transparency, inclusivity, and continuous improvement. ■

**I**t is quite a fitting coincidence that, as the ANC Parliamentary Caucus's HR Unit, we have been invited to reflect on the importance of HR Policies, when we have just concluded the first draft of our ANC Parliamentary Caucus Consolidated HR Policy Framework Review Project.

This recent process allowed us to assess whether our policies remain aligned with the evolving needs of our organisation and responsive to the changing world of work. At the heart of our HR policies lies a simple but powerful principle — that employees are our most valuable asset. Our HR policies are crafted to enforce rules and create a functional, optimal, healthy, and safe environment where our staff can thrive and contribute meaningfully to the organisation's goals.

### **Creating a Functional and Optimal Work Environment**

Our HR policies provide the foundation for the organisation's day-to-day functioning. The Recruitment and Selection Policy ensures that we appoint individuals with the right skills, values, and potential into the organisation. Our Performance Management Policy facilitates a culture of accountability, feedback, and continuous improvement - all of which are crucial in ensuring that the organisation operates optimally. The Training and Development Policy plays a particularly significant role in equipping staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their roles effectively and preparing them for future opportunities. This deliberate investment in employee development enhances organisational performance and fosters staff retention and growth.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF WELLNESS PROGRAMMES

**Cde Grant Swartz**

**A** healthy workplace starts with healthy employees. Prioritising wellness creates a supportive environment where individuals can thrive, fostering personal fulfilment and organisational success.

The ANC Parliamentary Caucus staff, which is based in Parliament, automatically benefits from the quarterly Parliamentary Wellness Day sessions organised by Parliament as an institution. These sessions offer various services, including health screenings, optometry checks, dietitian consultations, financial wellness guidance, parenting skills workshops, and more.

We acknowledge the logistical challenges in extending the same wellness service to our constituency staff in the provinces. Recognising that challenge, the HR Unit is actively exploring online wellness sessions to ensure that this staff has access to wellness services. As a starting point, these online sessions will focus on financial wellness, mental well-being, and dietary awareness.

Since all staff are members of the provident fund under the Sanlam Umbrella Fund, they automatically have access to a range of wellness support services — at no additional cost — through Sanlam’s built-in value-added benefits. These services are designed to support employees’ well-being and include:

- Sanlam Virtual Doctor – Access to consultations with a GP, psychologist, or nurse without medical aid.
- Emergency Medical Response – 24/7 access to emergency medical assistance.
- Legal Assist – A 24-hour helpline offering expert legal advice and guidance.
- Trauma, Assault & HIV Assist – Confidential support and assistance available around the clock for trauma, assault, or HIV-related concerns.

We recognise and respect that staff members value their privacy and may not always feel comfortable disclosing personal matters to the employer. The highlighted wellness benefits outlined above provide essential confidential support to help address such concerns discreetly.

How to Access These Benefits:

1. Visit the Sanlam portal: [www.sanlamreality.co.za](http://www.sanlamreality.co.za)
2. Call the Sanlam call centre: 0860 732 548 / 9 – Follow the prompts for “Wealth Bonus Lifestyle for Sanlam Corporate”.
3. For more details, contact the Sanlam Helpline. Staff are encouraged to use these services as part of their wellness and support resources. ■

# THE BENEFITS OF BUDGETING AS THE HIGH COSTS OF LIVING ESCALATE



A budget is a plan that estimates an individual's or organization's revenue and expenses for a specified period. As the cost of living rises, budgeting becomes essential for managing personal finances. The imbalance between rising costs and the limited income puts a strain on individuals and families to afford basic necessities and maintain a decent standard of living. Here are some key benefits of budgeting in times of escalating costs: -

## Cde Fundiswa Citwa

1. **Helps Prioritize Spending and Prevents Overspending:** With rising costs, allocating money toward essentials becomes even more critical. Budgeting enables you to identify your priorities—housing, utilities, food, or health-care—and ensures you're not overspending in non-essential areas. A budget helps you set limits on your spending, which can prevent impulse purchases and reduce the temptation to splurge. This can be especially helpful when everyday expenses become more expensive.
2. **Increases Financial Awareness:** Budgeting lets you track where your money goes each month. Knowing your spending habits helps you understand where to cut back, whether by limiting dining out or finding cheaper alternatives for everyday items.
3. **Saves for Emergencies:** With inflation and unpredictable economic conditions, having an emergency fund is more important than ever. A budget allows you to plan for unexpected expenses, such as medical bills or car repairs, without sacrificing financial stability.
4. **Improves Long-Term Financial Goals:** While rising costs might make saving harder, budgeting can help you continue working toward long-term goals like buying a home, paying off debt, or building retirement savings. It makes allocating money toward these goals easier, even in a challenging economic climate.
5. **Reduces Stress:** Financial stress can be overwhelming when prices rise unexpectedly. By sticking to a budget, you can gain control over your finances, which helps reduce anxiety and improve your overall financial well-being.
6. **Allows for Flexibility and review:** Although budgeting is about controlling spending, it can also be flexible. By adjusting your budget when your circumstances change, you can account for changes in income or shifts in your financial situation, ensuring that you are always prepared for whatever comes your way.
7. **Promotes Saving and Investing:** Even when the cost of living rises, budgeting can help you continue saving and investing for the future. Small but consistent contributions to savings accounts or investment funds can significantly impact over time.



## Here are some budgeting tips that can help you manage your money more effectively:

### 1. Track Your Spending

Keep track of every expense, no matter how small. Use apps or spreadsheets to help you monitor where your money is going each month. It will give you a clearer idea of your spending habits.

### 2. Create a Realistic Budget

Allocate specific amounts for specific expenditure items, such as housing, food, entertainment, savings, etc. Be realistic about your needs, and do not overestimate your income or underestimate your expenses.

### 3. Set Financial Goals

Have short-term and long-term financial goals. Whether saving for a vacation, building an emergency fund, or paying off debt, having clear goals will help you stay motivated and focused.

### 4. Cut Unnecessary expenses, eg, Subscriptions

Review your subscriptions like streaming services, magazines, or apps. Cancel any that you no longer use or that you can live without.

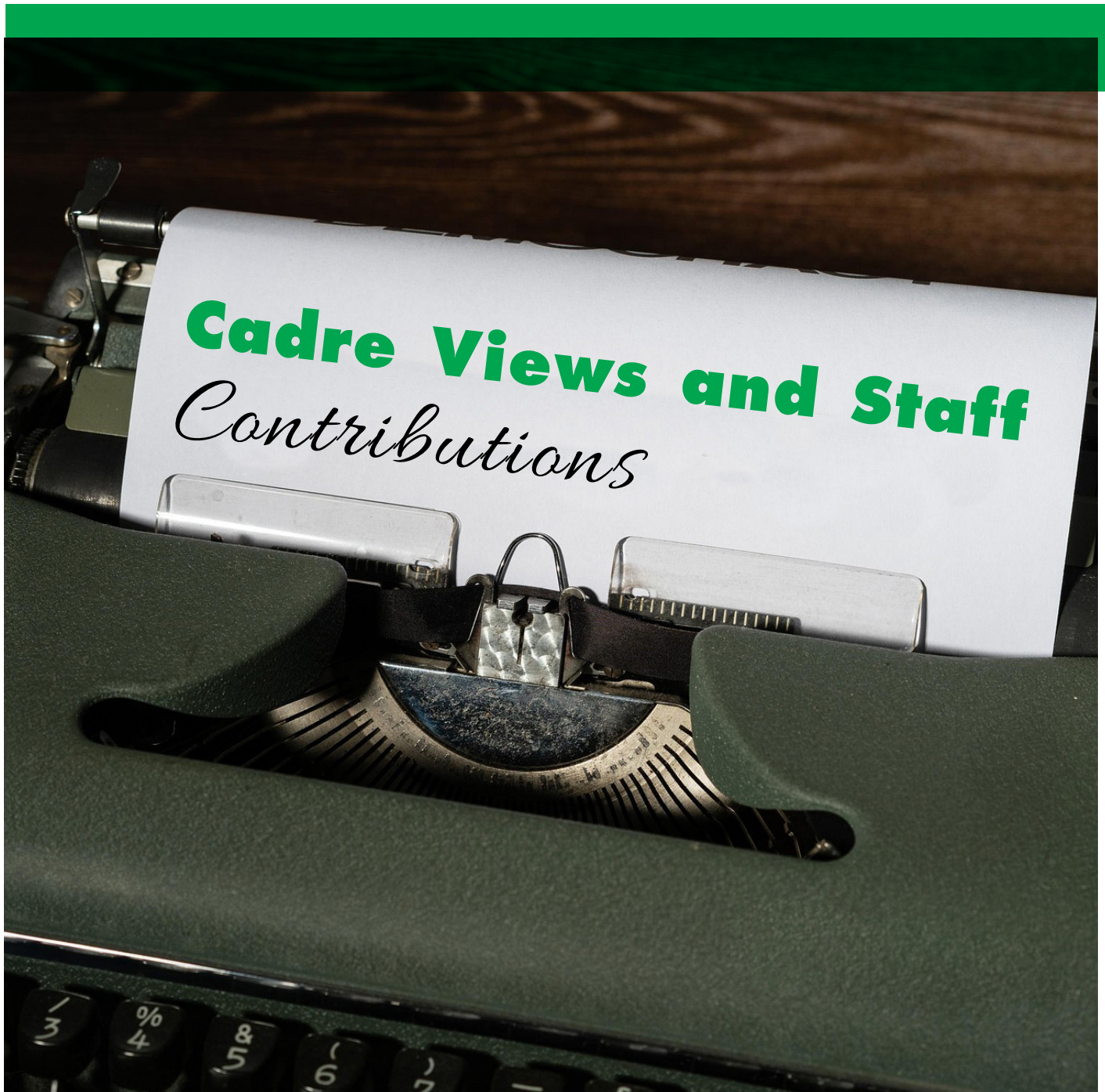
### 5. Build an Emergency Fund

Aim to save 3–6 months of living expenses in case of unexpected situations like job loss or medical emergencies. This will give you peace of mind and prevent you from relying on credit.

6. Review Your Budget Regularly

Your financial situation might change, so review and adjust your budget regularly. If you get a raise or your expenses change, reflect that in your budget.

Overall, budgeting provides a structured way to take control of your finances, helping you navigate rising costs while ensuring that you are prepared for the future. ■



**A**pril, a Month to Remember: Honouring our Struggle Heroes and Celebrating a New Dawn. April. For South Africans, this month carries a weight of history, a poignant blend of remembrance and jubilant celebration. It is a time when we pause to honour the sacrifices of our struggle heroes, those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom we now enjoy, and simultaneously, a time to commemorate the dawn of our democratic dispensation. The echoes of the past resonate sincerely this April. We remember the brutal execution of Solomon Mahlangu

on April 6th, 1979. His defiant spirit in the face of apartheid's injustice remains an enduring symbol of resistance. We recall the tragic assassination of Chris Hani on April 10th, 1993, a moment that threatened to derail the fragile transition but ultimately strengthened the resolve for peace and reconciliation. And we mourn the passing of the unwavering strategist and leader Oliver Reginald Tambo on April 24th, 1993, a man whose tireless efforts on the international stage were instrumental in isolating the apartheid regime. Nomzamo Winnie Mandela was a prominent anti-apartheid

activist, politician, and humanitarian. Her unwavering commitment to the struggle, even during periods of intense personal hardship, made her a symbol of resistance. Charlotte Maxeke was a religious leader, social and political activist, and the first black South African woman to graduate with a university degree. She was an early advocate for women's rights and played a crucial role in the formation of the African National Congress (ANC).

These dates, etched in our collective memory, serve as stark reminders of the immense cost of our liberation. Mahlangu, Hani, and Tambo, along with countless other unsung heroes and heroines, dedicated their lives to the fight against a system that denied basic human dignity to the majority of our people. They endured imprisonment, exile, persecution, and ultimately, for some, the ultimate sacrifice. Their courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to justice laid the foundation for the South Africa we inhabit today.

Yet, April is not solely a month of sombre reflection. It is also the month that witnessed the culmination of their struggle – the dawn of a new political dispensation. On April 27th, 1994, South Africans of all races stood in

long queues, many for the first time in their lives, to cast their ballots in the first democratic elections. This historic moment marked the official end of apartheid and the birth of a non-racial, democratic South Africa. The significance of this convergence in April cannot be overstated. It underscores the profound connection between the sacrifices made and the freedoms gained. The bravery and determination of our struggle heroes paved the way for that momentous day in 1994. Their sacrifices were not in vain; they directly contributed to the dismantling of an oppressive system and the establishment of a society founded on the principles of equality, justice, and human rights. This April, as we commemorate these pivotal moments, let us do so with a renewed sense of purpose. Let us honor the memory of our fallen heroes by actively participating in the ongoing project of nation-building. Let us strive to uphold the values they fought for, ensuring that the fruits of our hard-won democracy are enjoyed by all.

Let this month serve as a powerful reminder of where we come from, the immense challenges we overcame, and the enduring spirit of the South African people. By remembering the sacrifices of the past and celebrating the achievements of our democratic present, we can draw strength and inspiration to build a brighter future for generations to come. April is indeed a month to remember, a month to honour, and a month to celebrate the enduring legacy of our struggle and the promise of our democratic nation. ■

**Cde Michael Mulaudzi**

**Constituencies: Limpopo Province**



**REMEMBERING**

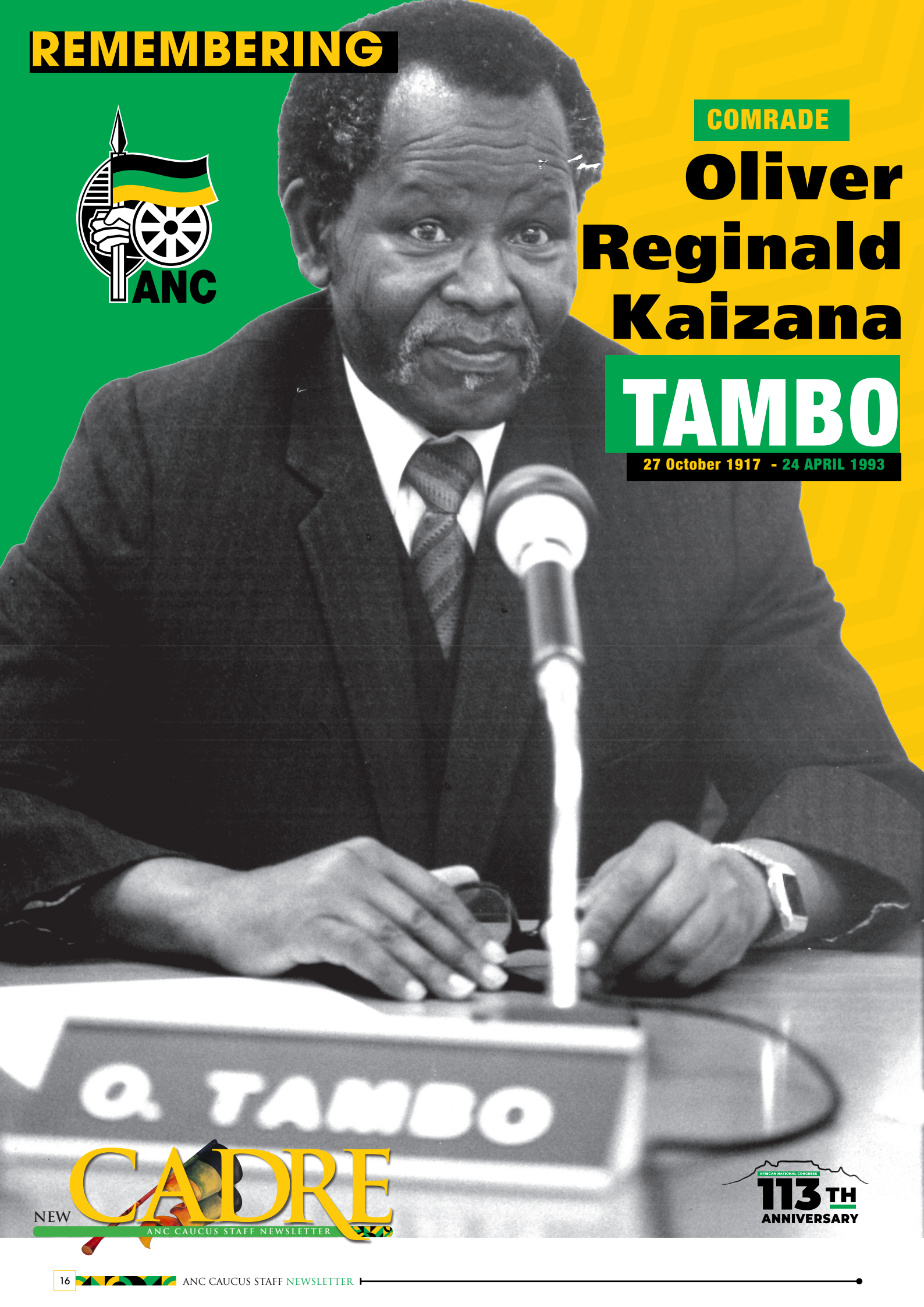


**COMRADE**

**Oliver  
Reginald  
Kaizana**

**TAMBO**

27 October 1917 - 24 APRIL 1993



**CADRE**  
NEW ANC CAUCUS STAFF NEWSLETTER

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
**113<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY