

"Issue 3. 2019: Opinion Pieces and Book Reviews

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NO TO  
FEMICIDE  
AND  
MULTI-  
GENERATIONAL  
GENDER BIAS

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# EW BLOG: Opinion Pieces and Book Reviews

COLLECTION OF BLOG POSTS

Issue 3. 2019

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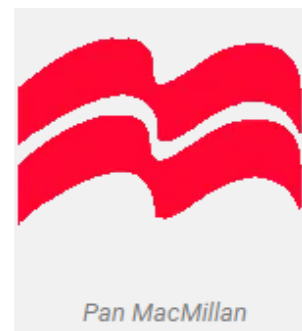
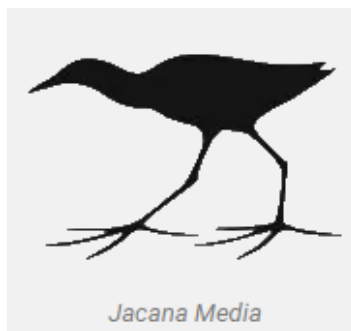
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## SPECIAL THANKS



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*“Dedicated to Immaculate Meje”*



Picture: *Immaculate Meje*

## Editor's Note

I am happy to announce and present our latest and third edition of the EW Blog eBook. It has been over a year since the EW Blog came into existence. We have had a good journey thus far and also numerous obstacles on our way, but I am happy to see that we are still holding on and doing well in our journey to grow the brand. Our team of contributors continue to grow in each and every edition. In this edition, I am happy to announce that there are contributions from two strong women, Makhosazana Mavundla and Immaculate Meje.

This edition is dedicated to all women in the country, but most importantly, to our sister and fellow writer Immaculate Meje. While we were still celebrating her joining the team, our beloved sister Immaculate sadly left us on the 8th of September. It is on this sad background that we decided to honour her with this edition.

The month of September has indeed started on a negative footing for the EW Blog family, only us but the entire country as a whole. Since the start of the month, the country mourned the death of Uyinene Mrwetyana, Natasha Conabeer and other women who were the victims of gender-based violence.

On this edition, we take a look at the measures which the government should look at in solving the issue of gender-based violence directed to women and children. We also celebrate strong women in entertainment, business and politics industry. There are also latest book reviews, from Mcebisi Jonas's *After Dawn*, *Vuvuzela Dawn*, *Vagabond* of Lerato Mogoatlhe and celebrated author Niq Mhlongo's latest offering titled *Black Tax* among others.

Again, I forever indebted to our favourite book publishers, *Pan McMillian South Africa*, *Jacana Media* and *Jonathan Ball Publishers* for providing us with the latest books. I would also like to thank our chief sub-editor Khotso Sello for editing the entire edition. A big thank also goes to the rest of the team, especially my friend and co-owner of EW Blog Thabang Malatji for all the hard work he puts into everything related to the EW blog project.

Thank you and enjoy this edition dedicated to our sister Immaculate Meje.

Kind regards  
Ezekiel Kekana  
EW Blog Chief Editor

## Enough about talking, it is time to castrate or hang rapists

Let me start by putting few things out, firstly, I am not exonerating myself from the problem and I am directly talking to fellow black men in this regard, hence I make mention of them instead of generalising. Black South African men have indeed declared an open war against black women across the country.

It is dangerous to be a woman and foreigner in South Africa right now. Black men have declared themselves murders, lawbreakers, rapists, evil beings who are on a mission to kill humanity, with black women and children number one targets. Every day brings itself new and a fresh revelation of a woman having been killed, raped and beaten by a black man.

The shops belonging to foreign nationals across all the townships and villages are being looted by black men under the guise of 'fighting lawlessness' that is brought by foreigners in our country. While the looting of shops is a separate matter that deserves its own platform and urgency, the matter at hand here is how black women continue to be at the receiving end of devilish, atrocious, despicable and horrific acts of black men.

There have been a lot of talks about how men are trash, how the government continues to condemn acts of gender-based violence directed at women and conferences aimed at educating men to end their devilish acts against women.

However, one will agree that the time for talks is over and it is time to act against the conduct of men and Black men to be direct.

Women continue to die like flies each and every day and black men are leading that devilish project of killing them.



Uyinene Mrwetyana (picture) became the latest victim to face the wrath of a black man.

While the country is mourning her death and once again messages from government leaders and the general public are pouring in condemning this latest incident.

The government has now an opportunity to finally put an end to this violence directed to women. It should make a good example with this man who raped and killed Uyinene and hangs him.

He has already admitted to having committed this horrific deed and sending him to jail will not help.

It is time the government take a drastic measure and sending this man to the hanger will be a good step in planting fear in the heart of perpetrators of sexual abuse.

We can't any longer just send our frustrations on social media and sending press statements in condemning femicide, it is time to literally cut the bull's balls.

This man must be castrated or be hanged, the message will be very clear and loud to the next perpetrator.

## There's Brenda Fassie's rebellious attitude in Zodwa Wabantu

South African men continue to use women's 'nakedness' to make money and enrich themselves on a daily basis. This has been a common practice for years where a woman's nakedness has been seen as a selling point.

*'Sex sells'- is the slogan used in many boardrooms.*

Male musicians continue to use half-naked women in their music videos and society in a way has accepted that this is a 'norm'. However, the problem arises when a woman uses her 'nakedness' to make financial advancements. Zodwa Wabantu has been hogging headlines since she burst onto the scene with her naked acts. Her latest offering, a video, where men are seen



Picture: Zodwa Wabantu

groping her body has once again garnered vulgar slut-shaming remarks. The question is why does society fail to accept Zodwa's hustle, which is using her body.

But when rich marketing executives use half-naked women to sell ice-cream, it is totally acceptable? It seems like we are still living in a society that has ideas about what a woman should and should not do with her body. Men continue to be beneficiaries of this unjust system and that is why it is so simple for society to accept it. When a man uses a woman's flesh to make money, its A-okay, but how dare a woman do that herself.

Zodwa is defying society's prescribed notions of propriety and hence she is getting all the backlash. The narrative of womanhood cannot in this modern era still be determined by men. For years, men have been allowed to determine what a woman can and cannot do with her body. Zodwa is trying to change that ill-conceived narrative.

The great Brenda Fassie and Lebo Mathosa were pioneers of using their nakedness to assert their authority while making money. Zodwa is just doing the same.

*The behaviour of the men seen on the video is an issue to be debated separately.*

But, for now, Zodwa should never be chastised for using her own body to make financial advancements. Society must rid itself of ill-conceived notions that seek to police women's bodies.

## The Suzman and Kathrada foundations are starting to act against the principles of their patrons

The Helen Suzman Foundation has joined the likes of Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation in calling for the removal of Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane. The Suzman Foundation has requested National Assembly Speaker Thandi Modise, just like the DA had already done, to institute processes in Parliament to remove Mkhwebane from her office.

Both the Kathrada and Suzman Foundations have been vocal in their call for Mkhwebane to leave office, following her battle with Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan. Mkhwebane released scathing report against Gordhan in relation to the so-called SARS rogue unit investigation and the pension payout of former SARS deputy commissioner Ivan Pillay. While the report is still before the court to decide on its merit, the two Foundations want Mkhwebane to leave even before the courts make pronouncements on the report. Parliament's Justice Committee is expected to sit for Mkhwebane's fitness in September, however, that according to Suzman foundation is far.



Picture: Mkhwebane

Why are the two foundations hellbent in the removal of Mkhwebane from the office? Granted, Mkhwebane has not covered herself with glory lately, with the courts dismissing few of her cases. However, does that warrant the two Foundations which are built on the principles of guarding the country's democratic gains to dismiss her on that basis or they are just playing into the public's gallery?

The truth is, both Suzman and Kathrada Foundations are slowly turning into political footballs for politicians and political parties. The DA, which has a huge influence in the Suzman Foundation, is using the organisation to further increase their call for the removal of Mkhwebane. The party has been against the appointment of Mkhwebane even before she took office and now they are using the foundation to further push their agenda.

The Kathrada Foundation, on the other hand, has been turned into Gordhan's pet project. The existence of the foundation for the past few years has been to defend Gordhan in his political wars. Gordhan's public spat with Mkhwebane continues to dominate headlines and the foundation has once again taken it upon itself to defend Gordhan.

Both Foundations are now acting against the principles they are premised on, but most importantly, they are acting against the principles of their respective patrons in favour of politicians and political parties.

Parliament should be left to do its own work and deal with the fitness of Mkhwebane without being pressured by these two organisations



## Batohi has had enough time to settle down, it is now the time to act



Picture: Shamila Batohi - National Director of Public Prosecutions

It has been almost eight months since National Director of Public Prosecutions Shamila Batohi took over the reins at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

A lot has been said about Batohi since she started her reign at NPA, with the latest saga alleging that she might have received money from the controversial CR17 campaign fund.

Batohi has since refuted the claims and stated that people are spreading these lies in an effort to tarnish her image and that of her office.

Granted, it is expected that whoever occupies that office will be at the receiving end of attacks, with the 'sharks' as she previously called them, constantly weaving ways to undermine the incumbent's work at times.

However, her lukewarm response to this CR17 allegation will surely reduce certainty.

However, the allegations cannot just be dismissed as an 'attack' on Batohi and she should take the country into her confidence and prove beyond doubt that she has never received any money from any politician, least of all the current sitting President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The NPA has in the last decade or even before that been used by politicians to fight their own political battles.

Under former President Jacob Zuma's administration, the NPA collapsed, its integrity and independence were severely affected.

Batohi was seen as someone who will restore the organisation's integrity, independence and also revive public trust.

Instead of being a champion for these poor gogos, Batohi is not doing enough to ensure

What has also started to raise a lot of uneasiness about Batohi is her snail pace in prosecuting high profile cases.

Eight months into the job, Batohi is yet to formally announce whether her office will be probing the VBS money looters.

It is no secret that there are many politicians in the ruling ANC and also from the EFF who benefitted from the VBS money.

The beneficiaries of the VBS money continue to enjoy the fruits of their evil deeds, while the grandmothers in Limpopo continue to struggle towards recouping their monies.

that every single person associated with the looting is brought to book.

It is no secret that Batohi's office has received cases related to high profile individuals, especially in relation to the VBS and Eskom corruption scandals.

However, it seems the country will have to wait for long in order for Batohi to make her first high profile prosecutions.

Batohi has had enough time to settle down at the NPA, it is now the time to get down with the job and send all the VBS and Eskom looters to jail.

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## In Political Commentary

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### Eskom does not need recycled executives to turnaround

For a country that has about 10.2 million unemployed citizens, for one to have double jobs becomes inconsiderate to fellow unemployed citizens. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has just reported that the unemployment rate in the country is now sitting on a record 29%, with young black graduates making up the number.

The scarcity of jobs is seriously becoming an economic hazardous for President Cyril Ramaphosa's government and he needs to act very fast. However, just before Stats SA's announcement on the country's job crisis, one Jabu Mabuza got himself two jobs at the state-owned enterprise Eskom.

Mabuza is currently Eskom's chief executive officer and also the chairperson of the ailing power utility board. Mabuza took over the reins from Phakamani Hadebe as the chief executive officer, having been the chairperson for the board for almost a year and a half.



Picture: Mabuza (left) and Phakamani Hadebe (right)

While Mabuza's dual positions have rightly received backlash from the public and also from the opposition political parties, it has, however, also exposed how corporate South Africa is failing to transform. Same faces are forever recycled for executive positions in most corporates and it is even worse when the same practice is done in state entities.

Mabuza has admitted that he 'made himself' available to take over the reins as chief executive, while he and the board had almost three months to look for Hadebe's replacement. Chances are Mabuza's three months term will be extended, with an excuse that the board could not find the right replacement.

South Africa is not lacking with competent, experienced and qualified executives. The problem, however, is that most of the executives appointed, especially in state entities have to be handpicked by politicians.

Eskom board failed to find Hadebe's replacement on the basis that they could not find their own desired candidate. The practice of having the same faces over and over again in top positions in the corporates needs to come to an end.

For Eskom to turn around and become profitable, the company needs a fresh new chief executive officer, one who will not be controlled by the politically influenced board. It is about time that Eskom is allowed to be run by a competent and apolitical executive.

Mabuza has been at Eskom for over 18 months and still the power utility continues to bleed money from the state. He and the board will need to vacate and make way for fresh new faces after these three months expires.

Eskom needs new blood to be healthy, not old blood that wants to finish what is left of the power utility.



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## **The judgements on the SARS and BOSASA reports will determine whether Mkhwebane is competent or not**



Picture: Mkhwebane

If one wanted to test how divided the African National Congress (ANC) is, just put Busisiwe Mkhwebane in the middle of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting this weekend and see how that will pan out.

The NEC members of the ruling party speak cross each other on the fitness and competence of Mkhwebane. Some members such as Tony Yengeni and Ekurhuleni mayor Mzwandile Masina are in full support of Mkhwebane, while the likes of Gwede Mantashe and Pravin Gordhan have accused her of overstepping in her recent reports.

The Public Protector has further divided the South African public, but most notably the opposition political parties. While the ANC is divided on Mkhwebane's competency. The Democratic Alliance (DA) has maintained its position that Mkhwebane is 'incompetent' and Parliament should institute a process to remove her from the office.

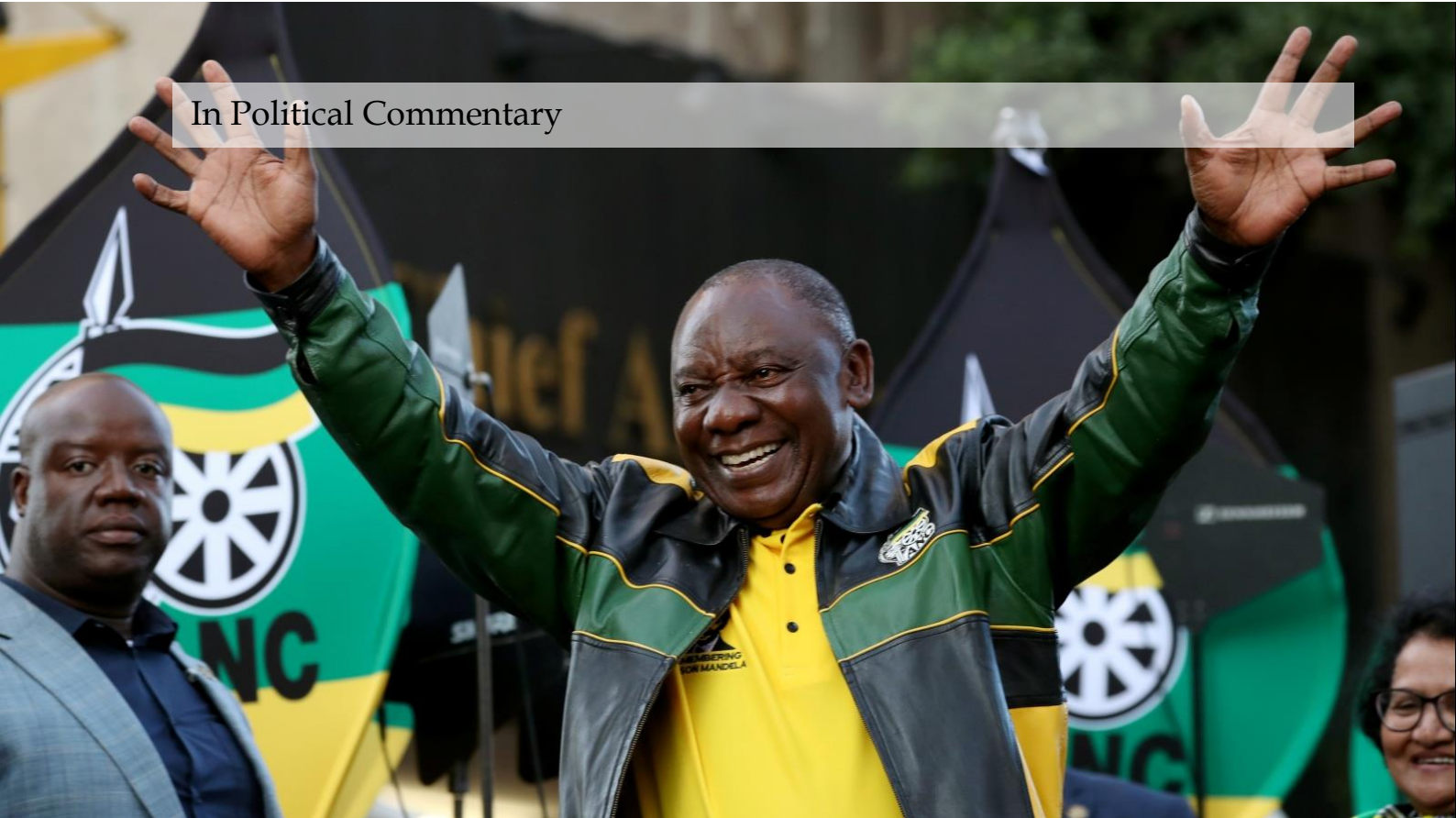
The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) however, have changed their previous stance on her since the SARS rogue unit report was released against Minister of Public Enterprise Pravin Gordhan. While the Red Berets leader Julius Malema admitted that they are 'not protecting Busiswe, we are protecting the office', it is clear that they hold a different view from the DA and other small parties.

However, with everyone having taken their own sides over Mkhwebane's fitness and competence. The question becomes who has the legitimate right to decide on Mkhwebane's competence or incompetence?

It is within everyone's right to have an opinion about Mkhwebane's conducts and her reports. However, the courts should be the ones to decide on the incompetency or competent of Mkhwebane. Through reviews of her reports, the courts can determine whether she is competent or incompetent in carrying her duties.

While they have been few court cases that have gone against her, with the latest one been the Constitutional Court ruling over the Bankcorp/SARB matter. The court review of Gordhan's application on the SARS rogue unit report and President Cyril Ramaphosa's Bosasa report will determine whether the incumbent Public Protector is competent or incompetent.

One way or the other, the judgments on both reports will decide her future in the office. Mkhwebane's competency must never be questioned on the basis that people do not agree with some of her reports. The courts should make that determination if she is competent or not.



## **Bosasa report proves that the ANC Presidency belongs to the highest bidder**

Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane has just confirmed that indeed the African National Congress (ANC) Presidency belongs to the highest bidder.

The Bosasa report confirmed that the 2017 ANC's presidential election was indeed a multi-million war for the top position, with Cyril Ramaphosa's financial muscle having worked in his favour.

The questions which have since emanated from Mkhwebane's report are, why is so much money involved in internal party elections and what are the expected gains for the people who are donating to the candidates vying for the top position?

The ANC forever prides itself as a party that has a strong internal democracy, where party members in all branches have powers to elect their own President.

However, Mkhwebane's reports effectively rubbish the assertion that ordinary party members hold the power to decide the outcome of any presidential elective conference, money holds power.

Money was/is used by the presidential candidate to effectively bribe voting delegations and in way undermine the so-called internal democracy.

However, what is much worrying is the influence of external donors to the party's presidential candidates.

Mkhwebane's reports revealed how controversial businessman Gavin Watson's company Bosasa, now trading under the name African Global operations donated to both Ramaphosa and then competitor Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

It is very clear why will Watson sponsor both candidates in this regard.

Watson has been enjoying state contracts for years under the ANC-led government and that is purely on the basis that he has been contributing to the outcomes of ANC's presidential elections through 'donations'.

Those who still hold dear to the principles of the ANC, (if there are any remaining), should ask themselves whether money should be allowed to be the final arbitrary to the party's internal democracy outcomes.

It is time for Parliament to finalize the law that will force political parties and politicians to reveal their private donors.

Private business ingratiates itself with the levers of state power through donating funds to political parties and politicians.

Watson is a master tactician in this regard and Parliament has powers to stop this tradition.

It will be very interesting to see whether Parliament will force Ramaphosa to reveal his sponsors for his 2017 ANC's presidential election.

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## In Political Commentary

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### Zuma should've applied caution just like Mandela on the spies

**W**hen former President Nelson Mandela took over the highest office in the land in 1994 after the country's negotiated settlement, it is widely reported that the apartheid intelligence unit gave him a list of their own spies in the ANC.

That is the list of ANC people who were paid by the apartheid special branch to infiltrate and spy on the ANC in exiles. It is still unclear what happened to the list Mandela was given, whether he took it to the grave or perhaps safely stored in the ANC archives where only trusted companions know.

The point, however, is that Mandela never mentioned publicly that he knew who were spies of the apartheid regime in his own party.

The issue of spies in the ANC has again been recalled to take centre stage, thanks to former President Jacob Zuma. Zuma in his first day at the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into the allegations of state capture unashamedly stated that former Minerals Resources minister Ngoako Ramathlodi was a recruited apartheid spy.

While Ramathlodi has since refuted Zuma's claims, there are questions that have been left unanswered; Why will a senior leader, a man who was a President of the ANC for two consecutive terms make such strong accusations against his own comrade?



Why will he make such accusations NOW and is such behaviour befitting of an ANC leader? The former President admitted that he has been 'provoked to the last degree' and he felt it is time to hit back to his adversaries. However, by virtue of the position that Jacob Zuma occupied as the ANC's president, he is ought to conduct himself in a manner which befits his position.

Mandela knew about the spies in the party, but because of his stature in the party, he applied caution not to victimise his own comrades in the party. Granted, Ramathlodi, a former Premier of Limpopo is also a senior leader in the ANC and a lot of caution was expected in his testimony at the Commission.

However, given how state resources during Zuma's presidency were looted to the core by his friends the Guptas, one will not even start to dismiss Ramathlodi's assertion that the former President 'auctioned his executive power' to the Guptas.

While it remains to be tested whether Ramathlodi or Sipiwe Nyanda were/are spies of the apartheid regime. Zuma as a senior leader and a member of the NEC should have respected his position and applied caution in making such strong allegations against one of his own, just like Mandela did.

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## In Political Commentary

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### Proximity politics breeds state capture



Picture: Maria Ramos and Tito Mboweni | Picture credit: KEVIN SUTHERLAND

The last nine years of the country's negotiated settlement saw private business taking centre stage in the looting of state resources.

The Jacob Zuma tenure as President of the Republic, without doubt, gave private business free rein to exploit state resources.

The Gupta family exploited their close proximity with the state President to loot and in the same breath took control of the state.

The dangerous relationship between Zuma and the Gupta family gave birth to the state capture project and called the nation to start paying attention to proximity politics. Just a few months into the new sixth administration, proximity politics is once again showing its ugly head in Cyril Ramaphosa's presidency.

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni shook the entire country when he named Maria Ramos into the new interim board of the Public Investment Corporation (PIC). It is no secret that Mboweni has personal relations with Ramos and her husband Trevor Manuel. The appointment of Ramos into the PIC board raises a lot of eyebrows and is a bit concerning.

Granted, Ramos has plenty of experience in the finance sector and PIC can do with her expertise. However, the mere fact that she has a personal relationship with the political principle of the PIC

board should be a call for concern. State entities should never be used as an employment agency for buddies, irrespective of their experiences or expertise.

Mboweni should have never used his close proximity with Ramos to give her this job. The opposition parties, notably the EFF are right to challenge the appointment of Ramos into this interim board of PIC.

The Zuma era should have given us a proper lesson on proximity politics and its dangers to the state's functionality. The state in the last nine years was gripped by the Zuma/Gupta/Myeni relations. Now it seems like there are few relationships that would pose a real danger to the state's autonomy.

First, it is President Ramaphosa's relationship with billionaire and his brother in law Patrice Motsepe. The unbundling of Eskom into three entities has already raised eyebrows whether Motsepe might have an interest in buying one of the entity.

The second relationship is Ramaphosa/Manuel-Ramos, which is slowly starting to remerge back into the public discourse. Ramaphosa worked closely with Manuel in the UDF movement and also in the National Planning Commission, while his relationship with Ramos in the business sector is well documented. We should be very wary of these relationships and also proximity politics, as it breeds state capture.

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## In Political Commentary

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### **Mboweni should stop behaving like he SA's Prime Minister**



Picture: Tito Mboweni

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has certainly made himself the President of South Africa on Twitter, ordering Gauteng motorists and also his government colleagues around over the e-tolls saga. Mboweni's persistent attack on Gauteng motorists to 'pay e-tolls' has exposed not only his arrogance but also his lack of compassion to the poor and middle-class residents of Gauteng.

Most importantly, his Twitter spat with Gauteng Premier David Makhura also exposed cracks within the ruling party, proving once again the 'unity' card has reached its sell-by date. Mboweni is so drunk with the seniority title in government, to an extent that he does not mind undermining his colleagues in provincial government level and also Minister of Transport Fikile Mbalula.

Since his appointment to the Finance ministry, Mboweni has behaved and continues to act like he is a Prime Minister of South Africa. This started with his nonsensical call for the 'shut down' of SAA, stating that the SOE pose a 'very serious risk' to the fiscus. He then called his ANC colleagues, the Ace Magashule camp specifically, to stay away from South African Reserve Bank's mandate.

Now with his persistent call for motorists to pay e-tolls call and his Twitter war with Makhura, the 'National Minister' has not only pissed Gauteng motorists but also angered COSATU in the



province. The labour federation has called for President Cyril Ramaphosa to discipline Mboweni over his remarks on e-tolls.

What Mboweni is failing to acknowledge is the fact that Gauteng motorists as it is already suffocating with the high cost of living. Petrol price is forever on the rise, unemployment and poverty continue to be enemies of many poor residents in the province. E-tolls cannot be added on top of the heavy burden Gauteng residents are carrying on their shoulders.

Minister Mboweni should not be channelling his energy on Twitter, cooking or e-tolls, instead, he must come up with strategies that will help the economy to grow. Everyone knows that Minister Mboweni has served in the first administration under former President Nelson Mandela and also that he was SARB governor. He does not need to brag about that to his colleagues and to everyone for that matter.

One just wonders if Minister Mboweni just wants to push the President to fire him, since he has made it clear previously that he is too older to lead such an important ministry. Minister Mboweni please ask President Ramaphosa nicely to relieve you, so that you will be able to cook your Lucky star dishes freely in Makgobaskloof sir.

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## In Political Commentary

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### **EFF should refrain from fighting violence with violence**

*'Where there is a need to use violence, to stop violence; we will do it.'* This was a comment made by the Economic Freedom Fighters leader Julius Malema in what he defined as 'EFF morality'. The most contentious argument amongst political scientists, academics and the general public has been whether the EFF is a party that promotes violence or it is itself a violent party.

This argument emanates from how the party leaders and its supporters have been involved in violent altercations. Just a few weeks ago, a video emerged showing Secretary General Godrich Gardee slapping fellow party member at the party's headquarters.

The party members also ransacked H&M stores across the country, after the store was accused of racism in their advertisement, with party leaders endorsing such behaviour as a 'revolutionary act'.

We can all agree that every political party has its own constitution and the EFF's constitution is very clear that its members 'will use any means necessary to protect the revolution'.

However, we can also all agree that violence will not bring any tangible solution to any problem. It actually promotes unruliness and brings instability in our societies, but most importantly it undermines the rule of law and order, as we have seen in the H&M saga.

Malema is an influential figure among his followers and most of the party supporters turn to draw some inspiration from him. This thus makes his comments of fighting violence with violence a bit dangerous for a peaceful country we all want to live in.

Granted, racism itself is a violent act, as Malema rightly alluded. However, fighting violence with violence undermines the need to find a proper solution to a problem.

While I am not expecting Malema and his supporters to become like Jesus Christ, when they are hit on one side, they should also offer the other side. I am just appealing for a 'superior logic' in how they deal with violent issues such as racism, disagreements or how they wedge their struggle against opposing forces.

The party leaders are advocates of 'superior logic' phrase and Malema know better that as a leader you can only win people's heart only through persuasion, not through violent tactics.

The EFF is a party that forever fashion itself as a 'government in waiting' and it should indeed act like one. The EFF in government will represent all South Africans, including those South Africans who do not advocate for violence.

It will be good for the EFF to start dealing with conflicts in a non-violent manner, even if it is provoked as Malema suggested in order to ensure that there's no panic among other South Africans when the EFF finally takes political power.

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## In Opinion Pieces/Political Commentary



## We do not have a feminist political party as yet, but the EFF is making strides

The Deputy President (DP) of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Floyd Shivambu was quoted as having said that his party is a 'feminist organization'.

The parallel commentary that followed on Twitter in responding to that statement was an interesting one to observe. Some of the EFF's feminists came out gun blazing supporting their DP's assertions.

Other individuals such as feminist writer Phumla Gqola questioned whether the statement is a true reflection of what the party represents publicly.

The truth is, in a country that continues to thrive on the patriarchal template and a party-political system that continues to embrace male leadership above women, it becomes increasingly difficult to believe that there's a political party which is pro-feminism.

All the political parties have feminist policies and a few number of feminists in their ranks, but does that make these organizations feminist in their outlook, I beg to differ.

Feminism has been rhetoric, a talk shop for many political parties and many of our political parties have a misogynistic organizational culture.

It came as no surprise when the oldest liberation movement in the continent and the ruling party the ANC was found not to have a sexual abuse policy, following the Pule Mabe sexual accusations.

The truth is that there has been less ACTION in advancing the course and implementing feminism principles in many political parties.

Having women in top leadership positions, like many parties will claim as doing justice to the course of feminism is the right step.

However, it becomes a useless gesture if those women are powerless in furthering their feminist agenda.

Also, it is not women leaders in these political parties who should advance feminism agenda, it requires each and every one of us as author and feminist superstar Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie claimed that we should all be feminist, both men and women.

The EFF, however, much as it has toxic masculinity in top leadership, the party has made a few strides in making the course of feminism its agenda, as compared to other political parties.

Fierce leaders like Naledi Chirwa, Amanda Mavuso, Sim Dlakavu, Gauteng chairperson Mandisa Mashego and other MPs such as Veronica Mente, Tebogo Mokwele, Natasha Ntlangwani are a beacon of hope in advocating for women emancipation in this misogynistic and patriarchal society of ours.

These women have organized marches across the country in highlighting the plights of women and children. Their sanitary drives in many schools and universities is a commendable act in keeping the dignity of young women.

However, one just wonders if one of their top six male leaders can one day be found to have a misogynistic attitude,

Will these women take a stand against such a leader?

## Corporate SA is racist and sexist



We really need to talk about Corporate South Africa and how it continues to dehumanize black people, especially young educated graduates in the country. Young black graduates in big and small companies continue to be given slavery salaries all in the name of gaining work experience.

Most black graduates, who do not have an uncle or aunt's company to gain work experience unlike other race groups spent four to six years in universities in order to be given 6-7k a month through this system of internships. It even gets worse when one does finally finish their internship as the expectation is that one will get a more reasonable and market-related salary.

However, the big bosses in these big businesses will just add a few hundred on that internship salary with an attitude of 'take it or you leave it'. Black graduates and especially black women continue to be everyday victims of Corporate SA's racist and sexist agenda.

Racialized and gender pay gaps continue to be a normality in the majority of the corporates in the country and worse part this also take place even in most listed companies. Blackness and gender are used as consideration of how much a black female graduate get to receive every month, not her capabilities, education background and experience.

White female and male graduates, on the other hand, continue to enjoy the benefit of being white in many corporates with market-related salaries. Corporate South Africa continues to exploit black skin, due to the fact that apartheid has made the black population economically vulnerable and forever desperate to earn a living wage.

Young black graduates, despite being armed with university qualifications and some even gained work experience in their final years of studying are forever threatened that they should be

grateful for the work that they have, as people of their colour and background are desperate for the very same jobs.

The continued salaries categories for whites and blacks in Corporate SA continue to perpetuate inequality and it is sad that Corporate SA is leading that charge. The country is celebrating 25 years of our negotiated settlement. However, poverty, deprivation, exploitation and poor living wage continue to have a black face. Why are these elements forever intertwined with the Black life and Black conditions?

Progressive white male and their female counterparts do absolutely nothing in the corporates to help change the situation. Multinational corporations in the country have also joined the big businesses in their continued project of exploiting young black people. Food franchises and restaurants continue to whip the back of young uneducated black brothers and sisters with slavery salaries on a daily basis.

When will this end?

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## In Book Reviews

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### **Black Tax opens up necessary discussions about the black family life**



South Africa's dark history of colonialism and apartheid continues to have negative effects on black professionals in the democratic dispensation.

Poverty, a stubborn unemployment rate and rocket-high inequality continue to affect Africans, particularly young black people in the townships and villages across the country.

With the current democratic government failing to address these socio-economic ills, those who have the financial means in the form of having jobs or owning businesses are 'compelled' to take care of those who are unable to financially take care of themselves.

The result of that gave birth to Niq Mhlongo's latest offering titled Black Tax- Burden or Ubuntu.

In this latest offering, Mhlongo through numerous contributions made by different respected authors and journalists such as Dudu Busani-Dube, Mohale Mashigo, Fred Khumalo, Angela Makholwa and many others dissects and debates this phenomenon of 'Black Tax'.

While the title of the book might suggest that the debates throughout the pages might be in a simplistic form of yes or no format in answering whether 'Black Tax' is a burden or an act of ubuntu.

However, that is not the case.

Readers are taken through different aspects of this phenomenon, what caused it, who should be held accountable for it and solutions on how black professionals can fulfil their 'Black tax' obligations while finding ways create their own wealth.

The debates also question whether the term itself is appropriate.

Mzuvukile Maqetuka in his contribution argues that 'I believe we need to develop a new definition free of negative connotations and one that will reflect this phenomenon's true origin, cause and real intention.'

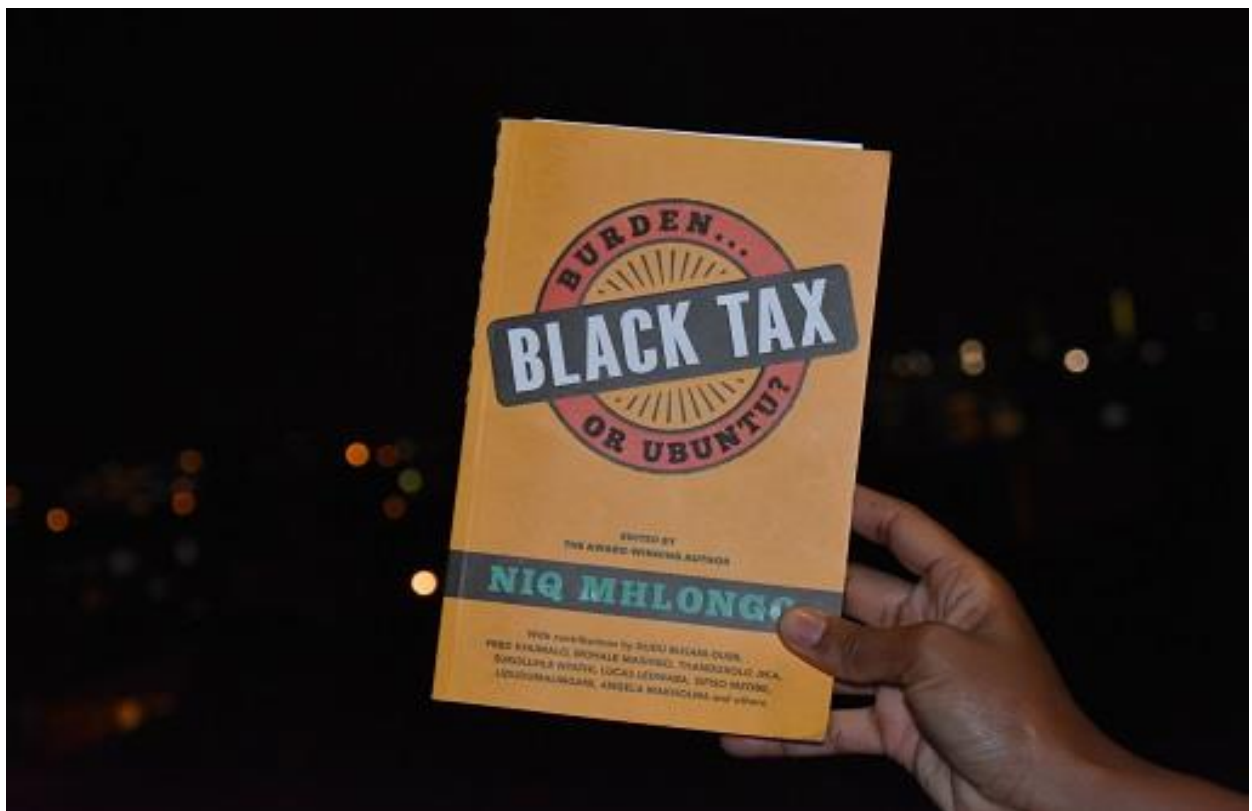
Mhlongo and his legions of contributors in this book have successfully created a platform for young and old black professionals to honestly open up about whether taking care of their less fortunate members of their immediate and extended family is a burden or a necessary act of ubuntu.

After perusing through the pages of this book, the reader will surely have a different view or a position about the 'Black tax' phenomenon, whether the previously held view was a negative or positive one, there is an expected change of an attitude after going through the book.

This is a must-read book, especially for beneficiaries and also for those who are fulfilling this obligation at the end of every month.

Upon finishing reading this book, I conducted a little survey to my fellow black professionals about whether they feel tormented or they're happy with paying 'Black Tax'.

The results of my survey showed that many people still have a negative perception about this phenomenon and that is purely on how it has been negatively branded, which is why this book is a good source of education for every black person.



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## In Book Reviews

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### **After Dawn is a befitting tool to rebuild SA once again**

This year marks 25 years of the country's negotiated democracy, a time which we all should be celebrating this momentous milestone.

However, South Africa finds itself in a dark hole.

The economy is failing, unemployment figures have skyrocketed and inequality is still an enemy that is threatening the developmental agenda.

Upon receiving Mcebisi Jonas' new book *After Dawn- Hope After State Capture*, like every citizen who has come to know Jonas recently, I thought I will read about why he refused to take the R600 million bribe allegedly offered by the controversial Gupta family.

Jonas shocked us all when he revealed that the Gupta brothers offered him a huge sum of money to take up the Finance ministry post.

However, this book doesn't even come close to sharing the gory details about that incident.

*After Dawn* takes an in-depth look at the challenges facing the country under the current administration.

In this thoroughly researched offering, Jonas takes the reader into two different journeys.

Firstly, he takes stock of the obstacles that are hindering the country's developmental agenda.

Things like state capture, the influence of business in state affairs, policy uncertainty and the collapse of state-owned enterprises.

The second journey is one which focuses on solutions which the current administration should implement in order to turn the country's fortunes.

While some of these solutions have been part of many government policies, Jonas nonetheless calls on leaders to stop with rhetorics but rather focus on implementing these policies.

President Cyril Ramaphosa wrote the foreword for this book.

This could be a positive since he is the right man to see fit that these policies get executed.

Many patriotic South Africans will definitely find this book as a befitting tool that can do its bit to help rebuild the country after the 'fall' of the Jacob Zuma/Gupta state capture project.

Some of Jonas' comrades in the ruling party might disagree with his proposals, especially on applying meritocracy on all government appointments.



After Dawn calls on all South Africans to rally behind the state, put their hands on deck, invest their energy and passion in SA INC.

This is a must-read book for all patriotic South Africans, from the historical white elite group, the aspirant black elite, the labour groupings, the poor and unemployed group.

It is also a must-read or even better a good warning shot to President Ramaphosa and his executive that bad politics and policy uncertainty will further exacerbate inequality, economic exclusion and unemployment.

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## In Book Reviews

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### **Stubborn Archivist- descriptive ode into the struggles of belonging**

BY Makhosazana Mavundla

Ever wondered what living between two cultures ever felt like?

Well, wonder no more as *Stubborn Archivist*, a descriptive insight into that life by a British/Brazilian author named Yara Rodrigues Fowler gives us a glimpse into how that life pans out.

The three-chapter book introduces us to a Brazilian/British researcher, who strings us along through the journey of her messy life under the themes of work, love, loss, family, friendships and sickness.

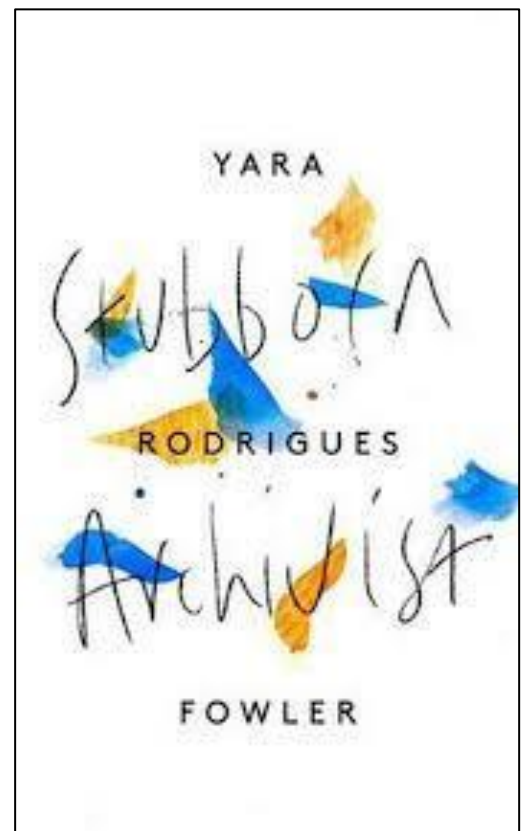
The researcher, unnamed throughout the whole book, lets us in on her life through conversations and thoughts – that could be likened like those written in a stranger’s diary that leaves one yearning to know more about the stranger with every page turn.

The researcher, who is fighting to belong in the two cultures, let’s the reader into the trauma inflicted upon her by her ex-lover Leo.

Their relationship, introduced in a series of incomplete poems as a young, perfect and ‘nothing could ever go wrong’ type of relationship slowly turns sour.

Gradually growing from an introductory phase of handshakes, pleasantries to an ‘intimate relationship’ where the sex, sometimes mutually enjoyable and at times non-consensual left the protagonist feeling like she is living in a ‘broken body’.

The researcher also lets the reader into the lives of generations before hers, who also went through the same struggles of fighting to belong in a multifaceted cultural society.





Failing to find her feet between the two cultures, she sometimes finds herself switching from English to Portuguese in order to be understood.

This is a book of hope and fight back, as the scribe also strings the reader through her journey of embracing love once more, healing, growth and finding herself the best way she knows how.

The book's incomplete structure, which has a 'cut and join' touch to it not only leaves the reader yearning for the completeness of each unfinished phrase, sentence and chapter, but forces the reader to preempt what will happen next.

This book is a proper page-turner and a must-read for those struggling to find their place in a multifaceted society.

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## In Book Reviews

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### **Vuvuzela Dawn is a good reminder of SA's sporting moments**

South Africa's rainbow nation project continues to be under threat, with the likes of Adam Catzavelos, Vicki Momberg and Andile Mngxitama continue to derail all the gains made since the country's negotiated settlement in 1994.

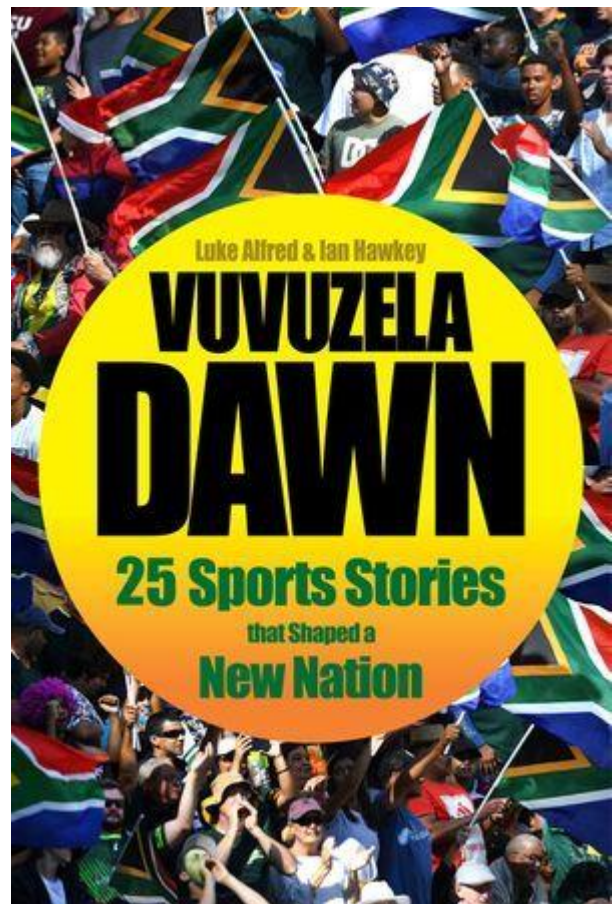
Race relations in the country take an ugly turn now and then, with few reported incidents of racism that continue to threaten the country's national project of reconciliation.

This year has seen a few racism incidents, with schools slowing becoming havens of racists. Former President Nelson Mandela throughout his presidency between 1994 to 1999 used sport as an avenue to drive his rainbow nation project.

However, 25 years later, all of Mandela's gains seem to be going down the drain. In *Vuvuzela Dawn*, two of the most celebrated writers Luke Alfred and Ian Hawkey revisit the 25 sporting moments that helped and played a vital role in supporting Mandela's rainbow nation project.

The book takes the reader from the first sporting event which announced the country's presence on the international stage to the current ones. What the reader will appreciate about what Hawkey and Alfred did in this book is that all the stories were not rehashed from the dustbin of history.

The scribes added flavour in telling these stories by interviewing the sporting heroes themselves or their close associates. *Vuvuzela Dawn* is a good reminder of all the good, bad and historic sporting moments that helped foster the rainbow nation in the last 25 years of democracy.



Readers and especially young ones, who were born after 1994 are also introduced to forgotten heroes such as Vuyani Bungu and Josia Thukgwane. As the country celebrates 25 years of democracy, Vuvuzela Dawn becomes a good point of reference for those 25 years in sports.

Bafana Bafana, Banyana Banyana and the Proteas have previously played a huge role in supporting the rainbow nation project, however, that seems to have changed lately, with their poor showings in the recently concluded competitions they competed in. The onus now lies with the Springboks to bring South Africans of all races back together and revive the rainbow nation project.

This will be achieved through winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan. This book is well packaged, with chapters divided into five parts which build onto each other nicely. The only bummer about the book is that the scribes decided to focus on a few sporting moments from a few sporting codes. They expose the fact that not all sporting codes get a fair crack of representation and exposure.

Overall this is a must-read, as we continue to celebrate the country's 25 years of democracy.

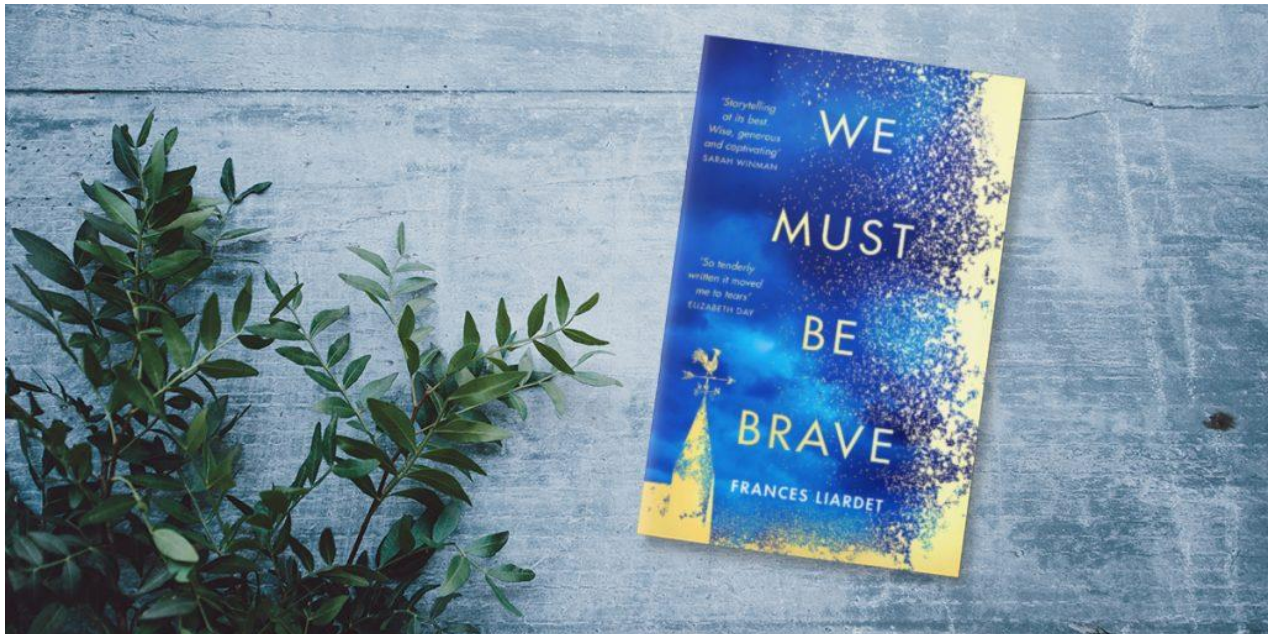
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## In Book Reviews

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### **Frances Liardet reminds us that it takes a village to raise a child**

BY Immaculate Meje



Being a first-time reader of the works of Frances Liardet, I can boldly say that I am looking forward to reading more of her work.

Her most recent book, 'We Must Be Brave', gives one a glimpse of the quality of work you can expect from Liardet, which is outstanding and can be enjoyed by most if not all people. Set in the 1940s, the book takes the reader back to the olden days, *where it really took a village to raise a child*. It reminds the older generation of that era and provides a lesson to the younger generation.

Perusing through the pages of this book feels like listening to the old folk tales of the perfect life, where people cared about one another. The story is centred around Ellen Parr, who has just been married to Selwyn for a year. Prior to her marriage to Selwyn, Ellen had a rough upbringing after the passing of her mother and also her father leaving her.

Ellen met Selwyn at the age of eighteen, who promises her a future without children, which she agrees to. On their first anniversary, something happens which change both their lives. Ellen meets young Pamela at the back of the bus that had brought refugees into Upton Hill, a place of safety.

Pamela is sleeping soundly and everyone has left the bus. Ellen wakes her up and hurries with her outside in an attempt to find the child's mother in order to reunite them. When the mother cannot be found, Ellen and Selwyn take in Pamela temporarily with the hope that the parents of the child would be found in due course.

The situations, however, opens a door Ellen has never opened before. She gets to feel like a parent and be responsible for someone's well-being. However, numerous questions emanate from this scenario; Will the time Ellen spends with Pamela be an assurance that she is happy being married without having children or will it arise a desire within to become a parent?

What will happen when Pamela is reunited with her family, if she gets to be reunited with them and what if Ellen has to care for Pamela indefinitely? The way in which the story in the book is set will keep a reader's fingers glued to the pages and suppress a feeling of jumping to the last chapter to find the answers.

Every chapter brings with it its own suspense, coupled with a bag of emotions. Liardet makes good use of the language and a reader is guaranteed to go on an emotional rollercoaster. One thing I struggled with was to link the title of the book with the story inside.

In my humble opinion, I believe that there could have been a better title that can give the reader a great glimpse of the story inside. The last part (part three) also took a long time for the events to take place, which is not impossible, but highly unlikely.

It was when reading this part that I came back to the reality that I was actually reading the work of fiction. Apart from the mentioned bummer, I believe this is a good read, which is why I will give it a rating of 7/10.

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## In Book Reviews

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### **Lacuna sets up a serious tension with JM Coetzee's Disgrace**

With all the criticism, book reviews and books written in response to JM Coetzee's much-celebrated 1999 novel Disgrace. Fiona Snyckers with her latest offering simply titled Lacuna has done a sterling job in exposing the shortfalls of Disgrace.

Snyckers in this novel has taken a bold decision and one might even say a controversial one at that to expose JM Coetzee's lack of compassion for rape survivors and also his misogynistic attitude.

In *Lacuna*, Snyckers narrates a story of Lucy Lurie, a woman whose sexual assault gave Coetzee 'fame, fortune and literary prizes'.

However, in this novel, the real Lucy Lurie has found her voice, but most importantly she has found a platform to directly call out Coetzee for what he has done to her.

Lucy wants Coetzee to admit that he has used her pain and suffering for his financial gain in *Disgrace*.

Most importantly, she wants to give her own proper and accurate account of what actually happened on the night she was sexually violated by six men at her father's farmhouse in Worcester.

Lucy believes Coetzee 'misappropriated' her story and she wants to appropriate it in this novel.

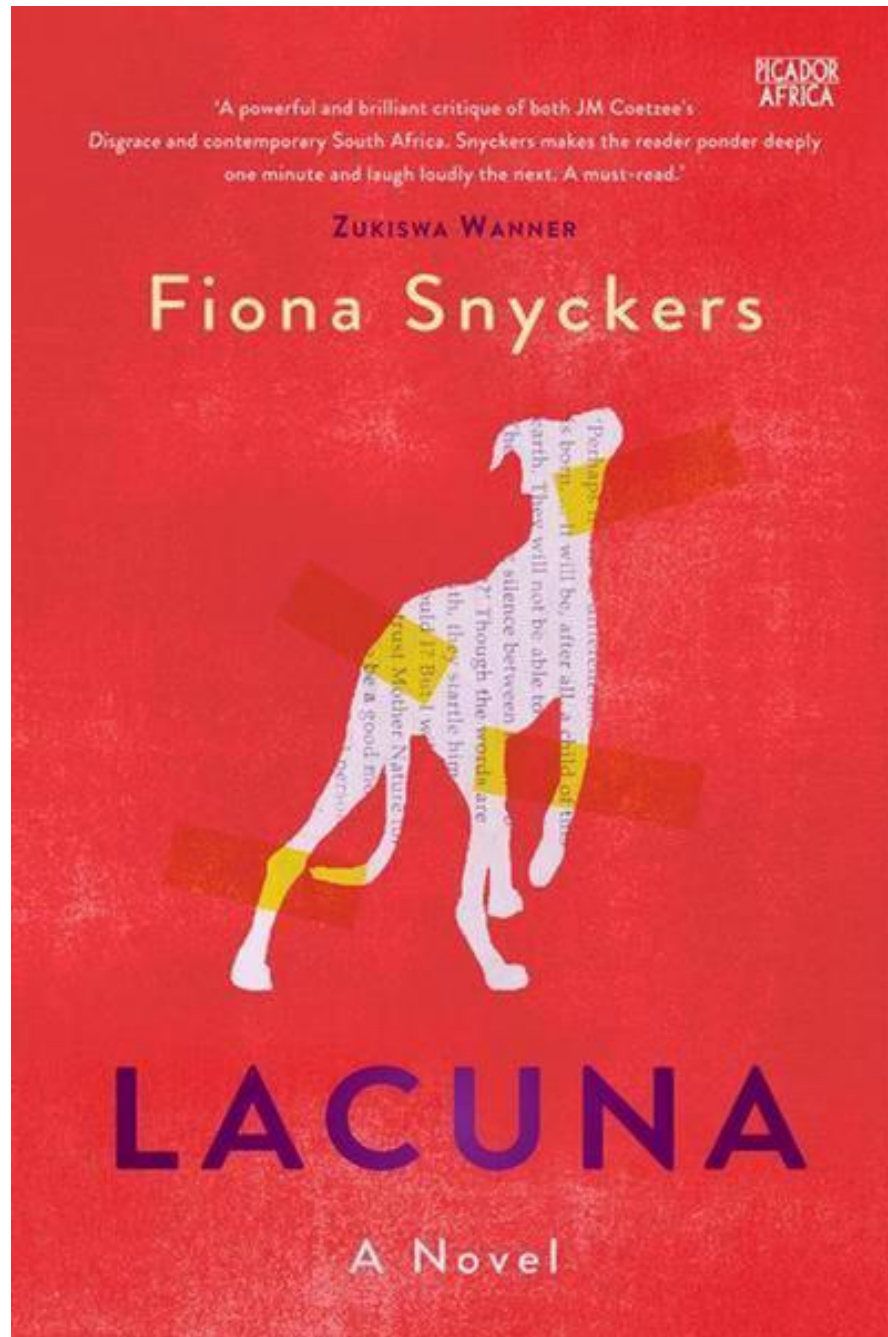
While the book largely centres on Lucy's story, Snyckers also discusses a theme which continues to dominate South Africa's public course

and that is, how rape victims and especially Black women continue to be treated unfairly by the judicial system.

South Africa's judicial system continues to be a hostile place for rape survivors, at times making rape survivors relive their ordeal in courtrooms.

Snyckers in this book exposes the misogynistic and patriarchal attitude of male judges and prosecutors in South African courts, where women are to forced to forever defend themselves about why they are victims of sexual assaults.

*Lacuna* does indeed open up discussion on how the justice system in this country should start doing some introspection on how it deals with rape survivors/victims.



There has been a genuine call from different feminist organisations for male prosecutors to recuse themselves in rape cases. Lucy decided not to testify against her father, because of the fear of having to relive all the trauma once more.

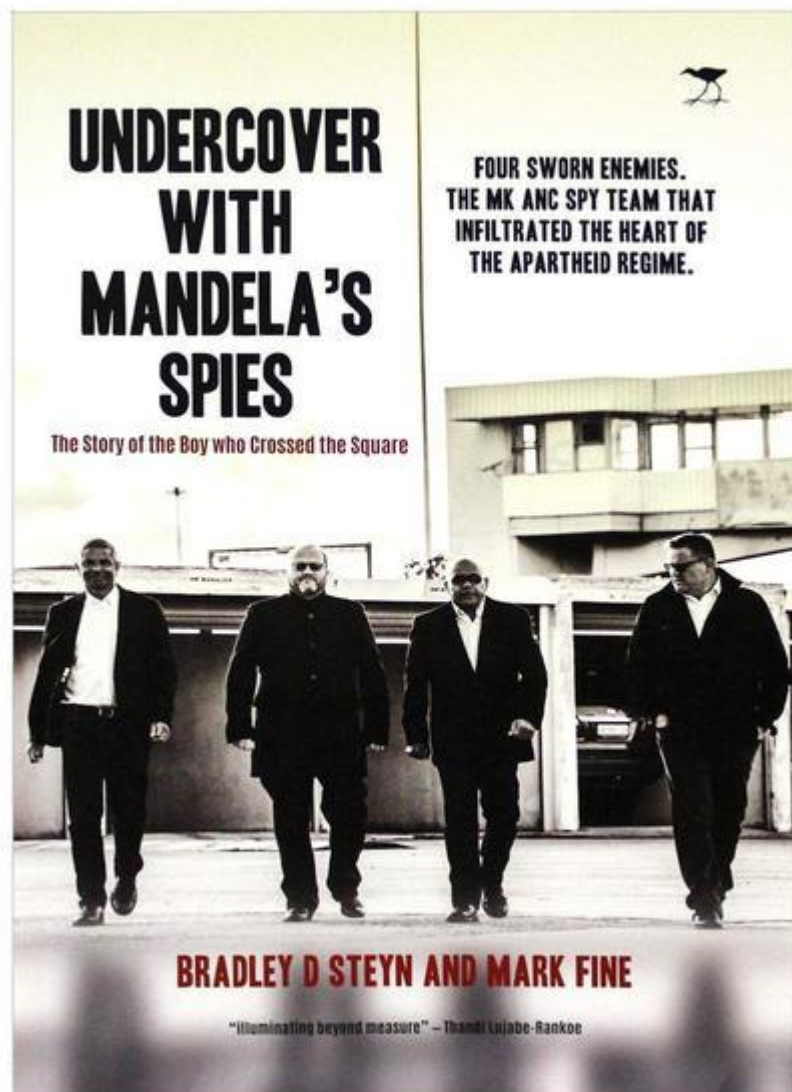
Most women opt to not report sexual abuse case in police stations, for the fear of how police officers and eventually the courts will retraumatise them and also demand receipts from them in order to be believed. After perusing through the pages of this book, one is expected to have mixed feelings on a whole range of issues, especially male parenting, given how David Lurie did to her own daughter Lucy. One just hopes that the 'Australian', since JM Coetzee has decided to abandon his South African roots will one day respond to this beautifully crafted novel, preferably in a book form.

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## In Book Reviews

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### **Undercover with Mandela's Spies is dangerous and risk-taking**



The cover of the book *Undercover with Mandela's Spies* does justice to what is inside. The cover shows four men of a different race walking hand in hand looking towards the future. This is precisely the vision that the author Bradley 'Hawk' Steyn of this risk-taking memoir reveals and shares with readers.

A story about shaping a democratic future with compatriots from different races. In *Undercover with Mandela's Spies*, Steyn narrates his personal account of how one event changed his entire youth and how it continues to change how he relates to the people around him.

The event that changed Steyn's life took place on 15 November 1988 in Pretoria, where a white supremacist and hardcore racist Barend Strydom massacred black people. Steyn, unfortunately, found himself in the middle of it. Failing to deal with the emotional aftermath of that massacre, young Steyn joined the racist apartheid military to deal with his emotions.

However, what followed after that was a life and death situation that Steyn had to live with until he decided to change his ways. Not giving away too much, Steyn decided to change 'teams' and joined the liberation movement, the African National Congress's intelligence service as a spy to his former boss in the Special Branch.

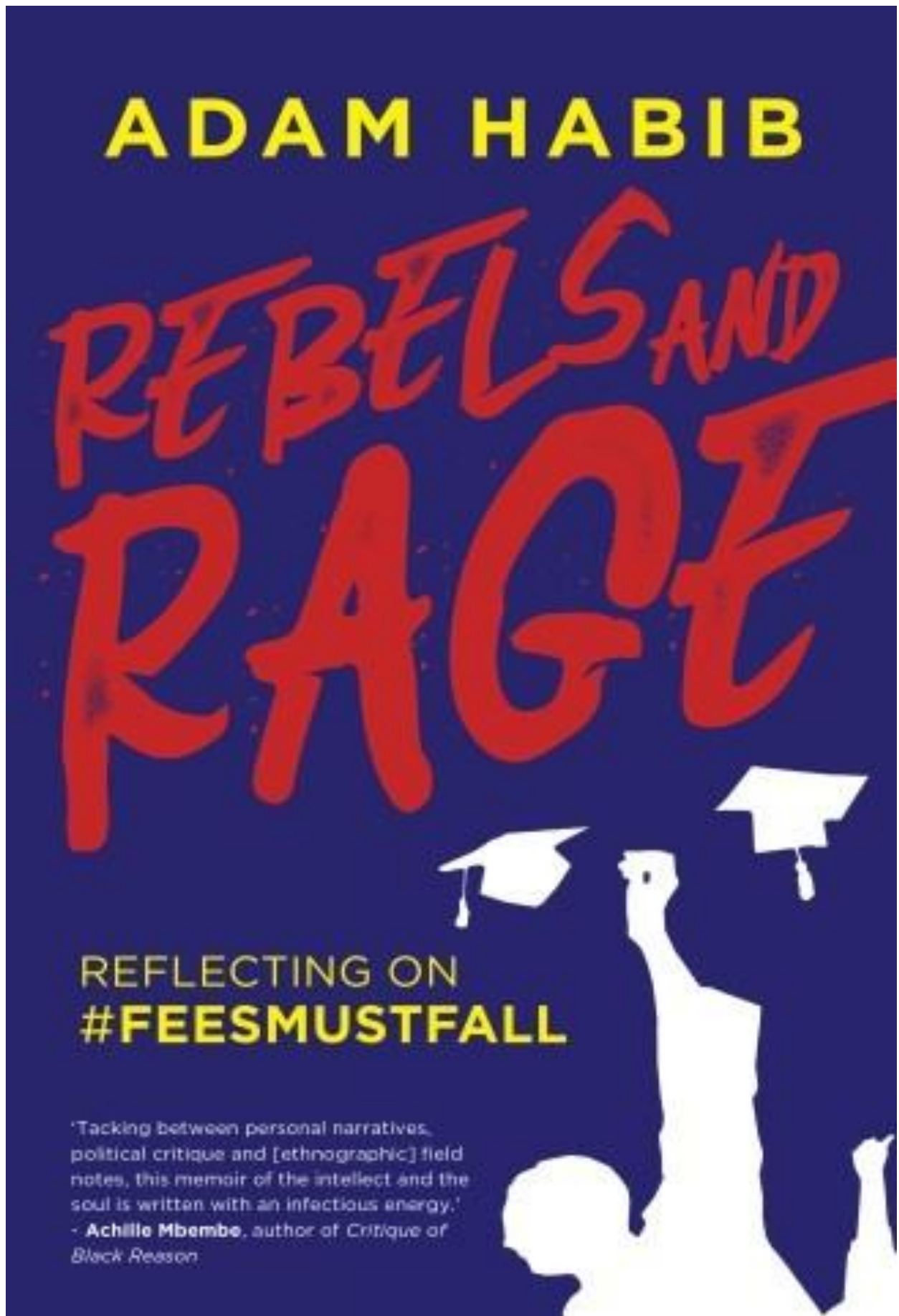
*Undercover with Mandela's Spies* is brave, risk-taking and dangerous. Readers will firstly be left emotional, with how Steyn narrates the events of the massacre. Secondly and most importantly readers will be intrigued with how Steyn managed to navigate his multiple identities by serving both the regimes.

The chapters of the book are like a magnet that keeps pulling you in to keep on reading, the intensity builds with every chapter. Two things are bound to happen to a reader once they flip through the pages. One, you will either see Steyn as a hero if you believe in a non-racial and democratic South Africa or two, a traitor if you are a supporter of white nationalist agenda.

Reading this book is like watching the movie *Sarafina*, after reading it, you will never be yourself again. Steyn's life story is like scenes from a movie and I will not be surprised if one day this book is turned into a movie.

This book is a must read for everyone, especially youngsters who do not know a lot about the Strydom massacre of 1989 and also white men who were born and were youngsters in the 1980s. This book will offer some advice and remedy to some of these men and their families.

While Steyn has surely pissed a few people off with this book and once again put his life in danger, he, however, has given hope to many people, especially the family of the victims and survivors of that Strydom massacre.



## Rebels and Rage breaks all the rules

It clearly comes as no surprise why Adam Habib's *Rebels and Rage* book received an onslaught of criticism from academics, student leaders, politicians and his fellow colleagues at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits).

Habib, who is a vice-chancellor at Wits did not hold back on anything in this well-crafted memoir.

*Rebels and Rage* is Habib's own personal reflections of the aftermath of the #FeesMustFall student movement which started at his own university and spread across other universities in the country.

In this book, Habib has taken an unpopular position on the events during the #FeesMustFall movement by criticising the #FeesMustFall leaders, SRC leaders and also academics who were sympathetic to the movement.

While he acknowledges that the #FeesMustFall movement was a legitimate course of action seeking social justice, he however, criticises the 'violent' methods which student leaders opted to pursue.

*Rebels and Rage* is a bold, brave and risky, as Habib not only laments the tactics which were deployed by the student leaders in this regard, but goes further to suggest that the leaders were at times acting as handlers of certain political parties and as such were not entirely representing the entire student community.

*'Despite their public pledge that they were representing the students, too many of them were taking instructions from their political parties.'*

The book is critiqued heavily on the basis that Habib decided to use the names of the student leaders and academics, with some academics arguing that they were not asked permission from the author or the publisher for their names to be included in the book.

Perusing through this book, a reader will also be taken through funding models and measures that the scribe proposes that the government can take in order to deal with the issue of free fee higher education and addressing the socio-economic issues in the country.

The book has indeed divided opinions and only readers can thus make their own decision to believe Habib's account in this regard or not.

This book is a must-read either way.

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### In Book Reviews

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## A proper historical account of President Cyril Ramaphosa

A great negotiator, strategist and a born leader are some of the characteristics used to describe President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa.

The fifth democratic President of the Republic of South Africa is a man who has come full circle in South Africa's political arena.

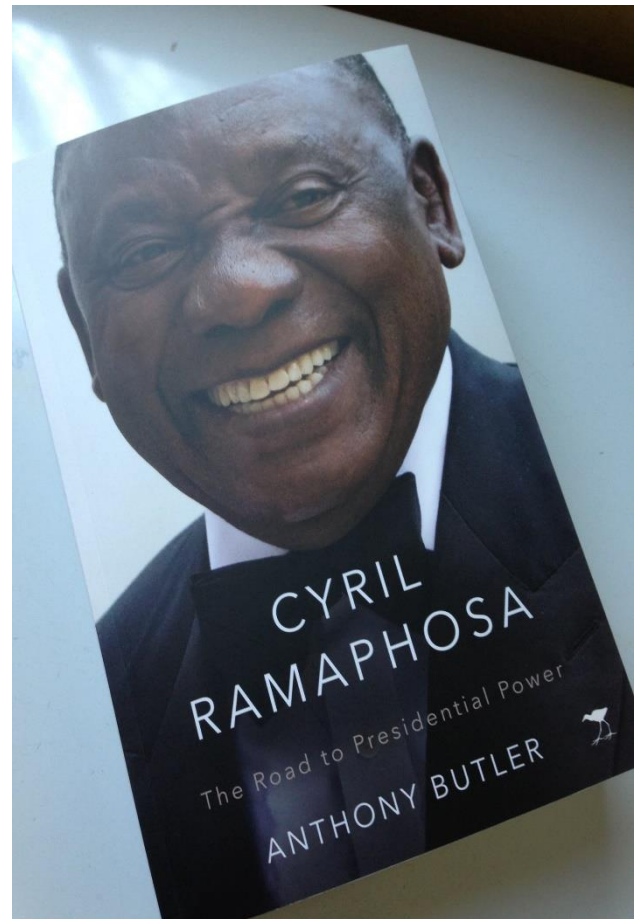


What Anthony Butler did in this well and thoroughly researched biography simply titled Cyril Ramaphosa- The Road to Presidential Power is commendable, as he successfully gives a proper historical account of Cyril's political life without leaving anything important out about his political trajectory.

The book reminds readers why the above-mentioned personal attributes are often associated with Ramaphosa, especially by his admirers and foes.

The relevance and timing of this book is significant as Ramaphosa recently made the Union Buildings his office for the next five years.

Butler in a cleverly packaged way locates Cyril from his first admission into the world of black consciousness politics in Soweto, his days as a union leader, his instrumental role in giving birth to a new democratic South Africa by drafting the country's much celebrated constitution and how he became one of the most revered businessmen in the country.



Flipping through this gigantic book, readers are reminded of who Ramaphosa is, his lows and highs in the last 25 years of our negotiated settlement are also highlighted. This is a must read for young readers who know little about President Ramaphosa and for the older generations to be reminded of Cyril's incredible struggle credentials.

Writing a biography of an enormous character like Cyril, coupled with the fact that he was also not involved in the writing process and the obvious fact that most of the information about Cyril is already in the public domain can be a daunting task.

However, Butler in this regard did a sterling job by adding more detail and background about the man, through interviewing people who knew Cyril before he became a big shot politician he is today.

The chapters also build onto each other nicely, detailing Cyril's early political days and ending with him in highest office in the land.

This book is inspirational, as one gets to see how Ramaphosa had to wait for over two decades to become the country's first citizen after he was overlooked by former President Nelson Mandela to be his second in command back in 1994.

The only bummer in this book is that it only focuses largely on Ramaphosa's political career, while less detail is mentioned about his relationship with his parents, especially with his mother Erdmuthe, his children, more details on his previous two failed marriages.

## Saskia breaks all the codes



The title of the book *WHATEVER* does indeed tell a story that the author does not really care much of what you will think of her once you are done reading this book.

This is purely on the fact that what she penned down in this book does and will have different reactions from readers. In this tell-it-all memoir simply titled 'WHATEVER', Saskia Bailey broke every code there is in memoir writing, if there's even such codes.

The 21-year-old Bailey in this well-crafted memoir shares everything from her upbringing in Cape Town, her wealthy family background and her very colourful sexual life that will definitely shock many readers.

This book is very entertaining, educative and most importantly written in manner that will make one appreciate the author's honesty. Saskia successfully shared her 21 years of living in this book, without omitting anything about her. From taking drugs, sleeping with older men and having sex 15 times a day and more ...

The beauty of this memoir is that it opens a window for readers to get to understand and see how privilege and rich children view the world.

After reading this book, many will also start questioning the kind of freedom which wealthy parents afford their children and Saskia's parents and their way of parenting comes under the microscope.

'I guess I like my parents because there's a mutual respect. They treat me like an adult when I demand that of them, giving me the space to go off on my booty calls and whatnot.' While Saskia doesn't hide the fact that she is 'trustafarain', a trust fund baby, thanks to her wealthy family, given the fact that her grandfather was the founder of Drum Magazine.

However, just like other women in the country, she shares her fears in living in South Africa and also being a white person in country that is so racially divided. While the book is indeed a proper memoir of the 21st century, one just wonders if one day Miss Bailey will look at this book and ask herself if it was necessary to share such explosive private information with the world or she will just push the 'WHATEVER' attitude?

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