

POLITICAL LECTURE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CDE ACE MAGASHULE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOLIDARITY AND INTERNATIONALISM AND THE ROLE OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM.

Date: 15 May 2020

We take the opportunity of this rare historic occasion to express our gratitude to the leadership and the membership of the ANC Youth League Tshwane region for hosting this lecture today. We equally extend our gratitude to the leadership and the membership of the ANC Youth League throughout the country, to the leadership and membership of all the Youth formations of our revolutionary Alliance, to the leadership and membership of the progressive Student Movement in our country and the leadership and membership of the entire Youth formations of our Mass Democratic Movement.

We also express our profound and revolutionary gratitude to the Youth League of the MPLA(JMPLA), SWAPO Party Youth League (SPLY), ZANU PF Youth League, Botswana Democratic Party Youth Wing, FRELIMO Youth League, Chama Cha Mapinduzi Youth Wing, All Indian Youth Federation, Communist League of China, Pan African Youth Union and World Federation Africa region. We are indeed honoured that you have dedicated to show this lecture on your online pages.

We are proud and much encouraged that young people indeed appreciate that the important question of human solidarity and internationalism is at the centre stage of our common desire to create a peaceful and prosperous world. We are indeed proud that our young people appreciate the fundamental fact that our revolution is a festival of ideas.

Part of the strategy and tactics of our national liberation movement the African National Congress, is to analyse the balance of forces at the turn of each and every historical period, and to determine how they influence the pace and the direction of our struggle for the emancipation of our people. The ANC has always understood our struggle to be part of the wider struggle by our people to make the world a better place to live in.

Today we use the opportunity of this platform to share ideas about the significance of human solidarity and internationalism and the role of the Cuban revolution in the history of our struggle against imperialism and colonialism. We do so because the question of human solidarity and internationalism is more than ever before becoming important in the current trajectory of our struggle, as we work towards the building of a just and a peaceful world order.

The reality is that if the progressive world of the community of nations is not together, the weak shall be swallowed by the strength of the powerful. Therefore solidarity and internationalism must be an essential quality of each and every progressive nation of the world and all revolutionaries.

The question of solidarity and internationalism is of profound importance in the current realities of the dominant world of imperialism and neo colonialism. This question is about the future of the overwhelming majority of the suffering people of the world, it is about their common aspirations, their being, their history, present and the future.

It is primarily about our desired future of all humanity, it is about nation building and formation and more importantly about the building of a stable and prosperous society. It is about the ideal future we shall all embrace not just as a necessity, but a future which is fundamentally about the realm of our freedom and equality.

It is about the unity and cohesion of the struggle of our people, about the unity of our people against oppression and exploitation and about the struggle of our people against poverty, disease and underdevelopment. Its supreme objective is to build a better world of peace and harmony that will ensure a better life for all.

Throughout ages of our existence, our mother nature has manifested itself in many ways which have greatly imposed its influence on the course of the development of human society. The history of our development is a catalogue of how nature imposed itself on our very being, in the form of great calamities such as earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, pandemics, droughts, floods, great depressions and many others challenges.

The history of the struggle for the development of human society is a long journey of how over centuries of our existence, we have transcended epochs of great strides and difficulties. It is a long journey which the great warrior of human solidarity and internationalism, the father of the war for the independence of our America, Simon Bolívar, defines our people as children of storms, as men and women of difficulties and as those even though they face adversity, they fight and fight, until it obeys them.

Without any doubt, the history of our struggle is a living testimony that we are indeed children of storms and we have through difficulties saw the sunrise and the sunset of each day. We have throughout history celebrated moments of great strides and transcended moments of great difficulties.

We have walked together as one through the challenging realities imposed by the forces of nature and we continue to do so as we march into the future, the future of hope and progress. We continue to do so, for we are part of our mother nature and are determined to do so to change the realities of the existing conditions we find ourselves in.

As we share our experiences and lessons about the great feats of human solidarity and internationalism today, we are much more convinced that we can make it, and that it is possible through our collective effort to build a better world for all. We are convinced that we shall overcome the prevailing challenges which continue to threaten the pathways of our very existence.

A century ago, just as the people of the world were celebrating the end of the First World War, which culminated in the signing of the peace treaty of Versailles in 1919, our mother earth was confronted by a catastrophic pandemic called the Spanish Flu. One of the deadliest pandemics which nearly annihilated half of the population of the human race.

The deteriorating socio-economic conditions caused by the First World War became the breeding ground for the spread of the pandemic. This was mainly as a result of the upheavals and mass movements of people from one place to the other, overcrowding in the war camps and prisons, overcrowding in hospitals, malnutrition and other related diseases, which weakened immune systems amongst the millions of the people and by thousands and thousands of soldiers who returned back to their respective countries, carrying the disease at the end of the war.

As if history is repeating itself, today, as the world community of nations is celebrating the centenary anniversary of the end of the First World War, our mother earth is again confronted by yet another deadly pandemic called the CORONA Virus(COVID 19). The outbreak of the pandemic has beyond our imaginations brought devastating socio-economic consequences to the world from since the history of the development of human society.

The pandemic continues to ravage the world population with increasing infections and fatalities, which have brought our political, social and economic system into an ongoing crisis. The world has come to a virtual standstill, the whole of the people of the world are in a lockdown, and this has exposed our livelihoods to unprecedented levels of vulnerability.

The difficult situation we are subjected to by this deadly disease is part of the history humanity witnessed before, which saw millions and millions of the people of the world succumbing to pandemics such as the Plague of Justinian, the Black death, the great plague of London, the great plague of Marseille, the epidemic of Polio, Cholera, Malaria, HIV/ AIDS, Ebola and many others. These are but amongst some of the calamities which over centuries of our development undermined the foundations of our modern world of civilization.

This is part of the living realities of who we are, that we are able to see the world as it comes, that we are indeed part of our mother nature, because ours is the struggle to change it, to transform it into a true home for all. This is the essence of the struggle for the liberation of humanity, the struggle towards the achievement of our better future.

We need to harness the challenges posed by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, to instill a renewed sense of a belonging to all of us about the common humanity we share as a people and nation states. We need to turn the challenges of our times as a hallmark of our collective leadership to build a better future for the coming generations.

In the mist of this disastrous pandemic, which is inflicting so much pain onto the people of the world, we are encouraged by the relentless efforts amongst the international community to help the weak and those who are mostly affected. These are the great feats of solidarity and internationalism the future of humanity stands for, and that we should always try to emulate.

The world community of the nations states have come to stand together for peace, stability and progress, and for the fulfillment of the aspirations of the most modest and humblest among our people. The world has come to stand together to build the true values of our shared cultures and traditions.

The true meaning of solidarity and internationalism is to understand the suffering of others and of being true human beings. Our long held view is the world wide slogan of an injury to one is an injury to all.

As the people of our beautiful country mark 26 years of the anniversary of the birth of our freedom and democracy, we continue to appreciate what human solidarity and internationalism hold for us. We use the occasion to convey our gratitude to all throughout the progressive world, to all of our friends, brothers and sisters across the frontiers of our mother earth, and indeed, we are grateful of your contribution to the cause of the struggle for the liberation of our people.

You have demonstrated to us that freedom and equality is a birthmark of a better future. In the words of our revered Mother Theresa, you have demonstrated that if we do not know peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

It is for this reason that we shall always remember those people of the world who opened their hearts and warm hands during the most difficult times when we needed them most. Those of the millions of the people of the world who embraced us at the most critical times when the racist Apartheid made the overwhelming majority of the people of the world pariahs in their own land.

We shall always be indebted to their graciousness and revolutionary internationalism. We shall always be indebted to the people of our neighboring countries, the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the the Kingdom of Eswatini, the people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Algeria, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and the whole of the continent.

We salute our brothers and sisters in the European countries, the Scandinavian countries, Asia, Middle East, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and indeed the whole world. They have instilled into us the revolutionary virtue and understanding that through solidarity and internationalism, we can defeat the biggest elephant in the room, the apartheid white racist South Africa, which they themselves, declared a crime against humanity.

Amongst many of the selfless people of the world, who inspired our determination to defeat the monstrous system of the apartheid colonialism, and who continue to inspire us today, are the heroic people of that great Caribbean Island, the peace loving people of the Republic of Cuba. A great nation which has today become the cradle of the future world of solidarity and internationalism.

In the whole history of the struggle of the people of the world, Cuba is the only nation which paid back its moral debt to the victims of imperialism and colonialism. The Cuban revolution paid the moral debt not because it was involved in the enslavement, oppression or exploitation of the people, but because of its gratitude to those nations which most of its people were enslaved by the Colonial powers, to build its economic infrastructure.

It is for this important reason that there is no any mighty force of imperialism which can stand in between the majority of the people of our country, the African continent, the progressive world of humanity, and the people of this great heroic nation. The revolution has distinguished itself to be the most generous more than all the world superpowers who were involved in the gruesome atrocities of human slavery.

The friendship between the people of the African continent and the Cuban revolution is founded in the deep trenches of the rich history of our struggle against imperialism and colonialism. This is a friendship nurtured by the most extraordinary gestures of humility, a revolution embedded on the foundations of our common struggle and hardships, love and kindness.

Our friendship and brotherhood is more powerful than weapons that the imperialist possess, and we will not be shaken by the cold fear they continue to pour on our faces. What will make us fearful is the horrible past of the world of slavery, the world of imperialism and colonialism.

What will not make us fearful is our dauntless determination to ensure that such monstrous acts of atrocities are not repeated in our present or in the future. This is what makes us inseparable from each other, and shall together, with the same determination, dedicate ourselves for the victory of this humane and just cause.

From the first day of the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959 against the dictator Fulgencio Batista, who turned the fortunes of the Caribbean Island into a typical colonial outpost of the US empire, the revolution under the leadership of the Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, dedicated itself to the noble principles of a just and a peaceful world. The revolution declared its commitment to the noble principles of human solidarity and internationalism.

It was just after the victory of the revolution that the people of this great nation demonstrated to the world that through unity and cohesion, they can defend their national flag and sovereignty. The unity of the people and the revolution led to the defeat of the US sponsored mercenaries who wanted to overthrow the new revolutionary government, during the historic battle of Playa Giron.

The battle was of great significance not only because the Cuban people defended themselves, but importantly because it was the first military defeat of the US empire in the history of its existence. A great symbolic gesture which has distinguish Cuba as a powerhouse of the worldwide resistance of our people against imperialism and colonialism.

This was the main reason why the US empire imposed unilateral economic sanctions against the republic of Cuba. This was equally an ideological reason because Cuba is the only country which declared itself a socialist state at the backyard of the empire.

The US blockade against the republic of Cuba is the longest recorded in history of the nations of the world. In the recent past the Trump administration declared in public that the intention of imposing more stringent sanctions against the Island is to suffocate its economy and therefore agitate the people to revolt against the democratically elected government of Cuba.

Just after the defeat of the mercenaries at Playa Giron, at the request of the leadership of the national liberation front of Algeria, the revolution sent the naval warship Bahia de Nipe, carrying weapons and ammunition to assist our brothers and sisters of this African country, against the invading French colonial government. The ship returned home carrying dozens of war orphans and injured combatants, who most of them, returned home later as qualified medical doctors and engineers.

In the year 1964, the Cuban revolution sent one of its Commanders, a well known internationalist, Cde Enersto Che Guevara to foster relationships with the people of the African continent. The delegation visited countries such as Algeria, Benin, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Egypt and the Congo Brazzaville.

After this historic visit to the African continent, Cuba offered the following gesture to the countries of our continent, provision of technical expertise on medical and other professional services, scholarships for the youth of the continent and military support to those still fighting for independence.

Over the years, the revolution has been giving both human and material support to the struggle for the independence of many countries of our African continent such as Algeria,

Guinea Bissau, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, the Congo, and our own country South Africa. It was during the battle of Quito Guanavale that the contribution of the revolution led to the independence of Namibia, and ultimately also the defeat of the white South African abhorrent, diabolical and racist regime.

Cuba has been there in the forefront assisting many countries during difficulties when some of them were confronted by calamities such as earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, pandemics, floods, and many others. Throughout its history we have seen the Cuba sending its comprehensive medical doctors and other expertise to countries such as Nepal, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, Armenia, Iran, China, Bolivia, Salvador, Nicaragua, Equator, Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, Peru, Honduras, Chile, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, East Timor, Italy, South Africa and many others during difficult times of need.

Even today, at the wake of the disastrous pandemic of the coronavirus (COVID19), the Cuban medical brigade, the 'Army of the White Gowns', have been deployed in more than twenty three countries of the world to fulfill its humanitarian mission of combating the outbreak of the pandemic. The Army of the White Gowns is presently fulfilling its internationalist duty in countries such as Nicaragua, China, Venezuela, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Italy, Granada, Suriname, Angola, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Qatar, Togo, Cape Verde, Andorra, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Argentina, Honduras, Barbados, Dominica, Haiti and in our country South Africa.

Since its beginning the revolution offered scholarships to over fifty six thousands (56, 000) students, from hundred and thirty seven (138) countries who mostly graduated as medical doctors, and engineers and other science related courses. Sub-Saharan Africa obtained sixteen thousand four hundred and thirty eight (16438) and North Africa two thousand and three hundred and thirty seven (2337) graduates.

The following are the numbers of graduates from individual countries in the Southern African region who received scholarships to study in Cuba, Angola = 2611, Congo Brazzaville = 1812, Ethiopia = 1667, Mozambique = 569, Tanzania = 279, Lesotho = 84, Eswatini = 18, and South Africa is 832.

Presently more than seven thousand and five hundred and seventy nine students (7, 579) are completing their studies in Cuba in the medical sciences, of which two thousand seven hundreds and sixty six (2 766) are from our country South Africa. Their major speciality is in the primary health care services, which will make them to work in the rural areas and some of the most poverty stricken areas throughout our country.

These are the feats of solidarity and internationalism the Cuban revolution has contributed to many people of the world. Cuba has always understood that its moral obligation is nothing else but to contribute towards the wellbeing of the people of the world, and specifically to the working class and the poor.

In the words of the Secretary General of the Communist Party of Cuba, Cde Raul Castro, when he addressed the first Congress of the MPLA in Angola:

"The day our presence is no longer necessary, only the people of Angola will be able to issue that order. And when the Cubans here withdraw from Angola, we will take with us neither oil, nor diamonds, nor coffee,

or anything else. All that we will take with us is the indestructible friendship of this great people, and the remains of our dead".

During his first visit to the Republic of Cuba after his release from prison, at the historic occasion of the 38 anniversary celebrations of the Moncada rebellion, President Nelson Mandela said the following words of gratitude thanking the contribution of the Cuban revolution towards human solidarity and internationalism.

"We come here with great humility. We come here with great emotion. We come here with a sense of a great debt that is owed to the people of Cuba. What other country can point to a record of greater selflessness than Cuba has displayed in its relations with Africa?"

How many countries of the world benefit from Cuban health workers or educationists? How many of these are in Africa? Where is the country that has sought Cuban help and has had it refused? How many countries under threat from imperialism or struggling for national liberation have been able to count on Cuban support?"

It was in prison when I first heard of the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces provided to the people of Angola, on such a scale that one hesitated to believe, when the Angolans came under combined attack of South African, CIA-financed FNLA, mercenary, UNITA, and Zairean troops in 1975."

We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defence of one of us.

Your presence and the reinforcement of your forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale was of truly historic significance. The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa.

The overwhelming defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale provided the possibility for Angola to enjoy peace and consolidate its own sovereignty. The defeat of the racist army allowed the struggling people of Namibia to finally win their independence.

The decisive defeat of the apartheid aggressors broke the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressors. The defeat of the apartheid army was an inspiration to the struggling people inside South Africa.

Without the defeat of Cuito Cuanavale our organizations would not have been unbanned. The defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale has made it possible for me to be here today.

Cuito Cuanavale was a milestone in the history of the struggle for southern African liberation. Cuito Cuanavale has been a turning point in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid”.

Commander in Chief of the Cuban revolution Cde Fidel Castro, in his response to his dear comrade and friend President Nelson Mandela, during the beautiful historic occasion, upon which he bestowed to him the highest honour of the revolution, the order of Jose Martí, he said the following emotional profound words:

“Now, as Mandela himself has told me, they are wondering and asking him about his friendship with Cuba? Why does he have ties with Cuba? As he has said here: Why does he have ties with the Communist Party of South Africa? As if the ghost of communism were roving the world.

Why does he have ties with this small country that was always so loyal to the cause of the South African people and their struggle against apartheid? This demonstrates the logic of reactionaries and imperialists.

I believe his words must be like golden letters, written in honor of our fighters. He was very generous. He remembered our people 's odyssey in Africa where all the spirit, heroism, and determination of this revolution was demonstrated. We were in Angola for 15 years.

We did not ignore the importance of the effort that we were carrying out there, from 1975 until the last feat, which was to accept the challenge of Cuito Cuanabale. We accepted this challenge in a place located farther than the distance between Havana and Moscow.

It takes 13 hours to fly to Angola, not including stopovers. It takes 13-14 hours to fly to Luanda from Havana, and Cuito Cuanavale took place in a remote area in Angola. It took place more than 1000 km southeast of Luanda. There, our country had to accept the challenge.

As I was telling Comrade Mandela, the revolution risked it all in that action, even its very existence. It dared to engage in a large-scale battle against one of the most powerful and wealthiest countries in the Third

World, a country with significant industrial and technological development and armed to the teeth.

We faced this country, so distant from our small country, with our resources and weapons. We even took the risk of weakening our defenses, and we weakened our defenses and used our ships-solely and exclusively our ships-and our means to create that correlation of forces that would make our fighting a success.

I do not know if any war was ever waged from such a distance between such a small country and a powerful apparatus like that of the South African racists. We risked everything on that occasion”.

This was a fulfilling historic moment between two great revolutionaries of our century, one of the rare moments in the history of the world, when our two iconic leaders taught us about the importance of human solidarity and internationalism. Here today we declare that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and President Nelson Mandela are the symbolic titans of solidarity and internationalism the world of humanity shall forever be indebted to.

We know very well that during the difficult period of the Apartheid repression, the Cuban revolution, has played an outstanding role in support of the efforts by our Movement, the ANC, to liberate our people. Cuba was amongst the first countries of the world to accept those of our comrades who went into exile, and to train and prepare them as combatants of our glorious army Mkhonto we Sizwe.

Through the leadership of President Oliver Tambo and Fidel Castro, through the revolutionary pioneer movement of the young people of the ANC, Masupatsela, many young South Africans spent most of their childhood in the island during those difficult times receiving education and comfort of the revolution. Many were trained in different fields and specialities which today we use in our effort to transform the socio economic conditions of our people.

The ANC national conference supported the initiative of the Fidel and Mandela scholarship programme which was launched immediately after our democratic breakthrough, to send young South Africans to Cuba to study as medical doctors. We have impressed on our government to ensure that this historic initiative of our two iconic leaders is safeguarded.

We want this important programme to be escalated to the higher levels by ensuring that more and more students are send to Cuba to study as medical doctors and in other specialities. Our country needs more doctors and Cuba is the only destiny to give us the necessary help we need.

We have seen many of these young men and women after completing their studies dedicating their lives to work in the remote and most disadvantaged communities across the length and the breath of our country. Our country needs thousands and thousands of doctors specialised in primary health care.

This is what this small heroic Island from the Caribbean continues to contribute towards the fulfillment of the wishes and aspirations of humanity. This is what this small Island with meagre resources can contribute the determination of humanity to achieve a better world.

Again, on behalf of the majority of the people of our country, on behalf of the membership of our liberation movement the African National Congress (ANC), and our alliance partners, the South African Communist Party (SACP), the Congress of the South African Trade Union(COSATU), the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), and on behalf of the people of the African continent and the rest of the progressive world, we take the opportunity to thank the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and their heroic nation. We thank them very much for the gracious acts of solidarity to the people of the world. We are deeply thankful of their selfless contribution to the people of the world.

In this regard, we are making a call to the USA Administration, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, to lift the decades economic blockade imposed on the people of Cuba. The economic blockade should be condemned as a crime against humanity.

The unilateral blockade against Cuba is immoral, criminal and illegal. The decision by the USA to intensify the the blockade in the midst of the CORONA Virus pandemic demonstrates the inhuman character of the world of imperialism.

We are making a call to the USA Administration to end the unjust unilateral economic blockades against the people of Nicaragua, Venezuela, Iran, Palestine, North Korea, Russia, Zimbabwe and many other countries. Now is the time to use the growing momentum of solidarity and internationalism to find peaceful ways of resolving disputes between the world community of nation states.

We also condemn the recent attempts to overthrow the democratically elected government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We in the ANC, our Alliance partners and the majority of the people of our country support the democratically elected government of President Nicholas Maduro.

The ANC is deeply concerned by the growing attempts to undermine democratically elected governments in the region of Latin America. We are concerned by recent developments taking place in Brazil, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Argentina.

We are concerned by the growing attempts by the forces of imperialism of undermine the sovereignty and independence of most of the countries of the world especially the former colonies and semi colonies. We have to stand together as the progressive people of the world to combat the growing onslaught against the liberation movements across the world.

We do not owe them anything, but they owe us our future, they owe us what belongs us, they owe us our better future, a future without oppression and exploitation, a future of a peaceful and prosperous community of nations. This is a noble cause we all have to fight for in order to overcome the challenges we face.

It cannot be that President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil is ousted from her position as a democratically elected leader of the people and we keep quiet, it cannot be that fake charges are concocted against a revered leader of the struggle of the world working class movement President Lula da Silva and we keep quiet.

It cannot be that President Evo Morales is deposed from his position as a democratically elected President of Bolivia and we keep quiet, we cannot keep quiet when they are concerted efforts to remove the government of Nicaragua under President Ortega and we will never keep quiet when mercenaries are hired to assassinate the democratically elected President of the republic of Venezuela Cde Maduro.

We know that the Republic of Venezuela is one of the most richest country in the world with its abundant mineral resources, we know that it has the largest reserves of oil, it has the best deposits of gold, diamond, coal, water, and many of the precious stones of our Mother Earth. This is the heartbeat of the war of destabilization by forces of imperialism against the Bolivarian revolution led by President Maduro.

We again call for peace in the Middle East, we call for a speedy and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian question. We furthermore call on the United Nations, and all the countries of the world, to stop the mounting aggression of Israel against the people of Palestine.

We are also making a call to the countries of the world to accelerate the process for the determination of the independence of the people of the SAHARAWI Republic. Our continent, and the world, remains incomplete without the freedom and dignity of the people of this beautiful African state.

We are making a call for peace and stability on the African continent. In doing so we are calling for peace in South Sudan, Central African Republic, Mali, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia and many other parts of our continent. We are deeply concerned by the growing destabilization of our neighboring country of Mozambique by Islamic insurgents.

Peace, stability and the unity of the African continent must always be sacrosanct. Our focus is to harness the prospects of developing the economic potential of our great African continent.

These are tasks we all have to accomplish in order to turn our beautiful world into a true home of humanity, a true home of human solidarity and internationalism. This is what we have to achieve during our life time, so that our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren can live in peace and prosperity.

We are inspired by the heroic examples of the nations of the world to fight the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The challenges posed by this epidemic should indeed be transformed into a foundation of our everlasting commitment to build a better world.

We call on all countries, the business community and all civil society organizations to continue assisting those of the people of the world who are the worst affected. We need more help to salvage our people from the spread of this terrible disease.

On behalf of the leadership and the membership of the African National Congress, and on behalf of the people of our country, we convey our heartfelt condolences to the many people in the world, who lost their loved ones during these trying times, and wish those of our people in hospitals and in health care centers a speedy recovery. Our hearts and minds

are with them and we are confident that through our common determination we shall conquer.

We are duty bound to carry each other as the world of nations along this long journey, and together we shall overcome. What remains is to take what is ours, ours is what belong to us, a better world of freedom and dignity.

This is a just cause our young generations should dedicate themselves to and indeed strive to achieve in their lifetime. Our task is nothing else but to transform you into a magnanimous force of the future world of human solidarity and internationalism.

From the deep bottom of my heart I will like to take this opportunity to thank the the leadership and the membership of the ANC Youth in this great of our capital city, Tshwane, for making sure that this lecture becomes a success. We call on you to continue to be the true ambassadors of our national liberation movement during this difficult period of the pandemic of the CORONA Virus (COVID 19).

We thank you.