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PRESIDENT : JENNY IBBOTSON

COMMENT: OUR 27-YEAR WALK to NOT-SO-FREEDOM DAY (John Stephenson)

Editorial, as published by Times Live:

Twenty-seven is a significant number in our country's history. It's the number of years Nelson Mandela was confined inside four walls at Robben Island, Pollsmoor and Victor Verster prisons, as punishment for fighting for our liberation from oppressive rule.

On Tuesday, it was 27 years since democracy freed us from the shackles of apartheid.

But if truth be told, there are millions of South Africans — those who don't have access to education, housing, health, sanitation and water — who will attest otherwise.

Millions who will say that they are enslaved to poverty and that their cell block remains with only a change of guard.

Just ask the family of 38-year-old Nomasamson Dlamini, who burned to death in her informal shack in Marikana, Cato Crest, two weeks ago.

Dlamini had, for seven years, tried to eke out a living as a child minder while supporting her children.

Or Thanduxolo Sicwebu, father of 16-year-old Cebo Piliso whose hands and head were severely burned in the same fire, which left 49 families and almost 150 people homeless.

Sicwebu's frustration, hopelessness and anger were palpable as he told the Sunday Times that Freedom Day was a joke.

That people like him and his family and the rest of the community at the informal settlement were nothing more than photo opportunities for politicians during important South African public holidays and especially at election time.

That their lives without access to basic human rights — promised to them by elected officials — are the fault line in our deeply divided society.

We know that intergenerational inequality will continue as the status quo unless changes are made to the system. And, to be fair, there have been attempts over the years to provide access to water, housing and electricity, but these changes are a drop in the ocean of what is needed.

Despite slogans, manifestos and government reforms, the divide between the haves and the have-nots is deepening.

Research in the latest World Bank report is unequivocal. In the journey to reverse the ravages of the legacy of apartheid, we have veered far off the path towards economic and social freedom.

SA, according to the World Bank, is the most unequal country in the world, with the top 1% of South Africans owning more than 70% of the country's wealth.

Oxfam's description is even more terrifying — about 35 people own the same wealth as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity globally.

That's why organisations like Abahlali baseMjondolo (ABM) say that instead of celebrating Freedom Day, they will be mourning.

Mqapheli Bonono, ABM deputy president, said that informal dwellers across the country were far from freedom and their cries continue to be ignored by the government.

"We are going to mourn the freedom that has been lost. While we respect the legacy of our forefathers in fighting the oppression, the current government has failed to deliver the freedom that was promised to us.

"We refuse to continue to be banks of votes for the politicians who doom us to death by stealing from us, funds that were meant for poor communities during Covid, or budgets that were meant to improve our living conditions."

Covid-19 has decimated our economy but it is our most vulnerable that have been affected, a situation worsened by those who chose to steal in the midst of the pandemic.

When the government is incapable of taking, or unwilling to take the necessary steps to prevent poor people from suffering the worst effects of unemployment, poverty, starvation, homelessness and similar social ills, for whatever reason, civic protest is unavoidable.

The reality is that our freedom is being held prisoner by corruption, a destructive battle which rages between the ruling party's forces for radical economic transformation and their opponents and criminal elements.

Until our government unshackles us from these captive forces, SA will never truly be free.

MINUTES of the PARTNERS MEETING on ZOOM 26th April 2021 18h30

Scribe : Richard House

Sergeant Glynis Menne-Hart opened the online Zoom Business Meeting and invited President Jenny to welcome the members to the meeting (there were no guests).

Wybe Meinesz lit the Peace Candle and read appropriate quotes for Freedom Day.

The Object of Rotary was recited by Mike Walwyn and the Grace and Toast by Terry Lancaster.

There was no movement of the wooden spoon by the holder Melinda Stapleton.

Sergeant Glynis then handed the meeting over to President Jenny who introduced the four reports that would be given at the meeting:

- Tony Davidson: Safe water global grant
- Jeannine Ibbotson: Membership
- Ian Pursch: Cape Town Cycle Tour
- Geraldine Nicol: African Centennial Conference

- Tony reported that the Global Grant for the Safe Water project in Europe had been submitted two weeks ago. The project included the upgrade of two water points as well as drainage and the upgrade of a community hall. Three Rotary Clubs are involved in the project:
 - Rotary Club of Weert (District 1550): Funding and oversight
 - Rotary Club of Noon Gun: Professional services and delivery
 - Rotary Club of Newlands: Funding and project management

Detailed engineering is required for the project and this is being provided by JG Afrika Unite Engineering who have experience with similar projects. Environmental aspects included in the project are planting trees and rainwater recovery. Project value is R958 829.00.

- Jeannine reported on membership progress which centres around new and sustainable membership. The membership committee will showcase the many projects the club is involved in to attract potential members. A social event is being planned for both existing members and guests where the alignment of the projects to the 6 pillars of RI will be featured. A target list of prospective members has been drawn up. The committee is hoping to create excitement with both existing and potential members during the event. A venue for the event is being looked for that is user friendly for new members.

Jeannine is also looking at attracting potential academic membership, and has TSIBA in mind for this, where she hopes to establish a Rotaract club on campus. Work on defining membership fee structures and attendance requirements is also being done.

- Ian reported that it has been a long road getting the 2021 Cape Town Cycle Tour (CTCT) finalised, which was postponed from March to October. Entries for the Peddle Power Association have now opened for the event to be held on 10 October. Experience with a Double Century event with social distancing etc. has given a good model to be used for the CTCT. In addition, two virtual events have shown how keen cyclists are to participate and generated quite a good amount of funds.

For the 2021 event a rolling start would be used based on starting times. No refunds would be given for cancellations after July. The event would be restricted to 18 thousand riders, but full course management would be required for the event. The event would be full course with no short course event planned for this year. E-bikes will be included in the event and the 2022 event is being planned for the normal March date.

- Geraldine reported on the recent successful African Centennial Conference which was fun and inspirational. She asked various members who had attended to give their impressions of the event:
- Ian was impressed that the event could be held virtually
- Geraldine reported that Ethan Musolini's Hope For The African Continent and Ellyanne Wanjiku – Kenyan Environmental activist presentations blew her away
 - Jeremy was impressed with how slick the program was and how non-political the event was
 - Jenny was inspired by the conference and particularly by Jennifer Jones's Women in Rotary presentation
 - Lew enjoyed the inclusivity of speakers from across Africa
 - Jeannine's high expectations were superseded and comparable to other global events she had attended.
 - Janey was thrilled at the representation of Africa and was astonished at the major donor growth
 - Geraldine felt that Africa was united by Rotary and that the event was incredibly professional (there was 3 years of planning) with fantastic support from RI

President Jenny then handed the meeting back to Sergeant Glynis who requested for members spots:

- Janey advised that next week's presentation by Tom Gump had been inspired by his 'I am a Rotarian' podcast and that she has received confirmation of attendance from over 20 clubs globally.

- Richard B reported that the iZinto project is going well and that he had been in touch with the Rotary Club of St Francis regarding assistance with storage.

President Jenny then reported for her slot:

- She had enjoyed last week’s Howzat and particularly Vanessa’s historical article.
- Reminded members about the Climate and Peace conference
- Janey is sending out social media guidelines regarding World Immunisation week via WhatsApp
- Jenny has submitted 6 nominations for the District Conference community awards:
 - Best ECD project
 - Best vocational project
 - PI and awareness award
 - Best club event marketing (Back-a-Buddy)
 - Best club on-line presence
- Reminded members to register for next week’s District Conference
- Birthdays and anniversaries:
 - Johan and Charlene Taljaard will be celebrating their anniversary

There were no Happy Rands, and Sergeant Glynis then closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

NEWS FROM THE ROTARY WORLD

District Conference on Saturday was another fine occasion with a feast of great Rotary content. If you were unable to attend, and even if you did, keep an eye on your email for a summary of Newlands’ awards and accomplishments acknowledged at Conference. For a prize of a year’s complimentary subscription to *Howzat!*, a) spot the Newrots in the screenshot below b) identify who was absent from his seat when the pic was taken.



A feature of conference each year is the induction of the incoming DG, for 2021-22, Ian Robertson.

Ian’s term of office starts on 1 July.

Ian is a member of the Rotary Club of Claremont and was introduced to Rotary in 2011 by his son, James. A semi-retired Electrical Engineer, Ian is married to Barbara and they have four adult children, and four grandchildren.

On the international scene, the Climate and Peace Forum provides wonderfully content-rich webinars and, bonus, although they're hosted in Sydney, you don't have to watch in the middle of the night. You can find the recordings online, later. But do register. Your interest and support will be most welcome.



RCN FUTURE FIXTURES *(Online, for now)*

MAY – YOUTH

- 3 Partners' Meeting: *Thomas A. Gump Rotary International District 5950, District Governor 2020-21, Rotary Club of Edina / Morningside, MN, USA*
- 10 Committee Meetings
- 17 Ordinary Meeting: *Brett Agiotis, M Soc Sci Candidate. University of Cape Town, Environmental and Geographical Sciences*
- 19 Board Meeting
- 24 Business Meeting
- 31 Ordinary Meeting: *Marilyn Lilley & Jan Arkart - exploration activities and impacts in the Kavango Basin in Namibia and Botswana.*

JUNE – ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

- 7 Partners Meeting: *Adele Pudney and partner, Aimee: [Equine-assisted therapy programs](#)*
- 21 Ordinary Meeting: *Kim Whittaker, Ubuntu Beds*



BIRTHDAYS	5 th May	Graham Stapleton
	7 th May	John Biesman-Simons
ANNIVERSARIES		
JOINED ROTARY	3 rd May 2010	Heidi Andersson
JUST DESSERTS SPOON		Melinda Stapleton

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	3 May 2021 <i>Partners</i>	10 May 2021 <i>Committee Meetings</i>	17 May <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Shân Biesman-Simons	Graham Lowden	Lew Botha
Four-Way Test / Object	Heidi Andersson	Michelle Roos	Tony van der Lith
Grace and Loyal Toast	Richard Burnett	Brian Pickup	Pieter van Aswegen
Peace Candle and Quote	Wendy Goddard	Vanessa Rousseau	John Stephenson
Minutes	Anthony Galloway	Melinda Stapleton	Jeannine Ibbotson
Intro speaker	Geraldine Nicol		Johan Beukman
Thank speaker	Jeremy Opperman		Chris Beech
Comment	Jamie Hart	Jeremy Opperman	Ian Pursch

- *If you cannot make this duty, please arrange a substitute and let the Sergeant know.*
- *Peace Candle duty includes lighting a candle and providing a quote.*
- *Comment is due on the date above. Publication is the Monday following. Usually. Please submit a text file and, if you have pics, please attach these.*

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS



President
Jenny Ibbotson



Past President
Terry Lancaster



President Elect / ECD
Geraldine Nicol



Secretary
Janey Ball



Treasurer
Peter Ennis



Club Services
Heidi Andersson



Community Services
Wybe Meinesz



CSI
Graham Finlayson



Entrepreneurship
John Stephenson



Environmental Sustainability
Tony Davidson



Foundation
Mike Walwyn



International Service
Shân Biesman-Simons



Membership
Jeannine Ibbotson



Public Image
Shelley Finch



Public Image
Vanessa Rousseau



Vocational Service
Jeremy Opperman



Youth Service
Wendy Goddard

AND the LAST WORD

Only two more sleeps till Star Wars Day.

May the Fourth be with you.

And talking of dates, hold this one – 28th June – for President Elect Geraldine Nicol’s Induction Dinner.

See you on the moro.....

