



iNKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI ORAL HISTORY COMPETITION

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CATEGORY : STORY- TELLING

**TOPIC : THE SPOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS IN THE 25 YEARS OF
FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY**

DATE : 06 SEPTEMBER 2019

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS IN THE 25 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Nelson Mandela once said “Poverty is not an accident. Like Slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.”

Looking back where South Africa is coming from I see pain, torture, suffering, cries of women and children and I see a dark cloud in South as a whole.

I see a white man in power implementing oppressive laws and policies, I see segregation, discrimination and racism.

It is now all in the past, as since 1994 inkungu yesuswa emehlweni kwavela ukukhanya and all I can see now is light as the new South Africa was born.

Life in South Africa has changed since the dawn of democracy 25 years ago.

It has changed from bitter to better for some.

Change can be noted in Education, health, Sports, Socially and otherwise.

Segregation has been changed to unification

Victimisation has been changed to victory

Bantu Education has given birth to “Batho Pele” YES! Abantu kuqala UBUNTU phambili.

In the apartheid era South Africa was under control of white minority, but all of that changed in 1994, as Nelson Rholihlahla ka Mandela came running with Reconstruction and Development

Yes, frustration changed into Transformation and Reconstruction.

Homelessness was reduced with housing, Darkness was electrified, sanity and silliness were replaced with sanitation

Thabo Mbeki came to strengthen democracy and diplomacy.

He brought African Renaissance and Pan Africanism, he is indeed an African.

“He owes his being to the hills, and valleys; the mountains and the glades, the rivers,

The deserts, the trees, the flowers and the seas. His body has frozen in frosts and in our latter day's snow.”

YES! He built the economy from the mountains, from the trees, from the ocean. That is why today we proudly talk of: I ocean economy! I ocean economy! I ocean economy! I ocean economy intoni? I ocean economy.

There came our third black president Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, akaihleki mntakabawo. He came to power caring the baggage of accusations. Rape accusations, corruption accusations and now state capture accusations, but ubani he still laughs, he still sings.

OH! OH! OH inde le ndlela esihambayo; OH! OH! Hi inde le ndlela esihambayo; watsh' uMandela kubalandeli bakhe wathi sohlangana nge freedom day. But jealous down okusalayo he built infrastructure. He built roads, he built schools, he built bridges. Aah. Msholozzi we salute eNkandla.

Ladies and Gentlemen, freedom is no longer tomorrow but today. Doors of learning are now opened. Bantu Education is no more. Our education is relevant and almost free. Our sport is growing, we have played and hosted. We are, as yet, not so free economically but slowly but surely we are getting there. Ramaphosa sithuma wena, thumeka bhuti. Let's say no more to violence, say no more to rape, say no more to drug smuggling and usage, say no more to child trafficking, say no more to crime, say no more to corruption. Poverty and unemployment are deserved by no one. It is indeed! A new day, a dawn and new life for us South Africans.

Amandla! Amandla! Izwe lethu! Umhlaba ngowethu! Inkululeko ngoku!