



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OLIVER TAMBO

THE TAMBO TIMES

Special Centenary
Edition

IN THIS ISSUE

A Look Back on 2017

by Linda Vilakazi

The year 2017 marked the Centenary of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo – a key driver of South Africa's liberation, and one of the founding fathers of our constitutional democracy.

Described by former President Nelson Mandela as "A great giant that strode the globe like a colossus", O.R., as he was affectionately known, was the longest serving President of the African National Congress (ANC), serving from 1969 to 1991.

O.R. was a solution-oriented leader whose mission was to attain liberation for South Africa, and other nations alike, which he achieved during his 50-odd years of political activism in the ANC.

Using the slogan *On the Shoulders of a Giant*, the Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation's Centenary celebrations seek to remember his life, the values he espoused, and his commitment to the anti-apartheid movement, both during his time in South Africa, and during his years in exile.

The year 2017 has been very special to us and everyone in South Africa. It was also an amazing opportunity to propel the growth of the Foundation. Our mandate – to promote and preserve the legacies of Oliver and Adelaide – is more important than ever before. It has been our honour to work on the preservation of their legacies since the Foundation inception in 2011. In 2018, we will reflect on the Foundation's next milestones, and clarify our purpose in line with current state of development in the country and globally.

Friends of the Foundation, your unwavering support has made these past six years truly remarkable. To you we say: nangamso, le ka moso. We wish you all a great festive season full of love, comradeship and empathy for those who may not necessarily be able to celebrate.

Let the spirit of **Oliver Reginald Tambo** prevail.



Linda Vilakazi

Linda took over as CEO of the Tambo Foundation on the 5th of September 2016, immediately being thrust into the beginning of the Centenary build-up.

OLIVER TAMBO

100 years

1917 - 2017

ON THE SHOULDERS OF A GIANT



An adaption of our original logo, every centenary item bore the new logo, and will continue to do so until the end of Oliver Tambo's 100th year – 26 October 2018.

OCTOBER

OLIVER TAMBO CENTENARY MEMORIAL LECTURE

27 Oct – The culmination of the 2017 year for The Foundation was undoubtedly the annual memorial lecture.

To celebrate Oliver Tambo's 100th birthday, the Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation held the Oliver Tambo Centenary Lecture at the University of the Witwatersrand's Great Hall, on what would have been his hundredth birthday – the 27th October 2017.

More than just a lecture, the event was a celebration of his life and legacy, with music from the Wits Choir, the Unity Secondary School Choir, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. There was also an Oliver Tambo Exhibition, display and sales of the newly launched Oliver Tambo coins, Oliver Tambo portraits, books about Oliver Tambo and the Oliver Tambo Big Book.



In his keynote address, President Thabo Mbeki described O.R. as a defining player in the evolution of the ANC, and South Africa. Documenting the difficulties that the ANC faced in the 1940s, President Mbeki highlighted the central role O.R. played in its resurrection as the first Secretary General of the ANC Youth League, and later, the Secretary General and Deputy President of the ANC. This newly revived ANC came back so strong a threat to the Apartheid government, that it was banned. At the time of its banning, the

ANC sent O.R. into exile to establish their external mission, where he once again played a central role in resurrecting an ANC that had almost been wiped out. This led to him leading the campaign that resulted in the democratic victory of 1994. President Mbeki maintained that heartfelt gratitude should be given to Oliver Tambo for the role he played in the leadership of the ANC and the broader democratic movement, such that it survived the repression brought unto it in the 1960s.

Describing further the events that faced the ANC in its 105 years of existence, he described its current and most challenging strategic threat as unfortunately its current members, especially when we no longer have Oliver Tambo among us – a leader who had successfully defeated other challenges. He went on to explain that to defeat this challenge, it would then be imperative that those who admire Oliver Tambo act in a manner that emulates examples set by him. Conveying his hope that Oliver Tambo should be bestowed with the title of Father of South Africa's Democracy, he described him as a decisive, leading and defining player.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more information about the lecture, photos, and the full speech.





OLIVER TAMBO AND S.S. MENDI CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

29 Oct - Together with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, the Tambo Foundation held the Oliver Tambo & S.S Mendi centenary commemoration



at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto. In line with O.R.'s love for choral music, the event was a musical celebration by various choirs.



More October Celebrations



The audience was captivated by poetry from Sello Maake ka-Ncube, & performances by Sibongile Khumalo, JMPD choir, EMPD choir, Imilonji KaNtu choral society and the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. In her closing remarks, the CEO of the Foundation talked about the tragedy of the sinking of the S.S Mendi, and the elation of the birth of Oliver Tambo – a man who would go on to spend most of his life fighting for the freedom of South African people – which both took place in 1917.

LAUNCH OF THE OLIVER TAMBO CENTENARY COINS

4 Oct – On the 4th of October, the South African Reserve Bank, SA Mint and the Foundation launched the four Tambo Centenary Coins:

R5 circulation coins, worth its face-value

R50 sterling silver coin [collectible]

R50 base metal coin [collectible]

R500 pure gold coin [collectible]

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the event. To buy the coins, please click [here](#).



R500 Gold



R50 Sterling Silver



R50 Base Metal



Commemorative R5 Pro



The girls from the Chief Albert Luthuli School performing a play about O.R.

Dali and Rachel Tambo with the coin designer, Sindiso Nyoni.



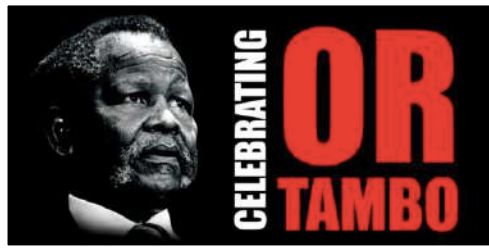
OLIVER TAMBO DIALOGUE

31 oct

Power FM hosted the Oliver Tambo Dialogue to answer questions around his legacy, and the current situation in South Africa. In the discussions, his legacy was highlighted but the hot topic seemed to centre around the evaluation of where the country is currently headed. The dialogue continued around the following topics: the liberation of South Africa and ANC's legitimacy in leading it; free education; land; the current leadership in South Africa and within the ANC; moral courage; the role of religion and Oliver's Christian faith; and how people should draw their inspiration in fighting for a free democracy as they did throughout the fight against apartheid. The topic of the youth and O. R.'s principals as a source of inspiration were also discussed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for the podcast of the dialogue.



FORT HARE:

O.R. TAMBO MEMORIAL LECTURE

5 Oct – The University of Fort Hare, O.R.'s alma mater, having themselves celebrated their centenary in 2016, hosted a heart-warming memorial lecture honouring the icon that is Oliver Tambo. Pallo Jordan, delivering the keynote address, saluted the sharp and intellectual comrade Tambo for being one of the brave men who fought for the liberation of South Africa. Mr Jordan reiterated that O.R.'s values of leadership are to be considered, followed, and implemented by the leadership of the country.



OLIVER TAMBO DIALOGUE

10 Dec – The 8th instalment of the Have You Heard from Johannesburg documentary series was released this year. Titled "Oliver Tambo", the film explores O.R.'s life. The eighth instalment of the *Have You Heard from Johannesburg* documentary films, "Oliver Tambo", is an intimate- and personal look at the life of O.R., including rarely seen footage of him in action. The film not only shows the politics of the man, but also shines a light on a life lived with principles and ethics, and values such as compassion, inclusion, social justice and equality. DVDs will be available in 2018.

AUGUST

23 aug

...was a very busy day for the Foundation with two events taking place.

O.R. TAMBO EXHIBITION

The Oliver Reginald Tambo: The Modest Revolutionary 1917 - 1993 exhibition opened at the Apartheid Museum on the 23rd August 2017. In his opening remarks, the Director of the Apartheid Museum, Mr Christopher Till, elaborated that Oliver Tambo played a pivotal role in the fight against apartheid, being the glue that selflessly held the liberation movement together.

The exhibition will be displayed at Freedom Park until the end of January.



ADELAIDE TAMBO / MANDELA DAY

18 Jul – Few people know that Ma Tambo and Madiba shared a birthday. Every year, when possible, they would share a birthday breakfast together. In honour of this, the Tambo & Mandela Foundations collaborated on Mandela Day activities at

WOMEN'S MONTH DIALOGUE



The panel: Nana Ngobese, Sarah Mokwebo, Gertrude Shope, Frene Ginwala and Thandiwe Matthews. Facilitator: Athambile Masola

The event honoured the sacrifices of iconic South African women like: Ruth Mompati, Albertina Sisulu, Rahima Moosa, Zanele Mbeki, Winnie Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke and many others.



WOMEN'S MONTH DIALOGUE

To celebrate Women's Month and Oliver Tambo's championing of women's rights, the Foundation, with support from the Department of Science and Technology, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, and the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, hosted a cross-generational Women's month dialogue, addressing issues faced by women today and in Oliver Tambo's time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the event.

JULY

4 Jul – Tambo and Mandela had a unique relationship that started when they first met at the University of Fort Hare, and continued throughout their lives until Tambo's passing in 1993. Theirs was a strong bond that saw them rise to be international leaders, showcasing selflessness, humility and collaboration beyond life's challenges. They managed to stay friends and comrades even when they were separated with Mandela being incarcerated on Robben Island for 27 years, and Tambo in exile for 30 years. Their life story demonstrates true friendship and exemplary leadership, sealed by shared values for justice and human rights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the event and to watch the video showing the reflections of Mac Maharaj, Lindiwe Mabuza, and Luli Calinicos.



the Adelaide Tambo School for the Physically Challenged.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the event as well as a list of donations received.

SANITARY TOWEL INITIATIVE

31 May – In conjunction with the Caring4Girls initiative, the Foundation supplied the girl learners of 3 schools in O.R.'s village of Nkantolo with the first handover of a 6-month supply of sanitary towels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the initiative.



ADELAIDE TAMBO DAY

24 May – Formerly known as the JC Merkin School, the school was officially renamed the Adelaide Tambo School for the Physically Challenged in May 1999. Every May thereafter, Ma Tambo would visit the school and have a party for the learners. This year, the Foundation decided to honour that tradition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the initiative.



CRITICAL THINKING FORUM

12 May – The Foundation together with the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL), the Mail & Guardian, Kaya FM, and the Wits School of Governance, hosted the Critical Thinking Forum on the 16th May 2017. The topic: *Leadership Lessons Learnt from O.R. Tambo*. Mention was made of his ethics, selflessness, and ardent Christianity.

The panel:

Ngoaka Ramatlhodi, Barbara Masekela and Sheila Sisulu.



MARCH

AN EVENING OF RECOLLECTION AND REFLECTION

22 Mar – Together with the UK High Commission and the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre, the Foundation held an event where friends and allies of O.R. reflected on their personal memories of him. Ma Gertrude Shope, Ambassador Abdul Minty and Lord Steel of Aikwood took the platforms to reflect on the man that O.R. was. Other friends in the audience joined in, and Dali Tambo shared a few nostalgic anecdotes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) for more about the event.

lectures

2017 saw the advent of many centenary lectures. The Foundation held 2 centenary lectures at the University of Pretoria. One lecture was given by [Justice Dikgang Moseneke](#), and the inaugural lecture was delivered by Justice Albie Sachs. Justice Sachs's lecture, title *Oliver Tambo's Dream*, inspired him to deliver 3 more lectures around the country. *Oliver Tambo's Dream* – a collection of the lectures – has been compiled into a book, which was launched on the 8th of December. For more about the lectures and/or the book, click [here](#).



To everyone who has supported the Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation, this year and from the beginning,

thank you

It is a privilege to honour and promote the legacies of these two giants, and all of you help us to make this possible.

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