

## PREFACE

### POLITICAL AND LIBERATION STRUGGLE HISTORY OF THE FREE STATE, 1961-2012

The articles published in this special edition of the *Journal for Contemporary History* are peer-reviewed proceeds of a colloquium held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus on 24 February 2017 and at the Qwaqwa Campus on 24 March 2017. The colloquium was the initiative of Dr Chitja Twala of the Department of History at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus in an attempt to highlight the role the Free State Province's political activists played in the broader struggle for liberation in South Africa. This edition of the *Journal for Contemporary History* questions the quiescence of academic writing in addressing the underground and aboveground political activism that took place in the Free State. The articles published in this special edition, in one way or another, dispels the widely held view that the Free State Province had but a small role to play in the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

For the purpose of this special edition, a call was extended to fellow academics in South Africa, the region and internationally, asking them to reinterpret the nuances of the South African liberation struggle, with most of their articles focusing on the Free State Province. The understanding was that the struggle for liberation in the Free State Province could not be separated from that of the country. Therefore, in this special edition, the Free State struggle for liberation is contextualised within the broader spectrum of the liberation struggle elsewhere in South Africa. This is evidenced by the articles, such as *How African countries assisted the South African liberation struggle: 1963-1994* by Ama Biney; *Rural youth and changing patterns of political mobilisation in the Northern Transvaal village of Zebediela, 1976-1990* by Sekibakiba Lekgoathi; *Sowing the seeds of political mobilisation in Bantustans: Resistance to the cession of the KaNgwane Bantustan to the Kingdom of Swaziland* by Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu; and *The politics and history of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe: The case of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in Zaka and Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) in the Bulilima District* by Chris Ngwenya and Rachidi Richard Molapo.

Other articles with direct focus on the Free State Province are: *Narratives of women detained in the Kroonstad Prison during the apartheid era: A socio-political exploration, 1960-1990* by Ntando Mbatha; *Zamdela Township: The explosion of confrontational politics, early 1980s to 1990* by Tshepo Moloi; *Student activism and contestation for political space at the former University of the North (Qwaqwa Branch), 1986-1996* by Chitja Twala; *The church and its contributions to the struggle to liberate the Free State Province* by Bekithemba Dube and Habasisa Molise; *Higher education and the liberation struggle*

*in the former Qwaqwa Homeland: A Freirean approach* by Dipane Hlalele; *Women's voices, women's lives: Qwaqwa women's experiences of the apartheid and post-apartheid eras* by Munyaradzi Mushonga and Tsenolo Seloma; *Language politics and the struggle for the soul of the University of the Free State (UFS): A microcosm of the socio-political and economic struggles in the Free State Province through time* by Munene Mwaniki; and "A hungry stomach knows no allegiance": *Transactional activism in community protests in Ficksburg* by Sethulego Matebesi.

Thanks are owed to Dr Jared McDonald and Mr Wouter de Wet of the Department of History (Qwaqwa Campus) who assisted me with the logistics and became co-convenors in hosting the colloquium at that campus. The Editorial Board of the *Journal for Contemporary History* under the guidance of Prof. Pieter Duvenage is hereby acknowledged. Acknowledgements are also due to the members of the History Department at the Bloemfontein Campus for the advice they provided in hosting the colloquium, as well as to the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) for the financial assistance provided.

The editor of this special edition, which is published 15 months after the colloquiums, wishes to thank the authors and the experts who blind-reviewed the articles for their co-operation, especially as they were much pressed for time.

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## VOORWOORD

### 'N OORSIG VAN DIE VRYSTAATSE VRYHEID- EN POLITIEKE STRYD, 1961-2012

Die portuurbeoordeelde artikels wat in hierdie spesiale uitgawe van die *Joernaal vir Eietydse Geskiedenis* gepubliseer word, is gebaseer op voordragte wat tydens vakbyeenkomste by die Bloemfontein-kampus van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat op 24 Februarie 2017 en die Qwaqwa-kampus op 24 Maart 2017 onderskeidelik gelewer is. Dr. Chitja Twala van die Departement Geskiedenis, Universiteit van die Vrystaat, Bloemfontein-kampus, het die inisiatief geneem om hierdie vakbyeenkomste te reël ten einde die rol wat Vrystaatse politieke aktiviste in die breër vryheidstryd van Suid-Afrika gespeel het, te beklemtoon. Hierdie uitgawe van die *Joernaal vir Eietydse Geskiedenis* bevraagteken die ongeërgdheid waarmee akademiese geskiedskrywing die ondergrondse, sowel as die sigbare politieke aktivisme in die Vrystaat aanspreek. Die artikels wat in

hierdie spesiale uitgawe verskyn, skakel op een of ander wyse die algemene siening dat die Vrystaatse provinsie 'n onbeduidende rol in die bevrydingstryd in Suid-Afrika gespeel het, uit.

Vir die doel van hierdie spesiale uitgawe is 'n beroep op mede-akademici in Suid-Afrika, die streek en internasionaal gedoen om die nuanses van die Suid-Afrikaanse vryheidstryd te herinterpreteer, en veral op die Vrystaat te fokus. Die opvatting was dat die vryheidstryd in die Vrystaat nie van dié in die res van die land geskei kan word nie. In dié spesiale uitgawe vorm die Vrystaatse vryheidstryd dus deel van die breër spektrum van die vryheidstryd elders in Suid-Afrika. Dit blyk duidelik uit artikels soos: *How African countries assisted the South African liberation struggle: 1963-1994* deur Ama Biney; *Rural youth and changing patterns of political mobilisation in the Northern Transvaal village of Zebediela, 1976-1990* deur Sekibakiba Lekgoathi; *Sowing the seeds of political mobilisation in Bantustans: Resistance to the cession of the KaNgwane Bantustan to the Kingdom of Swaziland* deur Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu; en *The politics and history of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe: The case of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in the Zaka and Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) in the Bulilima District* deur Chris Ngwenya en Rachidi Richard Molapo.

Artikels waarin die klem op die Vrystaat val, sluit in: *Narratives of women detained in the Kroonstad Prison during the apartheid era: A socio-political exploration, 1960-1990* deur Ntando Mbatha; *Zamdela Township: The explosion of confrontational politics, early 1980s to 1990* deur Tshepo Moloi; *Student activism and contestation for political space at the former University of the North (Qwaqwa Branch), 1986-1996* deur Chitja Twala; *The church and its contributions to the struggle to liberate the Free State Province* deur Bekithemba Dube and Habasisa Molise; *Higher education and the liberation struggle in the former Qwaqwa Homeland: A Freirean approach* deur Dipane Hlalele; *Women's voices, women's lives: Qwaqwa women's experiences of the apartheid and post-apartheid eras* deur Munyaradzi Mushonga en Tsenolo Seloma; *Language politics and the struggle for the soul of the University of the Free State (UFS): A microcosm of the socio-political and economic struggles in the Free State Province through time* deur Munene Mwaniki; en "A hungry stomach knows no allegiance": *Transactional activism in community protests in Ficksburg* deur Sethulego Matebesi.

Ek wil dr. Jared McDonald en mnr. Wouter de Wet van die Geskiedenis Departement (Qwaqwa-kampus) bedank wat my met die logistiek bygestaan, en as mede-sameroepers van die vakbyeenkomste by die Qwaqwa-kampus opgetree het. Erkenning word hiermee verleen aan die redaksie van die *Joernaal vir Eietydse Geskiedenis* onder leiding van prof. Pieter Duvenage. My dank ook aan lede van die Departement Geskiedenis van die Bloemfontein-kampus vir hulle raad in die aanbieding van die vakbyeenkomste. Erkenning word ook

verleen aan die finansiële bystand van die Nasionale Instituut vir Geestes- en Sosiale Wetenskappe (NIHSS).

Die redakteur van hierdie spesiale uitgawe, wat verskyn 15 maande nadat die vakbyeenkomste plaasgevind het, wil al die skrywers, asook die kundiges wat die naamlose keuring van die artikels hanteer het, bedank vir hulle samewerking, veral omdat hulle aan groot druk onderhewig was.

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