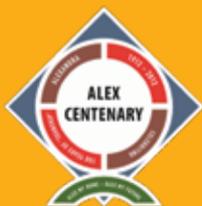
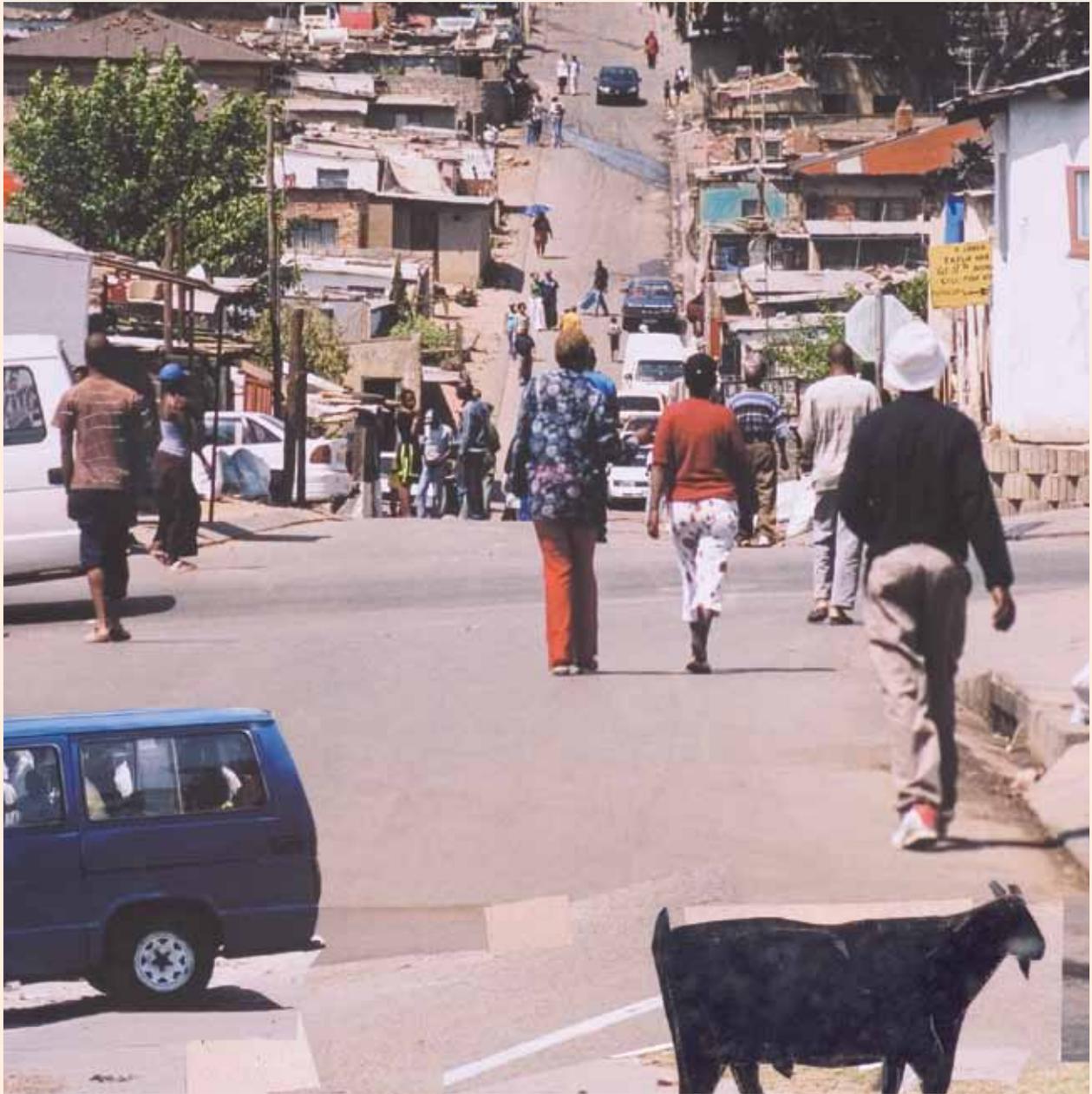


Celebrating 100 Years of Alexandra 1912-2012

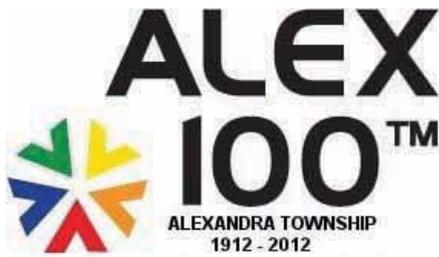


Contact details:

ALEXANDRA CENTENARY AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Office No: F6&F, 1st Floor, No. 70, 12th Avenue, Alexandra

Tel: +27110471522



A message from the Greater Alexandra Chamber Of Commerce & Industry

Commemorating the Alexandra 100 years is a milestone, for no credible narration can be made about our lives without the mention of Alexandra without acknowledging the property owners for the sacrifices and the resistance of “force removals”. The Greater Alexandra Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GALXCOC) established in 1969 is one the oldest organisations representing and advocating for black business.

Alex being in the precinct of the Economic Hub (Sandton) of South Africa is one of the poorest urban nodes. Given the geographical position, GALXCOC envisage piloting Alex & Sandton as an integration strategy for big and small businesses to bridge the socioeconomic disparities, ensuring that we give practical meaning to our collective endeavour to create a platform for transforming Townships into Economic Powerhouses.

As part of the Alex 100™ legacy projects, the aim is to empower and develop all sectors of business in the greater Alexandra i.e. Job creation, Resuscitation of the Industrial Parks, Business Skills Development & Training, Tourism Development, Enterprise Development, Rebranding and Marketing Alex into a distinct brand amongst others.

Alex Business Expo & Investment Seminar invites all businesses in and around Region E to take part in advancing industrial and commercial interests of our local businesses.

Mpho Motsumi
President (GALXCOC)

A message from the Greater Alexandra Development Forum (GADF)

Alexandra Township is a hundred years old in 2012! The Alex Community has faced and overcome many challenges throughout the past hundred years and this is a milestone which needs to be recognised and commemorated. It is the only township that successfully resisted several forced removals. It was also once the home of the first President of the Democratic Republic of South Africa, Nelson Mandela and the Deputy President, Kgalema Motlante. The Greater Alexandra Development Forum has taken the initiative and created the Alexandra Centenary Celebrations project for this purpose.

The Alexandra Centenary Celebrations will comprise a series of events, projects and activities celebrating the centenary of the founding of Alexandra Township in 1912.

These events, projects and activities will each have theme and a target market and focus on business, youth, health, sports, arts, culture and heritage, among other things.

The events and activities will be staged in various appropriate venues in and around Alexandra with a view to reaching out to as many sectors of the community as possible.

Celebrating 100 years of Alex: Celebrating its People, its Legacy and its Heritage!!!

Preface

From Chairperson of the Alexandra Centenary & Heritage Association.

As the Chairperson of the Alexandra Centenary and Heritage Association, and on behalf of the ACHA, I take this opportunity to congratulate Alex and its people on achieving this great feat of 100 years. 2012 is a great year for all of us and it is that time in the life of Alex when we should all rally to a need to begin to confront our common challenges as people of Alex.

It is unbelievable and unacceptable that even after 100 years we still face high unemployment above the national average; rampant poverty, in conditions of squalor, grime and environmental degradation; with the scramble for a small space to eke a living, provide housing and community facilities for our children and to better our education and socio-cultural development. Many property-owners are still battling to be granted their title-deeds – a pride of many South Africans who for many years were denied a right to property. All these challenges exist on the fringes and doorstep of a vibrant and opulent Sandton – the home of the internationally renowned Johannesburg Stocks and Securities Exchange (JSE).

We urge all the people of Alexandra to begin to see the celebrations of 100 years as an opportunity to begin to work for the next 100 years that will see us overcome the current situation we find ourselves in. Despite the many challenges we face, Alex has so much to offer and it has achieved so much under almost impossible, trying and adverse conditions. The Presidential Project of the Alex Renewal has found homes for many families and improved to some extent conditions in Alex while we acknowledge so many problems related to allocation of houses. It is something the City of Johannesburg through the MMCs for Housing and Development Planning are addressing with Alex organisations.

We pride ourselves with a rich history of the liberation struggle; musical, cultural and sporting giants; churches that have contributed to the development and growth of education; and many others who kept the local economy vibrant and emerged as business celebrities. Alex is the only surviving township that successfully resisted forced removals under the apartheid government. In 2012, we need to project and exhibit the rich legacy and heritage and the people behind it for the world to take

notice and accord commensurate recognition and respect.

The ACHA in collaboration with the Greater Alexandra Development Forum (GADF) and Greater Alexandra Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GALXCOC) have already gone to the two graveyards to lay wreaths to pay respect and celebrate the contribution made by the gallant heroes and heroines of Alex in preserving our Alex. We have many other events lined up to celebrate 100 years of Alex and we call upon all the people of Alex to expose and exhibit their creativity by also initiating activities to celebrate 100 years of Alex. The schools, churches, sporting clubs and associations, business organisations, stokvels, societies, women and youth groups, cultural and artistic groups and individuals must come forward and demonstrate the love for their township and in their own way, celebrate the centenary of Alex. All other events are included in the centenary calendar in this publication.

Happy 100 Years of Alex: My Alex, My Home – I love Alex!!!

**Cde. Hon. Obed Bapela (MP);
Deputy Minister in the Presidency**



Alexandra

A HISTORY

PHILIP BONNER AND NOOR NIEFTAGODIEN



Alexandra: One Hundred Years of Urban Struggles

Written by Noor Nieftagodien, Head of History Workshop, Wits University

Alexandra occupies a unique place in South Africa's history. It is one of the only surviving freehold locations and has from its origins developed a distinct urban identity. Attempts by the authorities to remove the location were repeatedly met by stern resistance that was ultimately successful. Furthermore, Alexandra enjoyed a degree of independence, which made it a magnet for new arrivals in Johannesburg. Importantly, the location was a crucible for the emergence of numerous radical

political tendencies, which were influential in many of the main campaigns that shaped the character of the township.

The early years, 1912 – 1940

In 1905 Herbert Papenfus bought the farm Cyferfontein and divided it up into 338 plots for sale to whites. When this plan failed he redivided the area into 2,308, 144 x 82 feet plots for sale to Africans and coloureds in 1912, a year before the promulgation of the infamous Land Act. In

1913, 40 houses had been erected in the upper areas of Alexandra and by 1919, 730 plots had been sold. The first wave standholders – bommastandi – had been relatively prosperous sharecroppers and labour tenants who were forced off farms. They had some capital to purchase land and skills to become involved in entrepreneurial activities.

Property ownership became a critical symbol of status and of permanence in the urban areas. Plots in Alexandra cost between £45 for middle and £50 for corner sites. At the time, it was regarded as an upmarket version of Sophiatown.

For the first few decades of its existence the state refused to take responsibility for the location. Residents sarcastically referred to the township as "Nobody's Baby". The lack of state intervention allowed the township relative autonomy from official

1912 – 1940



By the end of the 1920s Alexandra's population stood at 7,200 families

surveillance and control. In 1916 the Alexandra Health Committee was established to administer the affairs of the location. It consisted of five members, including members nominated by residents. The Health Committee became a source of pride, a symbol of the area's political autonomy, and added to its distinctiveness.

By the end of the 1920s Alexandra's population stood at 7,200 families. Over the next decade its population increased steadily, mainly as a result of the state's eviction of squatters from inner city slums. Approximately 5,000 of these squatters chose to move to Alexandra causing its population to grow to 16,747 in 1936. As the location's population grew, so too did the clamour from the surrounding white suburbanites and city officials for the removal of Alexandra. These demands grew louder in the 1940s when the location's

population rocketed to nearly 100,000. But local resistance and the state's unwillingness to carry the cost of removing the entire township prevented the realisation of the demands for removal of the township. Moreover, Alexandra had become an important source of labour for industries and households in the northern suburbs.

Claiming the right to the city, 1940-1958

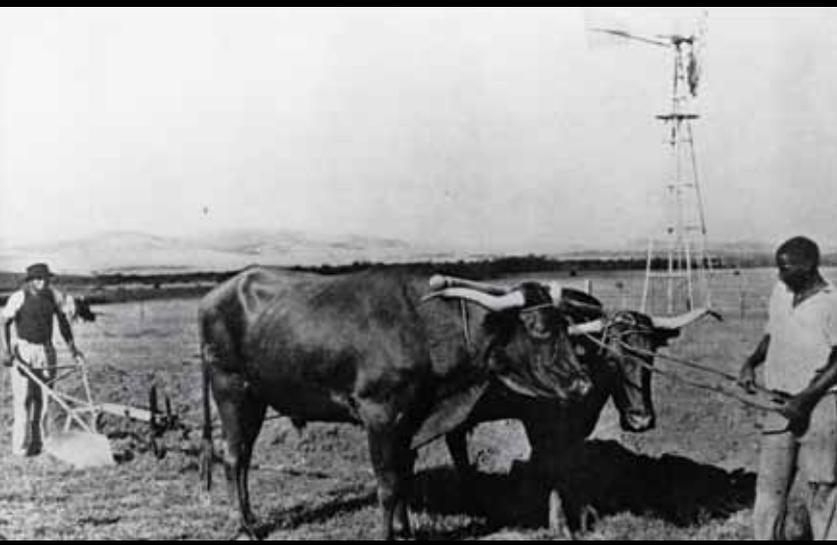
The struggles against removals enhanced Alexandrans' determination to stake their claim to Johannesburg. From the late 1930s the area witnessed a radicalisation of politics and the proliferation of local organisations. The Alexandra Township Stand Owners' and Vigilance Association was formed in 1935, the Alexandra Workers' Union in 1937 and a year later a branch of the Communist Youth



League of South Africa. When the authorities attempted to create an all-white Health Committee, 8000 residents attended a rally to protest.

The most significant struggles in the early 1940s were bus boycotts. Between 1940 and 1945 the private bus companies attempted almost annually to increase the fares but they were met with strong opposition, forcing them to

1940 – 1958



back down. Low wages earned by Africans meant even a one pence increase caused considerable hardship. In 1943 the Emergency Transport Action Committee (ETAC), led the bus boycott. ETAC was comprised mostly of left-wing figures, such as Lilian and Vincent Swart, Paul Mosaka, Gaur Radebe, Self Mampuru, A.E.P. Fish, Lilian Tshabalala, V.C. Berrange, R.G. Baloyi and J.B. Marks.

The ensuing boycott involved thousands of people walking twelve kilometres to and from work daily for weeks, making it one of the most significant demonstrations of the power of the emerging black urban working class. A similar boycott was mobilised the following year. These boycotts were hugely significant as they represented the first mass struggles in which the new urban African working class demanded rights associated with being urbanised. Furthermore, several of these local leaders in 1943 established the African Democratic Party because of their disillusionment with the ANC.

Overcrowding affected all black locations. Tenants were especially hard hit as they lived in abject conditions and were often charged exorbitant rents. By the end of the war the demand for housing had escalated. In Orlando, James Mpanza organised

a squatter movement to force the hand of the authorities. Schreiner Baduza, a local leader of the Communist Party, led a similar movement in Alexandra. The location also featured prominently in the struggles of the early 1950s such as the May 1950 General Strike, the Defiance Campaign of 1952 and the Bantu Education boycott.

Life in Alexandra was about a lot more than politics. Like Sophiatown, it was a mecca of urban life. Its mixed character – comprising educated elite, property owners, tenants, a constant influx of new immigrants and a growing number of women and families – created cultural and social vibrancy. Many African women brewed beer as a means to survive and established shebeens, the centre of social interaction in the location. Traditional African beers were relatively harmless, but

1940 – 1958



The 1957 bus boycott lasted three months and involved thousands

“The 1955 Freedom Charter was a plan that was influenced by people from Alexandra Township. Alexandra had people from Syria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, China, Lesotho, Swaziland, Greece, India and beyond. As we celebrate Alex’s Centenary we also celebrate the African Diaspora and the unity with the people of Africa and the World.”

Mr George Moyo, former Publisher of Alex Mail

concoctions such as ukabini and fukani were very potent. The area was also a centre of cultural life. Zakes Nkosi, regarded as a founder of African jazz, was one of the most celebrated of Alexandra’s home-grown musicians. Other greats like Hugh Masekela also lived here.

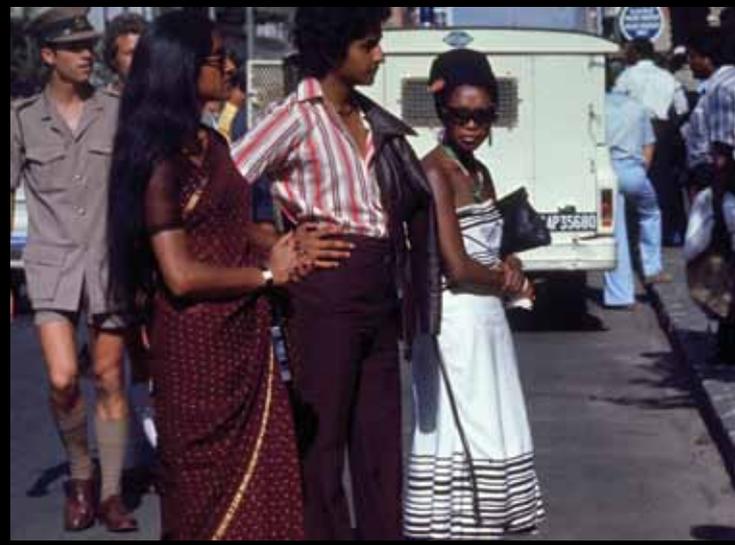
Local sport flourished in the 1940s and 1950s, with football and boxing attracting the most support. ‘Moroka Lions’, ‘Young Fighters’ and ‘Rangers’ and later ‘Gunners’ were the main football teams while boxers such as Richard ‘Black Hawk’ Hlubi became provincial

champions. Other codes like tennis and golf also attracted passionate supporters. Alexandra earned notoriety as a centre of gangsterism in this period. Early gangs included the ‘Tuta Ranch’, ‘Zorro’s Fighting Legion’ and the ‘Berlins’. In the 1950s Alexandra was terrorised by the infamous ‘Spoilers’ and then ‘Msomis’.

Alexandrans also placed a premium on education, which was provided by several independent missionary schools: Amalgamated Junior, Anglican, East United, Lutheran, Methodist, Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk and Swiss. By the 1950s a new generation

of young intellectuals had emerged in the area and featured prominently in various aspects of location life. One of these intellectual cohorts consisted of people such as Dan Mokonyane, Lawrence Mayisela, Ethan Mayisela, Gilbert Nhlapo, Simon Noge and Arthur Magerman who became members of the Movement for the Democracy of Content (MDC) and played a pivotal role in the 1957 bus boycott: Azikhwelwa – We Will Not Ride! That struggle marked the high point of local mass mobilisation, and arguably of popular political struggle in Johannesburg as a whole. Lasting three months, the boycott involved thousands of commuters daily walking to and from Johannesburg. Alfred Nzo, Josias Madzunya and Dan Mokonyane were among the main figures in this epic and eventually victorious struggle. Ironically, the success of the bus boycott hastened the

1940 – 1958



central government's decision to bring Alexandra under its control.

From removals to reprieve, 1958 to 1979

From the late 1950s the apartheid government implemented policies aimed at reversing African urbanization and to promote the homelands system. These policies threatened the distinctive urban character of Alexandra. In 1958 the state disbanded the Health Committee and replaced it with the Peri-Urban Areas Board. Alexandrans suddenly found themselves subjected to pass and permit controls that undermined their independence. Perhaps more seriously, large scale forced removals were implemented: within four years 45,000 people were relocated to Soweto and Tembisa. The Alexandra Anti-Peri-Urban Areas Committee, which grew out of the bus boycott, campaigned against the removals, but the suppression following the

Sharpeville massacre in 1960 made any kind of mobilization difficult. Moreover, the ANC and PAC were forced to operate underground and adopted a strategy of armed struggle. Martin Ramogadi, a leading underground figure in the ANC, reported that many youth from Alexandra applied to join Umkhonto weSizwe.

In 1963 the state decided to convert Alexandra into a hostel city, that is, a dormitory township for male and female migrants. To achieve this it planned to remove the remaining residents from the area, to terminate property ownership, demolish family houses and on their ruins erect single sex hostels. Alexandrans, who cherished their urban status, suddenly found their urban existence rendered extremely precarious. The new laws hit African women particularly hard. Not only were they subjected to passes but from the mid-

1960s they were prohibited from being placed on waiting lists for family accommodation. Siphon Kubhekha's mother was regularly arrested for not having the right permit. In 1964 she could no longer tolerate the constant harassment and left the location. When the hostels were eventually opened in the early 1970s the state immediately renewed its plans to remove all non-migrants from the township. In December 1974 hundreds of property owners were given less than one month's notice to vacate their properties.

But the times were changing: black people were no longer prepared simply to give in to the government. Black Consciousness instilled pride and determination among students, who also began to organise themselves. In Alexandra, a growing number of older residents faced by the threat of evictions began to challenge the state by refusing

1958 – 1979



Within four years 45,000 people were relocated to Soweto and Tembisa

to move. The student uprising of 1976 shattered the political quiescence that had followed the Sharpeville massacre. Although the student uprising started in Soweto, Alexandra quickly became a centre of the rebellion. On 18 June 1976, student leaders organised a march through the township, which was brutally suppressed by the police. Twenty-nine people were killed on that day. In September 900 young people were arrested as part of a nation-wide crackdown. But the spirit of the youth could not be broken. In 1977 the Alexandra Students' League (ASL) was established to co-ordinate student struggles in the township. The first executive of the ASL included Sylvester Ndaba (president), Hlome Mbatha (chairman), Steve Tau, Jackie Seroke, Zebelon Cebekhulu and Matoto Mtjalela. Their efforts were supported on the cultural front by the Khauleza Cultural Ensemble.

A second important strand in the local resistance centred on the future of Alexandra. The Alexandra Liaison Committee was established by concerned residents, including Robert Sishi, Harry Makubiri, Sam Mathebula, Lucas Khoza, Leepile Taunyane and Reverend Sam Buti to oppose evictions and to demand the state abandon its plan to remove Alexandra. The joint campaign by older residents and the youth enjoyed massive support, including from communities outside the township. Under this pressure, the government in 1979 acceded to the demand. The Citizen reported that '[t]housands of people in Alexandra stayed awake last night celebrating the good news by singing and praying. At midnight, church bells started tolling and many thronged the streets.' It was a great victory for the people of Alexandra.



1979 – 1994



Mzabalazo, the struggle for freedom, 1979 – 1994

The Save Alexandra Party (formerly the Liaison Committee) was now led by Sam Buti and enjoyed a honeymoon period after the reprieve and, unlike most other township authorities, had genuine popular support. However, its popularity began to wane as its association with the government failed to solve the problems of poverty in the area. The state's neglect of Alexandra was graphically highlighted in at least two notorious respects. Firstly, there was an almost complete absence of electricity, which had earned the township the moniker of 'Dark City'. Secondly, the unhygienic bucket system remained in use into the 1980s. Overcrowding was endemic despite the massive programme of forced removals, which aimed to reduce the township's population to 30,000. By 1980 the township's

population was estimated to be close to 60,000.

The state reneged on its promise, precisely at the point when thousands of new immigrants began to stream into the area to make a life for themselves in the 'City of Gold'. Initially the West Rand Administration Board responded with characteristic violence against the new arrivals, demolishing their shacks in the early hours of the morning and forcing them back to the rural areas. Inevitably, resistance began to be mounted. In the early 1980s, the struggle against the authorities was led by a group called Ditshwantsho tsa Rona. Through its paper, Izwi lase Township, the organisation exposed the problems with the elite housing projects proposed by the Council. As committed socialists they supported various local civic struggles and in 1984 established the Alexandra

Residents' Association (ARA), which aimed '[T]o fight for adequate housing for residents at rents they can afford.'

At the same time the student movement was being rejuvenated. From 1982 the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) began to establish a presence in Alexandra's secondary schools, Alexandra High School and Minerva. Lot Thobejane and Vincent Tshabalala are remembered as the two inspirational figures of the local Cosas branch.

In February 1983 Cosas succeeded in bringing together several local youth organisations and student activists from the high schools to discuss the formation of a youth organisation. Among those who attended were members from Thusong Youth Club, Thabisong Youth Club and Khauleza Cultural Ensemble, as well as youth from the Catholic and Methodist churches. On 25

1979 – 1994

By the end of the 1980s the local civic movement led a campaign to transform the governance of Johannesburg by demanding a single tax base and major investment into the upgrading of townships.

September 1983 between 200 and 300 young people attended the launch of the Alexandra Youth Congress (Ayco), which was held at the Entokozweni Centre. The first executive consisted of Paul Mashatile, Peter Makgoba, Jacob Mtshali, Connie Hlatshwayo, Naomi River, Nesto Kgope, Patrick Banda, Obed Bapela, Emmanuel Maike, Ernest Ndlovu and Aubrey Kitime. These Congress formations affiliated to the United Democratic Front. Despite the proliferation in organisations, Alexandra seemed to lag behind other townships in effective mass mobilisation struggle. All this changed in 1986 with the Six Day War.

The trigger to the momentous events of 1986 was the fatal shooting of Michael Diradingwe on Saturday 1 February. His funeral on February 15 was attacked by the police, which unleashed days of almost

continuous conflict. On the fourth day of the uprising about 40,000 residents congregated at the Alexandra Stadium to protest police brutality and to highlight the grievances of township residents. Amidst this local warfare, the newly created Alexandra Action Committee held its first formal meeting at the house of Sarah Mthembu. Trade union leaders Moses Mayekiso, Siphon Kubhekha and Richard Mdakane played pivotal roles in the new movement. General meetings were held across the location where it was decided to create democratic organs of people's power: yard/block and street committees. 'The ANC in exile responded to the establishment of organs of people's power by calling for the creation of these structures across the country as a means to replace the discredited Black Local Authorities. At the same time underground structures

of the ANC began to be established in some townships and associated themselves with the initiative of the internal mass movement, which they in turn had helped shape with their own educational and propaganda thrusts. A list of grievances was compiled, including demands to end high rentals, bad houses, poor electrification, bucket system, high unemployment, poor education, police occupation of school and township and influx control. In response the state unleashed a reign of terror on Alexandra, which caused some setbacks, but failed to break the resolve of the community and its representatives.

By the end of the 1980s the local civic movement led a campaign to transform the governance of Johannesburg by demanding a single tax base and major investment into the upgrading of townships. In the early 1990s the



local leaders of Alexandra played a key role in the negotiations to create new and democratic local authorities. The February 1991 Alexandra Accord, signed between the Alexandra Civic Organisation and the Sandton Council, was a striking victory for the civic. It was agreed to write off rent and service arrears (estimated at R12.4 million), to upgrade the hostels, to improve services and general conditions in the township and to transfer rented houses to the ownership of residents. At a national level the unbanning of the ANC and other liberation organisations inaugurated the formal process of negotiations. However, as peace and democracy appeared on the horizon the townships of the Reef, including Alexandra, were engulfed by internecine violence between Inkatha-supporting hostel dwellers and township residents.

At first it appeared the violence that broke out on the East Rand would escape Alexandra. But the remnants of the old council felt very aggrieved about losing the limited authority they enjoyed and enlisted the support of the IFP to undermine the ACO and the ANC. IFP hostel dwellers now asserted control first of Madala hostel and then over the residential area next to the hostel. Bordered by 2nd Avenue in the west, Roosevelt Road in the north, 6th Avenue in the east and London Road in the south, and with the hostel at its heart, this area became known as 'Beirut'. Fierce fighting continued for at least two years during which many people died. Community self-defense units, initiated by the civics and the ANC, and based on the 'organs of people's power', effectively countered the violence emanating from the hostels. By the time of the first democratic elections in 1994 Alexandra was

relatively peaceful and the tens of thousands of people who cast their ballots were understandably optimistic that their lives would be transformed in the new South Africa.

The promise of Freedom, 1994 – 2012

In 1983 Alexandra's population was estimated between 50,000 and 70,000, but by the end of the 1980s, the figure had increased to between 200,000 and 300,000, registering an astounding increase of about 400 percent in less than a decade. Without the provision of formal housing the vast majority of these people were forced to live in shacks in the yards of old houses, on the pavements, river banks and in free-standing squatter camps. At the beginning of the 21st century Alexandra was still characterised by abject poverty. Overcrowding and congestion remained ubiquitous, with the number



of shacks estimated at about 34,000. Unemployment remained very high at about 30 percent, while the 70 percent who were employed were categorised as unskilled, earning less than 1,000 rand per month.

The government in 2001 launched the ambitious 1.3 billion-rand Alexandra Renewal Project (ARP), which aimed to transform the township through multiple developmental interventions. Among its principal aims were to generate local economic activity, create jobs and to construct between 50,000 and 66,000 new housing units to deal with the severe housing shortage. However, by 2004 very little progress had been made in meeting these targets. As a consequence, various sections of the community, often led by new social movements, began to mobilise to demand the provision of decent housing. Organisations such as the

Vukuzenzele Crisis Committee occupied land to press home their demands. Although the rate of housing delivery accelerated from 2006, it was evident not everyone would get a house. Inevitably, this generated tensions and struggles over limited resources. This was the context for the outbreak of xenophobic violence in May 2008. The continuous stream of new arrivals into Alexandra generated considerable anxiety and antipathy amongst older residents who accused the 'newcomers' or 'outsiders' of 'jumping the queue' for housing and jobs. Much of this anger was increasingly directed at African foreigners. Fortunately, most Alexandrans rejected these arguments.

As had happened countless times in the history of the township, the spirit of community solidarity prevailed. Alexandra has retained its status as a preferred destination for poor

black people wanting to find a place in Johannesburg. It is a space of urban cosmopolitanism. It also remains a hub of multiple political voices, and of emancipatory politics. Over the past century Alexandra has contributed enormously to urban politics. Few places have such a rich and colourful history that encapsulates the vision and struggle for emancipation in the face of overwhelming odds. The realisation of an urban future – of equality, democracy and justice – will depend on Alexandra continuing to play a leading role, as it has over the past one hundred years.

This text is based on the book, Alexandra – A History, by P. Bonner and N. Nieftagodien, Wits University Press, 2008



2012

5th May 9am

Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate those slain in 1976 and 1986 uprisings – open to the public

22nd May 9am

Altrek Sports Complex, East Bank, Alexandra

Alex Centenary Media Launch through invitation only

25th May 11am

East Bank Hall, Alexandra

Cleansing Ceremony – open to the public

26th May 9am -2pm

Alex Stadium

Mini-carnival for the public followed by 2pm feast at the East Bank Hall

10th June 11am

Alex Stadium

Alex Centenary Inter-denominational church service

17th June 9am - All day event

Assembly point Anglican Church, 48 8th Avenue

ANC Centenary Alex Torch Relay

18th June 1pm

Assembly point Realogile High School

June 16th Commemoration

Joint Calendar of

ALEX GAMES

July 2012

Alexandra Stadium

The Maimane games is a soccer competition which involves various teams from Alex and surrounds. Biggest draw card will be Orlando Pirates vs PSL 11

SCHOOLS COMPETITION

1st July-September

This competition is targeted at schools with Quizzes about history & background of Alex

Competition for both primary & high schools. Individual prizes as well as school prizes

YOUTH EXPO

1st-3rd August

Alexandra Soccer Stadium

An expo showcasing career guidance for the youth of Alex. Tertiary institutions and main stream business will be exhibitors at this expo, giving the youth and all people of Alex useful information regarding further studies and career opportunities available at various organisations.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

11th-13th September

Alexandra Health Clinic

An expo where people from the community can get screened and tested for various diseases at no charge such as heart disease, Sugar Diabetes, HIV/Aids, and blood pressure. Lectures on how to live with various ailments and preventative measures will be addressed

ALEX VS DURBAN MUSIC FEST

21st September

Day to Evening Programme for the Youth, exposing & showcasing local talents in different genres

- Youth Day Club - Zone
- Skateboarding ramps
- Merchandising Zone (T/shirts, Caps etc)

THEATRE

Date TBA

Play narrating the history of Alex with an all star cast that celebrates our legends

Alexandra



Alexandra - Celebrating its People, its legacy, and heritage

Centenary Events 2012

HERITAGE & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

23rd September

- Featuring SA heavy weights and SA Music legends with the likes of **Hugh Masekela, Letta Mbuli, The Movers, Ali Cat & Caiphus Semenya**
- Keynote address from the President of South Africa

24th September

- Heritage day address by Arts & Culture Minister Paul Mashatile. Alex will be declared a heritage site. Identification of buildings which are 100 years old and seen fit to be declared as monuments
- Traditional dress and cultural regalia encouraged to celebrate and embrace our diversity as a country
- Launch of the six part documentary series ALEXandra at the Kings Theatre, Alex 7pm - by invitation. A premiere of one of the episodes

ICONS GALA DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY

27th October

Altrek Sports Complex

To commemorate all the icons of the community and celebrate their achievements. It will also celebrate the role that women have played in the greater Alex community

BUSINESS TRADE FAIR

14th - 18th November

Fountain Court in Sandton City

50 SMME's from Alex will have the opportunity to showcase their products and services. Exhibitions create platforms for direct marketing, promotions and one-on-one sessions to help the customer understand the product sold to them

CORPORATE GOLF DAY

8th November

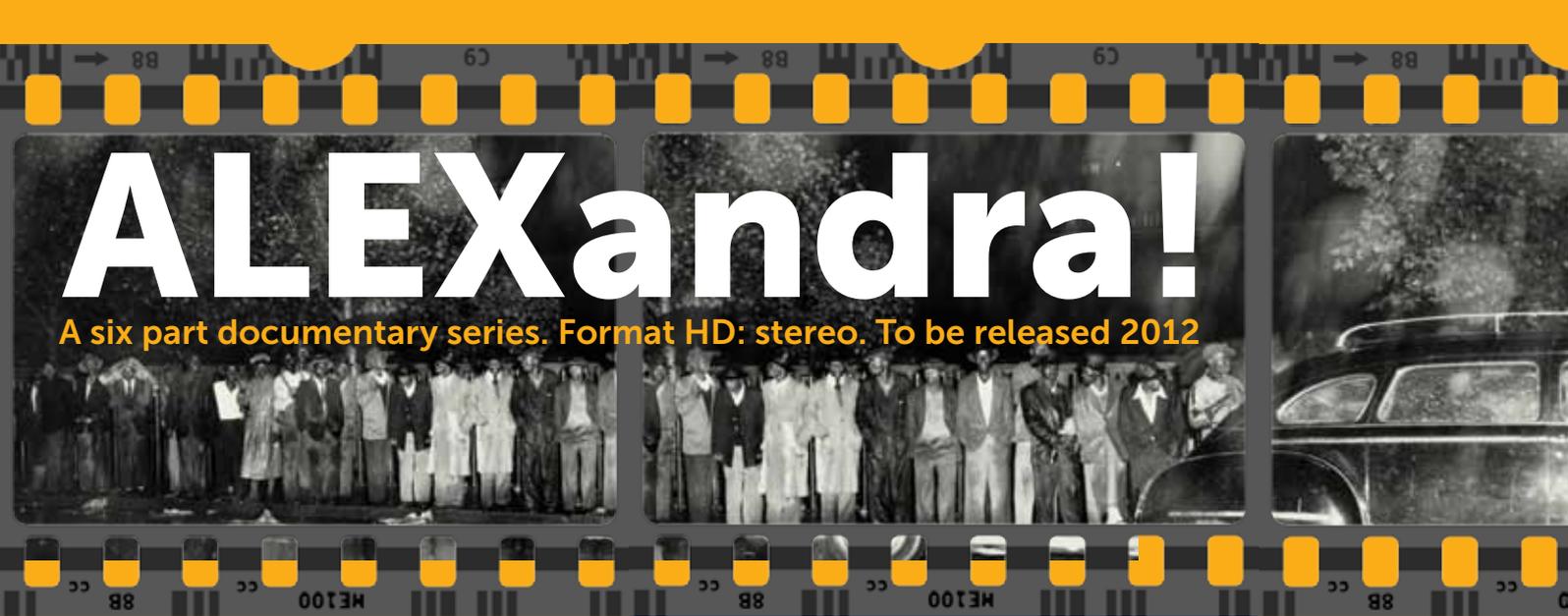
Wanderers Golf Club

Mainstream businesses are invited to participate in this golf challenge and this will give them an opportunity to network with people from Alex and get involved in the sustainable uplifting of Alex.

The reason for this event is to enhance interaction and affording businesses to pledge support to the upgrading of Alex in so much as youth centres, heritage sites, art museum, etc. All money raised from this event will go to local Alex charities



1912 – 2012



ALEXandra!

A six part documentary series. Format HD: stereo. To be released 2012

'Understanding your own village helps you to understand your world.'
(Leon Tolstoy)

When the book *Alexandra: A History* was published by Wits University Press in 2008, we read it and were immediately inspired by the significance of the township, as detailed in the book. We approached the authors of the book, Noor Nieftagodien and Philip Bonner, and through them the Alexandra Heritage Society, and entered into an agreement to make a six-part documentary series that would get this history out there in a way that a book cannot do. Having secured some funding from the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund, we embarked on our production period in January 2012 and aim to launch the series in the run up to the Alexandra Centenary celebrations in September 2012.

The story of Alexandra, its colorful characters, its highs, lows and ultimately, its pioneering cultural and political influence on the rest of the nation, lends itself both to local and international TV and DVD distribution. Our intention is

to create something that entertains, informs and inspires. The approach is history from below, the people of Alexandra as much as possible telling their own history, not just of the political legacy of Alexandra, which is rich in itself and has its heroes and heroines, but the music, the poetry, the sporting heroes and the gangsters, all spawned from Alexandra's dust.

Alexandrans have thus far proved themselves natural and entertaining storytellers. While their tales are vivid, giving us a vista into our nation's past and present, it is our hope that the series once completed will not only preserve and record its history, but will bring its contemporary reality to audiences far and wide. The series then becomes a movable heritage object that can be shared and potentially exhibited through many spaces – from public broadcast platforms, to civil society groups, schools and museums.

Many of the characters interviewed for the book are still living and have kindly agreed to appear in the series, offering

firsthand experiences dating back to the early years of the township. The episodes include interviews with over sixty people including Wally Serote, who makes Alex come alive with his writing, Simon Noge, an activist whose father worked for Herbert Papenfus, Louisa Rivers, who truanted from school to join the 1956 Women's March on Parliament, Moses Mayekiso who led the Six Day War in Alexandra, Paul Mashatile and Obed Bapela, who were central to the youth movement in the 1980s, Kgalema Motlanthe, a child of Alexandra, and of course, Madiba himself, who first tasted mass struggle during the 1943 bus boycott. But their memories of struggle are human ones, and therefore interspersed with those of love, births, laughter and pain, and eventually joy, expectation and sometimes disappointment as we reach the 1990s in the final episode.

Rehad Desai

Series Director

On behalf of the Human Rights Media Trust and Uhuru Productions



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