

Prime Ministers and Presidents for the Union and the Republic of South Africa

Synopsis

After the Anglo-Boer war ended, South Africa was unified as one country with four provinces. The unification took place on the 31 of May 1910. The provinces were the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal, and Cape. The British Monarch were the head of state. Prime Ministers governed the country. On the 31 of May 1961, South Africa declared independence from the British throne. A ceremonial president would be elected with a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister would govern the country while the president would promulgate the laws into acts. Several areas were earmarked as exclusive black areas. Some of these areas gained nominal independence but the world did not recognise these areas. In 1983 the constitution of South Africa changed with the president taking up an executive role. In 1994 the constitution was changed once again to include all races.

Purpose

The purpose of this exhibition is to display the Prime Ministers and the Presidents of South Africa. This includes a brief overview of their lives. The Prime Minister and the Presidents of the former independent states are also on display.

Content

Prime Ministers (1910 to 1961).
Presidents and Prime Minister (1961 to 1983).
Executive Presidents (1983 to 1994).
Executive Presidents of the Democratic South Africa (1994 to present).
Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Former Independence States.

Sources

- (1) Nuwe Geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika, Cameron, Spies, 1986.
- (2) Nuwe Geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika, Giliomee, Mbenga, 2012.
- (3) Wikipedia.
- (4) Firstday cover inserts

King George

King George was the head of the state up to 1910.



Union of South Africa

Prime Ministers (1910 to 1961)

Prime Minister: Louis Botha. (1910 to 1919)

He was born in Greytown, Natal on 26 March 1827 and grew up in the Orange Free State. Botha led the Dinuzulu Volunteers against Zibhebhu in 1884. In 1897, he became a member of the parliament of the Transvaal Republic. Botha represented the Boers at the peace negotiation in 1902. He signed the peace treaty of Vereeniging. Botha participated in the South African National Convention. In 1909, the South African Act was adopted by the British Parliament. The act allowed for the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. Botha became the first prime Minister. He died on 27 August 1919. (1)(2)

Louis Botha appears to be far left of the stamp.



Prime Minister: Jan Smuts (1919 to 1924)

Smuts succeeded Louis Botha as Prime Minister. Smuts was born on 24 May 1870. He studied law at Christ's College Cambridge and was called to the bar in 1894. However, Smuts returned to South Africa to practice law. He helped negotiate self-government for the Transvaal colony and became a Minister under Louis Botha. Smuts played a leading role in developing the constitution of the Union. During World War One he led the Union Defence Force in the East African campaign. Smuts was a philosopher and botanist par excellence. In the 1924 general elections, Smuts' South African Party was defeated by the National Party of Hertzog. (1)(2)



Prime Minister: Jan Smuts (1919 to 1924)



Jan Christiaan Smuts. 24.5.1870-11.9.1950



Prime Minister: Barry Hertzog (1924 to 1939)

Hertzog obtained his doctorate in law on 12 November 1892, from the University of Amsterdam. He practised law between 1892 and 1895 in Pretoria. In 1895, he was appointed to the high court of the Orange Free State. When the Orange Free State gained independence in 1907, Hertzog turned to politics. He was appointed as Attorney General and Director of education. Hertzog's third government was divided between the pro-British and pro-Nazi groups. He adopted a neutral stance. On 4 September 1939, the caucus revolted against Hertzog's neutrality. His government lost the vote on the issue. The Governor-general called a general election, but Hertzog resigned. His coalition partner Jan Smuts became the Prime Minister. (1)(2)



Prime Minister: Jan Smuts - 2nd Term (1939 to 1948)

On 24 May 1941, Smuts was appointed as Field-Marshal in the British Army. In May 1945, Smuts represented the Union of South Africa when the United Nations charter was drafted. His support for the war and backing of the Fagan Commission made him unpopular amongst the Afrikaner population. In 1948, D.F. Malan's Reunited National Party and pro-apartheid stance won the general election. Smuts became the first person outside the United Kingdom to be appointed as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Smuts died on his farm Doornkloof, Irene in Pretoria on 11 September 1950. (1)(2)

**Prime Minister:
Jan Smuts
2nd Term
(1939 to 1948)**

Commemorating the 100th Birthday of Field Marshal
Jan Christian Smuts.



Prime Ministers: D.F. Malan (1948 to 1954)

Malan was born on 22 May 1874 in Riebeeck-west, Cape Colony. He obtained B.A. degrees in music and science at Victoria College, Stellenbosch. Malan obtained a doctorate in Divinity at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands in 1905. Shortly after the National Party was formed, Malan entered politics. He was appointed as Editor of the *De Burger* newspaper. Malan exploited this position as a springboard for his political career. Bear in mind that political parties used newspapers as a communication channel. He established the Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging. During his six years as a Prime Minister, Malan firmly established segregation in the country. Malan resigned in 1954 and hoped that Dr Nicolaas Havenga would succeed him. However, Havenga was defeated by J.G. Strydom in the general election. (1)(2)



Prime Ministers: J.G. Strijdom (1954 to 1958)

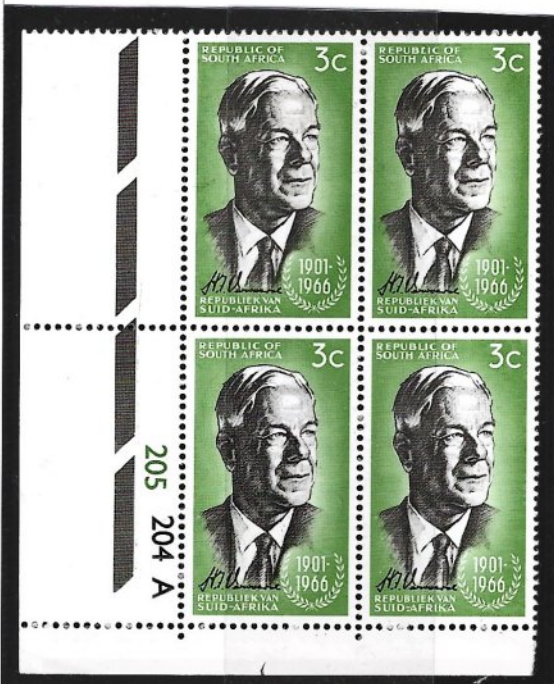
Hans Strijdom studied law at Victoria College. During World War One, he served in the German Southwest Africa Campaign as a member of the South African Medical Corps. Strijdom settled in Nylstroom. In 1929, he was elected as a Member of Parliament for Waterberg. He was a member of the National Party. Strijdom was in favour of establishing South Africa as a republic. He could not achieve this goal. After the National Party won 1948, elections, Strijdom become Minister of Agriculture. In 1954, he was elected as National Party leader and subsequently Prime Minister. He strengthened the apartheid policy through the Groups Areas Development Act. The treason trial and Freedom Charter happened in Strijdom's term. As a result of Strijdom's weak health, he was for long periods absent from the office. After his death on 24 August 1958, he was succeeded by Hendrik Verwoerd. (1)(2)

Hans Strijdom was the Second from the right on the stamp



Prime Ministers: Hendrik Verwoerd (1958 to 1966)

Verwoerd was born in Amsterdam the Netherlands on 8 September 1901. He studied at the University of Stellenbosch and completed his doctorate in Psychology in 1925. Verwoerd was appointed as a professor of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Stellenbosch. In 1937, he became the editor of the *Die Transvaler* and was elected to the Senate of South Africa. Malan appointed Verwoerd as minister of Native Affairs in 1950. In 1958, Verwoerd became Prime Minister after the death of Strijdom. As a minister and Prime Minister, he enacted several Apartheid laws. On 9 April 1960, David Pratt attempted to kill Verwoerd. Verwoerd survived the shots fired. On 31 May 1961, South Africa gained independence and a republic. On 6 September 1966, Verwoerd was killed by a parliament messenger Dimitri Tsafendas. Verwoerd banned the African National Congress and Pan African Congress. Also, future President Nelson Mandela would be imprisoned for sabotage. (1)(2) Take note; Verwoerd was prime minister to the Union and Republic of South Africa.



Republic of South Africa

Prime Ministers and State Presidents (1961 to 1984)

State President: C.R. Swart (1961 to 1967)

Blackie Swart was born on 5 December 1894 in the Winburg district, in the Boer republic of the Orange Free State. During the second Boer War, his mother and her children were held in a concentration camp. His father was wounded and captured by the British and became a prisoner of war. In 1914, Swart was appointed as a barrister and practised from 1919 to 1948. In 1923, he became a member of parliament until his defeat in 1938. In 1948 he was appointed as Minister of Justice and responsible to reinforce the powers of the South African Police. Minister between 1954 and 1959. In 1959 he was appointed as Governor-General representing Queen Elizabeth. After the Republic's constitution was signed, Swart asked the Crown to release him from office. He was elected the first State President in a ceremonial role, replacing the Queen and the Governor-General. He retired in 1967 and died on 16 July 1982. (1)(2)

Jim Fouché was elected State President in place of Ebenhaezer Dönges who died before taking office.

State President: Jim Fouché (1968 to 1975)

Jim Fouché served as South Africa's second State President. He was in the Republic of Orange Free State. Fouché was a member of parliament from 1941 to 1950 and from 1960 to 1968. From 1950 to 1959 he served as Administrator of the Orange Free State. Jim Fouché was minister of defence between 1959 and 1966. He was elected State President in place of Ebenhaezer Dönges who died before taking office. Fouché died on 23 September 1980. (1)(2)(3)



State President: Jim Fouché (1968 to 1975)



PER LUGPOS
BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



10.IV.68

AMPTELIKE GEDENK KOEVERT
OFFICIAL COMMEMORATIVE ENVELOPE 7

AAN/TO:

MEJ. P. STEYN,
GOLDSTRAAT 88,
KRUGERSDORP WES.

Prime Ministers: John Vorster (1966 to 1978)

On 13 December 1915, B.J. Vorster also known as John was born in Uitenhage, Cape Colony. He studied law at the University of Stellenbosch. He graduated in 1938 and was a clerk to the judge president of the Cape Provisional Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa. His first law practice was in Port Elizabeth. The second was in the Transvaal town of Brakpan. Vorster drew attention when he opposed South Africa's intervention on the side of the Allies in World War Two. He was a member of the pro-Nazi *Ossewabrandwag*. The organization conducted acts of sabotage during World War two to limit the war effort. As a member of the organization, Vorster was detained at Koffiefontein in 1942. After his release, he became a member of the National Party. In 1961, as Minister of Justice, he oversaw the Rivonia trial. In 1966 Vorster was elected to succeed Verwoerd. In the 1970s, Vorster encouraged the Department of Information to engage in clandestine operations. He did not inform his cabinet. The funds for the operations came from a secret defence account. Vorster resigned in 1978 because of the scandal. (1)(2)

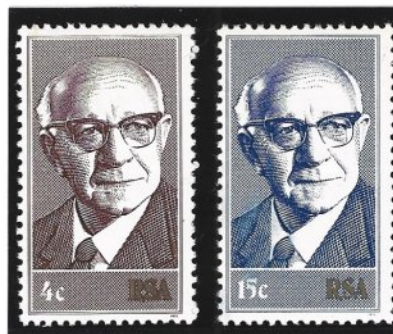


Prime Minister: P.W. Botha (1978 to 1984)

Botha is an outspoken opponent of the black majority rule and international communism. Pieter Willem Botha was born on 12 January 1916. He attended Grey University College as a law student but left to pursue a career in politics. In his early twenties, Botha began working for the National Party. He joined the *Ossewabrandwag* but condemned them for supporting the German-Nazi attack on the Soviet Union. Botha altered his ideological stance to Christian Nationalism. At the age of 30 years, he was elected head of the National Party Youth. Following the resignation of Vorster, Botha was elected as Prime Minister. During his rule, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda gained independence. In 1984, the prime minister's functions were merged with the State President. Botha was elected as State President. (1)(2)

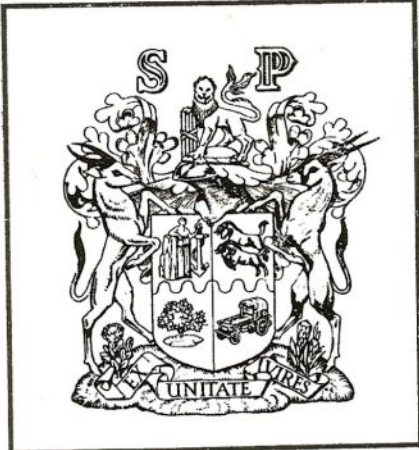
State President: Nic Diederichs (1975 to 1978)

Nic Diederichs was born on 17 November 1903 in Lady Brand in the Orange River Colony. He studied at Grey Collage in Bloemfontein, and the universities of München, Keulen and Leiden. Employed at the University of the Orange Free State, Diederichs wrote extensively on the economic development of the Afrikaners. He joined the National Party and became a member of parliament in 1948. As minister of Finance, he fulfilled a leading role in the cabinet. On 19 April 1975 Diederichs became State President. He passed away on 21 August 1978. (1)(2)



State President: Nic Diederichs (1975 to 1978)

PER LUGPOS
BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



Derde Staatspresident
Third State President
19 April 1975

State President: John Vorster (1978 to 1979)

Following Vorster's resignation as Prime Minister, he was elected to a largely honorary position as State President. During his term, Vorster used secret funds to establish The Citizen a major English-language newspaper that favoured the National Party. He resigned from the post in 1979. Vorster died in 1983. (1)
(2)



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATE PRESIDENT

STAATSPRESIDENT

State President: John Vorster (1978 to 1979)

PT 3.10 Special Issue
Spesiale Uitgifte



Fourth State President
Vierde Staatspresident

State President: Marais Viljoen (1979 to 1984)

Born on 2 December 1915, Marais Viljoen went to Jan van Riebeeck High School in Cape Town. After completing school, he worked at the post office and thereafter at the Transvaler. Viljoen was acting State President from 21 August 1978 to 10 October 1978. He was a moderate member of the National party. After Vorster's resignation, Viljoen served as State President from 1979 to 1984. Viljoen retired in 1984.
(1)(2)



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STATE PRESIDENT

STAATSPRESIDENT

State Presidents CR Swart, Jim Fouche, Nic Diederichs, John Voster, Marais Viljoen, PW Botha



P.W. Botha

Staatspresident · State President

'Met waagmoed en geloof vorentoe'
'Forward with courage and faith'

P.W. Botha

KANTOOR VAN DIE STAATSPRESIDENT
PRIVAATSAK/PRIVATE BAG X83

1984 -11- - 2

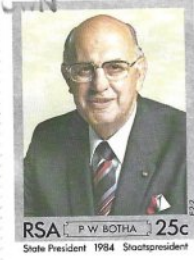
4.9(a)
Spesiaal
Special

PRETORIA 0001

STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



P.W. Botha
NOVEMBER 1984
STATE PRESIDENT



Prime Minister: P.W. Botha (1977 to 1984)

Pieter Willem Botha was born on 12 January 1916 and died on 31 October 2006. Botha was an opponent of the of black majority rule and international communim. Although, his administration made concessions towrds political reform, wide spread human right abuses and riots took place.

Executive State Presidents (1984 to 1994)

State President: P.W. Botha (1984 to 1989)

Botha introduced a new constitution with a three-chamber approach. Although Botha implemented changes, he supported apartheid. In 1985, Botha gave his *Rubicon* speech. In the speech, he refused to give the Black Majority voting rights. Also, refused to release Nelson Mandela from prison. Botha lost his influence. This was directly attributed to the Reagan and Gorbachev summit in 1988. On January 1989 Botha suffered a mild stroke. On 2 February 1989, he resigned as party leader. In March F.W. de Klerk was elected as the new State President. However, Botha refused to resign. On 1 April 1989 De Klerk and Botha agreed that Botha will retire from parliament after the September parliament elections. Botha refused to testify at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about apartheid-era crimes. He died of a heart attack on 31 October 2006. (1)(2)



State President: P.W. Botha (1984 to 1989)



P.W. Botha

Staatspresident · State President

'Met waagmoed en geloof vorentoe'
'Forward with courage and faith'

P.W. Botha



4.9(a)
Spesiaal
Special

2 NOVEMBER 1984
STAATSPRESIDENT
STATE PRESIDENT
• KAAPSTAD •
CAPE TOWN



STAATSPRESIDENT
STATE PRESIDENT
• KAAPSTAD •
CAPE TOWN



State President: F.W. de Klerk (1989 to 1994)

F.W. de Klerk was born on 18 March 1936 in Johannesburg. He studied law at Potchefstroom University. His father was a member of the Senate. In 1962, de Klerk set up his law practice. In 1972, de Klerk was offered to teach at the Potchefstroom University law faculty. He accepted it. The National Party approach him to stand as a candidate for the general election for the contingency of Vereeniging and subsequently he was elected to the House of Assembly. De Klerk succeeded P.W. Botha in 1989 as state president. He negotiated with Nelson Mandela to dismantle apartheid and released him from prison. De Klerk overturned the ban on the African National Congress, Pan African Congress, and the Communist Parties in 1990. On 10 December 1993, he and Mandela received the Nobel Prize for peace. After the first democratic election, Mandela succeeded him. De Klerk resumed deputy president duties in the new democratic South Africa. In March 2021 de Klerk was diagnosed with mesothelioma cancer and passed away in November 2021. (1)(2)(3)



State President: F.W. de Klerk (1989 to 1994)



RSA
 Staatspresident
 State President
 1989-09-20
 PRETORIA
 34.1



RSA
 Staatspresident
 State President
 1989-09-20
 PRETORIA
 34.1

5-6-1 Spesiale Uitgifte
 Special Issue



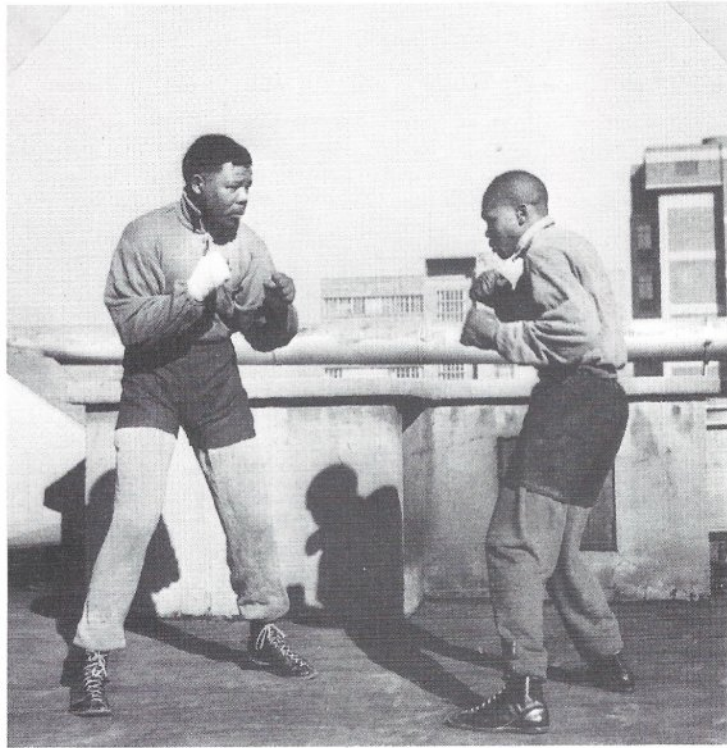
Executive State Presidents Democratic Elected South Africa (1994 to present)

State President: Nelson Mandela (1994 to 1999)

Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July 1918, in Mvezo Umtata, Cape Province. He grew up in the Village of Qunu. He studied law at the Universities of Fort Hare and Witwatersrand. At Witwatersrand University Mandela experienced discrimination. He joined the African National Congress in 1943 and co-founded the African National Congress Youth League. During the treason trial of 1956, Mandela was acquitted. In 1961 he assisted to establish Umkhonto Sizwe. This was the military arm of the African National Congress. In 1962, Mandela was convicted of treason and sentenced to jail on Robben Island. In 1990, Mandela was released from prison. In 1994, Mandela was elected as the first democratically elected State president of South Africa. In 1999, he declined a second presidential term and Thabo Mbeki became president. Mandela established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to reconcile all the different racial groups in the country. He was also a mediator during the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial. (1)(2)(3)



State President: Nelson Mandela (1994 to 1999)



Nelson Mandela



State President: Thabo Mbeki (1999 to 2008)

Thabo Mbeki was the son of Govan Mbeki was born on 25 June 1942, in Mbuleni in the former Transkei. At the age of 14, he joined the African National Congress Youth League. Since 1975, Mbeki has been part of the National Executive Committee. At the age of twenty, he left South Africa to study at the University of Sussex, England. He studied Economics. Mbeki became State President in 1999. Mbeki was criticised for his "quiet diplomacy" with Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. Worldwide his AIDS/HIV policy was criticised. He did not introduce mother-to-child prevention measures. At the African National Congress conference in 2007, the party asked Mbeki to resign. This was the result of the High Court finding that he interfered with the National Prosecution Authority's investigation of corruption charges against Zuma. The judgement was later overturned. Kgalema Motlanthe succeeded Mbeki. (3)



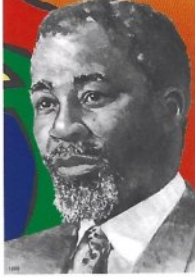
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 1999



south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



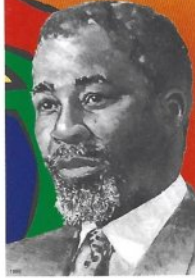
south africa
standard postage



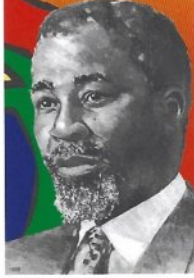
south africa
standard postage



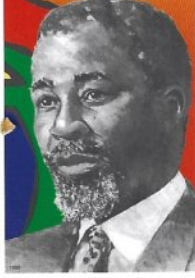
south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



south africa
standard postage



1999.05.31 GPW



State President: Kgalema Motlanthe (2008 to 2009)

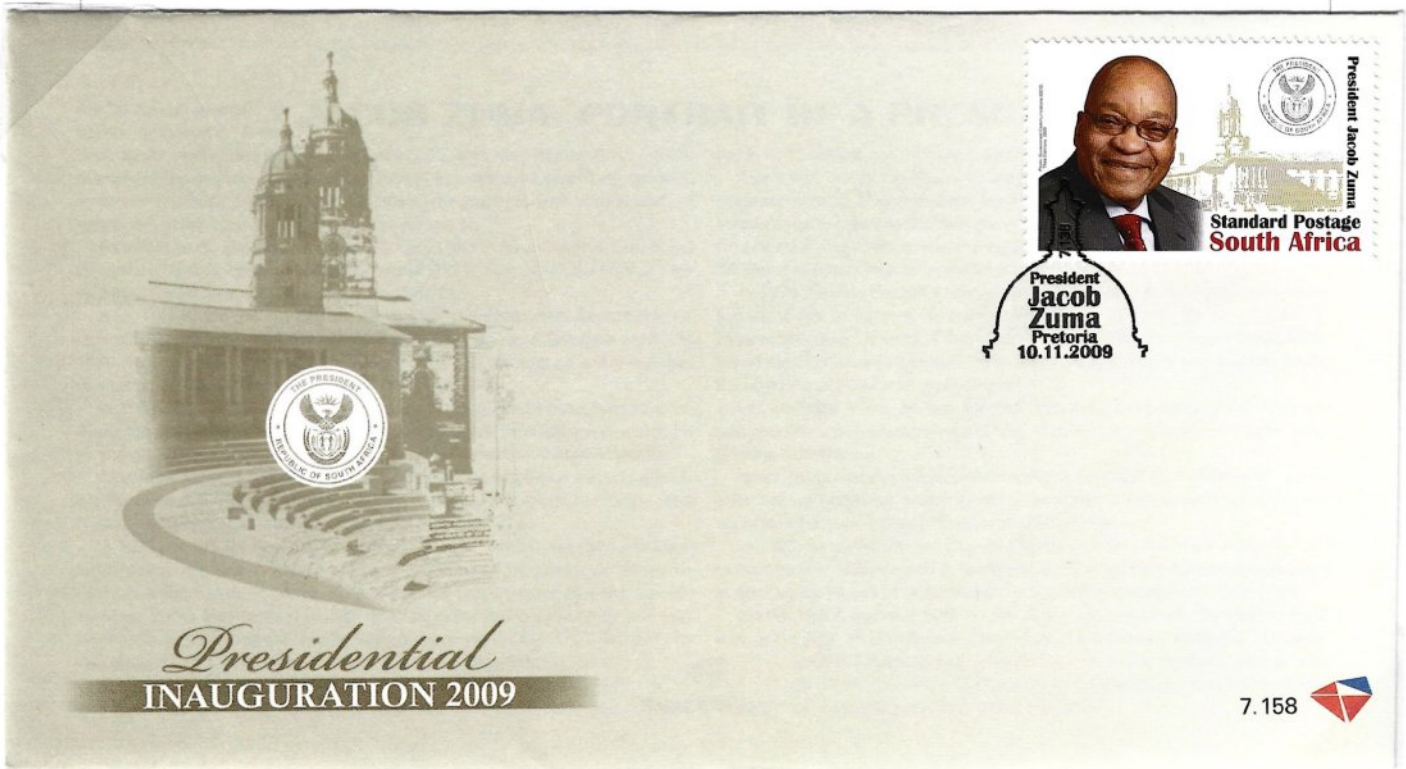
Born on 19 July 1949, Kgalema Motlanthe and his family were forcibly moved from Alexandra to Soweto where Motlanthe was raised. He was a liquor store supervisor for the commercial unit of the Johannesburg City Council. In the late 1970s, Motlanthe joined the underground armed wing of the African National Congress, Umkhonto Sizwe. In April 1976 he was arrested for sabotage. Motlanthe was found guilty and imprisoned on Robben Island. In 1978, he was released and joined the Nation Union of Mine Workers. In 2004 Motlanthe criticized the black economic empowerment policy. He said the principle does not empower all previously disadvantaged groups. Motlanthe took steps to transform the policy. In 2008, he was elected to replace Mbeki. Motlanthe replace the Department of Health's Minister to amend the policy that was set by Mbeki. In 2009 he approved two bills disbanding the elite anti-corruption unit of the National Prosecution Authority. On 12 March 2014, Motlanthe announced his retirement from the government and parliament. (3)



Photo: Government Communications (GCIS)

State President: Jacob Zuma (2009 to 2018)

Born on 12 April 1942 in the Nkandla, Village in Natal. In 1959, he joined the African National Congress at the age of 17. Zuma spent ten years as a political prisoner on Robben Island. After his release, he went into exile. He became the African National Congress's intelligence department. Zuma became deputy State President under Thabo Mbeki. In 2005, Mbeki dismissed Zuma. Zuma's financial advisor was found guilty of corruption. Zuma was charged with corruption. When Zuma became State President all charges against him were withdrawn. Zuma's presidency was plagued with corruption and controversy. (3)

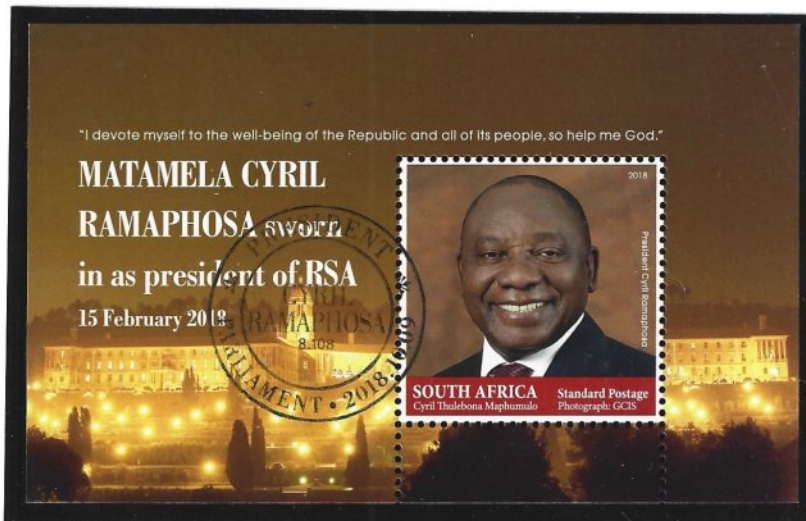


State President: Jacob Zuma (2009 to 2018)



State President: Cyril Ramaphosa (2018 to 2024)

Cyril Ramaphosa is a South African business man and politician. He was born on 17 November 1952 in Soweto, Johannesburg. In 1972, he started studying law at the University of the North in Limpopo province. While studying he got involved in student politics. He enlisted in various student political groups. In 1974, he was detained under the terrorism act for organising pro-Frelimo rallies and again in 1976 following the unrest in Soweto. In 1981, after his release, Ramaphosa completed his law degree. Ramaphosa enlisted in several labour unions. After resigning from politics in 2014, he became businessman. Ramaphosa became executive chairman of the Shanduka Group. He founded the Group. Shanduka invested in mineral resources, energy, real estate, banking, insurance and in the SEACOM fibre cable. Ramaphosa is the owner of McDonald's South Africa. He serves on the boards of MTN and the Lonmin Mine. He negotiated with the National Party to bring about peace and end apartheid. In 2018, Ramaphosa became State President of South Africa after the African National Congress forced Jacob Zuma to resign. (3)



State President: Cyril Ramaphosa (2024 to present)

In the general elections of 2024 Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected for a second term.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION
2024**

8.003



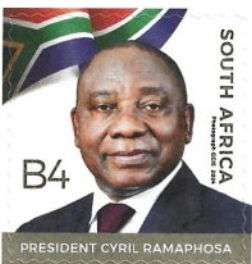
PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA 2024



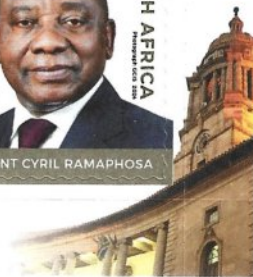
2024-11-16



MORTIMER



8806 8807 8808 8809 8810



Presidents of the Former Independent States

President: Kaiser Mathanzima (1976 to 1986)

Mathanzima was born in Qamata, Transkei. He was a nephew of Nelson Mandela. He studied law at the University of Fort Hare but never practised. Mathanzima involved himself in the tribe and Transkei politics. Mathanzima argued that *emancipation would come through a federation of semi-autonomous black states, rather than through militant nationalism*. The African National Congress condemned his view. In 1976, Mathanzima got prime minister when Transkei gained nominal independence. With the death of State President Botha Sigcau, he became President. George Mathanzima, the brother of Kaiser, became Prime minister in 1979. In 1986, Kaiser faced evidence of corruption and was forced to retire. Mathanzima died in Queenstown on his 88th birthday. ⁽³⁾



Prime Minister: Kaiser Mathanzima (1976 to 1986)



Second term 20 February 1979



K·D·MATANZIMA

Ubeko ngokomthetho loMongameli Wesibini
Inauguration of the Second State President

IRIPHABLIKI YETRANSKEI · REPUBLIC OF TRANSKEI



Prime Minister: Kaiser Mathanzima (1976 to 1986)

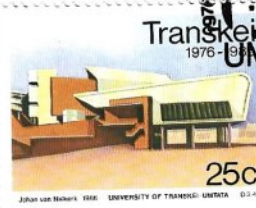
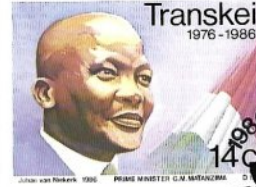


Prime Minister: George Mathanzima (1976 to 1986)

As previously indicated the George was the brother of Kaiser Mathanzima. They were the cofounder of the Transkei Independent Party. George was pointed as the state president. Bantu Holomisa forced his resignation and he went into exile. Stelle Signau succeeded him as prime minister. In December 1987, Holomisa forced her out of office in a coup d'tate and took the power himself. George was born on 26 December 1918, and died on 10 November 2000. The Transkei administration was plaque with corruption.



Prime Minister: George Mathanzima (1976 to 1986)



Transkei
ISHUMI LEMINYAKA YENKULULEKO  2.10



Prime Minister: Lucas Mangope (1977 to 1994)

Born on 27 December 1923, Mangope was the Prime Minister of Bophuthatswana. After obtaining his Higher Primary Teacher Diploma in 1951, he started teaching in Afrikaans. He received a reward in 1959. One of his classes obtains the best results in the Afrikaans language. In 1972 he became the chief minister of Bophuthatswana. He became president of Bophuthatswana in 1977. On 10 February his government was overthrown by members of the military police. Mangope was reinstated following the intervention of the South African Defence Force. In 1994 and during the transition to non-racial democracy negotiations, Mangope stated that he is not interested to be reintegrated into South Africa. Most of Bophuthatswana's residents were in favour to be reintegrated. In March 1994, South Africa's foreign minister and Transitional Executive Council removed Mangope from office. (3)

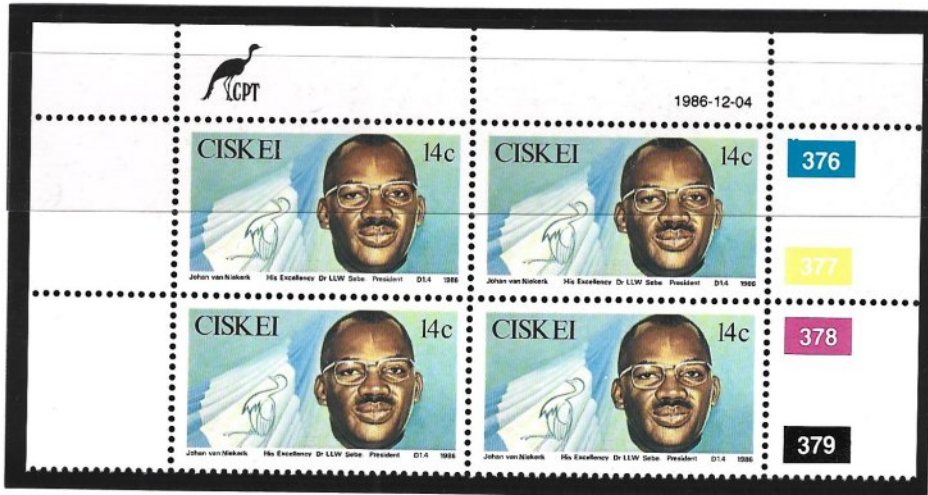


NGWAGA WA NTLHA WA KEMONOSI

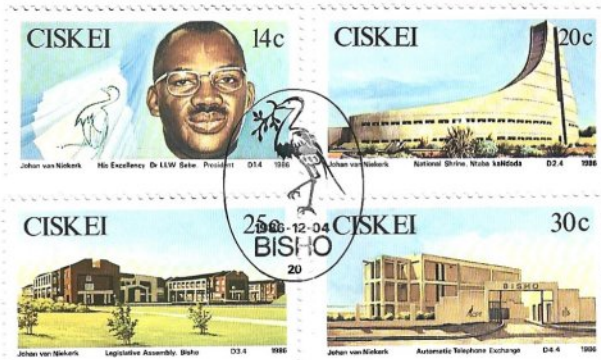


Prime Minister: Lennox Sebe (1981 to 1983)

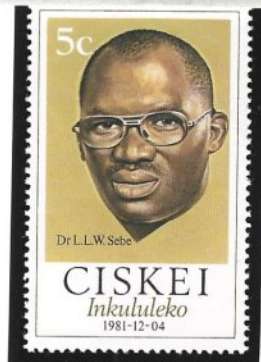
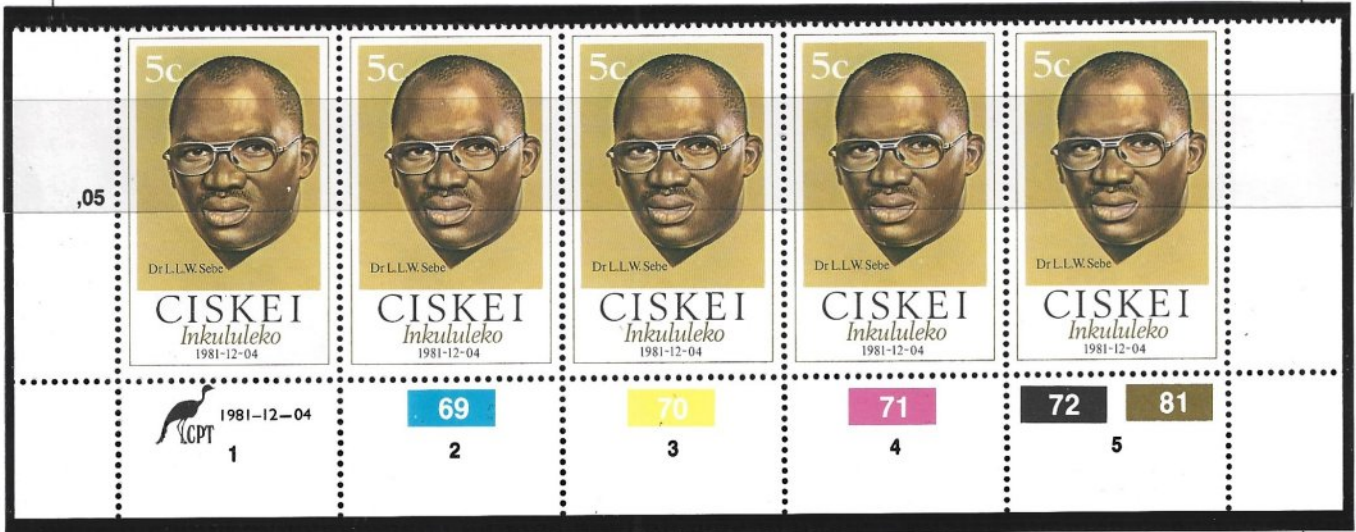
Sebe was born near King Willem's Town. He worked as a school teacher and was appointed as principal in 1984. Sebe founded the Ciskei National Independence Party. On 4 December 1981, Ciskei became independent from South Africa and Sebe was inaugurated as president. He consolidated his power into a dictatorship. He was supported by the Ciskei armed forces. There was an attempt to overthrow Sebe's regime. On 4 March 1990, Sebe was overthrown by a military coup. He died on 23 July 1994 (3)



FIFTH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

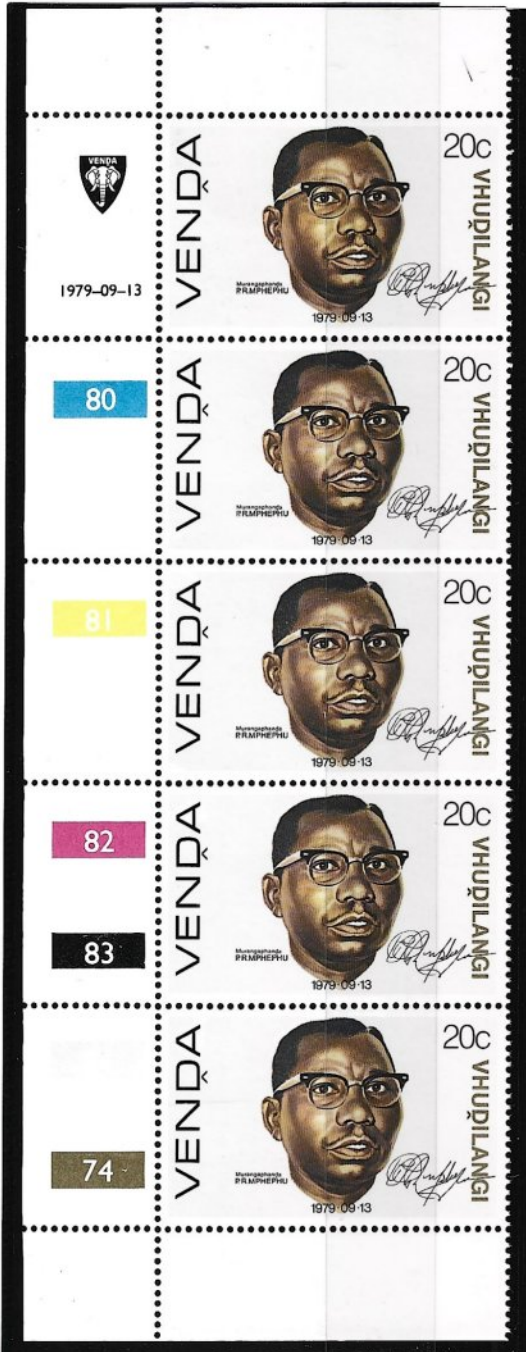


Prime Minister: Lennox Sebe (1983 to 1990)



Prime Minister: Patrick Mphedu (1979 to 1988)

Mphedu was born in Dzanani. He worked at the Johannesburg City Council. In 1959 Mphedu was appointed as chairman of the Regional Authority presenting the Venda people. Upon gaining independence on 13 September 1979, Mphedu became president of Venda. He died on 7 April 1988 while in office. He was replaced by finance Minister Frank Ravele. (3)



Prime Minister: Patrick Mphephu (1979 to 1988)



V Venda

1979-09-13



State President: Frank Ravele (1988 to 1990)

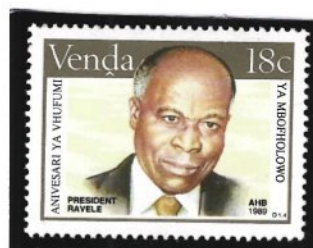
Frank Ndwakhulu Ravele was born at Mauluma near Tshahume in November 1926. In 1954, he was elected chairman of the Ramabulana school board. He held the position for 15 years. From 1959 to 1969, Ravele was employed by Ramabulana Regional Authority. During 1969, Frank was elected member of the newly- instituted Thohoandou Territorial Authority.

In 1964, Frank served on the Bantu Education Advisory Board. In the same year, Ravele was appointed the executive Member of Education and culture in the Venda recosulted Vensa Authority. He held the position until he was replaced by the Authorities with the Venda Legislative Assembly in June 1971.

On 18 April 1988, After the death of Patric Mphepho, Ravele was appointed by the cabinet as acting State President. He was elected as State President on 10 May 1988.

Frank Ndwakhulu Ravele (1926–1999) was the second president of the Bantustan of Venda, which was granted nominal independence from South Africa on 13 September 1979.

Ravele became president on 17 April 1988, after the death of Patrick Mphephu. He was the first president of Venda who served in an acting capacity until 10 May 1988. Formerly, Ravele served in the cabinet as finance minister. When violent strikes and riots broke out in early 1990, he was overthrown on 5 April 1990. The coup was bloodless. General Gabriel Ramushwana. The then chief of staff of the Venda Defence Force, orchistrated the coup. (3) (4)



State President: Frank Ravele (1988 to 1990)

