

Ballad for the unsung comrade

Always there
In your torn tekkies and simple garb
You walked the talk
Not your regular complainer
but when you did speak up, we knew that we've fucked up

This comrade is the soul of the movements
Rarely seen
but when absent - we felt it
Like now

This comrade never drummed
to the rhythm of a selfish ego -
Now we must march and dance
to the rhyme of departed's selfless grace

So, When we lift our mugs in solemn salute
We sing peaceful hymns for the omnipresent organiser
One that knew suffering...not as a stranger
But as companion

Hamba Kahle
Rest now
You not only played a part
You laid bare the new path

Farewell gentle soul
The one who possessed little
and was possessed by none
But it is you that we will guard in hearts cage

So when we say our final goodbyes,
farewell to a fallen joyous warrior
This is not only a fond adios to life lived
But an opening to how life might be lived

From: [Marius Kotze](#)

Sent: Friday, 25 May 2007 11:27 AM

To: christophe@ancefa.org

Cc: hassenlorgat@yahoo.com; marta.garrich@ubuntu.upc.edu; hlorgat@sangoco.org.za; jtsatsi@mweb.co.za

Subject: Fwd: FW: [GCAP africaft] GCAP Africa newsletter - need your comments: pls forward a pdf version of newsletter

Good day comrade Christophe

Would love to have a look at your newsletter. At SANGOCO (South Africa) we work on a down-to-earth principle, like - Keep it Simple ... Less is More ... Do more with less...

Herewith some ideas;

- 1) Reader-friendly for the right audience? (are the 'academics / ngo officials' going to read? or ordinary poor people?)
- 2) Simple, bold, straightforward with vibrant reader-striking devices like, entry points / blurbs / pull quotes / big pix / nice cartoons/graphics / good white space for balance, eye-break relaxer / not 'too much' colour - overdo of colour could obscure message
- 3) SOMETIMES BLACK COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN MANY COLOURS) - love to be a 'darkie'
- 4) Stressing 'WHITE SPACE' ... to enhance easier reading (unlike 'Africa MDG's News' - OK, but can be improved)
- 5) 'Designers must learn to write, Editors must learn to visualise' ... suggesting a good balance and complimentation between visual display & editorial content

Looking forward to touch, taste, smell, hear and see your newsletter.

Thanking you

Marius Kotze
SANGOCO volunteer
assistant to Hassen Lorgat (Communications & Campaigns)
layout & design artist
011 403 7746

Hassen Lorgat <hlorgat@SANGOCO.org.za> wrote:

Subject: FW: [GCAP africaft] GCAP Africa newsletter - need your comments on our newsletter

Date: Tue, 22 May 2007 16:01:29 +0200

From: "Hassen Lorgat" <hlorgat@SANGOCO.org.za>

To: <mg_kotze@yahoo.com>

CC: "Marta Garrich" <marta.garrich@ubuntu.upc.edu>

[Marta and marius](#)

You are enlisted

Fight Poverty and Inequality – Build Solidarity

Hassen Lorgat

Manager Campaigns and Communications

South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO)

Tel: 0027 (0) 11 403 7746

Fax: 0027 (0) 11 403 4966

Mobile: 0027 (0) 82 411 2946

Email: hlorgat@sangoco.org.za

Web: www.sangoco.org.za

-----Original Message-----

From: Christophe ZOUNGRANA [mailto:christophe

xxxxxxxxxx

Mine your lives

Working in the mine

Is going to war

A matter of life and death

Every day, I kiss my loved ones as if it is our last

We work on the bodies of comrades

Little wonder, the Health and Safety Council has

not as a war-cry against the enemy

But a feeble survival wish:

"Every mine worker returning from work unharmed every day."

Drafted 21 Aug 2025

xxx

POEMS FOR GWEDE

Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Gwede Mantashe is the Minister responsible for mines and with some changes here and there, in the portfolio Mantashe has been at the helm since 2018. But this has been his regular argument

from [way back \(2021\)](#) and [here](#). A week ago he said: mining can't be killed for the sake of "fresh air", this he did when he once again gave his support for the revival of shale gas exploration [in the Karoo](#).

Poems for Gwede 1.

When GWEDE walked the trenches with us
Shoulder to shoulders with the below
We sang to the international anthem
"We want Bread
And Roses too"

Now, duly em-POWERED
He left his boots and forgot his roots

Yet we still sing with bellowed voices
"We want Lights
And the right to breathe clean air too"

Poems for Gwede 2

King Coal is back
And he in on a roll
he resists the call
to keep it in the hole

It is True the Global North has double standards
But what about us?
Just look at our ports...why don't we stop those bandits?,
Our coal still fuels their engines
And the Palestinian genocide too

We cannot be bitter
We must do better
We are ABANTU
the children of UBUNTU

Poems for Gwede 3

First they came for our land, and no one spoke up
But the Natives resisted and left a legacy
They dug deep into mother earth
Unearthing her shiny intestines

This was sent overseas
mother earth cried
She could not see her insides
As her tears watered the dry lakes
Where the plans in protest
refused to grow

Poems for Gwede 4

First they came for our land
Then came for our water
Which they needed to rape to land
for gold, diamonds, God and empire
With their good book in one hand and the gun in the other
The deed was done...and continues

Poems for Gwede 5 Or Air is yours to bargain

When Samson Gwede Mantashe was at school
He learnt the legend of Samson -
And how when he reclaimed his angered power
Destroyed all and sunder
Life and all he cherished was gone

Samson Gwede Mantashe, you must go back to school!
You have forgotten you basics
Do people, plants and animals not need air to breathe?
It is called respiration

It is the deal that gives life-
Inhale - exhale
Inhale oxygen - exhale carbon
That is the story of life

Life is too precious to leave in your hands
We must decide
Respiration or extermination?

Poems for Gwede 6

Poem 6 poems for Gwede

First they came for the land
The West and all the rest were bland
Might was right

Twas their mission
They needn't permission
To take up the White Man's burden—

Ready or not, they grew bloody bold
They took all and the shiny gold
... not long before people were sold

Tis a battle of hearts and mines
In our war of liberation/ they sued for peace/
They kept the mines
Whilst we did the mimes

Hassl (7/725)