

ONLINE MAGAZINE on the GIST of ISSUES for an INFORMED and CONSCIOUS SOCIETY

# OMGiCS

ISSUE #1

FEBRUARY 2021

**EXCLUSIVE**

**GENUINE HUMAN SOLIDARITY**



ADVERTISING:

**ADVERTISING IS FREE**

**UNTIL THE LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED**

Priority will be given to Small Enterprises

---

**PUBLISHER:** Nkom-Com (PTY) Ltd.

**WEBSITE:** [www.nkom-com.co.za](http://www.nkom-com.co.za)

---

All letters and adverts are submitted to OMGIICS. OMGIICS reserves the right to edit contributions submitted for publication

*Nkom-Com*<sup>TM</sup>

# IN THIS EDITION

---

## 2. Editorial

Line from the bureau

## NEWS: Main Feature

### 3. Genuine Gesture of Solidarity

The Cuban sense of selflessness and true humanity  
By Father Michael Lapsley

## Quiz

### 4. Test Your Consciousness

## Social

### 5. Arts and Culture

### 7. Sports

## Market Place

### 8. Small Business, Community & Notices

**ON THE COVER:**

*Picture via Observer Jamaica*

# Editorial

**GIVEN ALL THE EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION WITH** each passing week as we go back and forth levels of the national lock-down, there could hardly be a more opportune time to publish an initial edition of OMGiCS.

It's an Online Magazine on the Gist of Issues for an Informed and Conscious Society. A monthly news and opinion magazine. Keep this in mind, we hereby announce with all the lessons learnt from the lockdown, that my dwelling structure will be the hub for the remaining lockdown levels and 2021 a year of journalistic focus on this South Africa's most challenged metropolitan, but not ignorant of the national picture and the international front. Ultimately, you'll have to be the judge of how we will have performed, but we will give our perspective as well. This inaugural edition features a story which has significance in your daily lives. These regard the Corona virus and a selfless contribution from a small Caribbean island to the world. Flip to page 3. Cuba deployed a brigade of health care workers to many countries including developed countries worldwide in a humanitarian effort to help combat the Covid-19 pandemic expecting nothing in return. This brigade, known as the "Henry Reeve" really deserves a Nobel Prize, but if you think it's none of my, or our, business, you're dead wrong. It's our health, (the poor majority use health facilities with shortage of health workers).

We will bring a sense of discovery, inspiration and enlightenment to the reality of Cape Town. OMGiCS and you, have your wish: a top-notch electronic publication with exclusive interviews, columns and articles that will make you feel like an expert on societal new developments once you've read very word of it.

As with such an undertaking, this project is driven by our long mission statement which reads on the first two paragraphs; "OMGiCS is an organ of society. On the editorial page, the magazine sets aside its objective news-gathering role to join its readers in a dialogue about the gist of important issues of the day in order to spur change – exhort, clarify, deplore, mourn or applaud as the case may be." This is informed by the necessity of having an informed and conscious society in order to propel the country forward.

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of OMGiCS' content. The magazine strives to be sincere, coherent, consistent and skeptical – and, when called for, to have a sense of humour and a hint of mischief."

Columnists will be introduced in the March edition. They will give the magazine a touch of class. You can write letters about the magazine or generally. Keep it short, it will be published here on the next edition. Enjoy!!

*Nkompela S. L.*

**Sanele L. Nkompela**



## CONTACT US

E-MAIL

[sanele@omgiics.co.za](mailto:sanele@omgiics.co.za)



Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

## A GESTURE OF GENUINE SOLIDARITY

Cuba is no newcomer to international medical cooperation, launching its first disaster relief initiative in post-quake Chile (1960) and the first staffing of a foreign public health system in Algeria (1963). We look at the humanitarian work of Cuba

**By Father Michael Lapsley**

**I'M SURE MANY OF US KNOW THE** expression that “charity begins at home”. It is often used as a reason why we should not help others especially those from other countries.

Since the triumph of the revolution in 1959, Cuba has done the opposite, teaching the world the meaning of solidarity. The Henry Reeves brigade, initiated in 2005 by the late leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, can be described as the flagship of Cuban internationalism. No other country in the world has done what Cuba has done: creating a cadre of medical specialists to respond to epidemics and disasters even at risk to their own lives.

It is breath-taking that the Henry Reeves Brigade has provided emergency medical assistance to more than 3.5 million people. They saved an estimated 80 000 lives across 21 countries with 7,400 volunteer healthcare workers.

During the Ebola outbreak, the Cubans provided the single largest medical operation across Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. In the face of Covid-19, the Henry Reeves Brigade is responding to the needs of humanity regardless of ideology including the 217 health professionals who have come to South Africa.

Unfortunately, the politicization of population health—from defunding international health organizations to playing the “blame game”—has fatal consequences during a pandemic of this nature.

Among the unacceptable: maintaining US sanctions on Cuba itself, keeping vital equipment and supplies from reaching the island's health system, and increasing costs of medications; cooperation losing precious time to bureaucratic roadblocks (Manitoba's First Nations request for Henry Reeve Contingent help, still pending as Canada debates visa logistics); disinformation campaigns, whether about dangerous “miracle cures” or unreasonable questioning of Cuban physicians' qualifications to practice abroad (such as the formal complaint registered by Argentinian medical associations to halt Henry Reeve assistance).

We are inspired and should emulate the example of internationalism shown to us by our Cuban comrades □

**Father Michael Lapsley is an African Anglican Priest and social justice activist in Cape Town.**

**He serves as the Chairperson of the FOCAS in the Western Cape Province and director of Institute for Healing of Memories.**

# QUIZ

## PAST AND CURRENT ENLIGHTENMENT

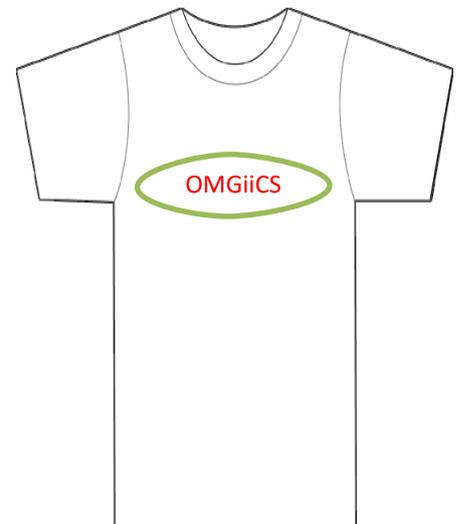
1. What is the Workers' Day also known as?
2. At which ground is the F.A. Cup Final is played?
3. How many Languages are in the South African National Anthem?
4. Name the South African tea
5. Into which four colonies was the Union of South Africa divided?
6. Which Cuban President reportedly said: "I will go to USA when you have a black president and the Pope is from South America"?
7. PHEIC is an acronym of what?
8. What is the difference between wages and salary?
9. How is the Humanitarian Medical Brigade from Cuba called?
10. Finish this sentence, "An injury to one..."

### E-mail your answers to:

sanele@omgiics.co.za

with **(February Quiz)** on the subject line.  
Provide your full name, Address & Cell Number.

The next issue will publish your answers with your name and a picture of you with the OMGiICS T-shirt.



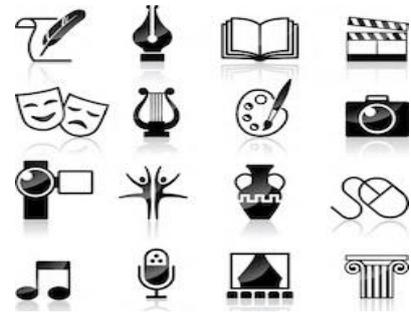
This column will cover one genre in each edition. These genres range from literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, music, acting, etc.

It is proper to announce that OMGiiCS has a book club based in Khayelitsha and the Arts and Culture columnist will lead events organised by it. In the same vein, let us be bias towards literature and dwell on it. During this Covid-19 public health emergency, libraries and book shops have been deemed to be providing non-essential services, and been closed.

The OMGiiCS Book Club inaugural session was scheduled for the 26th of September 2020 but our venue, the Moses Mabhida Public Library at Site C, Khayelitsha, is not yet available for use due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We would have alternatively taken it in turns and gather in one another's house but been scared. Meeting online therefore would have been ideal, but had the strata our book club is composed of been affording the platform, we would have held our sessions on Zoom.

So, the next date of the OMGiiCS Book Club session is Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021. Of course, other sessions following this will be subject to the lifting of the lock-down without which we will seek an alternative venue, of course with the necessary precautions exercised i.e. social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitising

Alas, the year 2021 will be so eventful for OMGiiCS, we will hold a literary festival in the second half of the year, a virtual read-a-thon for schools at the end of each academic quarter and a public lecture. So watch the space.



**OMGiCS**  
**BOOK  CLUB**

**OMGiCS INAUGURAL SCHOOLS VIRTUAL READ-A-THON**

OMGiCS Book Club invites Primary and High school pupils to participate in the inaugural 2021 Virtual Read-A-Thon for the first academic quarter/term.

We will be making reading even more fun and exciting.

**NB:**

1. This quarter is for Site B & Site C (Sub-council 09)
2. Second quarter is for Khayelitsha (Sub-council 10)
3. Third quarter is for Makhaza/Harare/Kuyasa (Sub-council 24)
4. Winners in each of the quarter will be put together as finalists
5. A champion from the finalists will be announced at the end of the fourth quarter.

There will be a stationery prize to the value of R 200. 00 (Two Hundred Rands), a trophy and a T-shirt.

Second prize will be a certificate and a T-shirt.

- Entry is free
- Request an entry form and rules from [sanele@omgiics.co.za](mailto:sanele@omgiics.co.za) / 0813166304
- Deadline for submission is Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021

## QUITE A NUMBER OF SPORTING CODES WE WILL FOLLOW

through this section. In this initial edition we zoom into two sporting codes, Netball and Association Football.

Remember that Sunday night in March 2019 when the International Netball Federation (INF) flag was presented to team South Africa, signalling the start of the journey to 2023?

Cape Town was announced as the host city for the Netball World Cup to be held in 2023. The 2023 Netball World Cup will be the first tournament hosted on African soil in the competition's 50-year history.

This followed a successful inter-governmental bid which included the national and provincial governments as well as Netball South Africa. Cape Town therefore officially picked up the baton as the next host city for the 2023 Netball World Cup.

But, over and above that being very joyful of hosting the event, we are also very proud of the South African netball team's brilliant performance at the 2019 Netball World Cup held in Liverpool. They played with heart and soul and made it to the semi-finals for the first time. The team finished fourth; better than countries with more experience and positions on the world rankings. This means that we are not going to be hosts with excellent infrastructure and world-class facilities only, but fierce competitors.

We look forward to the tournament in 2023, when South Africa will play on home soil.

It is important that the City, provincial government and national government support the Netball World Cup in 2023 with the same enthusiasm that was demonstrated for the FIFA World Cup as netball is the largest women's sport in the world.

There are plans to host several other events leading up to the 2023 Netball World Cup.

Certainly, there are plans and preparations host several other events leading up to the 2023 Netball World Cup, so it is inevitable to get hold of the people involved for a comprehensive interview to follow those preparations. OMGiiCS readers will be spoilt in the next edition with excitement getting such update about the early preparations for the big spectacle. □



It is interesting to observe that Cape Town clubs are always in numbers in the top two professional divisions of South African football. There used to be four or five in the premiership and now reduced to two. Now there are four in the second tier. Lets' name them; it is Cape United, Cape Town Spurs which used to be Ajax Cape Town, Steenberg United, Cape Town All Stars and Cape Umoya.

Here are the events in Cape Town for the said clubs in month of March. These involve only the Cape Town-based clubs in the National First Division known as the GladAfrica Chamionship;

### Friday, 05 March 2021

Cape United vs Uthongathi FC  
Parow Park at 15h30

### Saturday, 06 March 2021

Cape Town Spurs vs Steenberg United  
Cape Town Stadium at 15h30

### Friday 12 of March will see two events i.e.

Steenberg United vs Cape United  
Idas Valley Stadium at 15h30

Cape Town All Stars vs Cape Town Spurs  
Parow Park at 15h30

## MARKETPLACE

Services

Notices & Events



We provide space for free advertisement or notices of events in the communities within the Cape Metro

**FREE**