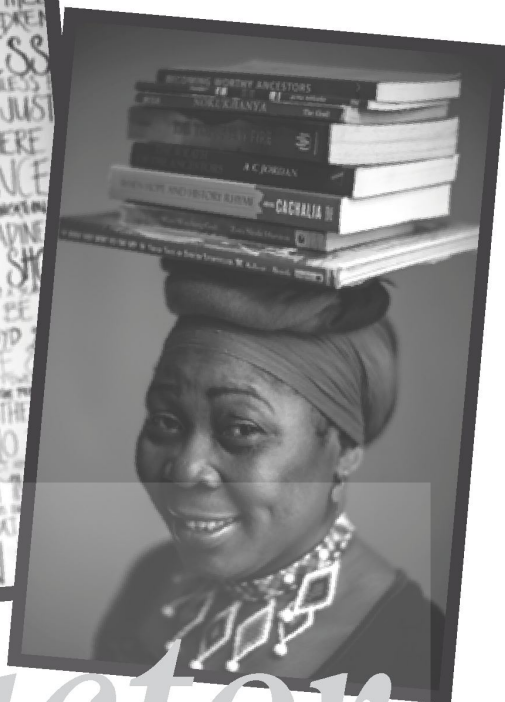
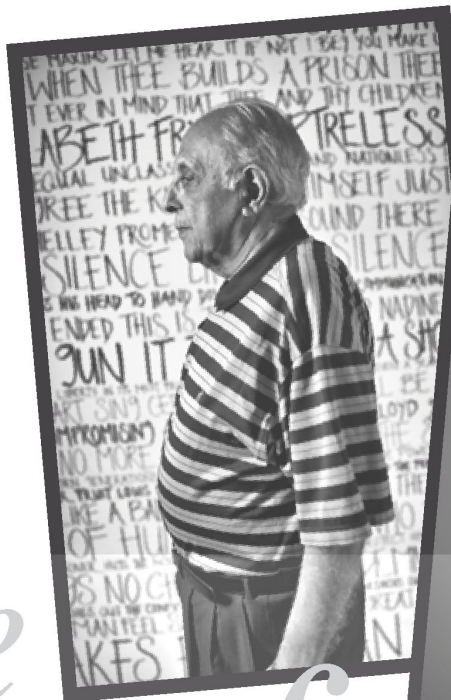


## GET Educated

South Africa's biggest icons have eye-opening stories to tell – all we should do is listen, appreciate and remember. And sometimes, the roads of these amazing stories lead to Bloemfontein. Here are great South African icons and their surprising Bloemfontein connections.



# The Bloemfactor

## Ahmed Kathrada

Ahmed Mohamed Kathrada is a South African politician and former political prisoner and anti-apartheid activist.

Kathrada's involvement in the anti-apartheid activities of the ANC led him to his long-term imprisonment following the Rivonia Trial, in which he was held at Robben Island and Pollsmoor Prison.

His link to Bloemfontein might not be a pleasant memory, but one of the many defining moments in his struggle. In 1955, when Indian schools in Johannesburg were moved out of the city to the segregated location of Lenasia, some 22 miles away, Ahmed helped organise the Central Indian High School Parents' Association, and was duly elected its secretary.

He helped organise the multi-racial 'Congress of the People', which proclaimed the 'Freedom Charter', a policy document of the Congress Alliance. Owing to his banning orders, he couldn't attend in person but observed the proceedings from a nearby storeroom. Kathrada was arrested again with Aggie Salim and Dr Ike Moosa for

being in Bloemfontein without a permit. Joe Slovo represented him in court and managed to get him off on the main charge of being in the Free State without a permit. He was found guilty of entering the coloured township of Heatherdale without a permit and fined ten shillings.

## Gcina Mhlope

Gcina Mhlope (born 1958) is a well-known South African freedom fighter, activist, actor, storyteller, poet, playwright, director and author. Storytelling is a deeply traditional activity in Africa and Mhlope is one of the few woman storytellers in a country dominated by males.

Bloemfontein was proud to have Gcina present when learners at the Bloemfontein-Oos Intermediary School received a brand new, fully stocked library with the help of the University of the Free State. Gina spent an entire day with the children, where she told them stories and interacted with them in an informal setting.

