



# ANC TODAY

ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# A common history and a shared future

### LETTER FROM THE



### PRESIDENT

**THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)** and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) share a common history of fighting against an intransigent and ruthless enemy, the apartheid regime. The membership of the ANC and the people of South Africa up to this day revere SWAPO for its sterling contribution to their freedom and that of other peoples of this region.

We are two parties that have warm ties that were forged in the trenches. The history of our liberation movements has placed a special responsibility on the ANC and on SWAPO to ensure that the goals of our respective national democratic revolutions are realised.

Former ANC President Oliver Tambo outlined the depth of our relations eloquently in his address to the International Conference of Solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people in Paris on 13 September 1980 when he told SWAPO President Sam Nujoma about SWAPO:

"You have sacrificed lives already to defeat the enemy - the exploiter and oppressor of the people of South Africa. You have made great inroads; you have corroded the apartheid power structure in Namibia, which within South Africa itself, remains relatively unshaken. We admire your gallantry, your courage, your efficiency, your capability on the battlefield. By your actions you have forged bonds of unity between yourselves and us, the Namibian people and the people of South Africa - bonds of brotherhood and comradeship, forged in blood, and for that reason indissoluble."

Today our struggle takes a new dimension, the struggle to eradicate poverty and provide the essential services of health, education, housing, land for cultivation and to develop rural infrastructure. We believe we are well poised to make progress in achieving delivery on these projects for our peoples as relations between our two countries remain very warm.

There is frequent contact at the highest governmental levels as can be seen by the South Africa-Namibia Heads of State Economic Bilateral Meetings and other contacts at ministerial levels. Our two countries also established a joint commission on defence and security in 1997, which meets annually.

We have a good trade regime, and can trade almost everything with the exception of arms. We have not yet achieved the finalisation of zero-based trade tariffs that will free the flow of goods between our two countries.

While satisfied with the government-to-government relations, we believe there is a need for more interaction at a party-to-party level. Firstly, we need to have regular contact to ensure that the government-to-government relations enjoy sound political backing and input.

Secondly, there are many challenges that we face as ruling parties and former liberation movements, which require constant discussion and sharing of experiences.

Ruling parties often go through certain challenges after the first decade, when

## WEEK IN REVIEW

**President Motlanthe removes prosecutions head** | South African President Kgalema Motlanthe announced his decision to relieve Vusi Pikoli of his responsibility as National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) after an enquiry headed by Frene Ginwala found Pikoli lacked an appreciation of matters of national security.

**By-elections reveal mixed fortunes** Results of by-elections held in several provinces revealed mixed fortunes for the ANC, with the organisation winning handsomely in most places, but facing significant challenges - including exclusion from several races - in the Western Cape.

**Government declares war on poverty** South African Deputy President Baleka Mbete launched the North West 'War on Poverty' Campaign, which aims to reduce the incidence of poverty, and specifically improving the economic situation of households.

**Improving access to justice** Government launched a programme to improve access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised groups, improve awareness of constitutional rights for vulnerable and marginalised groups, and enhanced participatory democracy through public policy dialogue and strengthening civil society organisations.

the interests of different strands within the broad liberation movement begin to diverge. People begin to explore other avenues, especially when they feel they are losing control and influence within the movement. The interests of people outside the movement, locally or internationally would also come into play.

There is also a recurring reactionary debate around the need to reduce the dominance of liberation movements on the African continent. Political analysts and all who claim to know Africans better than they know themselves tell us that it is good for Africa and democracy if the majority of former liberation movements was reduced.

How do we as former liberation movements ensure that we do not steer away from our mandate of serving the poor and all our people, in the current climate of counter-revolution?

As the ANC government, we have done well in the past 14 years to reverse the legacy of apartheid. We also had to deal with the systematic underdevelopment of the indigenous people, the wanton poverty and deprivation. These cannot be reversed in only a few years. However, we have made substantial progress.

We have managed to extend basic services to millions of South Africans in only 14 years. Thousands now have houses, water, electricity and other basic services. For the next five years, we have decided to reduce the number of priorities and focus on the most essential developmental areas for the people of South Africa.

These are education, health, rural development and agrarian reform, creating decent jobs, and safety and security. We believe it is best to focus on these five areas rather than a long wish list, which would be difficult to deliver on. These are some of the focus areas we would want to collaborate on with Namibia in the new administration.

The Joint Commission on Defence and Security of our two governments provides a useful mechanism to cooperate on crime prevention, especially cross-border crime and other defence and security issues. Our economy is sound and stable, but we are anticipating a slowdown of growth due to the economic crisis being experienced globally. We will however continue our efforts to grow the economy and create decent jobs for our people, despite the challenges.

One of the instruments that can assist us in this regard is regional economic integration. The current debate on the future of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) needs to be raised from the point of view of a productive and realistic way forward.

South Africa and Namibia share the concern as to whether the Southern African Development Community (SADC) would be able to achieve a customs union as envisaged for 2010, as some countries have not acceded to the SADC Free Trade Area. Therefore SACU remains a workable mechanism as the core for regional integration at this stage.

Also important is the progress to finalise the implementation of the Trans-Kalahari Corridor. This and other corridors to Zambia and Angola would make Namibia a gateway to SADC. We must also work further on the development of new energy resources to stabilise the regional grid and create a climate of secure energy that will attract investors to our region.

Our ministers responsible for energy are also working on the matter of the licensing of hydropower projects along the Orange River. The long and short of our real challenge is that we must create the climate in the region to ensure we create more

decent and productive employment for all our citizens.

This is the partnership we are seeking with SWAPO. Our two fraternal movements must assist our two governments to create an enabling environment for economic development to take place, so that our peoples can get decent jobs and an improved quality of life.

We must also learn from each other on what works and what doesn't with regards to development programmes. We realise that you have long had a central planning commission. We intend to venture in that direction from next year, to ensure that we create a developmental state that will participate actively in socio-economic development.

We also hope to learn a few lessons from you on agrarian reform. We both face the challenge of a slow pace of land redistribution, and also share the view that it must be done sensitively and within the confines of the law and the Constitution. We can compare notes on how to speed up the process to enable sustainable rural development to take place.

The ANC is ready to work hard to ensure that we regain the fundamental elements of our revolution and to see the true emergence of developmental states in our two countries. During the new year, we hope to see progress in finding lasting solutions to conflicts that continue, among others, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia and Burundi.

Some swift action is clearly needed to deal with the situation in Zimbabwe. We are concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian and political situation. We fully support former President Thabo Mbeki in his mediation efforts and the ANC will provide whatever support is needed to find a solution.

We feel that more pressure needs to be brought to bear on the negotiating parties to ensure a speedy conclusion of an agreement. We cannot keep Zimbabweans on tenterhooks while the situation in the country deteriorates.

Jacob G. Zuma

## LATEST STATEMENTS

ANC delegation arrives in Namibia, 8 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1208a.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1208a.html)

Reaction to the decision to relieve NPA head of his duties, 8 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1208b.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1208b.html)

Joint communiqué between SWAPO and the ANC  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1209.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1209.html)

ANC to appeal decision of Electoral Court, 9 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1209a.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1209a.html)

Hearing on 'Congress of the People' court application, 10 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1210.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1210.html)

Concern about missing Zimbabwean activists, 10 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1210a.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=../ancdocs/pr/2008/pr1210a.html)

# Business lends a hand in building a better SA



**AS PART OF ONGOING CONSULTATION** about its policies and programmes, and in line with its vision of an inclusive society, the ANC this week held a bilateral meeting with the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI), a body representing Afrikaans business.

The meeting was requested by the ANC because it believes that the Afrikaans-speaking business community has an important role to play in building our young democracy, in the development of our country, and in addressing key development and other issues of our time.

Discussion was held on poverty eradication; education and skills development; health; job creation; land and agrarian reform; combating crime and shortcomings in our criminal justice system; economic transformation; challenges in local government and service delivery; agriculture and food security; and the rights of citizens in the Constitution.

The meeting agreed further on improving the impact of small business development programmes, black economic empowerment programmes, mentorship and business strategies to promote linkages between small and big business.

The parties agreed that there would be greater interaction between the AHI and the various task teams of the ANC's Economic Transformation Committee on;

- industrial policy,
- macroeconomic policy
- trade policy,
- energy, climate change and water resources,
- a developmental state,
- employment and human resource development,
- rural development, agrarian change and food security,
- strategic utilisation of natural resources, including mineral resources,
- reform of development finance institutions.

The meeting agreed on an annual standing "discussion forum" between AHI and the ANC on issues of mutual interest, on cooperation where business can assist to make a difference in local authorities, local economic development and rural development for a better life for all.

## EVENTS IN HISTORY

**7 DECEMBER 1909:** A proclamation giving self-government to the Union of South Africa is read from the steps of the Royal Exchange in London.

**10 DECEMBER 1961:** ANC President Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli the first African to win the Nobel Peace Prize, accepts the prize and delivers the Nobel Lecture. The apartheid government issued him with a special ten-day passport to travel to receive the prize, with restrictions on his movements and public appearances.

**11 DECEMBER 1963:** The first of the 'Bantustans' comes into existence when the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, De Wet Nel, opens the Transkei Legislative Assembly at Umtata. Kaiser Matanzima is installed as Chief Minister.

**9 DECEMBER 1982:** The South African Defence Force raids Maseru, Lesotho, in an effort to kill suspected members of the ANC. Forty-two people are killed, 30 of them believed to be members of the ANC. The remaining are Lesotho citizens, including 5 women and 2 children.

## LATEST SPEECHES

Tribute to Dr Nthato Motlana by ANC President Jacob Zuma, 6 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=./ancdocs/history/zuma/2008/jz1206.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=./ancdocs/history/zuma/2008/jz1206.html)

Opening remarks in talks with SWAPO by ANC President Jacob Zuma, 8 December 2008  
[www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=./ancdocs/history/zuma/2008/jz1208.html](http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=./ancdocs/history/zuma/2008/jz1208.html)

Closing ceremony of 16 Days of Activism campaign by SA President Kgalema Motlanthe, 10 December 2008  
[www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=president/sp/2008/sp12101713.htm&ID=1849](http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=president/sp/2008/sp12101713.htm&ID=1849)

Launch of Access to Justice Programme by SA Deputy President Baleka Mbete, 10 December 2008  
[www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=deputy/sp/2008/sp1210148.htm&ID=1848](http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=deputy/sp/2008/sp1210148.htm&ID=1848)