



ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# Empower rural people, feed the nation



The ANC considers rural development as a central pillar in our struggle against unemployment, poverty and inequality. People living in rural areas face the harshest conditions of poverty, food insecurity and lack of access to services on an almost daily basis.

Workers living in rural areas face the brunt of poverty. Many of them work long hours for poverty wages. Women in particular, who form the majority of residents in rural areas, face the burden of poverty.

This underlines the need for effective rural development programmes, ensuring that investment in infrastructure, services and training reaches those areas of the country that have been most adversely affected.

The ANC is committed to a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to agrarian reform, which builds the potential for rural sustainable livelihoods, particularly for African women.

Economic development in the rural areas needs to go beyond land and agrarian reform. It must include affordable financing to promote economic development; support programmes and training in assisting cooperatives and small enterprises; public sector ventures; and strategies to develop appropriate industries including light manufacturing, handicrafts, services, tourism etc. This also requires the development of the necessary economic infrastructure, including telecommunications services, roads and rail.

Part of ANC government measures to support rural development includes infrastructure development to produce thriving rural economies and ensure sustainable development.

The expansion of basic infrastructure, which includes roads, electricity, water connections and public toilet systems in rural areas, becomes a central priority for the next administration.

By 2014, all rural schools and health facilities will have adequate basic infrastructure.

The ANC recognises that the institution of traditional leadership has a legitimate role to play in rural communities on matters of custom and culture. At the same time, democratic practices need to be enhanced and respected in the rural areas. Government will improve its support to this institution, so that it can fully implement legislation on traditional leadership playing its appropriate role, with necessary public resources. The partnership between government and this institution will be strengthened to focus more directly on rural development and fighting poverty.

The Freedom Charter says: "Rent and prices shall be lowered; food plentiful and no one shall go hungry."

### Food security

The pursuit of household and national food security is a constitutional mandate of the ANC government. We have to create an environment that ensures that there is adequate food available to all, now and in the future, and that hunger is eradicated

## WEEK IN REVIEW

**Parties commit to peaceful elections** | The ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in KwaZulu Natal sign a joint statement declaring their commitment to political tolerance during the elections. This comes after recent incidents of violence in the province.

**South Africans living abroad to vote** | The Constitutional Court rules that South African citizens abroad who are already on the voters roll may vote for the National Assembly in the upcoming elections. Those wishing to do so need to advise the IEC by 27 March of their intention to vote.

**New ANC government to prioritise education** | The incoming ANC government will prioritise the rollout of education facilities in previously disadvantaged areas, ANC President Jacob Zuma tells thousands of ANC supporters at a rally in Springbok, Northern Cape.

## ELECTIONS 2009

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The ANC government is already putting in place an emergency food relief programme on a mass-scale, in the form of food assistance projects like soup kitchens to the poorest households and communities. This programme will be linked to existing mass mobilisation activities on the ground.

In the next five years, government will also introduce a "food for all" programme to procure and distribute basic foods at affordable prices to poor households and communities. Government will consider an appropriate institutional approach to implement to this programme.

Government will take active steps to procure and promote food production as the way to lessen our dependence on food imports.

Government will expand access to food production schemes in rural and peri-urban areas to grow their own food with implements, tractors, fertilisers and pesticides. Other government measures will support existing community schemes, which utilise land for food production in schools, health facilities, churches and urban and traditional authority areas.

Linked to food security is the land and agrarian reform programme. The Freedom Charter says that:

"Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger;

"The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

"Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land; all shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;

"People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished."

The ANC government will work to intensify the land reform programme, to ensure that more land is in the hands of the rural poor. Government will provide the rural poor with technical skills and financial resources to productively use the land and to create sustainable livelihoods.

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It will review the appropriateness of the existing land redistribution programme, introduce measures aimed at speeding up the pace of land reform and redistribution and promote land ownership by South Africans. The ANC will also ensure that the land reform programme is integrated at provincial and local government levels.

Linked to the land reform programme will be an expanded agrarian reform programme. This programme will focus on the systematic promotion of agricultural co-operatives throughout the production cycle. There will also be active promotion of agro-processing in the agricultural sector. Government will develop support measures to ensure more access to markets and finance by small farmers.

The ANC government will ensure a much stronger link between land and agrarian reform programmes and water resource allocation so as to ensure that the best quality of water resources reach all our people, especially the poor.

There will be support measures for organised labour to organise and unionise farm workers. The capacity of the Department of Labour to enforce labour legislation will be strengthened. Strategies will be developed to improve the living conditions of farm workers including the provision of subsidised houses and other basic services to farm dwellers.

## EVENTS IN HISTORY

**15 March 1961:** South African prime minister HF Verwoerd goes to London to give the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers formal notice that South Africa will become a republic. Amid opposition to its apartheid policies by other Commonwealth countries, South Africa withdraws from the Commonwealth.

**14 March 1982:** The ANC's London offices are bombed. South African security police head General Johann Coetzee later claims responsibility saying that the apartheid government wanted to demoralise the ANC.

**17 March 1992:** President FW de Klerk holds a whites-only referendum to gauge the support he had for the continuation of the reform processes started on 2 February 1990. Nearly 70% vote in favour of the process.

## LATEST SPEECHES

Address by ANC President to higher education sector, 10 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doccs/speeches/2009/sp0310.html>

Address by ANC President at the launch of the Confederation of Black Business Organisations (CBBO), 10 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/speeches/2009/sp0310a.html>

Address by ANC President at the IEC ballot draw, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/speeches/2009/sp0311.htm>

## SAFER COMMUNITIES

# Much more needs to be done to make SA safe



Under the new democratic order a new ethos was introduced into the police service. From being defenders of apartheid, they became a force to serve and protect all the people of South Africa. But, although much has been achieved, much more still needs to be done to make the country safe.

South Africa has a violent and criminal history. The apartheid system was essentially a system of martial law, with the attendant control of movement of population and social activities enforced by violent means.

In 1994, the country inherited multiple criminal justice and security systems that needed to be amalgamated and transformed in line with the democratic constitution. Steeped in a culture where human rights and civil liberties received little protection, unrepresentative in their composition and in the allocation of resources to different sectors of society, the justice and security agencies mostly lacked legitimacy in the eyes of the great majority of the public. They often acted in an uncoordinated way without credible oversight and control. Crime was increasing, becoming more violent and complex; court cases were proceeding more slowly and prisons becoming overcrowded.

By 2003, much had been done to transform these institutions. In the past they had prioritised the defence of apartheid, but were required in a democratic society to ensure everyone's safety and security. They became subject to oversight and control mechanisms. They played a critical role in the major reduction in political violence and in securing three successive elections.

Integration brought standardisation of 11 different sets of rules and procedures across the country for the police, the courts, intelligence and defence, as well as rationalisation of structures. Integration and new recruitment procedures have made the departments representative of the South African population.

Transformation also involved the adoption of a new ethos that saw crime as not just a security issue but also a social issue requiring community respect for and participation with the police service, that required courts to be friendly and service oriented and that focused prisons on rehabilitating offenders to break the cycle of crime.

Over the last 15 years we have made major strides in transforming the police system and our crime fighting capacity. We have today far less crime and violence than we had under apartheid system

But the level of crime in our country remains unacceptably high. There is a need to overhaul the criminal justice system to ensure that we drastically reduce the levels of crime and corruption is stamped out in our country.

We must intensify the fight against crime. Even though statistics show a decline in most serious crimes, it remains a major problem facing our people. The most important weapon we have in fighting crime is to work in partnership as communities and as a society to stop crime happening.

In its 2009 Election Manifesto, the ANC government commits itself to:

- establish a new modernised, efficient and transformed criminal justice system to enhance the capacity for fighting and reducing crime in real terms. Government will review the functioning of the police, the judiciary and the correctional services to achieve integration and coordination;
- actively combat serious and violent crime by being tougher on criminals and organised syndicates. In this respect, we will increase the capacity of the SA Police Service (SAPS) through recruitment, rigorous training, better remuneration, equipping and increasing the capacity of especially the detective Services, forensics, prosecution and judicial services;
- establish and strengthen the new unit to fight organised crime.

## LATEST STATEMENTS

ANC condemns killing of Father Sharpe, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=pr/2009/pr0309.html>

Voting abroad ruling, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311e.html>

'Unity of African continent at the core of SA Foreign Policy', Zuma tells diplomats, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311d.html>

SA going through a very robust but peaceful elections - Zuma, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311c.html>

Joint Statement by the ANC and IFP in KwaZulu Natal, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311b.html>

ANC welcomes investigation into housing fraud, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311a.html>

ANC blog goes live, 11 March 2009  
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/pr/2009/pr0311.html>

- provide greater support for the SAPS, especially to combat the attacks on the members of the SAPS, including through introducing legislative measures to protect law-enforcement officials in the execution of their duties;
- combat violence and crimes against women and children by increasing the capacity of the criminal justice system to deal with such violence;
- mobilise communities to participate in combating crime through establishing street committees and community courts, amongst others;
- step up measures in the fight against corruption within society, the state and private sector, including measures to review the tendering system to ensure politicians do not tamper with the adjudication of tenders. Measures will also be taken to ensure transparent process of the tendering system as well as ensuring much stronger accountability of the public servants involved in tendering process.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **ANC President attends Rhema Bible Church service**

Sunday 15 March 2009  
Randburg, Johannesburg  
08h00

### **ANC President visits Waterberg, Limpopo**

Tuesday 17 March 2009  
Bakenberg, Limpopo  
08h30

### **ANC President visits Mafikeng, North West**

Wednesday 18 March 2009  
Mafikeng, North West  
09h30