



ANC TODAY

ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

SHELTER FOR ALL | BY NOMVULA MOKONYANE

Transforming our cities and building cohesive and non-racial communities



Since housing is one of the critical drivers and tangible indicator of progress and development in society, it lands itself as an easily exploitable and a preferred turf of protracted contestation. This is understandable when one considers that the last time houses were built for the people was in 1977.

Sometimes the fundamental issues of quality and lack of service delivery got mixed up in the excitement with disparaging government policy without offering a sound alternative. As a result, we witness a lot of grand standing and sometimes staging of badly orchestrated events.

Conscious of the glaring neglect and skewed spatial development patterns, the ANC government set out to normalise the housing market by initiating and implementing various programmes aimed primarily at providing shelter for the poor. From 1994 to the third quarter of 2007/08 financial year - 3,132,769 subsidies were approved for an expenditure of R48, 5 billion. This translates to 9,9 million people who benefited from subsidised housing scheme as the result of the new dispensation. With respect to improving gender equality, 53% of all subsidies approved were granted to women.

In light of the prevailing, fragmented and skewed developmental patterns, the ANC government resolved that in order to address the existing housing disparities effectively new and holistic approach has to be adopted. This realisation led to the review and audit of all the intervention strategies initiated. Such an exercise resulted in the formulation and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan for Development of Sustainable Human Settlement commonly referred to as Breaking New Ground (BNG).

The BNG primarily provides a strategic shift towards a culture and practice that will achieve rapid delivery of quality sustainable settlements. While the issues of quality and turn-around-time are cardinal, the BNG also foreground the issues of asset/wealth creation and the establishment of a single, efficient formal housing market.

So far R3, 526 billion has been spent to finance 573, 648 housing opportunities and 10 infrastructure projects throughout South Africa. This assistance was provided to individuals in both urban and rural areas as well as to emerging contractors. Out of the R3, 5 billion, more than R300 million was provided as guarantees to encourage private lenders to finance projects for emerging contractors.

Furthermore, the norms and standards for a subsidized house have been adjusted from a minimum size of 30m² to 40 m². Above all, there is a promotion of new housing designs that would provide a wider choice of quality, aesthetically pleasing and affordable homes to people. In other words, the concept of "one size fits all" has been discarded in favour of variety.

The classical example of this shift can be found in Gauteng's Mixed-Housing Development, popularly known as Cosmo City. This points to the commitment of the ANC to move away from racially and class exclusive residential areas. This notion has found effect in a new initiative, Inclusionary Policy.

WEEK IN REVIEW

G20 | President of the Republic of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe led South African government delegation to G20 and said South Africa would not be borrowing money from the IMF as the country financial standing though hit by the world economic recession but it is still better standing

SADC suspends Mauritius | SADC Heads of States Summit held Mbabane, Swaziland, suspended Mauritius from full participation in SADC after Marc Ravalomanana was forced to resign as President of the Republic of Madagascar and Andry Rajoelina was installed as the de facto head of state undemocratically and contrary to the rule of law. The Summit also agreed to help raise R2 Billion to finance Zimbabwean economic revival programme.

Winnie Mandela fit to stand as the ANC candidate | The Freedom Front Plus lost its court bid at the Electoral Court to have IEC decision to include Winnie Madikizela-Mandela as the ANC candidate. The Court ruled that she is eligible to stand.

Lucky Dube killers sentenced to life | The killers of Lucky Dube were sentenced to life behind bars. The judge said they did not show mercy to Lucky Dube and the court will not show any mercy to them.

In addition, there is a recognition that there is a need to diversify tenure thus allowing the citizen to choose from rent to-buy, pure rental and ownership. As a result, provinces have established a total of 83 social housing institutions with the assistance of the Social Housing Foundation. These social housing institutions own and manage approximately 33 000 of rental and social housing units.

The ANC government is also on track to meet the goal of eradication of slums in urban centres. Many of the informal settlements have been formalised and title deeds handed over to the rightful owners.

The progress in housing delivery is enormous. Recent data from Stats SA (2007) bear testimony to this assertion. According to the recent data from Stats SA (2007 Report) about 70,5% of South Africans are now living in formal housing. This is a steady increase from the 64, 4% in 1996 and 68, 5% in 2001.

Notwithstanding the progress made so far, we constantly contend with various challenges. The housing backlog for the country is estimated at 2 million. High rate of unemployment and other challenges like population growth and declining household size in South Africa keeps the demand for government housing subsidy very high.

The demand on affordable rental accommodation is estimated to have increased from 528, 351 between 2001 and 2006 to 668, 731 units from 2006 to 2011. This latest demand is estimated to be 133, 746 per annum. The housing delivery situation is further compounded by the withdrawal of large construction groups from the state-assisted housing sector due to low profit margins. This has left capacity gaps in construction, project management, financial management and subsidy administration.

Our national housing programme is not just about building houses but also about transforming our cities and towns, and building cohesive and non-racial communities. In order to contribute to the end of the apartheid spatial arrangements, government will roll out housing programmes closer to places of work and amenities.

The ANC government will continue to increase access to secure and decent housing for all through its newly adopted "Breaking New Ground" Strategy. Key elements of this strategy will include the following:

- Accelerate the delivery of housing as well as improving their quality.
- Continue the programme to convert hostels into family units.
- Increase access to secure and decent housing for all by strengthening partnerships with financial institutions and the private sector and increasing their role.
- Ensure that sport facilities, places of work, schools, clinics and hospitals, transport, recreation and commercial facilities are brought closer to where people live.
- Accelerate the delivery of new rental housing and provide support for housing co-operatives.
- Encourage people to build their houses based on their own plans and choices and provide people with building skills.
- Spearhead a programme for the allocation of building materials to rural communities for purposes of self-building and provide people with building skills.
- Introduce programmes to improve the conditions of subsidy houses.
- Ensure that land close to urban centres is made available for low cost and public housing, and that
- By 2011 all military veterans will receive adequate housing.

By continuing to work together and learning from the lessons of the past 15 years, we will be able to speed up change and bring the benefits of freedom to all our people. The ANC government has shown in many initiatives that its commitment to the fundamental tenets of the Freedom Charter remains true. Working together we can do more.

>> Nomvula Monkonyane is the member of the ANC National Executive Committee
>> MEC for Housing in Gauteng

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

3 April 1996, Five members of the ultra right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were sentenced to twenty-six years imprisonment each for their part in a bombing campaign which was aimed at disrupting the 1994 elections that killed 20 people and injured hundreds others.

4 April 1988, SADF raided Gaborone in what was believed to be a raid on African National Congress (ANC) members who were in exile in Botswana and four innocent people were killed.

6 April 1994, Hundred people were declared dead as a result of the political violence that continued in KwaZulu-Natal. The political violence raged on in spite of the deployment of more than 3,000 members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) to enforce the state of emergency in the province.

9 April 2005, New National Party Federal Council decided to disband the party on the evening of the final certification of results of the 2006 local government elections. The council decided to join the African National Congress (ANC) and fight all future elections under the banner of the ANC.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Intensifying the fight against poverty and hunger

Since 1994 the democratic South Africa has waged a war on poverty. This is reflected in the types of policies adopted by the successive ANC governments as well as in spending on social policies and interventions.

Much of the ANC government's work is aimed at addressing ensuring a better life for all. More over the government's policy orientation has been targeted to the poorest of the poor.

Much more still needs to be done and the fight against poverty cannot simply be the responsibility of government. All sectors of society must be involved. At the centre of the fight against poverty is the creation of economic opportunities and enabling communities and individuals to access these opportunities.

As we work to defeat poverty by creating jobs, improving skills levels and building infrastructure, we need to intervene directly and immediately to meet the most basic needs of the poor and vulnerable.

The ANC is committed to building a more equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic growth path, centred on the creation of decent work opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. We need to ensure that the majority of our people benefit meaningfully from economic growth.

Central to this resolve is the ending of intergenerational poverty through improving the economic situation of households. Critical elements to this end include:

- Maintaining overall economic growth, including through substantial investment in economic infrastructure as well as appropriate fiscal and monetary policies.
- Targeting government support at measures that will create economic opportunities on a mass scale for the historically marginalised, including through land reform and agrarian development; support for growth in sustainable, labour intensive formal activities, and a substantial expansion in public employment schemes, and
- Instituting measures to enhance the incomes in cash and kind earned from informal activities, the bulk of which take place in agriculture, retail and services.

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.

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.

To ensure that no South African goes hungry, 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 targeted groups. The basic foods would consist of mealie meal, flour, bread, sugar, milk powder, cooking oil, beans and tea. And the existing National School Nutrition Programme will be extended, as part of the integrated nutrition programme, to high schools.

Education and skills development will play a significant role in preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty. An economy that creates jobs including self - employment opportunities and the ability of a country to improve the educational outcomes, skills and aspirations of children and young people are the most important factors in breaking generational cycles poverty.

LATEST STATEMENTS

Release of the forensic report regarding Phillip Dexter, 2 April 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/pr/2009/pr0402.html>

Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu utterances, 2 April 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0402.html>

ANC welcomes Electoral Court ruling on Comrade Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, 31 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0331.html>

Statement of the ANC National Working Committee, 31 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0331.html>

ANC determined to tackle poor performance, 30 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0330.html>

'Why we will vote for the ANC', 28 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0328.html>

Zuma congratulates Bafana Bafana, 28 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0328.html>

Criminal justice system must bite - Zuma, 28 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/pr/2009/pr0328.html>

ANC government will work to intensify the land reform programme, so as to ensure that 30 percent of the land is in the hands of the rural poor by 2014. Government will provide the rural poor with technical skills and financial resources to productively use the land and to create sustainable livelihoods.

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 by small farmers.

To build on the achievements made in the last 15 years and to propel society towards further development in line with the Freedom Charter, the ANC will introduce a comprehensive social security system in the next five years which will include:

- Expansion of the provision of the child grant for children aged 15 to 18. The implementation of this provision will be linked to other requirements, including requirements for compulsory schooling.
- A special focus is required on ensuring that social security is extended to more unemployed adults. Therefore we will look at measures to achieve a bolder expansion of unemployment insurance
- Introduction of a mandatory contributory social security system and the establishment of a Department of Social Security to develop coherent social security policies and ensure their integrated implementation will be put in place. The mandatory system must provide for guaranteed retirement, disability and survivor benefits, whilst at the same time streamlining the provisions governing road accident claims, occupational injuries and the unemployment benefits.

Further, the ANC government will consult widely with various sectors to establish a consensus on our future social security system to make it comprehensive and inclusive.

Partnership at all levels among government departments and agencies, business, organised labour and other civil society and non-governmental organizations will be reinforced. Within government, over and above the current initiatives, it is about doing some things, differently as well as emphasising implementation and coordination. The current initiatives to combat poverty rely heavily on government sponsored and administered programmes and projects.

Whereas the government has a central role to play it should also focus on facilitating the involvement of other institutions, providing political leadership and using its resources and other capacities to mobilise all the role players in the desired direction. Indeed this is the "government's vision for the developmental state, one where public institutions together with other economic actors work in a coordinated way to address poverty and underdevelopment and promote higher and more widely shared, economic growth."

Critical interventions that will receive the highest level of attention from government in addressing poverty are:

- economic interventions to expand opportunities for employment and self – employment in particular including improvement of the state's capacity to lead in job creating industrial development.
- provision of quality education and skills and health care especially to poor communities ;
- promotion of access to assets including social capital to the poor and reduction of vulnerability; and
- promoting social cohesion

In line with the multidimensional nature of poverty, the anti-poverty framework is anchored on the nine pillars listed below.

1. Creation of economic opportunities - aimed at ensuring that the economy generates opportunities for poor households to earn improved incomes through jobs or self-employment.

LATEST SPEECHES

Address by President of the ANC to () Industries Sector Manifesto Endorser Dinner Gallagher Estates, 1 April 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/history/zuma/2009/jz0401.html>

Address by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Baleka Mbete, at the University of KwaZulu Natal, 1 April 2009
<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=deputy/sp/209/sp040194.htm&ID=1908>

Address by ANC President Jacob Zuma to breakfast meeting of South African Institute of Race Relations, 31 March 2009
<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docancdocs/history/zuma/2009/jz0331.html>

Address by H.E. Ms. Baleka Mbete, Deputy President of the Republic of South, at the Southern African Aids Conference (SAAIDS), 31 March 2009
<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?type=sp&include=deputy/sp/209/sp0331948.htm&ID=1907>

2. Investment in human capital - providing health care, education and training needed to engage with the economy and in political processes.

3. Income security - providing safety nets for the most vulnerable, primarily through social grants. This to ensure that vulnerability associated with disability, age and illness does not plunge poor households into destitution

4. Basic services and other non-financial transfers - what has been termed a social wage, consisting of services such as subsidised housing, and expanded access to water, electricity, refuse removal and sanitation; as well as a raft of minimum free basic services for vulnerable sectors of the population. Inability to pay for basic services should not prevent the poor from accessing these services altogether.

5. Improving healthcare - ensuring that poor children grow up healthy, providing quality and efficient preventative and curative care, and ensuring that illness or disability do not plunge poor households into destitution.

6. Access to assets - particularly housing, land and capital, including public infrastructure, both to improve economic and social security and to provide the basis for economic engagement in the longer run.

7. Social inclusion and social capital initiatives - combining programmes to ensure a more inclusive and integrated society, based on the development of more integrated structures and engagements across class and race, as well as community solidarity in communities and society as a whole. The focus is also on strengthening social capital, especially for the poor to expand their networks and ensure they have access to information.

8. Environmental sustainability - requiring strategies and programmes that help link increasing economic opportunities for the poor to the protection and rehabilitation of ecosystems, reversing environmental degradation and promoting eco tourism.

9. Good governance - direct intervention in the provision of information, facilitating participatory, pro-poor policies and sound macroeconomic management. This is to ensure proper use of public funds, encouraging shared economic growth, promoting effective and efficient delivery of public services and consolidating the rule of law.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANC President

Saturday 4 April 2009

18h00: ANC President to attend a gala dinner in honour of the late MK cadre Solomon Mahlangu at the Tshwane City Hall.

ANC Chairperson

Saturday 4 April 2009

10h00: ANC Chairperson to address Expanded Public Works Programme University of the Western Cape.

11h30: ANC Chairperson going on a door-to-door campaign at Masiphumelele.

14h00: ANC Chairperson attending ANCWL Prayer Service NY49 Gugulethu.

ANC Deputy President

Saturday 4 April 2009

10h00: Door-to-door campaign at Kouga, Cacadu Region, Eastern Cape.

11h00: Addressing a rally at Kouga, Cacadu Region, Eastern Cape.

13h00: Addressing a rally at Uitenhage, Nelson Mandela Region, Eastern Cape.

ANC Secretary General

Saturday 4 April 2009

10h00: ANC Secretary General to address a rally at the Eldorado Park Stadium in Gauteng.

NEC Member Malusi Gigaba

Saturday 4 April 2009

8h00: NEC members Malusi Gigaba and Molefi Sefularo to attend the funeral service of the sister to the late MK cadre Solomon Mahlangu. It will be held at House 27905, Mvumbu Street, V5 Mamelodi.

ANC Deputy President

Sunday 5 April 2009

10h00: Door-to-door campaign at Sterksprute, Joe Gqabi Region.
13h00: Addressing a rally Sterksprut, Joe Gqabi Region.

CURRENT AFFAIRS | BY ZWELI MKHIZE

Why we choose Zuma



We often read with surprise and disappointment the articles expressing doubt about the ANC's suitability to lead the country because it elected Zuma as a leader; a matter that has received extensive discussions in party structures and widely debated.

Contrary to damning media reports of the Polokwane conference, the decision to elect Zuma for President was a sober one. The debate had gone on informally for over ten years. It was started at the time when the ANC was discussing the post-Mandela leadership in 1997. There was careful thinking which resulted in the decision that Mbeki would succeed Madiba and

after two terms Zuma would take over.

The decision was based on the fact that the two were amongst most experienced and respected strategists, who had served together since the days of OR Tambo. Mbeki was primarily preferred as he would be able to focus on issues of transformation of the state machinery, because of his technical skills which we believed the country needed at the time.

Zuma was elected to deputise and strengthen Mbeki's leadership collective because of his excellent human relations, listening skills and capacity to unify. It was felt that, inevitably, Zuma's leadership would be needed to refocus attention to the vision of the ANC to build a compassionate and caring society. His passion for education, rural development, fighting poverty and crime is legendary. It was felt that Zuma would further enhance the consultative character of our organisation once the transformation agenda was in place after Mbeki.

For many people Zuma represents the triumph of the human spirit of perseverance by virtue of the fact that he rose from the depth of grinding rural poverty to attain the level of national and international prominence as a confident yet self taught person.

To some, this is a source of inspiration especially for the respect he commands in the continent and abroad. The recent visits to international investor forums have shown the high level of faith and his acceptability as a leader. Zuma may turn out to be one of the finest

Presidents in the country. His rise to the top echelons of power has not erased Zuma's touch with the ordinary people. No wonder so many feel well represented by him and do not share the skepticism often expressed in public discourse.

Those who know him well will attest that Zuma's reputation is that of an honest and caring person and a committed leader who will go out of his way to help those less fortunate than himself. Despite the myriad of news reports condemning Zuma, many people have refused to buy into this image of corruption as it does not accord with their experience of the man.

People who have only known about Zuma from the media do not understand how a man described in such horrible terms can be considered for such a high post. Yet those who know him do not accept that such a description refers to the leader they know so well.

Like many leaders Zuma is fallible. The saying goes *humanum est errare* (to err is human). Any perceived weaknesses are outweighed by his mature leadership style and the stability and spirit of friendship the country will enjoy under his leadership. His strength is his humility and welcoming style that inspires willingness to contribute to the positive achievement for the good of our country. The role of the leadership collective is to support the individual leader and enhance the best qualities.

South Africa was eternally blessed to have a leader like our beloved Madiba. We must also face up to the reality that there will only be one Madiba. Increasingly, thereafter our leaders will become more and more ordinary. Our task is to choose leaders and support them in their quest to fulfill the task that we elected them for.

Prior to the Polokwane conference, branches and delegates debated about and evaluated many of the talented leaders of the ANC in the context of who will best lead our organisation and our country during this time - they said Zuma is that person. When our members decided that Zuma will be Presidential candidate everything about him (both negative and positive) was known. Electing Zuma was a conscious decision. As an expression of a democratic process it has to be respected. The mark of true democrats is to accept the due processes of democracy and not change goal posts if they dislike the outcome.

Zuma has been investigated for nine years, during which he has proclaimed his innocence. He has never missed a day in court since he was charged in 2005. It was the NPA's inability to proceed with prosecution that led the case being thrown out of court by Judge Msimang.

When his offices were raided by Scorpions, together with his lawyers, they successfully challenged the Scorpions in court, which declared the searches to be unlawful. It was the NPA that appealed. It is strange that each time the NPA and Scorpions lose a case against Zuma it is acceptable to take matters to a higher court. Yet if Zuma did the same, he is accused of delaying court appearance. Zuma has no fear of the processes of justice. He has always used them to assert his rights to a fair trial.

The objection by Zuma to the charges a week after his election as President of ANC resulted in Judge Nicholson finding in Zuma's favour. It was the NPA that appealed.

It is possible that this case may never have proceeded if the NPA had opened the avenue for representations. It may have become apparent much earlier, that no crime had been committed. That Shaik was found guilty is no confirmation that Zuma is similarly guilty simply because his name was mentioned in court. He could not be found guilty without being party to court proceedings. Repetition of allegations against Zuma in the media has created a false sense of guilt in the mind of the public.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANC NEC Member Malusi Gigaba

Sunday 5 April 2009

11h00: ANC NEC member Malusi Gigaba to address a rally commemorating the late MK cadre Solomon Mahlangu. The rally will be held in Moretele Park, Mamelodi, Pretoria.

Political parties opposed to NPA considering Zuma's submissions are themselves bordering on interfering in the institutions of justice. Why would the NPA be right to take Zuma to court and be wrong to exercise a provision specified in the constitution? Extensive use of media by the state institutions has resulted in prejudice against Zuma by people who profess to respect the rule of law.

4. Basic

It was strange that during this ordeal, the main issue that was debated was Zuma's suitability for Presidency, confirming the information in ANC circles that the investigations were used to frustrate his election to Presidency. This is the reason why the contestations in the last ANC conference have been so fierce. The issues in this case were more political than legal.

When Zuma was accused of corruption in the Arms Procurement process, it is not equally stated that he was not party to the arms deal negotiation, nor was the Minister of Defence ever asked to account or resign for presiding over the process. Very little is said of the chairperson of the entire process even though it was known that it was the President who authored the letter that was extensively highlighted in the Shaik trial.

The ANC has not shifted from its values of clean governance, anti-corruption, respect for the independence of the judiciary and presumption of innocence.

We need closure of this matter that has traumatized and divided society. We may never agree on what the real truth is, so we must accept the responsible organs and follow due processes of law.

When this ordeal is over many will realize that we allowed ourselves to be swayed by repeated publication of untested allegations; hence we tacitly endorsed the persecution of an individual simply because the trial by public media was better presented than the case of his innocence.

In years to come all the weaknesses causing public excitement will fade and pale to insignificance. Posterity will look back at the first twenty years of our young democracy with pride and marvel at the contribution made by the finest sons of Africa who laid the foundation for this great nation. Each will have their footprints and legacy recorded:

- Madiba, the father of our rainbow nation, peace and reconciliation;
- Mbeki for the transformation of the state institutions and advocate of the African agenda;
- Motlanthe who managed the interregnum and allowed the nation to heal; and
- Zuma who rekindled our hope for a better future; laying the foundation for us to refocus on the attainment of a truly non-racial and prosperous democratic dispensation.

>> Dr Zweli Mkhize is the KZN Provincial Chairperson of the ANC