



# ANC TODAY

ONLINE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Mobilise and organise for a decisive ANC victory



On Wednesday 22 April, we will go to polling stations across the country to exercise a right for which our people fought over many decades, and for which many lost their lives. We will go to the polls to elect our representatives for national and provincial government.

For over 97 years, the ANC has led the struggle to bring about a South Africa that belongs to all the people, black and white. Since the dawn of democracy we have achieved a lot. Under successive ANC governments since 1994:

- we have rescued the economy and ensured it has grown consistently, and created jobs;
- the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) now covers over a million domestic workers and farm workers;
- now 12.5 million people and 8 million of children aged less than 14 years have access to social grants;
- we outpaced informal housing for the first by building about 3.1 million RDP houses for 10 million people, and the majority of these homeowners are women;
- about 18.7 million people now have access to clean water and 10.9 million people have been provided with sanitation, with the number of households with bucket system reduced from 605 675 in 1994 to 113 085;
- the expansion of electricity has reached 70% of the population;
- we have expanded health infrastructure through building 1,600 clinics and eight new hospitals, revitalising and refurbishing hospitals and we up-scaled the rollout of antiretroviral treatment with more than 480,000 people enrolled;
- access to our primary and secondary schooling has reached near universal enrolment, with the participation of girls being the highest in the world;
- we provided assistance to many poor students to access higher education through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS); forward as a nation, the challenge we face as a country is to learn the lessons of this experience.
- our country has become more cohesive and we collectively celebrate our achievements in sport, especially being awarded the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

## WEEK IN REVIEW

**Drivers strike ends** | Road haulage drivers strike for a living wage and better working conditions ended after two weeks of negotiations and mass action.

**South Africans based overseas cast their votes** | Around 11,000 South African voters abroad cast their votes at South African missions across the world. Voters lined up in long queues in Trafalgar Square in London, the largest voting centre, while person voted in Cameroon, the smallest.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**18 April 1905:** Enoch Mankanyi Sontonga, writer and composer of the national anthem, Nkosi Sikelel' IAfrica: (God Bless Africa,) dies at the age of 32. Seven years after his death the ANC launches his hymn into prominence as an anthem of black struggle against oppression.

**19 April 1906:** The Bambatha Rebellion takes place near Greytown in what is now KwaZulu Natal, marking the final act of armed African resistance to colonial rule for nearly 50 years.

**17 April 1954:** The Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) is founded in Johannesburg. The launch is attended by 164 delegates representing 230,000 women from all parts of South Africa

● we have strengthened the country's role in peace, reconstruction and development, especially on the African continent. We have also been active in international global forums to advance the South African development and the African agenda.

But this is not enough. There is much that needs to be done. This election is about the work we still need to do, together, to further improve the lives of our people. It is by working together that we have come this far.

We are acutely aware that many of our people still struggle to find work. There are still people who don't have proper houses or basic services. Many families struggle to make ends meet, many children cannot afford to go to school, and many people still find it difficult to get the health care they need.

Today we are faced with new challenges. The global economic crisis is having an impact on our country. But thanks to the policies of the ANC we have done better than many other countries. We are determined to work together with business and labour to minimise the effects of this global challenge.

After an extensive consultative process, the ANC has a clear and achievable plan over the next five years to improve people's lives further. We have five priority areas:

- Creating decent work in a growing economy.
- Ensuring that all have access to quality education.
- Ensuring that all have access to affordable quality health care.
- Building safer communities by tackling crime and corruption.
- Developing our rural areas and providing land to the poor.

We will ensure that we continue to grow the economy to meet the needs of our people. During 2008 we devoted substantial time and energy to developing costed strategies to achieve the imperatives of creating decent work and sustainable livelihoods. Some of these measures are already being implemented, most notably the public infrastructure expansion programme and several public works programmes. We will put in place a comprehensive state-led industrial policy that will direct public and private investment to support employment creation and broader economic transformation.

Education will be at the centre of our efforts to improve the potential of every citizen and enable each one of us to play a productive role in building our nation. We will improve the quality of schooling, particularly performance in maths, science and technology. We will improve the access of poor South Africans to quality education, by ensuring that 60% of schools are no-fee schools as part of the progressive introduction of free and compulsory education for the poor until they enter university, and we will review the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to facilitate the progressive introduction of free education for the poor at undergraduate level.

We will pursue the introduction of a National Health Insurance (NHI) system, which will be phased in over the next five years. This will provide every South African with access to quality health care which will be free at the point of delivery. We will also strengthen the partnership against AIDS in our country to ensure that this epidemic does not reverse the gains we have made.

We will overhaul the criminal justice system to ensure that we drastically reduce the levels of crime in our country. We will establish a new modernised, efficient and transformed criminal justice system with an enhanced capacity to fight and reduce crime in real terms. Our stated goal is that of reducing serious and violent crime, and in particular contact crimes, by 7 to 10% a year.

This will be linked to mobilising communities and the establishment of street committees to assist law enforcement agencies and complement visible policing. Resources would be allocated to better equip and remunerate those tasked with police and judicial services duties. The fight against corruption will form part of our struggle against crime.

## LATEST STATEMENTS

[ANC takes debate to twitter commun](#) :  
17 April 2009

[Gauteng MEC Brian Hlongwa,](#)  
16 April 2009

[ANC has no plans to diminish power of local government,](#) 14 April 2009

[ANC wishes overseas voters well,](#)  
14 April 2009

[ANC's birthday wish for President Jacob Zuma at 67,](#) 12 April 2009

[ANC statement on Springbok rugby coach Peter de Villiers,](#) 11 April 2009

Rural development and agrarian reform is integral to the struggle to create a better life for all. The ANC has a stated aim that by 2014 all rural schools and health facilities will have adequate basic infrastructure. Food security is linked to the agrarian and land reform programme. South Africa is currently a net importer of food. We will increase our food production through development of cooperatives and skills development in the agricultural sector.

We will continue our concerted efforts to contribute to a better Africa and world. Our organisation was formed and evolved as part of progressive forces across the globe in the fight against colonialism, racism, poverty, underdevelopment and gender oppression. We continue to agitate for an Africa and world that is based on the creation of a just, humane and equitable world order.

The global financial crisis demands a global response. This response must address the immediate dangers posed by the financial collapse and global recession. But it must also turn the crisis into an opportunity for a more democratic system of global economic and financial governance. It is only on the basis of a new economic multilateralism, which is both legitimate and effective, that we can secure the conditions for the sustainable, inclusive and balanced global growth.

Get involved in the effort to build a better life. Our common struggle to build a better South Africa that truly belongs to all has not come to an end. There is much that still needs to be done.

Working together we can do more. A vote for the ANC is a vote for a better life for all. Vote ANC on 22 April.

Jacob G. Zuma

## OPPOSITION TACTICS | BY KGALEMA MOTLANTHE

# Back to the politics of fear



History repeats itself. This week the Democratic Alliance (DA) unveiled its last ditch effort to garner votes ahead of the April 22 election. It wants to stop the ANC getting a two-thirds majority.

This brought to mind an article that I wrote over a decade ago, as the country was in the early stages of preparing for our second democratic election. It is worth revisiting that article now, because it reveals the extent to which the DA is locked in the past; stuck in an era when fear and prejudice was seen as a legitimate political platform.

One of the parties mentioned in the article has disappeared. The other one has changed its name and got a new leader. It is now 11 years later. But, sadly, everything else remains the same. This is the article as it was written:

The Memorandum also demanded of leadership to be 'committed to the resolution and programme of going home to lead the struggle there. (A) Leadership vacuum in South Africa could result in a situation where our people will be deceived by the opportunists of

### A two-thirds majority: the new 'swart gevaar'

The National Party and the Democratic Party have managed to whip themselves up into quite a frenzy over the possibility that the ANC could win a two-thirds majority in the 1999 elections.

The question that needs to be asked is why, in a constitutional democracy where voters are free to decide on the party of their choice, have the opposition created such a fuss about this particular fraction.

## LATEST SPEECHES

[Remarks by ANC Treasurer-General Mathews Phosa to the Cape Town Parliament Club](#), 15 April 2009

[Speech by ANC President Jacob Zuma to the Indian Christian Community](#), 14 April 2009

[Speech by Jeff Radebe at the St John's Apostolic Church of Prophecy in North West, on the occasion of the Easter weekend services](#), 12 April 2009

[Speech by ANC President Jacob Zuma at the Muslim Sultan Bahu Fete](#), 12 April 2009

[Address by ANC President Jacob Zuma to the Easter Sunday service at the International Pentecost Church](#), 12 April 2009

[Remarks by ANC President Jacob Zuma after the formal withdrawal of charges by the Durban High Court](#), 7 April 2009

The answer lies in great measure in these parties' approach to contesting the ANC's support.

Lacking a coherent or realisable vision for a better South Africa, these parties have fallen back on the promotion of fear to erode the ANC's support and to generate a mood of resistance to meaningful change.

The 'swart gevaar' and 'rooi gevaar', now devoid of their previous menace, have mutated into the two-thirds gevaar.

If fear is the opposition's most enduring weapon, then a two-thirds ANC majority is their latest ammunition.

The National Party tells us that a two-thirds ANC majority spells danger for democracy, reconciliation and nation building. The Democratic Party calls for a stand against an 'autocratic, all powerful government'.

Their recent preoccupation with this question is quite telling.

For one thing, it demonstrates their abiding fear of the will of the people. A fear of democracy.

It was with great reluctance in the first place that these two parties acceded to majority rule in South Africa, and to this day they continue to show scant regard for the wishes and aspirations of the people of this country.

They fail to acknowledge that the ANC's majority in this country constitutes a solemn and overwhelming mandate to implement a programme of reconstruction, development and democratic transformation.

When ANC members of parliament push transformative legislation through parliament on health, education and other matters they do so not because the ANC is autocratic, but because it is profoundly democratic.

The ANC is often forced to use its majority to pass legislation which opposition parties bitterly object to not because it is arrogant or unreasonable, but because it has a responsibility to the millions of South Africans who elected it to create a more equitable society.

Even during the negotiations process, some of these parties sought a constitutional arrangement which would forever entrench a minority veto in this country. They wanted to constrain the will of the majority by promoting disproportionately the narrow interests of a few.

Their latest outbursts about the 'danger' of a two-thirds ANC majority shows that they have not yet moved very far from this inherent dislike of democracy.

It speaks volumes, also, that so early in the election campaign the NP and DP are preparing to lose. The only question for them, it seems, is by how much and at what cost to the ANC.

That is surely not the approach of parties who have confidence that their policies and programmes can win the support of the majority of South Africans.

It is the approach instead of parties who are acutely aware that the policies they propogate appeal only to those small sections of the population who want to cling on to the privileges they gained under apartheid.

The National Party and Democratic Party have neither the capacity nor the inclination to lead this country towards a better life, and they know it.

They have therefore cast themselves as spoilers in the democratic transition.

Their responsibility, as they themselves define it, is to place whatever obstacles they can in the way of a smooth transformation. Their performance in the national Parliament, the various Provincial Legislatures and numerous local councils around the country have provided ample evidence of this.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday 19 April 2009  
Coca-Cola Park and Johannesburg Stadium  
09h00

**The rally will be broadcast live via satellite to the following centres:**

*Eastern Cape:*  
Dampi Adams Sports Field,  
Queenstown

*Free State:*  
Charles Mopeli Stadium, Qwaqwa

*KwaZulu Natal:*  
Edgewood College Sports Ground,  
Ethekwini

*Limpopo:*  
Peter Mokaba Stadium, Polokwane

*Mpumalanga:*  
Kanyamazane Stadium, Nelspruit

*North West:*  
Montshioa Stadium, Mafikeng

*Northern Cape:*  
Galeshewe Stadium, Kimberley

*Western Cape:*  
Nyanga Stadium, Cape Town

They see themselves as opposition parties in the most literal sense of the word - oppose the ANC at all costs, and don't bother too much about developing a viable, sustainable alternative.

But perhaps the most astounding feature of their new-found preoccupation, is that it demonstrates how very short their memories are.

Was it not the Democratic Party which "expressed reservations" on the adoption of the new Constitution? Was it not the National Party which said it found it "difficult" to vote in favour of the Constitution?

The new Constitution gave enough power to Cosatu to make or unmake governments and to break the economy, Tony Leon warned us. South Africa would pay a high price for opting for majority rule, FW de Klerk said. "It is a mistake," were his exact words.

The ANC, by contrast, had no reservations about voting for the new Constitution. No difficulty. No hesitation.

The ANC voted for the new Constitution because it encapsulates the fundamental human rights and democratic values for which the ANC had fought since its establishment in 1912. More than any other party in this country, the ANC embraced the new Constitution because it considers it a vehicle through which the rights of all South Africans can be safeguarded and the inequalities and injustices of the past redressed.

The intervening two years have done nothing to diminish the ANC's support for the Constitution, nor for the basic freedoms and rights which it guarantees.

How then do you explain the opposition's insistence that given the opportunity the ANC would willingly undo the very freedoms for which the organisation fought over many decades, and for which many of its cadres and supporters lost their lives?

Certainly not by virtue of any logic.

The only way to explain this obsession with a two-thirds majority is to recognise what both the NP and the DP have recognised: that the ANC is the only organisation in South Africa capable of fundamentally transforming our society and replacing inequality with a better life for all.

They recognise also that in order to achieve this objective, the ANC needs to continue to enjoy the support of the majority of South Africans.

And it is for that reason that they are trying so desperately, even at this early stage, to deny the ANC the overwhelming electoral mandate it needs to continue and accelerate the reconstruction and development of South Africa.

May 1998

**Postscript:** In the decade since this article was first published, the ANC has in fact held a two-thirds majority in Parliament. In all this time it has not used this majority to change the Constitution in the way that these opposition parties predicted. It has no intention to do so now. This is the Constitution for which the ANC fought, and we will continue to do everything we can to defend it.

>> Kgalema Motlanthe is the Deputy President of the ANC.