



ANC TODAY

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EXTRACT FROM THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Let us all become active citizens in the renewal of our country



On the 22nd of April, millions of South Africans went out to cast their votes. They exercised their democratic right spurred on by the desire to change their lives for the better. In their overwhelming numbers, they confirmed that working together we can do more to fight poverty and build a better life for all.

They were encouraged by the vision of an inclusive society, a South Africa that belongs to all, a nation united in its diversity, a people working together for the greater good of all.

Our nation has over the past few years gone through very challenging times. It is thanks to the fact that we have a strong and fully functional constitutional democratic system, with solid institutions, that we overcame these difficulties smoothly and with dignity.

On the 9th of May, during the Presidential inauguration, we made a commitment to our people and the world that:

For as long as there are South Africans who die from preventable disease;

For as long as there are workers who struggle to feed their families and who battle to find work;

For as long as there are communities without clean water, decent shelter or proper sanitation;

For as long as there are rural dwellers unable to make a decent living from the land on which they live;

For as long as there are women who are subjected to discrimination, exploitation or abuse;

For as long as there are children who do not have the means nor the opportunity to receive a decent education;

We shall not rest, and we dare not falter, in our drive to eradicate poverty".

The past year has seen the global economy enter a period of crisis unprecedented in recent decades. While South Africa has not been affected to the extent that a number of other countries have, its effects are now being clearly seen in our economy. We have entered a recession.

The economic downturn will affect the pace at which our country is able to address the social and economic challenges it faces. But it will not alter the direction of our development. The policy priorities that we have identified, and the plans that we placed before the electorate, remain at the core of the programme of the government.

WEEK IN REVIEW

State of the Nation Address | President Jacob Zuma delivers his maiden State of Nation Address and is given thumbs up by analysts, economists, opposition parties and the general public.

The world mourns Air France crash victims | The full Air France flight 447, carrying 228 people, disappears four hours after taking off from Rio de Janeiro for Paris. The jet debris were found in the Atlantic Ocean had crashed and killed everybody on board.

Illegal miners are found dead | At least 76 bodies of illegal miners are brought to the surface at Harmony Gold's Elands shaft in Welkom after an underground fire in an abandoned area. The miners might have died from inhaling smoke and gas.

South Africa robbed of exceptional academic and politician | Former Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Advocate Dirk du Toit passes away. He was considered an expert in Legal Hermeneutics, Constitutional Law & Administrative Law. His untimely death has robbed South Africa of one of the exceptional academic and politician who contributed immensely to the liberation of South Africa and the building of our democracy.

It is more important now than ever that we work in partnership on a common programme to respond to this crisis. We take as our starting point the framework for South Africa's response to the international economic crisis, concluded by government, labour and business in February this year. We must act now to minimise the impact of this downturn on those most vulnerable.

We will introduce a massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure. We will develop and implement a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security. We will strengthen the skills and human resource base. We will improve the health profile of all South Africans. Working together with all South Africans, we will intensify the fight against crime and corruption. We will build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities.

Working with Africa and the rest of the world, we will pursue African advancement and enhanced international co-operation. And, working with the people and supported by our public servants, we will build a developmental state, improve public services and strengthen democratic institutions.

In this regard, we will utilise state levers such as procurement, licensing and financial support to assist small medium enterprises as well as to promote the implementation of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and affirmative action policies. The implementation will be done in recognition of the need to correct the imbalances of the past. The transformation will be undertaken in support of women, youth and people with disabilities.

One of the biggest infrastructure investment projects is in the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. We have, as the nation at large, pledged that the World Cup will leave a proud legacy from which our children and our communities will benefit for many years to come. We are on track to meet all our obligations and are determined to give the world the best World Cup ever. We are putting all systems in place to make the Confederations Cup, which kicks off on the 14th of June, a huge success.

In April this year, I gave an undertaking to the taxi industry leadership to defer negotiations relating to the operation of the Bus Integrated Rapid Transit system until after the elections. We undertook to allow more time to deal properly with the concerns of the industry. On the 11th of June the Minister of Transport will resume discussions with the industry. We are confident that unresolved issues will be dealt with to the satisfaction of all parties. Education will be a key priority for the next five years. We want our teachers, learners and parents to work with government to turn our schools into thriving centres of excellence. We reiterate our non-negotiables. Teachers should be in school, in class, on time, teaching, with no neglect of duty and no abuse of pupils! The children should be in class, on time, learning, be respectful of their teachers and each other, and do their homework.

I will meet school principals to share our vision on the revival of our education system. We are very concerned about reports of teachers who sexually harass and abuse children, particularly girls. We will take very serious, and very decisive, action against any teachers who abuse their authority and power by entering into sexual relationships with children. We are also looking at innovative measures to bring back into the system pupils who dropped out of school, and to provide support.

We are seriously concerned about the deterioration of the quality of health care, aggravated by the steady increase in the burden of disease in the past decade and a half. We must work together to improve the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Treatment, Management and Care of HIV and AIDS so as to reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 50% by the year 2011. We are also paying urgent attention to the issues of remuneration of health professionals to remove uncertainty in our health services.

Together we must do more to fight crime. Our aim is to establish a transformed, integrated, modernised, properly-resourced and well-managed criminal justice system. We changed the name of the relevant Ministry from Safety and Security to Police to emphasise that we want real operational energy in police work. This will contribute to the reduction of serious and violent crimes by the set target of 7% to 10% per annum. The most serious attention will also be given to combating organised crime, as well as crimes against women and children.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

5 June 1988: Cosatu led the largest days stay-away up to that time in South African labour history. On the first day, between 2.5 and three million workers stayed away.

6 June 1995: Constitutional Court abolished the death penalty and asserted that capital punishment did not have a place in South African law and that everybody has the right to live.

7 June 1999: ANC won the second democratic election by 266 seats. It was followed by the Democratic Party which became the new official opposition with 38 seats.

June 9 1964: UN Security Council passed a resolution urging the apartheid government to end the Rivonia Trial and grant amnesty to the defendants and all other political prisoners already sentenced to death.

9 June 1983: MK operatives - Jerry Mosolodi, Terry Mogoerane and Thabo Montaung were executed for their part in an attack on Wonderboom Police Station. ANC had called for them to be treated as prisoners of war under the protection of the Geneva Convention.



Let me emphasise that we all have a role to play in this war against crime. We must actively participate in Community Policing Forums. We must stop buying stolen goods, which encourages crime. We must report crime and assist the police with information to catch wrongdoers. In this way, we will move forward towards a crime-free society.

Since 1994 we have sought to create a united cohesive society out of our fragmented past. We are called upon to continue this mission of promoting unity in diversity and to develop a shared value system, based on the spirit of community solidarity and a caring society.

Our shared value system should encourage us to become active citizens in the renewal of our country. We must build a common national identity and patriotism. We must develop a common attachment to our country, our Constitution and the national symbols.

Sport is a powerful nation-building tool. Working together we must support all our national teams from Bafana Bafana to the Proteas and the Springboks; from Banyana Banyana to Paralympians. Our teams can only do well with our support.

We have committed ourselves over the years to contribute to building a better Africa and a better world. South Africa will continue to assist in the reconstruction and development of the African continent especially in post-conflict situations.

Through continental and regional bodies, we will work towards the entrenchment of democracy and the respect for human rights on the African continent. We will contribute to the strengthening of South-South relations and pursue mutually beneficial agreements with key countries of the South.

A developmental state requires the improvement of public services and strengthening of democratic institutions. We have established two Ministries in the Presidency to strengthen both strategic planning as well as performance monitoring and evaluation.

To ensure delivery on our commitments, we will hold Cabinet Ministers accountable through performance instruments, using established targets and output measures, starting in July. We will also involve State-Owned Enterprises and Development Finance Institutions in the government planning processes and improve the monitoring and evaluation of their performance.

In this era of renewal, we will move towards a more interactive government. To lead by example, work has begun on the establishment of a public liaison capacity in The Presidency. In addition to receiving letters and emails from the public, we will also establish a hotline for easier access. Staff will handle each public inquiry as if it was the only one, following it through all the channels until it receives the attention it deserves.

The implementation of the government programme will take place in the face of the economic downturn. We will have to act prudently - no wastage, no rollovers of funds – every cent must be spent wisely and fruitfully.

Working together we can do more to realise our common vision of a better and more prosperous nation! This is the partnership we are calling for.

(This is an edited extract of the State of the Nation Address delivered by President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Zuma to the Joint Sitting of Parliament on 3 June 2009)

LATEST STATEMENTS

ANC welcomes Zille admittance of error in cabinet appointment, 1 June 2009

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/pr/2009/pr0601a.html>

ANC mourns the death of Dirk Du Toit June 2009

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/pr/2009/pr0601.html>

ANC NEC Statement, 29 May 2009

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/pr/2009/pr0529.html>

ANC welcomes repo rate cut, 28 May 2009

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?docs/pr/2009/pr0528b.html>

FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

The ANC is committed to stamping out corruption



Our movement, government and people are deeply concerned about the incidence of corruption in our country. This concern arises from the fact that corruption in the public sector means theft of resources that belong to the people. In the private sector, it deprives the economy of resources that would be used to increase the national wealth, and thus create the means to meet the needs of the people.

Corruption takes many forms,

- abuse of power
- manipulation and misrepresentation of facts
- opportunistic theft of government resources
- planned theft of government resources
- tender manipulation
- bribery
- dereliction of duty
- any action for illegitimate and illegal gain or profiteering

Corruption in the public and private sectors therefore directly undermines the critically important national effort to defeat poverty and underdevelopment, and thus ensure sustained progress towards the achievement of the goal of a better life for all. It entrenches poverty and by diverting key resources away from programmes designed to improve the quality of life especially of the poor, it negates the potential for development. Accordingly, corruption benefits the few, and harms the majority.

Public servants and political office bearers have a responsibility to lead by example. None of the objectives of development can be attained if the state of corruption is high in the public and private sectors, and is condoned by and/or rampant in society as a whole.

Laxity in executing public service duties constitutes corruption. Most of the public servants employed in government today are not from the apartheid era, but were engaged during the democratic dispensation. Apartheid cannot be blamed every time we fail to discharge our responsibilities or get involved in corruption.

This must be viewed as inseparable from the broader goals of socio-economic development. It must also be viewed as a global effort. Through better management and transparency, the ANC-led government is rooting out corruption. With a view to deterring corruption the ANC LED government put a number of things in place and today we have:

1. A code of conduct for public servants.
2. Disclosure for MP's - the financial interests of Members of Parliament is now reported in a public register. The NEC of the ANC has also indicated that it would wish NEC members to declare interests they may have in the private sector.
3. Executive Members Ethics Act - has been passed, which will subject both the national and provincial executives. The Cabinet, too, has its own rules on ethical behaviour, as laid down in the Constitution. The Code makes it expressly clear that the President may dismiss any Cabinet member or Deputy Minister who fails to comply with the Code.
4. Office for Serious Economic Offences has the mandate to deal with white-collar crime and ensure prosecutions.

LATEST SPEECHES

State of the Nation Address by President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, 3 June 2009

<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/show.asp?include=president/sp/2009/sp6031116.htm&ID=1936&type=sp>

Address by the President of the African National Congress, Comrade Jacob Zuma, at the National Union of Mineworkers Gala Dinner, 30 May 2009

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?doc=ancdocs/speeches/2009/sp0530.htm>

5. The Public Protector's Office - totally accessible to all members of the public and will investigate any claims made in all sectors.

6. Increased effectiveness of the South African Revenue Service in combating tax evasion and fraud, smuggling of goods and people and other legal measures introduced to combat corruption in the private sector.

As a society we must resist the worshipping of the value-system that deifies individualism and the material possession as the pinnacle of human success. Only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can we succeed to defeat and eradicate the value system that justify naked selfishness represented by acts of corruption.

We need a cadre of politician and civil servants who share the vision of our government and people; and who can manage the inherent conflict of interest between personal and public interest. In this way, we will succeed to create a harmonious relationship between the private and public interest, and treat these two as not mutually exclusive.

We all have a role to play in this war against crime and corruption. We must actively participate in Community Policing Forums. We must stop buying stolen goods, which encourages crime. We must report crime and assist the police with information to catch wrongdoers. In this way, we will move forward towards a crime-free society combating corruption.

As an organisation the elimination of corruption has been placed high on our agenda by ensuring that:

- branches and members are educated on the various forms of corruption and the necessity for its eradication;
- a nationwide anti-corruption campaign is initiated and mechanisms developed to build a link between state intervention on corruption, and our movement's own initiatives and responses to the matter;
- every ANC cadre must be offended by acts of corruption and prompt disciplinary action must be taken against any member, regardless of office, who is guilty of any corrupt practice.

The government should ensure that:

- existing legislation and regulations deter corruption through punitive measures;
- take steps to review institutions fighting corruption, and to increase their resources and effectiveness; and that
- the necessary capacity for financial management is created.

We cannot continue to allow our new democratic state to be indistinguishable from the previous such that national democracy would seem pretty much like apartheid and thus be equally doomed. To succeed in combating corruption, it is not enough that people should fear the law and punishment; they must also be ethical and possess the ethos that makes corruption fail to thrive.

We must inculcate a culture of hard-work in society as a whole; and the leadership must lead by example. At the same time, we must strive to achieve a balance and harmony between both material and spiritual needs.

There is need for united action by all stakeholders such as political leaders, business leaders, civil society, public intellectuals and academics, and others, to expose the root causes of and combat corruption. We must implant in society as a whole the values of integrity, hard-work and respect for public resources and the common good.

Information technology must be explored in order to preclude the incidents of corruption. Quite often, archaic systems allow for the prevalence of the human intervention which often exacerbates corruption.

A strong and robust democracy is essential to ensure that all sectors of society including the media and organisations of civil society, private sector, trade unions and faith based organisations jointly share the collective responsibility to promote the values apposite to developmentalism.

If each one of us upholds the values and principles of democracy, good governance, and Ubuntu; whilst sharing the ideology of development corruption will fail. It is not given that corruption should prevail. It can be defeated. For the purposes of building the national democratic society, corruption must be beaten.

DO IT FOR MADIBA

Give 67 minutes of your time to the worthy cause



On 18 July - the first president of democratic South Africa, former President Nelson Mandela will turn 91. His values and his example of dedication to the service of humanity is a shining to people all over the world.

An international campaign has been initiated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and related organisations, called Mandela Day. It will be celebrated on the 18th of July each year and will give people in South Africa and all over the world the opportunity to do something good to help others.

“Madiba was politically active for 67 years, and he taught us that this country belongs to all, black and white. On Mandela Day people all over the world, in the workplace, at home and in schools, are called upon to spend at least 67 minutes of their time doing something useful within their communities, especially among the less fortunate,” President Jacob Zuma.

Support Mandela Day and encourage the world to join us in this wonderful campaign.