



CONFERENCE

INFORMATION ON THE ANC
52ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE
16-20 DECEMBER 2007

NEWS

NUMBER ONE
JULY 2007

COUNTDOWN TO CONFERENCE



SUCCESSFUL POLICY CONFERENCE LAYS BASIS FOR DECEMBER

The ANC National Policy Conference, held at Gallagher Estate from 27-30 June, has laid a firm foundation for the 52nd National Conference in December.

Over the last three months, across the country, ANC branches, regions and provinces have been engaged in extensive discussions as part of preparations for the National Conference.

These discussions began in March and April with the distribution of a series of 11 policy discussion documents, a draft Strategy and Tactics document, and an Organisational Review discussion document. The documents were prepared to stimulate debate, beginning in ANC branches and culminating in Provincial Policy Conferences and PGCs.

To assist branches identify the main issues in the documents, and highlight questions for discussion, nearly 300 workshops were held throughout the country involving approximately 20,000 members of ANC, Women's League and Youth League branches.

The issues raised in branch discussions were fed into discussions at provincial level before being forwarded to headquarters to inform discussions at the National Policy Conference of 27-30 June. The function of the policy conference is to process and synthesise the

discussions of the last few months with a view to producing draft resolutions that can go back to members for further discussion.

The Policy Conference is not a constitutional structure of the organisation. It is not a decision-making structure. It is a forum to enable focused discussion of policy among the cadres of the movement without the distractions of NEC elections.

In closing the conference, President Thabo Mbeki said: "Our movement is deeply interested that everybody, including our members, our supporters and the population at large should have the possibility and right freely to express their opinions. We will continue to defend this right, and its practical expression, even if it results in the enunciation of views contrary to our own as a movement.

"In this regard I have no hesitation in saying that our movement has no equal among the political formations in our country in terms of democratic participation and widespread consultation in the formulation of its policies.

We will continue further to entrench this rich tradition which we must sustain as we continue to enhance our character as a parliament of the people. However,



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▷ all of us must all understand that, as members, we have both rights and obligations. And none of us has a right to act in any manner that weakens a movement they joined voluntarily.”

Below are some of the most important issues raised in each commission. The full set of draft resolutions will be made available once the respective committees have had an opportunity to incorporate amendments from the plenary.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Our **natural resources**, including our mineral wealth and marine resources, need to be used in a manner that promotes the sustainability and development of local communities and also realises the economic and social needs of the whole nation.

There is need for a comprehensive and clear **rural development strategy**, which builds the potential for rural sustainable livelihoods, particularly for African women, as part of an overarching vision of rural development. Strong interventions in the private land market combined with better use of state land for social and economic objectives, must transform the patterns of land ownership and agrarian production, with a view to restructuring and deracialising the agricultural sector. Our aim remains a fundamental redistribution of land ownership, and a thorough transformation of land use patterns in a manner that balances social and economic needs of a society.

It is necessary to strengthen the role of **state owned enterprises** (SOEs) and ensuring that, whilst remaining financially viable, SOEs, agencies and utilities - as well as companies in which the state has significant shareholding - respond to a clearly defined public mandate and act in terms of our overarching industrial policy and economic transformation objectives.

Building and strengthening **development finance institutions**, as well as non-financial institutions, which are accessible to the people, and which are able to effectively channel financial and institutional resources towards a variety of economic transformation objectives, including industrial diversification and development, small businesses and cooperatives, small-scale agriculture, micro-enterprises and local and regional economic development, and the empowerment of youth and women.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Social security and Social Development: Central to the task of social transformation is the role of the ANC in government to confront the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. Education and health must be prioritised as the core elements of social transformation. A comprehensive social security net provides a targeted approach in eradicating poverty and unemployment. Pensionable age must be equalised and be set at 60 years

Children: To prioritise the welfare of children and develop, monitor and measure tools that define and deal with child poverty.

Education: Debates on the viability of the state to declare free education as opposed to expanding the current no-fee schools policy is continuing. Maths and science must be made mandatory for school students. An ANC conference on education should be convened before the 52nd National Conference.

Health: Conference reaffirms the need for the implementation of the National Health Insurance System. It proposed the development of a reliable single health information system. Health cover for veterans of the struggle should be pursued. The ANC should explore the possibility of a state-owned pharmaceutical company that will assist in the lowering of medicine prices. In considering whether or not to make HIV and AIDS notifiable we should consider the negative implications of such a step, including the possibility of encouraging stigmatisation.

Housing: There should be interventions in the industry and residential property market to curb the spiralling of construction input prices, including with respect to material development and supply. We must develop appropriate legislation to prevent the mushrooming of informal settlements

Land and Agriculture: The state must regulate but not prohibit ownership of land by non-South Africans. This regulation should take into account the country's commitment to land reform, restitution, redistribution and access to land. The state and mandated entities must exercise its legal right to expropriate property in the public interest or for public purpose. Compensation shall be awarded in accordance with the Constitution with special emphasis on equity, redress and social justice. All legislation pertaining expropriation must be aligned with the Constitution.

Heritage, sports and culture:

We should develop a policy that clarifies the ANC's approach to the naming and renaming of geographic places such as streets, towns and public facilities. These guidelines should include principles such as the need to change offensive names representing colonial conquest and apartheid statehood, the need to restore the proud heritage of the indigeneous people, the need to accommodate diversity in our common national heritage and the need to have an inclusive and democratic process. There is a need to honour, in a non-sectarian manner, South Africans who have made a sterling contribution to the dawn of democracy and freedom.

Water and Forestry: We should review the mandate and composition of water services institutions and align these to developmental imperatives. Water allocation reform and water licenses to historically disadvantaged must be accelerated and aligned to land reform

Youth development: A National Youth Development Agency that will ensure seamless integration, sustainability and responsiveness to the demands and aspirations of South Africa's youth should be established.

Women: A Women's Ministry should be established to streamline women issues, especially focusing on empowerment and fighting patriarchy in the society.

MK Veterans: All government departments should adopt policies that are directed at integrating MK veterans into society and the national health insurance system.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In principle the commission support the establishment of the Union Government and creation of Africa United States as a step towards the strategic goal of the unification of Africa. The process must be informed by a developmental agenda for Africa with immediate focus on building regional economic communities/regional blocks (RECs).

In addition the commission agreed with submissions from provinces such as:

■ Strengthening of the African Union (AU) and all its organs in its role as a catalyst towards the formation of the Union of African states.

■ Strengthening of legislative bodies and harmonisation of legislations.

■ Use of NEPAD as the developmental blueprint in the





continent through mobilisation and promotion of partnerships of African States.

■ Development of a common approach, through involvement of civil society and the general citizenry.

We need to ensure that the challenges of the **SADC region** are resolved to ensure its effective functioning. There is a need for a political will within the SADC countries to be able to achieve our targets. To achieve the set benchmarks as agreed by SADC region our approach should be developmental and ensure diversification of the economies of the member states. It is our responsibility as the country to ensure that SADC is strengthened. There is a need to establish a SADC parliament and the conference.

The notion of a **South African Developmental Aid Fund** was supported by the commission, which cautioned that its implementation should not generate negative perceptions about South Africa; and encourage other countries in the continent to follow suit. The fund and the functions should be located in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

There is a need to acknowledge and give attention to a **code of practice that binds many SA companies** trading in different countries within the continent. The development of the code of conduct was agreed upon in principle and it was agreed that the code needed to be legislated and regulated without restricting the competitiveness of these companies.

LEGISLATURES AND GOVERNANCE

Future of provinces: The commissions recommend that the status quo be retained, but there should be a comprehensive processes of reviewing the South African government system taking into account the importance of issues raised around the national question, powers and functions, service delivery, administration challenges, unitary character of South Africa, etc.

Floor crossing: The commissions arrived at different recommendations regarding floor-crossing. One commission agreed that floor-crossing should be retained as an interim measure pending further evaluation. However, the NEC must develop guidelines for the political management of floor-crossing at both organisational and public level, including guidelines

for the acceptance of members, among other things to ensure that floor-crossing does not become a substitute for mass-work. The other commission agreed that floor crossing must be done away with and that the ANC should not to accept anyone crossing into it during the September 2007 window period for floor crossing. This commission felt that there must be an opportunity for political party coalitions without legislating for it.

Electoral System: The current system should be maintained and be strengthened so that the links between the people and the public representatives can be further enhanced.

THE BATTLE OF IDEAS

With respect to the prevailing **media environment**, the ANC needs to:

- establish its own platforms for production and distribution of information,
- encourage the creation of a progressive media house, youth radio station and strengthen government communications platforms,
- improve its own internal and external communications tools,
- strengthen community media, including improving the capacity of the MDDA and encourage government to place advertising in community media.

On the **public broadcaster and signal distribution**, the ANC should:

- reaffirm that government should increase substantially its funding of the SABC,
- encourage the SABC to support and promote local content,
- reaffirm Sentech as a national asset, and ensure the digitilisation of its infrastructure to broaden access,
- address the issue of domain name registration,
- establish a principle to guide the allocation of spectrum, to support, in particular, the growth of community media.

PEACE AND STABILITY

Single Police Service: The constitutional imperative that there be a single police service under the command and control of the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service be implemented.

Directorate of Special Operations: The Directorate of Special Operations (Scorpions) should be a special unit to deal with organised crime within the police.

A QUICK GUIDE TO CONFERENCE / 1

Powers, role and history

THE DUTIES, POWERS,

composition and programme of the ANC National Conference is outlined in the ANC Constitution, as amended and adopted in 2002.

The ANC National Conference:

- is the supreme ruling and controlling body of the ANC;
- is held every five years;
- determines the policy, programme and Constitution of the ANC;
- receives and discusses the reports of the National Executive Committee (NEC), including the Presidential Address, the Secretary General's Report, and the Treasurer General's Report;
- has the power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decisions taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or Officials of the ANC;
- elects the members of the National Executive Committee;
- has the power to elect or appoint any commission or committee.

From its formation in 1912 until just before its banning in 1960, the ANC National Conference was held annually. During the years of illegality, no National Conferences were held.

National Consultative Conferences were however held in Morogoro, Tanzania in 1969; in Kabwe, Zambia in 1985; and in Johannesburg in 1990.

After the unbanning of the ANC, the National Conference was initially every three years – in Durban (1991), Bloemfontein (1994) and Mafikeng (1997).

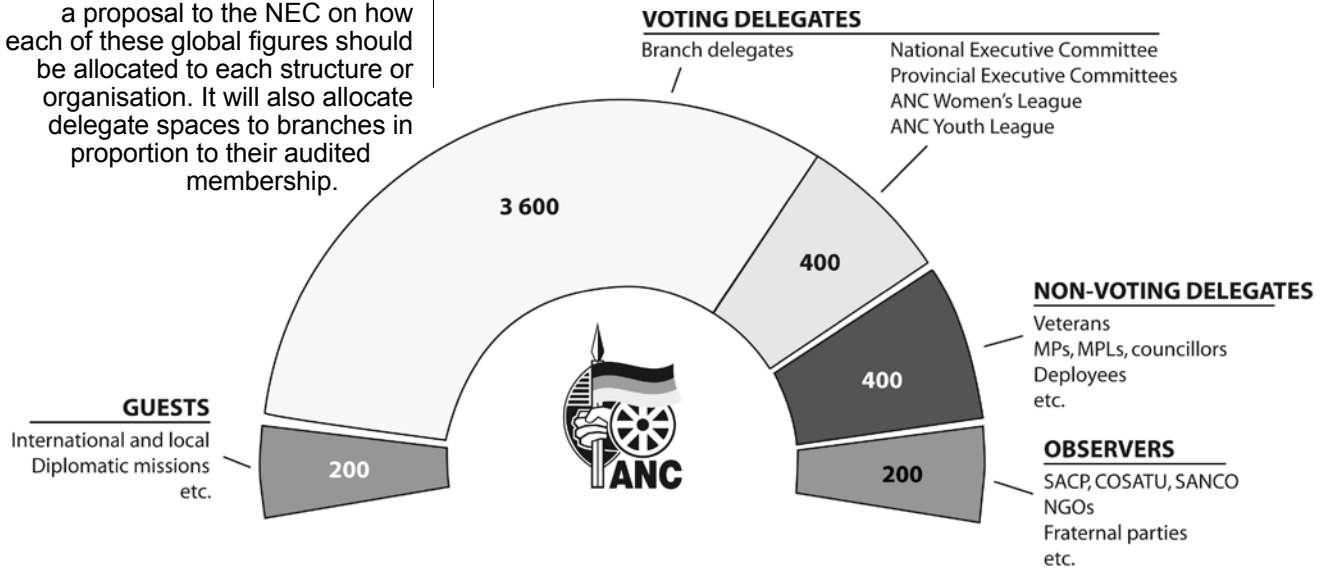
Since then it has been held every five years, in Stellenbosch (2002) and now in Polokwane.

A National General Council (NGC) is held mid-way between National Conferences. To date, NGCs have been held in Port Elizabeth (2000) and Tshwane (2005).

Nearly 5,000 people will attend the ANC National Conference in December, the NEC has decided. At its meeting in March, the NEC adopted the 'global' credentials proposal, which sets the upper limit for delegates in each category.

The NCPC Credentials and Registration Task Team will make a proposal to the NEC on how each of these global figures should be allocated to each structure or organisation. It will also allocate delegate spaces to branches in proportion to their audited membership.

Global figures for largest ever ANC conference



The challenging task of making national conference happen

Given the size and significance of Conference, a great deal of work goes into preparations, both political and logistically. The NEC has therefore appointed a National Conference Preparatory Committee (NCPC) that is required to circulate conference information in advance, determine the precise procedure for selection of delegates, and indicate how the membership can then ensure their concerns are on the agenda. It reports to the NEC.

The NCPC is comprised of a number of task teams:

■ **Credentials and Registration**, which develops the credentials proposal on exactly who should attend, works with the national audit team on verification of membership, is responsible for delegate registration, presents the Credentials Report for adoption by Conference, and prepares the voters

roll for NEC elections.

■ **Programme, drafting and resolutions**, which oversees the preparation of political discussion papers, coordinates the submission of draft resolutions from structures, guides the process of constitutional amendments, prepares the Conference Programme, and coordinates the discussion and drafting of resolutions at Conference.

■ **Logistics**, which coordinates all logistical preparations, including venue, accommodation, catering, transport, documentation, telecommunications, information technology, administration, translation, recording, staffing, decoration, audiovisual, first aid, signage, crèche facilities and so forth.

■ **Media and publicity**, which profiles Conference among the public and in the mass media, coordinates media liaison and briefing, coordinates media accreditation,

and provides media facilities at Conference.

■ **Protocol**, which manages protocol arrangements for all international and local guests, and works with the Credentials and Registration task team on the invitation and registration of all guests.

■ **Finance**, which prepares and monitors Conference budgets, collects conference registration fees, and oversees all procurement.

■ **Security**, which coordinates plans to ensure the security of Conference, delegates and guests.

■ **Culture and exhibitions**, which organises cultural activities and exhibitions during Conference.

■ **Mobilisation**, which organises mobilisation activities in the host province and nationally towards Conference and the rally after Conference.