



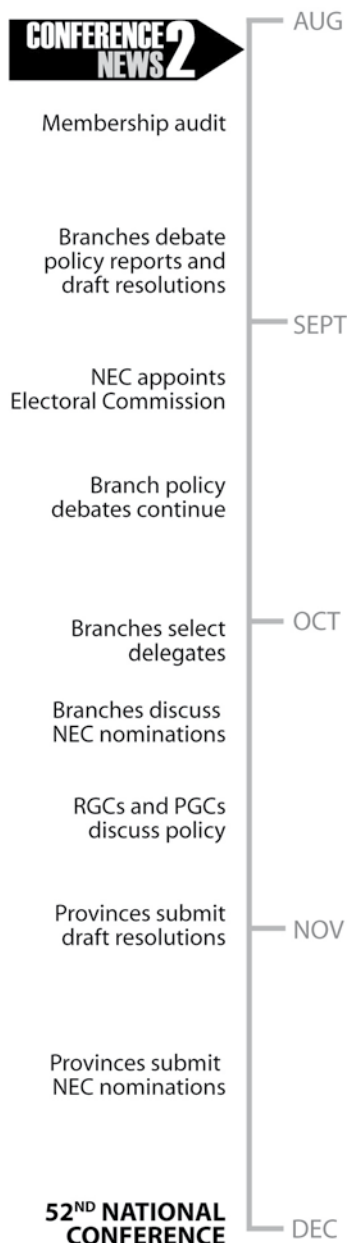
CONFERENCE

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

NEWS

NUMBER TWO
AUGUST 2007

COUNTDOWN TO CONFERENCE



MEMBERS AND BRANCHES STAND UP TO BE COUNTED

An audit of ANC membership and branches in preparation for the 52nd National Conference has begun. The purpose of the audit is to help the movement establish which members and branches are in good standing so that they can participate in the formal processes of the ANC in accordance with its constitution.

The audit is therefore to facilitate participation rather than to exclude or disqualify members and branches from activities of the movement. It seeks to raise awareness about the basic requirements that members and branches need to meet to participate legitimately in the constitutional structures of the organisation, especially when it comes to policy formulation processes and decision-making.

Specifically, the audit is being done to:

- determine the number of paid-up members in each branch or ward, whether there is a branch in good standing or not;
- determine the number of branches in good standing as at the cut-off date of 30 June 2007;
- determine the number of paid-up members and branches in good standing in each region and province;
- establish the level of activism of members in their branches by

checking the rate of attendance of Annual General Meetings (AGMs); ■ facilitate the allocation of branch delegates to Conference.

For the audit process to be fair and transparent there is a need to agree upfront about the requirements that need to be fulfilled by every member and branch to be in good standing.

MEMBERS

The following is required for each **member to be in good standing**:

- A member should have completed and signed a membership form.
- A member should have deposited R12 or more into the bank account as a membership fee, with a bank deposit slip or stamped form as proof.
- A member must be up-to-date with the payment of their membership fees, understanding that members have a three months grace period following the lapse of their membership.

The following is a sample of **what does not constitute membership** in good standing for purposes of the audit:

- Members who joined after the cut-off date.



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- Membership forms (not renewals) dated less than eight weeks prior to the cut-off date.
- Membership forms not signed, or signed by someone other than the member.
- Membership forms without proof of payment.

BRANCHES

Every launched **ward-based branch** or special branch approved by the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) should provide:

- Membership forms valid as of 30 June 2007.
- Report on the last AGM, including the attendance register.
- Membership forms valid at the time of the AGM.
- In the case of a special branch, written approval from the PEC.

A branch will not be considered in good standing if it:

- Has not been launched as a ward-based branch or as a special branch approved by the PEC.
- Has less than 100 paid-up, verified members as of 30 June 2007.
- Has not held an AGM in the 15 months prior to the cut-off date

(this includes the 3-month grace period).

- Had less than 100 paid-up, verified members at the time of the last AGM.
- Had less than 50%-plus-1 of its membership in good standing present at the AGM.
- Does not submit a report with a signed attendance register of its AGM.

The branch can mandate a recruiter or BEC member to deposit membership fees in the bank account on behalf of applicants or members in circumstances where it is difficult for individual members to do so. In such a case, each application or renewal form will be stamped by the bank. An affidavit from the BEC will serve as proof that the group deposit was a result of the mandate of the branch.

Those who are renewing their membership will not be subjected to the eight weeks waiting period. The date to be considered when determining whether a member is in good standing or not is the one on the form, not the bank stamp/slip.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles should un-

derpin the audit process:

■ The audit will be conducted on an annual basis, with 30 June being the cut-off date each year.

■ Provinces, regions and branches need to be given adequate time to prepare for the audit.

■ Headquarters, provinces, regions and branches need to share, verify and reconcile the membership records in their possession at least two weeks before the commencement of the audit.

■ The audit will be conducted at regional level wherein the branch, region and province will be in attendance to deal with and resolve any queries that may arise.

■ The political leadership of the movement will be part of the audit process, especially the Secretaries at all levels.

As a general practice, for purposes of National Conference, National General Council (NGC) and Provincial Conferences, the audit will be conducted by the National Audit Team. The Provincial Audit Team will conduct the annual audit of branches to help determine representation in Provincial General Councils (PGCs) and Regional Conferences, while the Regional Audit Team will audit branches in

Policy Conference 2007 commission reports released

The reports of the ANC National Policy Conference 2007, held at Gallagher Estate on 27-30 June, are being distributed to structures. These reports summarise the outcomes of discussions in commissions and any recommendations or draft resolutions they produced. The reports cover the six sectoral commissions and the commissions on Strategy and Tactics and on Organisational Renewal.

The reports cover the following areas:

- Strategy and Tactics
- Organisational Review
- Social Transformation
- Peace and Stability
- Economic Transformation
- International Relations
- Legislatures and Governance
- Communications

In addition, a revised draft of the

Strategy and Tactics is being circulated following the Policy Conference discussions.

These reports should be read in conjunction with the original policy discussion documents released in February and March. Branches should use the months of August and September to hold workshops and branch general meetings to discuss these reports, and particularly the recommendations they contain. These branch debates should be fed into regional and provincial discussions taking place during October.

The NEC has set the end of October for the submission of reports and draft resolutions from provinces.

The reports will be available in printed form from ANC provincial and regional offices, and online at www.anc.org.za.

Limpopo confirmed as Conference venue

THE UNIVERSITY OF Limpopo in Polokwane has been confirmed as the venue for the 52nd National Conference.

This follows the July meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC), which received and considered a report on preparations for Conference. This included a report on logistical arrangements at the university.

Amid media reports about the capacity of the province to host the event, and taking into account the practical challenges identified, the NEC confirmed its earlier decision to hold the conference in Limpopo.

It expressed its confidence in the ability of the province to successfully host an event of this nature, and mandated the officials to take those measures necessary to address any outstanding logistical challenges.

Delegates, guests, observers and others

IN LINE WITH THE Constitutional requirements, the NEC will, later in the year, adopt a Credentials Proposal, identifying exactly which categories of people should be at Conference. Only those people identified in the Credentials Proposal may attend. At the start of Conference, a Credentials Report is presented to the plenary outlining who is present.

In terms of the Constitution, Conference is composed of:

■ Voting delegates

- branch delegates, who comprise at least 90% of voting delegates.
- National Executive Committee members.
- Provincial Executive Committee representatives.
- ANC Women's League representatives.
- ANC Youth League representatives.

■ **Non-voting delegates.** Individuals who have made a special contribution to the struggle or who have special skills or experience may be invited.

BRANCH DELEGATES

The allocation of branch delegate spaces is done in the following manner (see illustration below):

■ **Step One:** An audit of all ANC branches is conducted. This audit will:

- be conducted in August 2007;
- assess the state of the ANC membership and branches as at 30 June 2007;
- consist of a physical audit of all membership records of all branches to establish the exact number of members per branch. Only members in good standing, those who are up to date with the payment of their R12 a year membership fee, are counted;
- identify which branches are in good standing. These are branches that have at least 100 members, have held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within the 12 months up to 30 June 2007, and achieved a quorum at this AGM of over 50% of its membership.

■ **Step Two:** Once the audit has been completed and verified, each ANC province is allocated a number of branch delegate spaces in proportion to the total number of members in the province.

■ **Step Three:** Each province's allocation is divided among all its branches in good standing in proportion to each branch's share of the total paid-up membership of branches in good standing.

■ Branches are advised of the number of delegates they are expected to send to Conference. These delegates are then chosen at, and receive a mandate from, Branch General Meetings (BGMs).

