20TH ANNIVERSARY OF COSATU

The significant historical milestone in history

This year, as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), we also mark the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chief Albert Luthuli. The year 2010 is also the 150 Anniversary of the arrival of the Indian Indentured Labourers in South Africa, we also mark the 22nd commemoration of the World Aids Day.

The contribution of the Indian community to the melting pot that is South Africa is a matter of historical record. What is worth observing now is the contribution of the leaders of the Indian background in our struggle, including in both the African National Congress (ANC) and COSATU itself.

We must upfront congratulate COSATU for this proud history, during which it has made notable contributions to the development of our country, our history.

The five fundamental principles under which COSATU was founded were:
- non-racialism;
- one union, one industry;
- worker control;
- representation on the basis of paid-up membership; and
- co-operation between affiliates at national level.

These principles were the cornerstone of COSATU from inception and remain appropriate and relevant pillars of the Federation today. The trade union movement is known to advocate a reformist agenda, as political theory tells us.

In this regard, Lenin expressed the point clearly when he said that:

“The history of all countries testifies that workers left exclusively to their own strength can cultivate only a trade union consciousness - that is the belief in the need to unite into a union, struggle against the bosses, press the government to pass needed labour legislation…”

Our present conditions demand that workers remain engaged in all facets of social, economic and political life in our country. As we continue with the struggle for reconstruction and development, we still need to mobilise our people to take charge of this phase of our struggle.

Workers have to immerse themselves in local political struggles to gain and deepen their political consciousness. Historically, members of progressive trade union movement have always had dual membership that underpinned their dual struggles both as workers at a factory floor and as activists waging political and civic struggles for the vision of a better society.
In pursuit of this vision, whose core elements include non-racialism, non-sexism, justice, equality and non-exploitation, and which is driven by theoretical vehicle of National Democratic Revolution, COSATU has, over the years and in different formations, taken up the daily struggles of South Africans even beyond the parameters of the workers.

It should be borne in mind that South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), together with the Congress of Democrats, SA Coloured People's Organisation, and the South African Indian Congress and the ANC played a central role in the run up to and during the Congress of the People, held in Kliptown in 1955.

The impact of the trade union movement at the Congress of the People was articulated well in the Freedom Charter, which declared the following in relation to labour matters:

- All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;
- The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;
- Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;
- There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;
- Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work; and
- Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

This shows that leaders of SACTU were able to connect the dots and correctly see factory floor struggles as inseparable from the daily struggles of the general South African population. The same sentiment found expression in the words of the then convener of the Congress, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa, that “the struggle of the workers on the shop floor cannot be separated from the wider struggle for liberation. If workers are to lead the struggle for liberation we have to win the confidence of other sectors of society…”

In the 25 years since its formation, COSATU has added immense weight to the balance of forces in our country. Of note is the reality that the Tripartite Alliance remains inherently indivisible, defined by the vision of creating a South Africa that is united, non-racial, non-sexist, just and democratic.

To the extent that the underlying historical conditions that necessitated the formation of the alliance still exists, albeit in a different incarnation, to that extent will the alliance live on, focused on this historical duty to serve the needs of human society.

Accordingly, a consciousness that the struggles of the workers today still cannot be separated from the struggles of the communities in which the workers live still permeates our alliance.

Challenges embedded in the post-94 period will continue to test our sense of unity and the direction we take as the alliance. At the level of organised labour, some of the key challenges facing COSATU include the following:

- Globalisation has put continued pressures on developing nations. South Africa, with its accumulated disabilities from the past, such as lack of education and skills among the population, is grappling with these challenges. As a trade union federation COSATU is not unaffected by these difficult conditions;
- Related to this historical challenge of skill deficit among our people is the advancement in technology and its adverse effects generally. For instance the onset of automation has an impact on unemployment to the extent that it compounds the dire situation of lack of skills. Workers who were trained to perform certain duties are now rendered redundant because of automation;

President Jacob Zuma receives Zambian President Rupiah Banda on a State Visit to the Republic of South Africa | Mr Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia visited South Africa. The visit took place within the context of consolidating the African Agenda through the enhancing and deepening of the political, economic and social relations between South Africa and Zambia. It was aimed at strengthening the already existing cordial relations between the two countries which were further enhanced by President Zuma’s State Visit to Zambia in December 2009. The two Presidents discussed amongst others: Cooperation in the key bilateral priority areas such as economic cooperation, energy, mining, agriculture, health and environment; Mutual cooperation at regional level, especially within SADC, as both countries are members of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security; and Broad issues affecting the continent within the context of the AU, as well as enhanced cooperation in dealing with multilateral issues such as the reform of the global institutions of governance in particular the United Nations Security Council. President Zuma was supported by the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Energy; Finance; Health; Mineral Resources; Water and Environmental Affairs; as well as Trade and Industry.

Wealthy South Africans generous | Wealthy South Africans are the second most generous nation when it comes to giving money, and rank fourth in volunteering their time to worthy causes, according to a report. "South Africa was found to be the second most financially generous nation behind the United States, and when it came to measuring which nations were the most generous in giving of their time, South Africa ranked fourth behind list-topping Ireland," said Absa Wealth in a statement. The report surveyed 2000 high net worth individuals from 20 countries around the world, measuring the money and time they invested in charities and causes. It also looked at what motivated their generosity.
In the modern economy there is a growing trend towards casualisation of labour, which in our case means increased vulnerability among workers. Changing demographics in terms of age among the working population also exacerbates this dilemma; and

- Flowing from the question of demographics arise the challenge of organising young, educated workers with a tenuous connection with the oppressive past of our country.

Our revolutionary duty is to identify appropriate responses to some of these challenges thrown up by post-apartheid and globalisation imperatives. I would like to wish COSATU many more years of commitment to the advancement of the interests of the workers. We look forward to your continued comradeship in the Alliance as we take forward the agenda of the working class and the poor.

We have already made noticeable strides in our fight against HIV and AIDS and we continue to work together we can redouble these advances. We must plan and act together as a cohesive and united people to achieve victory. I have no doubt that we are up to the challenge.

The words of the founding President of COSATU, comrade Elijah Barayi ring true here, that:

"we urge all worker leaders... and all patriots in South Africa to work together, plan and coordinate our actions to win our freedom and break the chains of poverty and cheap labour which bind the majority of people in South Africa today". (1986 May Day Message)

Amandla!!!!!

>> Kgaema Motlanthe is an ANC Deputy President and Deputy President of the Republic. This is an edited extract of his address to 25th Anniversary of COSATU
The ANC will be holding Centenary celebrations in 2012. Further, in 2014 South Africa will be celebrating 20 years of democratic governance. These important milestones gives the ANC a good opportunity to review progress we have made in the creation of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.

From the 2 - 4 December 2010 ANC councillors, mayors, premiers, REC and BEC delegates are meeting in Gallagher Estate in a Summit on Provincial and Local Government. The National General Council directed us to do the following:

- To Provincial and Local Government as resolved by the 52nd National Conference. The convening of this is part of implementing both the 52nd National Conference and the NGC resolutions.
- The Municipal Systems Administration Bill and all key legislations affecting local government must be presented to the summit.
- The summit be held within three months from the NGC.

This directive by the NGC is talking to one fundamental principle that the work of the government departments must be guided by ANC policies. The NEC, through its NEC sub-committees has the responsibility of monitoring the work of departments falling within the scope of the sub-committee concerned.

The debate on the provinces is an attempt to assess whether some of the compromises made during the negotiations should not be reviewed. The ANC never envisaged provincially based government. The policy of the movement has always envisaged a unitary government with a strong local government sphere that would be strong in the implementation of policies and programmes.

It was the insistence of other parties that led to the creation of provincial government sphere. Over the years provinces have become a very strong sphere of government with real powers. The entrenchment of power in the provincial sphere of government makes difficult and complicated to discuss the desirability of this sphere of government without tempering with what has been accepted as part of governance structures. The Premiers, MECs and the number of MPLs working in the provincial government constitute a sizeable number of cadres in the system.

This debate must therefore start off by doing a serious assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of this sphere of government. We must answer the question of whether we are making positive impact on delivering services and the basic needs to our people. We must ask the question of whether the cost of running the nine provincial governments is not costly and therefore takes a big chuck of resources that would otherwise be directed at meeting the needs of our people. If we come to the conclusion that there is value in having provincial governments we must quantify such value.

We must be able to identify areas that need strengthening where the benefit is bigger than the cost. Obviously the assessment of the provincial sphere of government must talk to the thinness of the resources left for deployment at the local government sphere of government. Theoretically we say the ANC must be able to call on a minister at national or provincial level to be deployed as a mayor of a strategic municipality. Up to now this remains a principle on paper. In practice we are taking effective mayors for deployment to the provincial and national government levels. Where this principle has been applied we have evidence that the quality of local government management improves.
This question is going to confront us as we go to the local government elections. Those who have ambitions of becoming mayors will resent this discussion. Some among us are positioning themselves to takeover as mayors and MMCs in municipalities where the mayor is completing the mandatory two terms. If we discuss the possibility of deploying cadres from other spheres of government such comrades will see that as a threat.

Equally important is the retention of skills developed over the last sixteen years. As we visit the regions of the ANC we come across a number of good and effective mayors identified for removal. In such cases the provincial structures of the ANC must assist regions. We must learn that removal of an experienced cadre and experiment with a new one is a big gamble. I am one of those who believe that the mandatory two terms for Mayors and Premiers is stretching democracy too far. It is painful enough at the level of the President, but a principle that we can live with.

We are expected to discuss whether we need all the elections on same day or should we continue with the current arrangement. The current system from where I stand helps the parties continue doing political with enthusiasm. The net benefit of this is parties keeping their eyes on the ball knowing that there is a set of elections on the way. Consolidating the election dates will save a lot of resources that are spent on the different sets of elections. It will ensure that the performance of the ANC in the various spheres of government is tested at the same time. This is a two edged sword that push the support of the ANC either ways.

We must contribute to the refinement of the local government election programme. Comrades from the Western Cape need to share experiences of the other provinces. It will be more interesting to take lessons from our Comrades in KZN who were in opposition and came out to take over the provincial government. If we follow their performance in by-elections it is clear that they will be taking over a number of municipalities in the province.

The Western Cape is still not convincing that it has set itself to corrode the social base of the DA. There is too much pre-occupation with internal fights and problems, depriving us the opportunity to grow. When we have become an underdog we have nothing to lose. We have the opportunity of fighting as if there is no tomorrow. That is what we are expecting from our comrades in the Western Cape. We have an opportunity of increasing the number of municipalities that are directly controlled by the ANC. If we can achieve this we will be strong enough to form coalitions based on principle when we have no direct control.

We must discuss the practical implementation of the list process guidelines. It is going to be tricky and complex to implement the requirement that we test our candidates in communities we are in. We must manage the process such that it is not manipulated by opportunists, while at the same time we involve the communities in a way that we can genuinely test the acceptability or otherwise of our candidates.

We must help delegates from the provinces to be able to draft programmatic framework that talks to local issues that is compatible with the national manifesto. The national manifesto by its nature will be general in outlook. Our structures must be able to explain what they plan to do in the next five years. This programme must talk to what has been done and what is underway. The coming elections must not be projected as starting from scratch, but a continuation of what we are already doing.

This will require boldness in admitting where we have shortcomings but explain what we are planning to do where there are problems. We must make our movement an organisation of all times and the party of the future. We must be the representative of the aspirations and interests of the vast majority of our people.

We must preserve the traditions, culture and values that the ANC always stood for.

Amandla!!!

>> Gwede Mantashe is the ANC Secretary General. This is an edited extract of his opening address at the ANC Summit on Provincial and Local Government
NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

International Relations

BACKGROUND

1. As stipulated in the Freedom Charter “there shall be peace and friendship”. International Relations is utilised by the ANC to form friendships and to work towards peace in the continent and the world. This also means forging and maintaining relations with like-minded forces to take forward a progressive agenda for a better Africa and better world, without hunger, disease, oppression and underdevelopment.

2. The six pillars of international work are:
   (a) Contributing to building a better Africa and better world
   (b) Continental and international solidarity
   (c) Party-to-party, intra-lateral party and multilateral
   (d) Transformation of global governance institutions
   (e) Policy development issues
   (f) Campaigns

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES SINCE THE 52ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

3. Since Polokwane, the ANC has done work on the continent and in the world through party-to-party relations, participating in certain international fora, conflict resolution on the continent, limited involvement in campaigns, dealt with some of the transformational global governance issues, and ensured ongoing policy development.

4. The capacity of the International Relations sub-committee at ANC headquarters is a matter of concern as it is not nearly adequate to respond to all the issues we face. Therefore, the ANC has not been able to implement many of the resolutions, as reflected in the NEC Sub-committee on International Relations Report to the National General Council.

5. The current international balance of forces have seen a shift from a unipolar world where the United States was a hegemonic power towards an emerging multipolar world with the increased presence of Asia, in the process decisively tilting the international balance of forces. China and India are emerging as key players in geopolitics and we have seen the emergence of several regional groups of the ‘South’ like BRIC, IBSA, etc.

6. South Africa plays a role in many global forums such as the G20, which has eclipsed the G8 configuration of developed countries. This is an important platform for our international work.

Programmatic tasks and recommendations towards 2012:

7. Strengthening African institutions
   7.1 Continue to strengthen the regional integration of SADC.
   7.2 Strengthen the African Union (AU) and its organs, encourage strong regional bodies and reinvigorate NEPAD.
   7.3 The Pan African Parliament is a critical instrument for the continued democratisation of the Continent.
8. Sudan

8.1 Delegates raised concerns about the situation in Sudan, and the NGC thus proposed that the President should consider appointing a Special Envoy to Sudan to enable South Africa to contribute to achieving a peaceful Sudanese referendum reflecting the will of the people.

9. Africa Day

9.1 Promote Africa Day (not necessarily a public holiday) and the African Union anthem in the broader South African society to assist South Africans identify with the African continent.

10. Foreign Policy Review and the issue of National Interest

10.1 Conduct a review of South African foreign policy, including such matters as South Africa’s national interests, international migration, and strengthening of the Region.

10.2 Our definition of the national interest should advance the NDR, and be informed by the Strategy and Tactics document of the ANC. We also need to balance our national interest between our emphasis on human rights, political issues and economic interests. The ANC should further debate and develop an ANC position paper on what it regards as our national interest and popularise it.

10.3 Foreign policy should incorporate the current challenges of human trafficking and migration, in addition to human rights and worker rights issues.

10.4 The ANC should further develop a position paper on migration, immigration and xenophobia as contained in the 52nd Conference resolution, which should be taken to the provinces for further discussions.

10.5 The ANC should debate and develop a position paper on if, when, under what circumstances and where South Africa should deploy SANDF soldiers in countries at war, such as Somalia. There was consensus in the commission that South Africa should not send troops to Somalia but continue to engage on the issues.

10.6 The response on AFRICOM should be informed by strategic considerations and not only a campaign.

11. Business Code of Conduct

11.1 The Business Code of Conduct should ensure that South African companies doing business in Africa and further abroad conduct themselves in a manner consistent with South African norms and standards, such as upholding labour relations standards, ethical conduct and so forth.

12. South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA)

12.1 The South African Development Partnership Agency should advance a progressive agenda and not act like traditional aid agencies.

12.2 The work already done on the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA), National Interests paper and the Business Code of Conduct should be processed through the NEC Sub-committee on International Relations and be submitted to the ANC NEC for approval before being implemented.
13. **Training, coordinating structures and institutional capacity**

13.1 Many provinces raised concerns about our internal coordinating mechanisms around international relations. All provinces that have not established International Relations (IR) Sub-committees should do so by the end of 2010 with the assistance of the NEC Sub-committee. Furthermore, IR desks should also be cascaded to regional level.

13.2 Branch databases should be used to identify IR practitioners that could serve as volunteers in the ANC, employees in government eg. cadets. This should assist the ANC to build capacity and expand its International Relations programme. The ANC should look at its deployment to international institutions and ensure that this is broadened. DIRCO should establish a database on its website which indicates all available employment in multilateral institutions, to enable comrades and others to view and apply for these positions.

13.3 The institutional memory from other countries, our international friends, and veterans of the movement need to be identified, coordinated and consolidated for the purposes of archiving and recording the history of our movement in international relations as we move towards our centenary anniversary.

13.4 DIRCO need to publicise the national guidelines for the coordination of international relations work in all spheres of government, which was adopted by Cabinet. Government officials at all levels should adhere to these guidelines.

13.5 DIRCO should explore the possibilities of using their expertise and facilities of their Diplomatic Academy to provide training for members of civil society in international relations.

13.6 Protocol training should be provided in all ANC structures, for deployees and Alliance structures to ensure that comrades behave and conduct themselves professionally when embarking on ANC international relations work.

13.7 The ANC should open an International Relations Office in Tshwane as the city hosts one of the largest diplomatic communities in the world.

13.8 We must encourage debate on international relations as part of promoting South African foreign policy.

13.9 The ANC should engage the SABC on reinstating the African and international channels to promote debate on continental and international issues in the domestic arena as well as the broader continent.

14. **Party to party relations**

14.1 The ANC should develop clear guidelines for already existing relationships and forging new party-to-party relations, informed by the ANC’s values, including our commitment to democracy. Party-to-party relations go beyond Africa, we therefore need to establish relations with the progressive forces across the world to take forward our national and continental endeavours. Further to this we need to identify and engage with progressive parties on the continent to enable us to take the progressive agenda forward.

14.2 In engagement with progressive parties on the continent, we should share experiences and where possible, assist each other with party building.
15. *Pan African Women’s Organisation (PAWO)*

15.1 South Africa currently hosts PAWO, and holds the position of Secretary General through the ANC Women’s League.

15.2 Programmes between PAWO and ANC International Relations should be coordinated and strategic support provided.

15.3 We must ensure that the resolution on the formation of a Young Women’s structure within PAWO is expedited.

16. *Alliance programme on international relations*

16.1 A combined programme on IR with our partners on the Alliance was proposed, around identified issues such as:

- Climate change, trade, and transformation of multi-lateral institutions.
- Solidarity campaigns: Cuba, Western Sahara, Palestine and Swaziland. In particular, the Alliance needs to undertake a full discussion on our approach to the situation in Swaziland.
- There is a meeting of the World Social Forum in Senegal in 2011. We therefore need to establish a Southern African Chapter of the Forum towards the end of 2010.

16.2 The Alliance should convene an International Forum to strategise and plan joint campaigns.

16.3 The Alliance should share critical information on international relations as the information arises.

17. *ANC participation in international organisations*

17.1 The ANC needs to urgently develop clear policy on international participation to ensure that proper international protocols and conduct is followed by comrades in spheres of government and in the ANC when conducting their international work. Secondly we need to strengthen affiliation to like-minded international organisations and participate actively in them, including strengthening our proactive participation in structures like the Socialist International, Sao Paulo Forum, Non-Aligned Movement, etc.

18. *Cuban solidarity and the release of the Cuban Five Campaign*

18.1 ANC members are urged to sign the petition initiated by the Ex-Political Prisoners Association available at ANC Headquarters. A march will be organised to deliver the petition and a memorandum to the President of the United States, with the call for the release of the Cuban Five who were incarcerated defending the Cuban Revolution.

18.2 The NGC declared its support for the campaign to ensure that the campaign for the Release of the Cuban Five is profiled and reiterated its commitment to the cause of the Cuban people. The NGC agreed to increase the trade between South Africa and Cuba as a reinforcement of our foreign policy and international solidarity with Cuba.

19. *World Youth Festival, December 2010*

19.1 South Africa is hosting the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WYFDY) World Youth Festival from 13 – 23 December 2010, with the participation of 30 000 young people from more than 160 countries. In previous festivals held in Venezuela and Algeria the host country organised free chartered flights to bring the participants from Cuba to the event. The NGC strongly encourages government to assist and facilitate the participation of the Cuban youth delegation in the festival.