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NEC Bulletin

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Mobilise voters to register now

The ANC needs to work with its alliance partners and all other sectors to ensure around 10 million unregistered voters are on the voters' roll by the end of November, according to the NEC.

Assessing preparations for the 2004 elections, the NEC said the movement's immediate and urgent task was to undertake a massive campaign to encourage all eligible South Africans to register as voters. People who have not registered by the time the election date is proclaimed will not be able to vote in next year's election.

While everyone who voted in 1999 and 2000 is on the voters' roll, the Census 2001 results show there are about 9.5 million people who are not registered. Added to this are an unknown number of people who have moved house since the last election and are now in a different voting district.

The NEC expressed concern that around a third of all South Africans of voting age are currently not on the voters roll. If these people are not registered, this could negatively impact on the development of participatory democracy in South Africa, particularly since a large portion of these people are under the age of 30.

The low level of registration could also have a negative impact on the performance of the ANC in the 2004 elections. While the ANC continues to have the support of the majority of South Africans, the election results may not reflect this if so many of the ANC's supporters are unable to vote because they aren't registered.

The NEC therefore adopted a programme of action for the next two months which includes a massive door-to-door grassroots campaign to register people. This

The National Executive Committee held a meeting from **13-14 September 2003**. It discussed the voter registration campaign, the ANC Women's League Conference and the Charter for Moral Communities.

will be a nation-wide campaign, with specific focus on areas of low registration. Special attention will need to be given to metro and farming areas.

Leaders from all levels of the organisation will be deployed for this work. This will include MPs, MPLs and councillors. Organisations of the Alliance and the broader democratic movement have also developed programmes to support this campaign.

The NEC welcomed the announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) that it would be holding a public voter registration weekend on 8-9 November, when all voting stations will be open for people to register. It urged the IEC to take extraordinary steps to ensure that all unregistered voters are reached through an awareness and outreach programme.

Election manifesto process

The process of reviewing the first ten years of democracy, which will be marked next year, will help inform the ANC's manifesto for the 2004 election. An extensive process of consultation has been underway about the achievements and challenges in government since 1994, and the issues which we need to focus attention on.

Ten-year review workshops have been held with all provinces, and workshops held with various sectors and organisations. These have included representatives from the women, disabled and religious sectors. A youth workshop is planned for the coming weeks. Consultations have been held with Alliance partners, other democratic movement formations, as well as other organisations in the labour movement and other sectors.

Support the Charter for Moral Communities

Branches of the ANC should become actively involved in the campaign around a charter for moral communities. The campaign is an initiative of the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM), which was launched in April 2002 to facilitate and coordinate the activities of “every part of society” to transform society and restore its moral fibre.

The NEC agreed that the Charter for Moral Communities Campaign gave South Africa an historic opportunity to agree on the values we should uphold, to establish consensus on what we need to do to build caring communities; where all citizens respect the rights of others and where as communities we protect the most vulnerable sectors in the community.

This charter aims to lay the basis for united action towards the building of a ever better society that all South Africans feel good to live in.

Local people should themselves examine their communities and decide what is wrong, and how to put it right. They should then communicate their conclusions to the MRM for inclusion in a national formulation of a Charter for Moral Communities.

The focus on communities was necessary because of the forces in society and within communities which impact on the values and integrity of individuals. Attempts to develop a transformed, peaceful, just and caring society must include the creation of moral and caring communities.

Branches given more time for list process

The deadline for the submission of branch nominations for the national and provincial lists has been extended to 21 September. This is because of the relatively low number of branches that have successfully held Branch General Meetings (BGMs) to make nominations.

This will not however affect the schedule for the holding of Provincial List Conferences over the first two weeks of October and the remainder of the list process. The list process is taking place alongside the review of the ANC's 571 public representatives at national and provincial level. The information from this review is currently being collated and should be ready for presentation to the Officials and the National List Committee by the beginning of October.

Initial indications are that the review will give us a good sense of the rich experience of ANC public representatives over the last two terms.

BUILD THE ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

All ANC structures should help build the ANC Women's League as part of their political programme, the NEC said following a report on the Women's League's National Conference, held in Johannesburg from 28-31 August.

The long-overdue conference has enabled the league to develop a programme of organisational and political renewal to build the ANCWL as a strong and capable leader of South African women.

The incoming ANCWL National Executive Committee said the conference allowed delegates to resolve how to tackle the challenges facing the movement and women in South Africa. It praised the level of unity and discipline among delegates, and said this needed to be sustained beyond conference. The conference had helped shape unity of purpose with the league.

The NEC agreed with the league's assessment that it would be important to have open discussions around conferences, and particularly the issue of succession plans. This would enable the league to better manage elections, ensuring democratic practice while limiting the possibility for disunity or factionalism. It said political education was needed to deal with narrow provincialism or lobbying based on tribalism or ethnicity.

The league will now undertake a process of reporting back to branches on conference and the resolutions adopted.

At its first meeting, the incoming ANCWL NEC elected a National Working Committee (NWC) and deployed NEC members to each of the provinces. They are also planning to hold a bosberaad to develop a programme based on the outcomes of the conference.

The league has embarked on a campaign to save the life of Amina Lawal, a Nigerian woman who faces the death penalty for having children out of marriage. This campaign, led by the ANCWL President, will take the form of marches around the country and will culminate in a delegation to Nigeria on 24 September. Through the campaign, the League not only seek to highlight the rights of women, but also to raise awareness of the need for solidarity among women of the continent, to address the problems that confront them.

No irregularity in arms procurement

The NEC considered the detail of the entire arms procurement process, and satisfied itself that there was no irregularity with regard to the primary contracts. This view conforms to the earlier finding by the three government agencies, which conducted the initial investigation, the Auditor-General, the Director for Public Prosecutions and the Public Protector.

The NEC therefore expressed confidence in the distinguished manner in which procurement around primary contracts was handled. The NEC took the view that matters regarding secondary contracts, which have been a subject of investigation by the Scorpions Unit, will continue to be dealt with by the relevant institutions of justice according to due legal process.

On issues regarding accusations and counter-accusations that have been widely reported in the media, the NEC said that government was best positioned to deal with these matters decisively. Contrary to reports carried by the SABC, the NEC took no decision to investigate the Director for Public Prosecutions.

Relations with the IFP

Bilateral engagement with the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) is necessary to find common ground on the relationship between the two parties, the NEC said in response to reports that the IFP was joining the Democratic Alliance in an anti-ANC coalition.

The NEC expressed its surprise and disappointment at the IFP's flirtation with the DA and its election to stoop to the level of resorting to lies and fabrications to drum up support for their newly established so-called 'coalition for change'. The ANC has always held a view that closer co-operation with the IFP provided the necessary space needed to speed up delivery and unite our people across the divide, and effectively eradicate the apartheid legacy once and for all.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

Achievement Awards: The deadline for the submission of nominations for the Achievement Awards for best performing ANC, Women's League and Youth League branches and ANC councillors is 31 October.

Disciplinary Cases: The National Disciplinary Committee reported it had finalised the cases of the National Chairperson Mosiuoa Lekota and cde Tony Yengeni. The outcomes of these disciplinary hearings were communicated to ANC structures and to the public.

African Claims document: The NEC agreed to a proposal to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the historic Africans' Claims in South Africa document by the ANC on 16 December 1943. The NWC was tasked to develop a programme.

UDF anniversary: The NEC received a report on the successful celebration of the 20th anniversary of the UDF launch in the Western Cape in August. Other provinces were also organising activities to mark the occasion.

Support the Springboks

The NEC expressed its support to the Springbok team as it prepares itself to participate in the Rugby World Cup, and further pledged its unwavering confidence that the team will be able to perform to the best of its ability. The NEC urged the team to hold the banner of our country high by setting a good example of good sportsmanship on and off the field.

The NEC expressed concern on recent allegations of racism in rugby. However it endorsed the position taken by the South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU) on the process of dealing with these allegations.

SUPPORT THE 2010 SOCCER WORLD CUP BID

The NEC gave its full support to the 2010 Soccer World Cup bid and wished the Bid Committee well in its work. The ANC remains committed to providing whatever support necessary to ensure that South Africa is able to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

► NEXT NEC MEETING: 28-30 NOVEMBER 2003