



NEC BULLETIN

SPECIAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Produced by the African National Congress

FOREWORD

The NEC closed the year on a high note, ready to start the new century with the necessary energy

- Gwede Mantashe
(ANC Secretary General)



The NEC satisfied itself of the readiness of our organisation to begin with the centenary celebrations on the weekend of January 6-8 2012. The celebrations will start in January and end in December 2012. In its first hundred years of existence the ANC has had twelve presidents, beginning with J.L. Dube ending with J.G. Zuma. Each month is dedicated to a president, wherein the whole leadership collective of that presidency will also be remembered and celebrated as well. Every province will have an opportunity to be an anchor province in a particular month.

The centenary of the ANC would be hollow if we forgot that the formation of our organisation was the continuation, on a national scale, of the heroic struggles of the various kings and chiefs against colonisation and land dispossession. This year, 2012, affords us an opportunity to take our country and society to her roots. We must retrace our steps in order to chart a better tomorrow, today.

The assessment of NEC sub-committees reassured the NEC that progress is being made. We must commend our sub-committee for their hard work in with our national challenges. A special word of appreciation goes to members of the various sub-committees who are not members of the NEC, without whom our movement would be poorer. As we move closer to the National Policy Conference, policy draft papers will be circulated. All the branches must ensure that members of the ANC participate in the discussions. This will help delegates to the policy conference talk from mandated positions. Branches have an opportunity to reclaim their space of determining the direction of the movement.

The NEC also adopted the Alliance Programme of Action. This is a means of ensuring that all partners act together against the challenges facing our country.

Since this was our last meeting this year, let me extend the NEC's wish to all members and supporters of the ANC for a peaceful and blessed festive season. As we rest after a long and demanding year, we must use the quiet moments to think about the strategies and tactics of strengthening the ANC into the future.

The ANC held its last NEC meeting for the year at the Phillip Sanders Resort in Mangaung on the 25th – 27th November 2011.

Its focus was on the pending centenary celebrations, completing organizational issues and considered the presentation for the ANC's national policy conference scheduled to take place next year in June.



POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The ANC is the most consistent entity for transformation of our country

- by ANC President Jacob G. Zuma

Comrades,

We are holding the last NEC of the year at the birthplace of the ANC, on the eve of the ANC Centenary celebrations. We are in essence reconnecting with our history. We are truly privileged as this NEC collective, to be entrusted with organising the centenary celebrations of the oldest liberation movement in the African continent.

While the ANC was formed as a response to the formation of the Union of South Africa, in 1910, and the exclusion of black peoples in it, it was soon to be baptised with fire in leading struggles of African people when the Natives Land Act of 1913 was introduced, a few months after its founding, taking away 87 percent of the land from the African people.

Writing about this law in the Native Life in South Africa Sol Plaatje, our first Secretary General summed up this law succinctly when he said: "Awakening on Friday morning, June 20, 1913, the South African native found himself, not actually a slave, but a pariah in the land of his birth," in his book entitled Native Life in South Africa.

We were able to discuss the synopsis of the January 8, 2012 statement yesterday. We are in agreement that it should be a landmark, historic and inspirational document that walks us through the various periods in the history of our country and our struggle against colonial oppression and apartheid.

The statement would capture the various epochs in our history. We have to reflect on the early years in which religious and traditional leaders played a critical role in the founding of the ANC to milestones such as the formation and contribution of the ANC Women's League, the ANC Youth League, Umkhonto Wesizwe, the SACP, SACTU and later COSATU and the mass democratic movement as a whole.

A history has to be written about the history of the ANC and the SACP. The dual membership has made South Africa a unique country. We need to capture that history, as a chain that binds the 100 year history of the ANC.

Internationally, as pointed out by comrades yesterday, we should accurately appreciate the solidarity and support from the continent, the Nordic countries, the former socialist bloc, the diaspora and countries such as Cuba in the Americas.

Our celebration must therefore be as inclusive as the struggle was. Leaving out any sector will cause untold pain and harm to those who feel they were left out.

The drafters noted all comments yesterday so we will not dwell much on the content of the statement as that is being prepared.

Review of the Year

Comrades, this being the last NEC of the year 2011, we need to reflect on a few of the activities of the year.

The ANC conference of 1942 took a resolution that the ANC should strive to have one million members by the time it achieved its centenary. We launched the one million-membership campaign in Johannesburg and began our recruitment and mobilisation drive. NEC members have been deployed in various parts of the country to strengthen structures and build the ANC.

We are convinced that we may have reached or surpassed that figure, if we looked at our membership in its totality, including that which is not audited.

The last special NEC cautioned that we must look at the quality of the membership we have and not just chase numbers.

This means political education needs to be part of our year-long, centenary programme. The programme of lectures that we will be undertaking and several other activities should form part of the much-needed political education programmes.

Comrades,

One of the key activities of the year was the successful local government elections in May. The elections provided many lessons for us with regards to the strength and position of our movement in society.

We were highly critical of our performance in the elections, to enable us to correct our mistakes and strengthen the organisation. Self-criticism and self-correction are important traits of our movement.

We committed ourselves to regaining the position of the ANC as the leader of society, and to reclaim our hegemony. This is important as we head towards the centenary. The question is have we done that, as the ANC? Have we stopped undermining ourselves in public? The ANC is the leader of society, and when we speak in public, we must be able to attract people to join the ANC.

This year we also took an unusual step of holding a special four-day NEC where we look at ourselves as this leadership, to deal what we called weighty issues then. It was a very helpful and important

exercise, as comrades released feelings that become bottled up inside. This was done to enable us to build the movement. The process helped organisational renewal. I hope that we would be able to repeat the exercise next year, as it is important to find time to talk frankly and critically.

Amongst the lessons from that four-day exercise was that we should work and earn the respect of our people. The ANC must not take the people for granted.

One hundred years of existence should not make us complacent; we must earn the trust, admiration and support of our people. We must not take the support of the people for granted.

The fact that we see protests is a warning. We have a tendency to leave everything to government, and as the movement we do minimal work on the ground.

We also continue shouting at each other in public, and thus continue eroding the standing and values of the ANC. In this regard we discussed that we should avoid being so inward looking as to forget to deal with issues confronting our membership and society in general. Looking ahead, we need to strengthen internal party democracy and ensure that democratic centralism and collective leadership principles are practised within the movement.

The ANC has remained strong because its members have been united and observe the principle of collective leadership and democratic centralism.

These protected the movement for many years in exile and at home.

When the ANC has taken a decision as a collective all members must abide by that principle, it is important for organisational unity and cohesion. I am saying this given the resurfacing of the scourge of leaks to the media, of discussions within the NEC and the NWC. After the last NEC meeting a confidential briefing on the arms deal commission of inquiry and the Secretary General's report were leaked to the media.

You will recall that some of the discussions of the special NEC that looked at weighty internal matters also found their way to various newspapers, where confidential statements of comrades, made in this NEC, were leaked. Clearly, there are comrades who are sources of the media who brief them about our internal discussions. If this continues, it would mean that this NEC would not become a custodian of confidential and secret information of the ANC. It cannot be a forum where highly sensitive matters affecting the country and the organisation are discussed. We faced this problem a year ago and it subsided, only to resurface in recent times again. We trust that the culprits will soon stop the habit and enable members of the NEC to speak freely without fear. It is imperative that we restore the dignity of ANC meetings.

Amongst other main events of the year, the ANC Youth League held its congress in Midrand, and we congratulated the League for the success given the disruptive nature of the previous congress held here in Bloemfontein.

Comrades,

You will remember that in the January 8 statement of this year we had declared 2011 the year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation.

However, it became a difficult year due to the global economic slowdown. We found ourselves losing jobs instead of creating them, especially in the manufacturing sector.

But, we are ending the year on a positive and promising note as statistics released recently indicated that the unemployment rate has dropped from 25.7% to 25% in the third quarter. While this figure sounds negligible given the crisis of unemployment, it nevertheless gives hope especially to the thousands of unemployed, in particular the youth.

The country is not out of the woods yet, given the negative economic climate in the Eurozone, which has had a profound negative impact on our economy. We are informed that the demand for South African value added products in the markets in the United States and the Eurozone has manifested a sharp decline. Domestically, the National Treasury projections suggest that South Africa's economy is expected to grow by 3.1 per cent in 2011, 3.4 per cent in 2012 and 4 per cent up to 2015. Growth at these projected patterns poses a serious risk to addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment, in line with the objectives we set for ourselves in Polokwane.

It appears that we should look more and more to the emerging markets for development partnerships, while not deserting the developed North. Our membership of IBSA and BRICS enables South Africa to take advantage of the growth in these regions, including Africa.

We attended the G20 Summit in France early this month. We believe our message is slowly getting through the G20, given that the forum committed itself to an Action Plan for Growth and Jobs, and emphasised employment-creating growth.

We also strongly support the continued mainstreaming of the development agenda in the G20. The success of the development agenda, which promotes shared and inclusive growth, is crucial for the long-term credibility and legitimacy of the G20 for developing countries.

While working to ensure the resilience of our economy in light of the economic slowdown, we need to also be careful about how we package our country and what impressions we create. A lot has been said about the recent Moody's Investors Service changing of the outlook on South Africa's local and foreign currency government debt ratings from stable to negative. While we do not want to be influenced too much by international agencies as most do not accurately understand our conditions, we should nevertheless still take note of some of the reasons stated. Moody's said among the drivers for the negative outlook included political risks and the fears of internal strains within the African National Congress and between the ANC and its partners in the Tripartite Alliance, COSATU and the SACP, especially relating to policy.

This is a reminder that the manner in which we disagree on policy must be done in a comradely manner, so that we can avoid creating such misperceptions of disharmony.

I think such matters are fortunately being handled, especially within the Alliance and the public spats have subsided, with more internal engagement taking place on issues.

International Relations

Comrades,
The Arab Spring, especially the situation in Libya was the main issue in Africa this year.

You will recall that South Africa was active in the support and drafting of the AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Libyan Crisis and the subsequent Proposals to the Libyan Parties for a Framework Agreement on a Political Solution to the Crisis in Libya, endorsed by the AU Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

We have also been actively engaged with both the erstwhile Libyan Government and the National Transitional Council in finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Following the overthrow of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, we believe that the AU roadmap remains relevant in moving forward. The elements include the immediate cessation of hostilities, facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the protection of foreign and African immigrant workers, the establishment and management of an inclusive transitional period and the adoption and implementation of political reforms to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people for democracy, justice, peace and security.

We stand ready to assist Libya with post-conflict reconstruction and any other assistance within our means, when called upon to do so.

We continue to raise our serious concern about the manner in which certain countries in the North handled the Libyan situation. They effected a regime change disguised as assisting civilians. Even the manner in which Col Gaddafi was killed indicates the arrogant manner in which we engage each other now in international relations as Africa and the developed North, regardless of the fact that the true facts have not emerged of how he died. We believe he should have been captured and made to stand trial instead of being executed in the manner that he was.

We will continue to raise this issue in the UN and other multilateral forums. The NTC will occupy the Libyan seat for the first time at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa. This will enable the AU to work with its member state to attend to the situation in Libya. There is a serious concern raised by countries bordering Libya such as Mali, Niger, and Mauritania. The proliferation of weapons of the region poses a serious security risk. The AU has to take a decision at the Summit in Addis, on how to assist the neighbours.

Comrades,
With regards to key events in the calendar, yesterday - the 25th of November - marked the beginning of the 16 days of activism of no violence against women and children. The ANC has led the struggles for the emancipation of women over many decades and should continue leading women in the campaign for safer homes and streets. The mother body as well as the ANC Women's League need to be visible in this campaign around the country.

We have to demonstrate our intolerance of the abuse of women and children of any form and promote the mechanisms that the ANC government has put in place to protect women and children.

Comrades

We received a briefing yesterday on the UN Climate Change conference, COP 17, which also serves as the seventh meeting of parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The ANC worked hard to ensure the entrenchment of environmental rights in our Constitution so that both individuals and communities would be able to defend their right to a safe and sound environment.

We record our appreciation as a movement and country, for the confidence that the United Nations has bestowed on us by bringing this conference to our shores. The conference will provide massive marketing exposure for the country, building on the FIFA Soccer World Cup event in 2010 and the IOC general assembly meeting, which the country hosted in July. We have worked hard to ensure a successful conference and expect everything to go well.

Comrades

And after the extensive centenary briefing yesterday, we are confident that a lot of preparations locally and internationally have taken place. The team has done an excellent job. With our support, the centenary can only be a massive success.

We need to work with the team to tie up loose ends and ensure that we pay full justice to the spirits of the founding fathers and mothers of the African National Congress.

Comrades,

Addressing the 80th ANC anniversary rally in Bloemfontein in February 1990, the first anniversary rally he addressed after his release, Comrade Nelson Mandela stated boldly,

"The ANC is a child of Bloemfontein. The umbilical cord of the ANC is buried here. Today, we are like children returning to their mother".
... "The child conceived here in 1912 returns to its mother, older, stronger and wiser. The full-grown ANC leads our country to freedom".

That is the spirit we should bring when we return to Mangaung in a few week's time.

I thank you

Decisions of the NEC

1. ON ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

■ THE CENTENARY

1.1 The National Centenary Task Team (NCTT), led by comrade Baleka Mbete – National Chairperson, presented a detailed report on the state of readiness, after which the NEC was taken on an inspection in loco of the significant sites where the celebrations will be hosted. The NEC commended the National Chairperson and her team and endorsed work done, including the key events that will be celebrated throughout the year as a means of marking our movement and people's struggle for freedom from colonialism and racial oppression to freedom.

■ NEC SUBCOMMITTEES

1.2 The NEC assessed work done in its subcommittees, voiced its satisfaction with the volume and quality of the work and concluded that the subcommittees are:

- Working well and are grappling with policy formulation and the implementation thereof
- Confronted with the challenges of members being overstretched due to other responsibilities, and this sometimes affects attendance to meetings adversely

■ THE ONE MILLION MEMBERS CAMPAIGN

1.3 The NEC, having noted the drive to reach the one million members, was convinced that the target has been reached and exceeded. It therefore decided that an audit of the total members of the ANC should be done and presented. In the same context, the NEC emphasised the need for political education in order to ensure that those recruited have a grasp of the movement, its values, principles and traditions. But, above all, that the membership are politically conscious.

■ THE LEAKING OF INFORMATION

1.4 The noted the resurfacing of the leaking of confidential information arising out of ANC NEC and NWC meetings. This tendency was strongly criticised, particularly because it was NEC members who were behind it. Concern was also raised on the conduct of some members and leaders of the ANC who use public platforms to attack the organisation.

It was agreed that, in the interim period, the National Officials would consider the matter with a view to acting against such conduct. In the long term, the Officials would present a proposal for discussion by the NEC.

■ ADHERENCE TO ANC POLICY

1.5 The NEC noted recent acts of individuals acting outside ANC policies. The NEC reaffirmed that

- The ANC is an organisation with specific policies and a constitution that stipulate members' conduct.
- Individuals who join the ANC do so voluntarily and are, therefore, bound by its organisational policies.
- Conduct of members seeking to suggest that individuals can act on their own whims flies in the face of organisational principle.
- These principles apply to all members of the ANC, including public representatives who hold public offices at the behest of the ANC.

■ POLICY CONFERENCE PREPARATION

1.6 Draft policy documents were presented and subcommittees were directed to do further refinement between December and the five-days January 2012 NEC meeting. It was agreed that:

- A special feature of Umrahulo will carry summarised versions of the policy papers, for circulation and discussion in ANC structures, after they have been refined and discussed by the January 2012 NEC meeting
- The Committees should do an assessment of the policies guided by the questions below:
 - What is existing policy in that area?
 - What decisions have been taken?
 - Is the policy implemented?
 - If not, is the problem with the policy or the implementation thereof?

- How are the new proposals related to the NDP and NGP?
- How does the ANC respond to this situation?
- Does Conference need to adopt new policy in this area?
- Policy papers on S&T, Organisational Renewal and the SIMS (State Intervention in the Mining Sector)

■ ALLIANCE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1.7 The NEC endorsed the Alliance programme of action and the structures for regular monitoring and implementation. The Alliance Secretariat was directed to implement, with the immediate focus on the education and anti-corruption campaigns. (Read full PoA attached)

■ 50th ANNIVERSARY OF MK

1.8 The NEC decided that the December 16th 2011 celebrations of MK's 50th anniversary are celebrations of the ANC and should be located within the ambit of Secretary General's Office. Also, that the 50th anniversary celebrations should be seen as an important build-up activity, leading to the January 8th 2012 centennial celebrations. The NEC further decided that the Gauteng province - as the host province, in working with the SGO, will reinforce its mobilisation to ensure the successful celebration.

A task team looking at matters regarding intervention to ease the plight of our military veterans was agreed to. The team met and would advise accordingly.

■ INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

European Union's Financial Crisis

Recognising the potential negative impact of the EU financial crisis on the South African economy, particularly on our objective of employment creation and growth, the NEC agreed that the Economic Transformation Committee (ETC) needs to investigate – working with the private sector – mechanisms to confront this challenge, within the framework of the New Growth Path.

COP 17

Following a detailed briefing on the COP 17, taking place in Durban until December 10, the NEC

Recognised the significance of the Conference its hosting by South Africa, the third African country to preside and host this conference. It further welcomed the confidence the United Nations and the world continues to show on our country and its leadership at an international level.

Decided that the South African representation at the Conference should not only agree with the objectives of the conference on climate change, but also highlight the developmental imperatives of our country and those of developing economies. Furthermore, there must be a push for developed economies, which account for most emission of greenhouse gases, to bear greater responsibility in dealing with the problem

Wished the delegates a successful conference of parties, with the hope that they would find consensus towards building a better and environmentally friendly world.

Lybia

The NEC noted the current, unsatisfactory, developments in Lybia since the regime change by NATO. Among these is the proliferation of arms in the region, seeming instability in the arena of governance. The NEC concluded that:

- The AU Roadmap remains the only meaningful and viable means of ensuring lasting peace in the Lybia.
- The AU needs to be engaged to ensure its interaction with the NTC and the Arab League, as there are complex issues involved.
- South Africa should offer leadership and take the initiative, partner other AU countries, to finding a solution to Lybian situation.

2. ON GOVERNANCE MATTERS

■ ANC WHIPPERY

2.1 Having noted the concerns and challenges facing us at this level, the NEC reaffirmed that the Political Committee is the political leadership of the ANC in parliament. Therefore, in order to address the challenges, the NEC decided that

- The Political Committee should undertake a mid-term assessment of our work in parliament and prepare a report for submission to the SGO.
- The SGO should develop an assessment mechanism for governance structures, including what needs to be done, at both provincial and national.

CLOSING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT ZUMA

The ANC hegemony and cohesion as leader of society begins with us

This meeting has been useful.

Coming to Mangaung to gain a sense of what is happening with preparations for our centenary celebrations was valuable, especially considering the earlier concerns which prompted us to want to shift the other part of the programme to Johannesburg. We have now done our best to maximise with the limited capacity available in the city and the province.

The 1942 Resolution on the membership should be met. The audit should give us current, proper, statistics. This information should be sent to NEC members.

The 50th MK celebration is an important occasion. The team assigned to prepare for this must ensure that it is appropriately celebrated. In this process, clarity should be made between organs of our movement, that is, the MK, the MKMVA and the ANCVL. MK is a military wing of the ANC, therefore the 50th anniversary should be observed as an ANC celebration.

The ANC hegemony and cohesion as leader of society begins with us. The organisation should demonstrate that leadership internally, and translate it to the broader society. All our structures, from national to branch level, must provide leadership at each of the areas of their engagement.

Members of the NEC, not rank and file, subject themselves to being sources for journalists. This is not an easy matter to deal with. If we are to employ other means to ensure that we behave appropriately, is an indication of challenges. There have been instances when the movement had to do this, both during the times of comrades Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela. The NEC must appreciate the implications of taking a decision on this matter. When the NEC takes a decision on this matter and those are presented to it, what would happen? This is not something we can take lightly.

The other matter is of those comrades who go public and speak against the ANC. We need to be specific and make a decision so that the organisation knows what should be done. The Officials should, first, discuss the matter and present a proposal to the NWC, which ultimately would be presented to the NEC.

Let us note that there was criticism of the NWC itself, including its inability to offer leadership. We need to, therefore, review the structure.

Members of the NEC must, as of this meeting, desist from making public statements against the ANC. When this happens, it should be considered a violation, and decisive action must be taken. This is a directive.

Leaders must stop speaking against the party. Membership must take an example from us. Supporters must be made to feel that they can support or wish to join. Those who disagree with the ANC could, as a result of our behaviour, even come to agree with it. Therefore, the manner in which we conduct ourselves is critical.

We are celebrating the centenary of the ANC. We cannot afford our organisation an inappropriate image. The matter of unity is vital. We must embark on a political programme of renewal.

What do we mean when we say the ANC is a broad church? The ANC has different people with different views, ideas, beliefs, etc. One cannot promote their own view over and above the values, principles and mission of the ANC. The manner one articulates his or her views should be mindful of these. The strength of the ANC has been to harmonise these different aspects of the movement. These are discussed and debated in our structures in order to arrive at a collective view. This is at the core of our manner of ensuring that different views find their way into the organisation.

How we characterise the centenary celebrations, suggests that the ANC has advanced and matured beyond its national context, to being a continental and global organisation. It would be satisfying if we could celebrate our hundred years not heavy of heart.

Our travels in the world reaffirm the fact that the ANC is a unique organisation, one with an ability to bring together different people and a myriad of views.

Thank you

