

May 2013



NEC

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BULLETIN

Produced by the African National Congress

FOREWORD

By the Secretary General
GWEDA MANTASHE



Reaffirm the positive interventions by the ANC in building a Better Life for All

THIS BULLETIN summarises the decisions taken by the May 2013 National Executive Committee meeting. These decisions are circulated for information and implementation by the relevant structures of the ANC. We would like to highlight some of the decisions, which you can also read in the body of the document.

The ANC is convinced that the mainstay strategy of the opposition forces in all formations and structures is that of agitation for discontent. These opposition forces have nothing to offer. We should, however, avoid responding to these provocations and lies by trying to correct every individual detail or allegation.

We must restate and affirm the positive efforts and interventions of the African National Congress in building a better life for all. We should provide the people of South Africa with as much information as is possible. We must tell and repeat the positive story of our country. For example, the fact that the number of graduates who have gone through our universities in 2012 is double that of 1995 explains the 250% growth of the middle class in the last eight years. We should not shy away from enabling our

young intellectuals appreciate this reality.

We must also own up to the challenges facing our society. An example of such a challenge is contained in the Davos Global Competitive Index, where South Africa is rated out of 144 countries. In this report South Africa is ranked 144 in employment relations. We must be bold in sharing this reality with the progressive labour movement, and explain that the world only sees Marikana, De Doorns and many violent strikes and protests and, therefore, form an opinion on that basis.

Equally important is our ability to engage our alliance partners in the debate on the implementation of the National Development Plan, while strengthening those areas of the plan that we feel are weak. As the President emphasised, we should minimise endless debates given the challenges facing our society. We must appreciate that this is the first medium plan since 1994, which is trying to talk to practical steps to address the problems facing our people.

The NEC has given us concrete decisions that we must now implement. These may be in the area of elections or work we should do to contribute to the unity of the trade union movement.

Our desire to strengthen local government is quite important as this is the nearest sphere of governance to the people. Strong councillors will limit their vulnerability where they get attacked for all government work beyond their competence and mandate.

These are the decisions of the NEC. We wish you happy reading and fruitful discussions.

This edition of the NEC Bulletin focus on the meeting of the National Executive of the ANC, held 17–19 May 2013



POLITICAL OVERVIEW

By President **JACOB ZUMA**

All our people must be able to equitably share in the benefits of a free society

LET me begin by extending a warm welcome to all who are joining us today for the first time. We congratulate KwaZulu-Natal on a successful Provincial General Council, and welcome the new chairperson Comrade Senzo Mchunu back to the NEC.

We also congratulate the Free State on a successful conference, and welcome Comrade Ace Magashule as provincial chairperson and the entire new leadership.

We are also being joined for the first time by the Limpopo Task Team and the ANC Youth League National Task Team, established out of decisions of the last NEC. A warm welcome to all the comrades and we wish them well with their tasks.

May 2013 is the first month in the build up towards the 20th Anniversary year of our liberation from apartheid colonialism. On 27 April 2014 our nation will be twenty-years old.

As it happens next week we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity founded in May 1963 and since transformed into the African Union in 2002.

This is indeed a happy coincidence as the liberation of South Africa is in many ways one of the greatest achievements of the OAU, which supported our freedom struggle and stood by our people from the beginning.

South Africa today occupies a proud place in the family of nations in Africa and beyond. We have made huge strides in restoring the dignity of our people both in terms of obtaining the right to vote for their own government in free and fair elections, but even more critically in terms improvement of the quality of life.

The dismantling of the legal framework of apartheid and transformation of many state institutions has led to the visible improvement of the socio-economic conditions of millions of people.

We can point to tangible achievements as ANC policies have indeed reduced poverty for millions of people. With regards to services that people obtain

directly from government, we have many visible achievements to point to.

The ANC government can point to simple things such as that the average time taken to issue an ID book has been reduced from about 150 days to about 30 days. The average time taken to process an application for a social grant decreased from 30 days in 2010 to 21 days in 2012. There has also been an improvement in the average time taken for police to respond to calls for assistance. The achievements in the health sector where the life expectancy has dramatically increased for the population, and also in other social transformation sectors are also tangible. We will be tabulating all these achievements as we prepare to go back to our people to request another mandate in next year's elections.

There are many achievements on the economic front as well. As stated during Freedom Day, the South African economy has expanded by 83 per cent over the past 19 years. The national income per capita has increased from R27 500 in 1993 to R38 500 in 2012, which is an increase of 40 per cent. Disposable income per capita of households has increased by 43 per cent. Total employment has increased by more than 3.5 million since 1994. The average real wages in mining and industry have increased by over 150 per cent since 1994 for which we congratulate business and labour.

Our country's economy continues to perform well in many areas including infrastructure, institutions, goods and market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, business sophistication and innovation. The performance of the tourism sector is also remarkable, proving that despite the negativity internally, South Africa remains a popular destination to visit. In 1993, South Africa received a mere 3.4 million foreign visitors. By 2012, the figure had grown by 300 percent to 13.5 million visitors, of which 9.2 million were tourists. For last

year, we achieved a 10,2 percent increase in incoming tourists.

Today, as we mark World Telecommunication Day, celebrated annually on the 17th of May, we also celebrate the impressive growth of our country's telecoms sector. As of last month, there were 63 million cellular phone subscribers across the networks. This means people in remote rural areas have become easily reachable and can engage in cellular and telephone banking and other services, from their villages. This was unthinkable before 1994. The total number of subscribers rises to 68 million when we include sim cards for remote controlled gates and emergency vehicles amongst others.

That is the progress that the ANC has brought to our country. We thus have a lot of good news to share. I am mentioning only just a few achievements. These are all outstanding achievements for a country that was once a pariah state.

At the same time, as the ANC we stated in our Workers Day message that if we are to genuinely say that South Africa belongs to all who live in it; then all our people must be able to equitably share in the benefits of a free society. The triple manifestations of the apartheid legacy – poverty, inequality and unemployment – reaffirm our belief that political freedom must be accompanied by economic freedom, as the next phase of liberation. This we outlined clearly in the Polokwane and Mangaung conferences.

The economic wealth of the country must bring about fundamental social change in the lives of all, especially the youth, the poor and the working class. This NEC must thus focus on taking the programme of socio-economic emancipation forward. Whenever we meet, we need to be focused on how to achieve the goals we set for ourselves in Mangaung where this NEC drew its mandate in particular.

I underline these things not because we need to be reminded that at its base our struggle is about social and economic freedom. I do so simply to underline the size of the challenge that faces us as government and the ruling party today.

Our minds and all our energies must be focused on how we consolidate the current foundation and continue to move forward with greater speed as we complete twenty years of freedom. The ANC Government continues to lead the nation in shaping the future we want for the current and future generations.

Our May Day key messages, which comrades would have received, outlined that the 53rd National

Conference in Mangaung endorsed the National Development Plan (NDP), recognising the following;

- ❑ It is an appropriate and meaningful way of bringing together all South Africans closer to our forebears' vision and mission of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.
- ❑ It is an appropriate and meaningful way of bringing together all South Africans to act in unity to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and create full unemployment.
- ❑ In seeking to work with South Africans across race, class, gender and ideological persuasions the plan is consistent with the ANC's own ethos and values.
- ❑ It is a purposefully clear framework that enables us to engage with broader society on capacitating and addressing the challenges facing the state.

Our May Day key message also stated as follows;

"The NDP is thus a set of proposals, based on the values of the democratic movement and the Constitution, which provides an approach to solving our country's problems. "It offers an integrated approach to policy making, combining theory, evidence and practice with an aim of ensuring pragmatism and continuous learning in implementation and governance".

We added that the main reason why the ANC endorsed the NDP is that it is hugely consistent with the ANC's understanding of the National

Democratic Revolution, in that it encourages a multi-class alliance to combat unemployment, poverty and inequality in South Africa.

We have also affirmed as the ANC that although the NDP is not a carbon copy of ANC policy, there is great resonance and similarity between the NDP and ANC policy both in formulation and content. Overall

Whenever we meet, we need to be focused on how to achieve the goals we set for ourselves in Mangaung where this NEC drew its mandate in particular.



the majority of our citizens are indeed behind the NDP as the broad framework for taking our country forward in the next two decades.

Our task as the leadership of the country is to broaden the current consensus and even more critically to ensure that the Plan is implemented in a manner that maximises benefit to the majority of citizens who remain poor and marginalized. Those who have inputs to make are welcome to do so in the spirit of democracy within the mass democratic movement.

We need to however minimise endless debates given the challenges we face. I speak here of citizens in poor communities who want to get out of desperate conditions by getting employment, shelter closer to centres of economic activity, access to water and electricity, education, health and other social services.

Leadership means the ANC must channel the energies of our people and their frustrations in a constructive manner. Leadership means earning the confidence of those who are led by frustrations to service delivery protests through interaction and ensuring that their problems are attended to.

Thus, comrades, we need to involve our people in finding solutions that will take us to the society described in the Freedom Charter and also in the National Development Plan which is designed to help us achieve the vision outlined in the Charter.

We need to focus on solutions as this NEC and less on diagnosis and complaints.

THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Comrades,

With regards to the situation in the country currently, we need to carefully monitor the simmering tension again in the mining sector. While the situation of workers is understandable and needs attention, we also need to remain mindful of what seems to be an ascendancy of reactionary voices, assisted by sinister ultra-leftist elements from abroad. We cannot allow a recurrence of what happened last year, where wild cat strikes escalated unabated until they began to seriously threaten stability in the platinum belt area and the country.

And as we head towards the centenary of the Land Act next month, we are called upon to reflect again on the structure of ownership of land, inherited from Apartheid colonialism. The skewed distribution of land rights is more apparent. The level of exploitation of the farm workers puts the ANC and the democratic State under pressure. The activity of questionable elements in the agricultural sector is also in evidence,

We need to have our key messages on every issue developed each week so that NEC members and deployees can speak from the same script.

ANC messages must give people hope and should not reinforce the despair and negativity that other parties thrive on.

and so is the apparent inadequacy of leadership by the progressive forces. Again we are called upon to respond to the situation.

The ANC needs to speak unambiguously and outline our policies with regards to land and transformation, on the anniversary date. We need to simplify our messages and outline what exactly we are doing to undo the impact of the Land Act.

Other matters in the public domain include the landing of a private plane at

the Waterkloof Air Force Base, causing consternation countrywide. Government has undertaken an investigation into this matter which is to be finalised soon. Certainly, there would be lessons to be learned from this episode.

Comrades, it is important that while dealing with such a situation, we do not allow it to sidetrack us from our core business as the ANC. There is also a lot going in the country currently as parties reposition themselves for elections.

The ANC should not be distracted by the noises from the opposition including those of new actors that are emerging taking advantage of the democratic space opened by freedom that the ANC delivered. We must not be tempted to spend our time responding to the opposition forces, but must send out our own messages which are designed to take South Africa forward. This means our planning towards elections and messaging is critical. We cannot wait until later in the year. We need to have our key messages on every issue developed each week so that NEC members and deployees can speak from the same script. ANC messages must give people hope and should not reinforce the despair and negativity that other parties thrive on.

We have to focus with single-minded purpose on winning the 2014 elections by the largest margin since 1994. We must do because it is vital to make the greatest push towards the vision of total liberation. We must do so as well because we have the best policies to do it and we have the historic responsibility to succeed. We will succeed, guided by the Freedom Charter and our Strategy and Tactics which inform the programmes of our government.

The ANC must succeed. We owe it to Africa and indeed all freedom and peace-loving people in the world, who supported our struggle.

AFRICA AND THE WORLD

On Africa and the world, let me congratulate all the comrades who enabled us to host the highly successful BRICS Summit in Durban in March.

The Heads of State and Government of Brazil, Russia and India graced our shores for the Fifth Summit of this highly strategic bloc. Heads of State and of Government from all Regional Economic Communities on the continent attended the Summit and exchanged their views with the BRICS members in the Summit with the appropriate theme of BRICS AND AFRICA: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization.

We have also spent time re-igniting relations with key countries in the continent, Nigeria and Algeria. In addition, we continue to participate in efforts to find solutions in the Central African Republic, where we tragically lost 14 soldiers. We await guidance from the African Union on what should happen next in the Central African Republic and what role we can play.

We are also promoting the establishment of an African Stand-by Force under the auspices of the AU, to further promote peace and stability in the continent. The main activity no doubt, this month, is the anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity, which is the biggest celebration in the continent this year.

The ANC must pronounce clearly on the role of the OAU and the African Union in promoting peace, freedom and stability and also in fighting for Africa's space in a highly unequal world order.

Comrades,

Let me close by stressing the importance of building a strong ANC and strong and united Alliance rooted among our people.

As it is said repeatedly people do not eat slogans and ideologies. We need to maintain ideological clarity only to avoid betraying the National Democratic Revolution. We shall continue to lead our people in struggle to create the National Democratic Society by following strategies and tactics developed by members of the ANC in its conferences and meetings.

We must continue to use State power skilfully to build a Better Life for All.

These considerations are what will inform our deliberations in this meeting.

I thank you.

Decisions of the NEC

■ Organisation building and Campaigns

The Mangaung Conference declared the next decade as the **Decade of the Cadre**. Members of the ANC should be in engaging in consistent political work, discussion and education to equip themselves to better serve the country and the Movement.

The NEC resolved that the ANC should:

- (1) Lead the campaign to *bring an end to the scourge of violence against women and children*. The ANC subcommittees must work together with civil society formations towards this end.
- (2) Work with communities in their battles against substance and drug abuse, which negatively affect the potential of young people to contribute meaningfully to society. Relevant government departments should be drawn to assist communities.
- (3) Guide the debate on the National Development Plan (NDP) so that it contributes to our collective development. The ANC endorsed the NDP as a

framework to bring about social and economic freedom for our people. Engagement with the Alliance should take forward the consensus on the ultimate objectives of the NDP, and build broad fronts to guide implementation.

- (4) Instil discipline at all levels of the organisation. In this regard, the organisation must:

- ❑ Make a distinction between a deliberate decision to undermine the Movement and lack of political education and consciousness.
- ❑ Deal decisively with those who leak documents and discussions of NEC and NWC.
- ❑ Be exemplary in pronouncements and actions, uphold a high standard of behaviour and avoid bringing the organisation, government or country into disrepute.

- (5) Take deliberate steps to improve our internal and external communications, and communicate positively about the ANC, our government and our country.

■ Assessment of the 53rd National Conference

The NEC confirmed that the 53rd National Conference in Mangaung was a resounding success. It commended and thanked the delegates and all involved for making it a success. In its conclusion, the 53rd National Conference counts among the best of the ANC conferences.

Using the lessons learnt in this conference and in preparation for the 54th National Conference, the NEC resolved that:

- (1) The Secretaries Forum, comprising of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and secretaries of provinces and Leagues, will discuss and make recommendations to the July NEC meeting on:
 - the venue for the 54th national conference and beyond
 - cost, logistical arrangements and participants.
- (2) The ANC, under the leadership of the SGO, must develop a Code of Conduct that will set out clear rules for contesting leadership positions.

■ 2014 General Elections

The 2014 National Elections presents an opportunity for the ANC to renew its mandate with the people of our country. All effort in the organisation must be focused on the elections, with all structures working towards delivering a resounding victory for the ANC. The NEC, therefore, resolved that:

- (1) There should be no conferences held between end of July 2013 and the elections in 2014. Where the organisation would be better served by conducting a conference and elections, the NEC will make a determination in consultation with the affected structure/ province or region.
- (2) The ANC will work with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in registering the maximum number of eligible voters for the elections and urge our people to be active during the voter registration campaign.
- (3) With regards to the election committees:
 - a. Comrade Amos Masondo will be the National Coordinator of the 2014 elections campaign
 - b. Rule 23 of the List Guidelines must be amended to reflect that Provincial List Committees shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members.
 - c. All provinces should ensure that they have a corps of volunteers to assist during the elections. In this context the NEC re-affirmed the centrality of **Rule 6: Gender and Affirmative Action** at all levels and in all units of the Organisation.

It also re-affirmed that all levels and units of our organisation must have regard to the geographical spread and applicable national demographics in constituting organisational delegations and working units.

■ The Integrity Commission

The NEC approved comrades Barbara Masekela and Bongi Dlomo as additional members of the Integrity Commission. This commission is now comprised of twelve members, six of whom are women and six are men.

■ The ANC Policy Institute

The NEC agreed that comrades should forward other proposed names for researchers to the Secretary General.

■ Local Government

The ANC is committed to serving our people through effective and responsive local government councillors and public servants. Local government is a sphere of government where our people access government programmes and services and interact with government officials.

The NEC commended the NWC on its work in various provinces and municipalities. It resolved that:

- (1) The NWC will meet with all ANC councillors throughout the country to consolidate the work done since 2012.
- (2) The ANC will implement the decisions taken with regard to the Tlokwe, Lukhanji and Mbizana municipalities.
- (3) All municipal managers and managers reporting to municipal managers, appointed in terms of Sections 56 and 57 of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000, would henceforth not be eligible for election to the executive structures – NEC, PEC, REC or BEC – of the ANC.
- (4) The NEC further resolved that those affected managers, who were elected to the executive structures of the ANC prior to the Act taking effect, should be encouraged to resign from the political office/executive leadership or municipal management position concerned.

■ Engaging other sectors of society

The ANC is the only organisation best placed to unite the broadest cross-section of society behind our strategic national objectives. To this end there have been many meetings held with a wide range of organisations and bodies. The NEC resolved that:

- (1) NEC sub-committees must be more involved in sectoral engagements and consultations with stakeholders in their areas
- (2) The ANC should convene a meeting towards the end of 2013, with all the organisations that we have met since the 53rd National Conference to consolidate discussions on achieving our strategic national objectives.

■ The Battle of Ideas and National Discourse

The ANC operates in a highly contested space and the national discourse is dominated by mainstream media and opposition forces agitating for discontent amongst our people. This discourse seeks to minimise the achievements of South Africa, our government and our people and thereby delegitimise the ANC and the broader Movement.

South Africa has achieved a lot in the twenty years of democracy. The overwhelming majority of our people are better off than they were in 1994 and almost all our people have access to better services and greater opportunities than before. However, the apartheid legacy persists as seen in the three major challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, which mostly affect the poor and vulnerable. The NEC therefore resolved that the ANC should:

- (1) Communicate the true story of our country and our development since democracy,

- (2) Continue to form partnerships with all relevant sectors to combat the negative and unfounded perceptions of South Africa.
- (3) Improve the capacity of its members, leaders and society broadly to create a more positive discourse about our country through disseminating factual and correct information.

The NEC, therefore, called on our government to expedite the 20 Year Review so as to provide information on our country's achievements and challenges facing us as we move forward.

■ The Alliance

The strategic Alliance is critical for achieving the objectives of the NDR and the ANC earns its leadership role of the Alliance by, amongst others, contributing to efforts to unite and bring about a more effective Alliance.

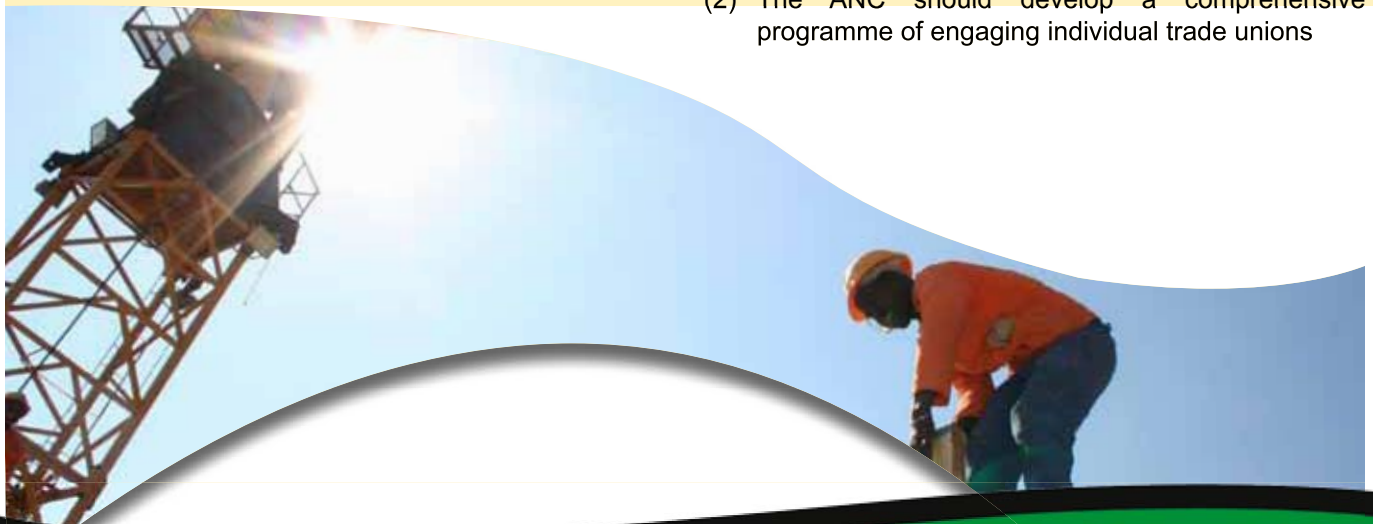
The Alliance Economic Summit will take place at the end of June and the ANC's Economic Transformation Committee (ETC) will continue working on preparations for the Summit.

■ The Labour Federation, COSATU

COSATU has a long and proud history in our Movement since the early days of trade unionism in South African history. A strong, united and coherent COSATU is an essential part of the Alliance and the Congress Movement.

The current attack on individual trade unions is an attack on the Federation and the Congress Movement as a whole. The NEC re-affirmed our revolutionary commitment and duty to assist COSATU and the individual unions against these attacks. It resolved that;

- (1) The ANC Officials must immediately meet with COSATU as part of strengthening the Federation,
- (2) The ANC should develop a comprehensive programme of engaging individual trade unions



Reports of NEC Subcommittees

■ Policy

The NEC endorsed the Manifesto Framework with amendments and recommended that:

- (1) The launch of the Manifesto to coincide with the ANC's January 8th 2014 celebrations.
- (2) The Messaging and Manifesto Team to give a more comprehensive briefing in the July NEC.

■ Economic Transformation

The NEC directed the Economic Transformation sub-committee to develop a simplified guiding document for our membership that speaks to our political economy, the impact of our existing policies and our envisaged interventions for radical transformation of the economy.

The NEC further agreed that there will be a compulsory workshop for NEC members on ANC economic policy and the workshop will form part of preparations for the Alliance Economic Summit.

■ International Relations

The NEC endorsed the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU/ AU starting on 25th May 2013. It urged government to distribute the programmes of celebration more widely in the Movement and broader society.

The NEC affirmed that “democratic South Africa will actively promote the objectives of democracy, peace,

stability, development and multi-beneficial relations among the people of Africa as a whole, as well as Pan African solidarity”. In this regard, the NEC affirmed that:

- (1) South Africa must develop and strengthen its position as the gateway to the continent in a way that contributes to the development of our continent. We must therefore form strategic partnerships with other leading countries on the continent.
- (2) The ANC must give concrete effect to our commitment to support the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO) in South Africa.

■ Political Education

The NEC endorsed the framework of the cadre development and the political school, with a few amendments and additions. It instructed that there should be greater urgency in implementing the political education programme at all levels of our organisation.

■ Fundraising and financial Sustainability

The NEC re-affirmed that the ANC needs to be financially sustainable in order for it to carry out its programmes. It recognised that financial responsibility for the ANC begins with the members of the organisation. The NEC directed the Treasurer General to develop a proposal on how ordinary members can make regular financial contributions to the organisation.

CLOSING REMARKS

By President **JACOB ZUMA**

Our collective is wiser and stronger



Comrades

Firstly I want to express my deepest appreciation for the productive discussions during this NEC. You confronted the issues head-on and built on each other's opinions. The result is that the collective is wiser and stronger. I shall not go over the same issues all over again, but allow me however to emphasize some of them.

Throughout the meeting there has been one refrain. We must change the tone such that the positive Story of Twenty Years of Democracy becomes the dominant story in the public discourse. Comrades, we say this precisely because it is the real and true story. Comrades have given many examples in the political, economic and social spheres. Examples have been given also with regard to the contribution of South Africa in making the continent and, indeed, the whole world a better habitat for all beings.

The discussion on the State of the Labour Movement placed on the agenda by the Report of the National Working Committee is immensely important. It is important because of the key role of progressive labour on the prosecution of the National Democratic Revolution. It is critical also because organized labour is a key economic player.

Comrades have highlighted that the onslaught on the progressive labour movement, especially on the National Union of Mineworkers and Cosatu generally is an integral part of the onslaught on the Revolutionary Alliance as a whole. We are therefore correct to stress the importance of unity inside the ANC as a condition of and as part of our strengthening unity of the progressive labour movement.

We are correct also to stress that it is the responsibility of the ANC, as the leader of the Alliance, to work actively in efforts to build, strengthen and unite the labour movement. We must discuss how

much our federation and also our unions have paid attention to the problems of workers on the shop floor. An example is what is happening to the NUM. I went to a COSATU congress. The papers presented are political. They deal with the ANC and not issues that make workers feel this is our union, this is our federation. At the end, workers must be conscientised, to understand the need to belong to the union and COSATU, otherwise they would move in different directions. I am told that workers are now realising that AMCU is nothing to stay with and want to return, they were misled.

The Alliance is a serious strategic factor for COSATU and the SACP. We have to adjust our plans and discuss how to deal with the issues within the unions, within the federation. We have to deal with this matter and strengthen COSATU.

The meeting has identified the planned Economic Summit of the Alliance as one of the critical and urgent interventions we shall make. You also underlined the need for good preparation for this Summit to ensure that the Alliance come out stronger and more united.

Building deep consensus in the Alliance on the implementation of the National Development Plan 2030 is of vital importance. Crafting a popular version of the document is therefore also of vital importance. It is critical that we do this before the Summit.

The Sub-Committee reports have also assisted the NEC to sharpen its positions on the various matters they have addressed. We cannot overemphasize that the work of the Electoral Manifesto Steering Committee is of vital importance. We must harder to shape this work so that it is enriched and reflects what we believe is important to be said in the process of the elections. It has very tight deadlines and it will be critical that we all do our part on time and do it

very well. Part of the contribution made here will assist those at the head of preparations for elections.

Tracking the implementation of our decisions is also very important and we should begin to use one template as the tool to do this. The discussion of the International Relations Paper on our Interventions on the continent and generally also enriches our wisdom as the collective.

I also agree that NEC meetings should always discuss our interventions on international relations and cooperation in Africa and beyond. Comrades are correct that more attention should be paid in getting the NEC deeply involved on the evolution of our policies with regard to economic transformation.

I am confident that the NDP as we will implement it with determination addresses many of our challenges in this regard. I agree that it is not the Bible but it comes pretty close. Unity of purpose on this is a strategic imperative. I am sure that the discussions on the economic situation, especially the challenges in the mining and agricultural sectors, brought home to all of us that there is no room for indulging in petty philosophical debates when addressing issues of governance. We must therefore support the efforts of the Secretary General and the team in engaging the mining industry leaders. We must also be available when they call us to contribute in any manner whatsoever.

The meeting has reaffirmed our resolve to take the Campaign against the scourge of violence and abuse of women and children to higher levels. Comrades have underlined the imperative for the ANC to become the main leader of this critical campaign. We are all shocked by the reports of the beastly attacks on women, including elder women and babies, sometimes by close relatives and members of the same community. One cannot be a member of the ANC in a community and turn a blind eye to this scourge. One cannot be a member of the ANC and fail to mount a campaign in the community against this social ill. The ANC has to coordinate these campaigns and drive a national campaign. The relevant Sub-committee should galvanize us in this regard.

Similarly Comrades have highlighted the painful destruction of our children and families by growing substance and drug abuse. We visited Eldorado Park after a letter from women in the area. The challenge is how we respond to this at various levels. Their claim is they have raised this matter before with other levels of government. They complained about the police and local government. There were details about drug lords who have hijacked houses and flats and continuing there with everything that is anti-society. The drug lords are known and are destroying society. The call was that the police unit must go, they want them changed as they are part of the problem.

The ANC must run this campaign together with government. We must look at our laws as well. There

was a case where they wanted the drug lord evicted from a house that they had hijacked and a court said they can only evict them when they have an alternative accommodation for the drug lords. Is that judgement correct? But we have to respect it, they have rights. We are a country that respects human rights. The law does not ask where they came from to occupy the house illegally. The community does not know what to do. If there is something wrong with a law, let us change the law.

We have established a task team to take the matter forward in Eldorado Park. We need to use this as a lesson of what we can do in other areas by the three spheres of government. The ANC has to stamp this out with its characteristic determination when confronting the ills destroying the fabric of our society. The ANC structures and our volunteers need to play a key role in this campaign throughout the country.

Allow me to make a few comments on our decision to double our efforts to strengthen local government. As you have stated clearly, we earn the honour of leadership of our people and the party of governance only by demonstrating that we care and are concerned by the burden of want that our people carry.

We earn it by ensuring that our energies are directed at ensuring that our people have access to high quality services and enjoy human dignity. We therefore must make sure that we pay close attention to strengthening the local sphere of government and ensuring that its performance constantly improves. The decision of systematic action in this regard is one of the most important decisions taken in this meeting. We must deliberately ensure that this decision is monitored, that we implement it. There are shortcomings in local government and we must deal with this issue more critically.

There was a proposal for some departments to meet urgently to discuss local government. That decision should be implemented and we need a progress report at the next NEC meeting. Those working on this must do more and demonstrate progress.

We started the year with the induction of NEC members. The Political Education Sub-committee is assisting us to deepen political clarity among all the members of the organization. Comrades have highlighted the urgency with which we should take this forward. They also provided the framework to do so. We must pay particular attention to this matter. I am hoping that we can move forward better this time.

The fact that since Mangaung it is the first time that we are getting a report on political education is not encouraging. It does not indicate urgency on political education. We welcome being shown modules and we are now talking about what we will do at a practical level, beyond asking for a building for a political school! I am feeling a little bit comfortable for the first time.

The meeting also enriched the intervention and I am confident that the Sub-committee will take the suggestions on board and galvanize us to move to implementation mode on political education.

It is crucial that we discussed elections. It is important to realise the urgency of the matter. Comrades must give more time, those deployed to this task. The SG and DSG should ensure that this matter is treated with urgency as time is not on our side. A lot needs to be done still.

The decision to re-launch the volunteer corps is one of the most important in the organisation. We launched the Moses Kotane volunteer brigades in Gauteng, it was a wonderful experience, and other provinces must follow suit.

Another point is what do we do to promote the ANC globally, a matter raised by the Treasurer-General. If there are people who live in a town abroad and are less than 100, can we not explore forming ANC units abroad? They can play a very important role in the movement where they are.

It is impossible to cover everything we have discussed. Suffice to say that everything we have discussed, and all the decisions we have taken here, are of equal importance. We should make sure that we implement them with the necessary urgency. We should demonstrate the discipline that we expect from every member of the Movement.

I thank you comrades.

26 JUNE 2013

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF THE

FREEDOM CHARTER

Adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, on 26 June 1955

We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

- that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;
- that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
- that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
- that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;
- And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together equals, countrymen and brothers adopt this Freedom Charter;
- And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

The People Shall Govern!

- Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;
- All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;
- The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex;
- All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

All National Groups Shall have Equal Rights!

- There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;
- All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;
- All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;
- The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;
- All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!

- The national wealth of our country, the heritage of South Africans, shall be restored to the people;
- The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;
- All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the wellbeing of the people;
- All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!

- Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger;
- The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;
- Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;
- All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;
- People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

All Shall be Equal Before the Law!

- No-one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;
- No-one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;
- The courts shall be representative of all the people;
- Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;
- The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;
- All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!

- The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;
- The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;
- All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;
- Pass Laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

There Shall be Work and Security!

- 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;
- Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!

- The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;
- All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;
- The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;
- Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;
- Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;
- Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;
- The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!

- All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;
- Unused housing space to be made available to the people;
- Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no-one shall go hungry;
- A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;
- Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;
- Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;
- The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;
- Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;
- Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

There Shall be Peace and Friendship!

- South Africa shall be a fully independent state which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;
- South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation – not war;
- Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;
- The people of the protectorates Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;
- The right of all peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

**Let all people who love their people
and their country now say, as we
say here:**

**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL
FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE,
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES,
UNTIL WE HAVE WON
OUR LIBERTY.**

