



# NEC

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

# BULLETIN

September 2014

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## FOREWORD

*By the Secretary General*  
**GWEDA MANTASHE**



## Going back to basics

**T**HE SEPTEMBER 2014 National Executive Committee meeting brought a range of issues to the discussions. It provided a way forward on how we should approach current challenges facing the movement.

The situation in parliament received full attention of the leadership. The leadership thoroughly analysed the character and intention of opposition forces. The consensus view was that the intention is to de-legitimise the movement, weaken it and ultimately dislodge it from power. The coalescing of the opposition, most to the right of the ANC, is done conveniently for the sole purpose of destabilising the functioning of parliament. The intention is create an impression of a weak leadership of the ANC, both in parliament and to the broader society. They seek to systematically make our people lose faith in the ability of their movement to govern. All the structures of the ANC and its alliance partners have the responsibility to defending the movement, the revolution and our country's hard won democracy. The paper on the balance of forces, domestically, tries to help us look at these challenges, and others. The paper will be widely distributed for broad and intense debate among our structures and our alliance partners.

There was agreement that in dealing with local government we should go back to basics. The appeal is that all ANC councillors should do basic things correctly. Consider, for an example, an ANC-controlled municipality that ensures that potholes are closed within

the shortest possible time; grass is cut, refuse is removed every week and water and sanitation leakages are attended to urgently. Councillors should hold regular public meetings to keep the community informed. The BECs have the responsibility of working with the ward councillors, facilitate their work and be part of the meetings. Both the councillor and the BEC, in every ward, must know the neighbourhood. They must know the indigent families, child headed families and those burdened by diseases.

In dealing with the appeal against dissolution of one regional executive committee few principles were highlighted:

- When the province dissolves a regional structure a detailed report giving reasons for the dissolution must be submitted.
- Comrades must appreciate that dissolution should be aimed at rebuilding a dysfunctional structure, instead of it being a form of disciplinary action.

*This edition of the NEC Bulletin  
focus on the meeting of the National  
Executive of the ANC,  
held 19–21 September 2014*

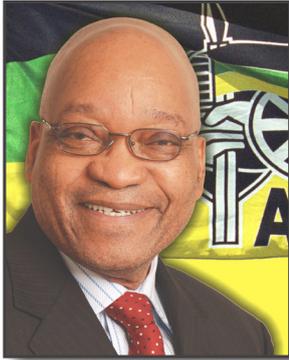
*Foreword by the SG continued*

- Factionalism and divisions weaken structures to a point of collapsing the organisation.
- When comrades forget that they need each other the structure ceases to function.
- Unity and cohesion is not negotiable and all of us must invest energy and time in ensuring that the ANC is united.

The NEC Bulletin provides us with an opportunity to be informed of the decisions of the NEC. We must organise group discussions and unpack these decisions. We must ensure that all members receive this information. Such an action will contribute immensely to our political education. These small steps add incrementally to the objective and content of our resolution on the decade of the cadre. It is through engagement with others, adding to one's own learning, that we grow more in our knowledge and understanding of our theory and practice.

Herein are the decisions of the NEC, try to understand them and debate them among yourselves in the structures.

Enjoy the reading.



## POLITICAL OVERVIEW

By President **JACOB ZUMA**

# Democracy is the Heritage of the ANC: defend democratic institutions

**W**E MEET during Heritage Month, as we mark 20 years of celebrating our freedom and the celebration of our heritage of selfless struggle, freedom and democracy.

In September we also celebrate our heritage of our hard won democracy.

There is no organization in this country that understands democracy better than the ANC and that is because the ANC was the midwife of this democracy. We practice democracy in the day to day running of our movement and in running the country.

We have since 1994 worked hard to consolidate democracy. We continuously work to transform the three arms of the state the legislature, executive and judiciary in line with the spirit of the Constitution and the Freedom Charter.

We have been proud in particular of the vibrant parliament in our country, where representatives of our people come together to make laws and undertake oversight over the work of the executive on behalf of the people.

It is of serious concern that in this fifth democratic era, we are begin to experience unprecedented attacks on parliamentary democracy and the parliamentary system in our country.

We have seen incidents of hooliganism that do not belong in a modern democratic parliament. We are

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also witnessing contestation that is going beyond normal opposition politics to a demand for co-governance by the minority parties.

The authority of the ANC is being challenged aggressively and in a most abrasive and shocking manner.

The ANC commands more than 60 percent support in this country. We are stronger than many ruling parties in the world.

At times we become reluctant to use our majority, and try to be as accommodating as possible. However, the time has come for us to boldly use our majority to assert the right we were given to govern by our people.

We cannot and should not be bulldozed by noisy smaller parties. We should guard our space and our position jealously and lead.

The debate on the vote of no-confidence on the Speaker, our national chairperson demonstrated what we are capable of as the ruling party and indicates what we can do to assert the authority of the ANC in parliament.

A stronger ANC caucus is more important than ever at this time in our history since 1994.

The ANC needs to lead the process of restoring order and decorum in parliament and this NEC needs to play a role in driving that critical task.

While leading in consolidating parliamentary democracy, the ANC should always rise above the noise and lead the nation, providing guidance and hope.

Our messaging should thus be welcoming to all and seek to convince each day even those who have not yet voted ANC that the country is in good hands for as long as the ANC is in power.

In this regard we should inculcate ANC values in society as living values.

Among these values is the need to continue to fight racism, tribalism, regionalism and other ills and to promote inclusivity, non-racialism and a sense of belonging for all.

We should affirm in acknowledgement that we may be diverse and look different as South Africans, but it is that distinction that makes us South African.

In fact, part of the defining features of South Africans is these cultural and ethnic differences that complete our makeup.

## **FREEDOM CHARTER**

Next year is the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. It affords us an opportunity to go to our people in Freedom Charter Forums and do a review of our progress and what needs to change. We need to start now preparing for this important anniversary.

We will need to assess how far we have gone in implementing the vision outlined in the Freedom Charter in terms of building a national democratic society – non-racial, united, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous?

We think of the Freedom Charter at this time given the difficult economic climate of our country.

The Charter proclaims that rent and prices shall be lowered, food (will be) plentiful and no-one shall go hungry.

The current economic situation in the country unfortunately is dire for many families and communities and we are far from realising that vision in the Charter. We should prioritise food security campaigns and promote food production in the fight against hunger and poverty.

There is an urgency to release land for the cultivation of maize, wheat, beans and other staple food so that our people can live from the land, especially in rural areas.

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The ANC needs to lead in such campaigns that have a direct meaning for our people.

We should pay more attention as well to providing a cushion for our people who are looking for jobs, while building much needed infrastructure, in order to promote the fight against hunger.

In the manifesto we said the Expanded Public Works Programme this term would create six million work opportunities. We will launch this new phase on the 3rd of

October in Keiskamahoek.

Our provincial and local government structures should ensure that we achieve this target. The Community Work Programme which is run by municipalities also has the potential to provide an income for many struggling families at least once or twice a week.

I am raising all of this because we can feel the pressure on our people. The economy is not growing at the rate we would like, and thus, it is not creating much needed jobs. The ANC should come up with practical steps therefore to provide hope and to cushion our people while promoting self-reliance.

When it comes to organisation building, September is an important month for the ANC as it was seventy years ago this month that the Youth League of the ANC was launched.

The youth of the time realized that there was a need to create a platform on which youth interests and perspectives about the future could be concretized and deposited into the mainstream of the ANC.

Seventy years later, this still remains the case. The ANC needs a vibrant Youth League which will be able to inject the much needed energy into the ANC.

As the Youth League heads towards its congress, I want to caution that as ANC leaders we should not view the rebuilding process that has been underway as an event but rather a process that is ongoing.

Beyond their national conference, they must be supported to build solid and vibrant structures at all levels.

There should emerge a new youth league that will capture the imagination of our youth and draw thousands of young people into the ANC yet again. It should be a Youth League that inspires the Youth and make them want to be part of the ANC.

We are celebrating the heritage of the ANC as well, as we head towards Oliver Tambo month in October. We need to have visible programmes to celebrate this stalwart and hero of our struggle to whom we owe the survival of this organisation during the most difficult years in our history.

This country needs to know and understand the contribution of Comrade Oliver Tambo better, and we have the responsibility of making that happen.

Our ongoing **Imvuselelo Campaign** provides a platform of educating our members about the history of the organisation including the role of our illustrious leader such as OR.

The Imvuselelo Campaign must touch every branch and every corner of the country, as we build a new cadre in this decade of the cadre.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Comrades we meet during a difficult time as we continue to deal with the impact of the Nigeria disaster in which we lost at least 67 citizens.

The search and rescue teams are currently at work and will in time be able to tell us the exact figure.

I thank you.

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# Decisions of the NEC

The meeting took note of the tragedy that took place at the Synagogue Church of All Nations in Nigeria where 84 South Africans lost their lives and others were injured. The NEC sent its condolences to their families and friends, and commended our Government on the support it was providing to the affected families and persons.

## ■ ORGANISATION MATTERS

### ▼ Unity of Purpose and Focus

The debate already taking place with regard to the leadership of the ANC post 2017 is both unhelpful and misdirecting the current efforts of the organisation. Those involved in this process should be identified so they are spoken to.

### ▼ Organisation Building

All NEC members who have not been through the experience of the exchange should be included in the forthcoming programmes. As part of ensuring exposure and political development in our structures, the exchange programmes will include members from the provinces. This is also in line with the MOU between the ANC and the Communist Party of China.

The NEC recognised that implementation, and slowness thereof, is our Achilles heel. Therefore, the African National Congress should make a concerted effort to implement its programme with vigour. To this end,

- The Imvuselelo Campaign should be implemented and used to strengthen the ANC and organisational structures on the ground. This programme should be used to reignite and realise our organisational renewal.
- Also, as part of our renewal and Imvuselelo Campaign, we must mark the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter with the necessary ceremony. The build-up to this hallmark moment in our movement's and people's liberation heritage will be ensured by convening Freedom Charter Forums. These will be open to all South Africans, so they can participate by reflecting on the Freedom Charter's principles and values; the progress our country has made and the challenges it continues to confront since the dawn of democracy,

as we seek to bring about the ideals contained in the Freedom Charter.

- The ANC should continue to rely more on direct contact with the people through the Izimbizo.

The NEC further agreed on,

- The programme of action towards the National General Council and that it be held on June 26th to 29th 2015 in Gauteng.
- The January 8th 2015 celebrations, marking the 103rd anniversary of our beloved movement, the African National Congress, to be held in the Western Cape.

The NEC recognised the challenges of building and the task of unifying our organisational structures in the Chris Hani region. Towards this goal, it confirmed the NWC's recommendations that,

- The REC be dissolved and its appeal dismissed.
- An intensive political education, focused on basic policy documents of the ANC, with its main target being the branches should be undertaken in the region. The NEC sub-committee on Political Education should be directly involved in this programme.
- Former REC members should be removed from the RTT and additional members must replace them.
- The regional conference should be held within the six months period prescribed by the constitution.

### ▼ Outcomes of By-Elections

The present trend where the ANC is winning, and maintaining, its ward with declining/shrinking margins should be reversed. It is important to ensure that the ANC support base comes out on polling days. This is critical, moving forward.

### ▼ The Leagues

It is part of the responsibility of being an NEC member to carry out the work of the ANC, which includes honouring deployment to do work in various structures of the NEC. It is of concern when comrades of the NEC do not honour either national or international assignments. Therefore, the NEC agreed that where and when members do not honour their deployment, national or international, appropriate action should be taken against them.

## A Veterans League

- i. Since the unavailability of the President, the Secretary General of the VL should represent it in the NWC.
- ii. The SGO will meet with the team of veterans assigned to assist the VL towards its conference.

## B Women's League

- i. The officials should monitor the programme and plan of the WL towards its conference. There should be NEC members assigned to the WL in this regard.
- ii. The NEC proposed that the WL conference should take place no later than the end of January 2015.

## C Youth League

- i. It was agreed that the auditing team sent to KZN had no standing and, therefore, the directive of the ANC Secretariat that it be withdrawn was correct. It was also agreed that there should be two teams of three comrades each to deal with the audit issues in KZN, and another for concerns in the NW. Further, it proposed that comrades in these teams should form part of those helping find solutions to the YL problems.
- ii. The DSG has been tasked to deal with matters pertaining to the NTT and the YL as part of helping the structure towards its national congress.

## ▼ Balance of Forces

- i. The NEC agreed that the ANC is under attack from various forces. The NEC reaffirmed the maxim that the revolution is about people. Therefore, people need ongoing attention so as to ensure the liberation forces are on course to realise the objectives of the revolution. In this regard, political consciousness will result from continuous work and ensuring the social distance between the liberation movement and the people is narrowed and, ultimately, closed. This would require that the ANC mobilise and organise all strata in society. The NEC, in this context, highlighted that there is an attempt by the opposition forces to create a state of anarchy in society, with the accompanying objective to deligitimise the ANC and, ultimately, to weaken it. The emergence of a right wing coalition among political parties in the present phase is one of convenience, resulting from their common animosity towards the ANC. Their only intention is

to derail the revolution, and therefore qualifies to be called a counter-revolutionary coalition.

- ii. The NEC commended the Political Education Subcommittee for the discussion paper it presented. It was unanimous that the paper provided a much-needed and long awaited engagement on the balance of forces and the socio-political and economic challenges that pertain.
- iii. It was agreed that, in the lead to the National General Council and integral to its discussion, the paper should be further developed.
- iv. The ETC should prepare and prepare a discussion paper on the economy in the November NEC meeting. The NEC further called for an intensification of investments in labour intensive sectors of the economy to deal with the challenges of unemployment; particularly amongst young people. It further reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive discussion on the impact of long strikes on the economy and the wellbeing of workers and their families. A regulatory framework must be developed without interfering with the right to strike.
- v. The alliance, in particular COSATU, needs to be unified and strengthened. The unity of the working class is critical to the defence of the revolution and the ANC.

## ■ THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

The NEC referred the report of the commission back to the NWC for processing, before it could deliberate on it.

## ■ GOVERNANCE

### A. Parliament

- i. The NEC asserted that the motion of no confidence against the Speaker of Parliament, by the coalition of opposition parties, was a sinister attempt to subvert our country's multi-party constitutional democracy. South Africa operates on the basis of a party-based electoral system, where members of Parliament are representatives of their parties, and each party in the National Assembly is represented proportionally on the basis of the votes garnered at the country's polls. Consistent with democratic practice throughout

the world, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly is elected from the majority party; which is the party accorded the mandate to govern by the majority of the electorate. Any attempt by the opposition parties, singularly and collectively, and some public commentators, to seek to fallaciously reinterpret an age old democratic practice to achieve their own ends is to destabilise legitimate democratic institutions.

- ii. The ANC representatives in parliament should arrest the emerging anarchy and restore order. Therefore, it is important that our representatives behave in a manner befitting parliamentary conduct and decorum. Consequently, parliamentary debates and the question and answer sessions must occur in an atmosphere consistent with parliamentary rules, conduct and cordial spirit.
- iii. The ANC should be firm and assertive in its exercise of the leadership of parliament. Members of Parliament, individually and collectively, are obliged to protect its dignity and integrity and should be intolerant of deviant behaviour. Members of Parliament are Public Representatives, elected by the people to realise their hopes and aspirations and are, therefore, expected to engage constructively towards that end and to ensure transparency and accountability in the work of Government.
- iv. The Rules of parliament should be adhered to, enforced and those falling foul of them be censured accordingly.
- v. The programme of parliament should be strategic and highlight the achievements that Government is making towards the transformation of society and changing the lives of our people, particularly the poor and destitute.

### **B. Chapter Nine Institutions**

- vi. The ANC should bring to a close the work around the Kader Asmal Commission. It should, therefore, finalise its position on this matter. Furthermore, it should prioritise the discussion on the role of Chapter Nine institutions and our relationship to them.
- vii. The mandate of these institutions should also be clarified, so as to avoid a situation where they perceive themselves to be above other arms of State and Government.
- viii. Criticism of these institutions, and any other arm

of Government, should be contextualised and avoid being pointed at the person(s) in holding those specific offices.

### **C. Local Government**

- ix. The Back to Basics Plan on Local Government should be adopted by the NEC.
- x. The NEC deployees should monitor the plan, and develop guidelines between the municipalities and the local ANC structures.
- xi. The Local Government elections campaign has begun. The ward committees should develop an analysis of performance in their areas. It is important that an analysis of performance versus protest action – referred to as service delivery protests – should be developed and presented, for better understanding of what pertains at Local Government. The NEC agreed to the Local Government programme of action, which the SGO tabled.
- xii. Furthermore, the NEC endorsed the proposal not to review the matter pertaining to the Mogalakwena municipality.

### **D. Policy Matters**

- xiii. Deployees of the ANC should make policy pronouncements that are consistent with deliberations and policy resolutions taken in structures of the movement. It is important that there is a common perspective, internally and outside the organisation, on policy positions of the organisation. Unintended differences might distort our collective leadership and work and the manner in which we are perceived publicly.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- I. The NEC endorsed the report of the NWC with regards to,
  - The visit of the ANC delegation to Mozambique. In this context, the proposal on the putting in place the liberation route and creating heritage monuments in Southern Africa and other countries, where there is affinity with our liberation struggle, was endorsed.

- The visit of UNITE: the union and ACTSA, from the United Kingdom, to South Africa, where it met the ANC and other organisations. Flowing from this, the NEC endorsed the proposal that ANC delegations be sent abroad to interact with various international formations and people on the situation in the organisation and the country.
2. The NEC agreed that there should be space for the ANC, at party level, to interact with foreign governments and parties. In the same breath, the ANC should not be dissuaded to alter its stance in relation to its sister parties.
  3. On Palestine, the NEC
    - i. Welcomed and appreciated the appointment of cdes Aziz Pahad and Zola Skweyiya as envoys to Palestine and Israel.
    - ii. Endorsed the following actions:
      - The South African government should intensify engagements with members of the Non Aligned Movement and all the other multi-lateral institutions.
      - The ANC should join the call for a cultural, academic and education boycott of Israel. This boycott should include stopping of all travel to Israel by members and leaders of the ANC and the alliance, including travel by members of the cabinet, members of parliament and senior government officials.
      - The ANC should engage companies that do business with Israeli companies, which operate in the occupied territory, such as like CapeGate, G4 security and Caterpillar, because they contribute to the escalation of conflict.
- The ANC must plan and organise high profile activities to mark November month, which is the month of solidarity with the people of Palestine, as per the United Nations.
- 4.4 Furthermore, the NEC decided that
- Government's initiatives and the Special Envoys appointed to facilitate peace processes in Lesotho, South Sudan and Sri Lanka, should be supported.
  - The Cuban solidarity programme, particularly the Campaign for the Release of the Cuban Five and also the lifting of the unjust economic blockade led by the USA.
  - The report of on the Socialist International should be endorsed, and the tasks it resolved that member parties deliberate and take action on be undertaken by the relevant subcommittees of the NEC. The areas of action are:
    - *Global economy* – with particular attention on the concentration of wealth in the hands of few and growing inequality. Therefore the need to find appropriate solutions to wealth redistribution.
    - *Migration* – specific concern pertaining to the increase in human trafficking, particularly border crossing by unaccompanied minors, children and teenagers. In addition, the need to focus on migration and its impact on the economy both of home countries and those people migrate to.
    - *Peace and conflict resolution* – with specific reference to sexual assaults and the rape of women, used as weapons of war.
    - *Strengthening and deepening democracy.*

