



# NEC

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

# BULLETIN

*Produced by the African National Congress*

## FOREWORD

### 'The NGC is the biggest political school and an opportunity to engage on critical issues confronting our movement and our people'

*- Gwede Mantashe (ANC Secretary General)*

Comrades,  
The September 2010 National General Council is going to be a success.

We march on to eThekweni buoyed by a series of unparalleled victories, both as a movement and as a country, since our last NGC in 2005. The ebullient spirit and mood characterising the current socio-political milieu augurs well for our convocation. Above all, even with the normal challenges we encounter, our movement dared not fragment.

The NEC, as directed by the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Conference, acquitted itself well in rescuing the movement in this regard. The relative stability that we are beginning to see in ANC provincial and regional conferences captures such a progress.

The NGC is the biggest political school where more than 2000 delegates will assemble under one roof and engage in serious political debates. It will undertake a mid-term review of our progress in implementing conference resolutions and our programme. Delegates will analyse a range of challenges facing the movement, as contained in the various reports and policy documents presented to plenary and the commissions. The NGC should help the movement consolidate the milestones achieved in building unity and cohesion, which has been the theme of the current NEC since December 2007.

Branches must discuss the circulated policy documents as part of their preparations for the NGC. Regional and Provincial General Councils must be membership schools where non-attendants to the NGC will participate and mandate their delegates.

Let us move together in discipline synonymous of the values and principles communicated down the ages by

our forebears. Cadre discipline must be normative culture and practice transcendent of mechanical disciplinary processes. As we reassert the resolution that members

should desist from subjecting the ANC to court cases on organisational matters we must, equally, assume with seriousness the responsibility of ensuring that our processes give members access to fairness and justice. Our members must have the sense that leadership is listening to them and it applies its mind to grievances raised.

Finally, as we step forward with heads held high, we call in unison with the President on our people to celebrate their collective successes.

Every victory by each and every South African, black and white, however major or small, is our collective victory. All our successes, from the second-to-none hosting of the FIFA World Cup coupled with Bafana-Bafana's move from a sad 90 to a reasonable 66 in world soccer rankings, Louis Oosthuizen's triumph at the British Golf Open, and to the double firsts of Caster Semenya in Finland to mark her indomitable return to competitive athletics, emphatically display that South Africa is a winning nation. We must celebrate our success.

*In all we do, we must assert the leadership role of the ANC in leading this country to full potential. Let us continue to march on in victory in our journey "Towards a Hundred Years of Selfless Struggle: working together to build a national democratic society"*

*Let us ensure a successful National General Council.*

*The National Executive Committee meeting was held on 22 - 23 July 2010*

## AFRICAN UNITY

# Political Overview

by ANC President Jacob G. Zuma



Comrades,

This NEC meeting, the last before our National General Council, is the first time we have met since the successful staging of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

We must acknowledge that this event was a great success that has had a significant impact on our country and continent. It has had a great impact also on international perceptions about South Africa and Africa. Estimates are that the World Cup, and the activities related to it, will contribute between 0.3 and 0.5 percent to our growth rate. In the longer term, it is likely to yield increased tourism, investment and trade thanks to the exposure the country has received.

Though it cannot be measured, there is a very real sense that the World Cup brought South Africans together. This is a matter that extends far beyond the outward manifestations of national pride. It is clear that South Africans of all races feel a greater sense of a common nationhood. This is important for the African National Congress, an organisation that has as one of its chief objectives the attainment of a united, non-racial and non-sexist society.

While we must congratulate all those who contributed to the success of this event – in terms of infrastructure, logistics, organisation and hospitality – this NEC should pay attention to the political significance of this event and what it means for the programme of the movement. Most importantly, we need to discuss how we sustain the momentum created by this event, and how we ensure that this common nationhood is infused with a progressive content.

We also need to ensure that we sustain the strong sense of African unity and solidarity that we experienced.

We need to ensure that there are practical ways in which South Africans can channel their sense of national pride.

We were fortunate that Nelson Mandela Day took place so soon after the World Cup. It provided an opportunity for all our people to make a tangible contribution to work together to build our nation.

This NEC should look at what other mechanisms we can use to give meaning to the call that we made during the last election – and which is now at the centre of the programme of government – of ‘working together’ to improve the lives of our people.

One example is the re-launch of the Proudly South African campaign, which encourages people to buy local products and services and thereby to support the development of local industry, and the creation of jobs. We must look at how we provide political support to this initiative.

In short, the achievement of true national unity requires that we tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The challenge we must now undertake is to harness the efforts of all South Africans towards these goals, just as all South Africans readily and enthusiastically participated in the success of the World Cup.

As discussed in the government lekgotla, we have to use the project management expertise gained in the World Cup, to fast-track service delivery.

In summary, the lessons from the World Cup are that we must have clear goals, outputs, identify persons responsible, ensure quick on the spot monitoring, evaluation and problem solving mechanisms, and re-orientate our staff to be focused on producing results.

We must use the same approach to ensure that we fight crime better, get 200 000 children in school, create decent jobs, fight HIV and AIDS better or develop viable and sustainable rural communities. Our people must see the tangible benefits of the World Cup when we start doing things differently in every aspect of work.

The forthcoming NGC will need to closely examine the progress we are making in the implementation of the Polokwane resolutions on economic transformation. As we pursue our economic agenda, we should be looking at how our priorities should inform our international work. Next month, we will be undertaking state visits to Russia and China.

This follows state visits to Brazil and India, meaning that we would have undertaken high profile visits to each of the BRIC group of countries within the space of 12 months. This is deliberate. Over the past 10 years the BRIC countries have together contributed over a third of world GDP growth and grown from one-sixth of the world economy to almost a quarter.

In each of these visits, we have focused on strengthening trade and investment ties and skills and technology transfers. We have been accompanied on all visits by large business contingents that have interacted with their counterparts in these countries.

We have also emphasised in our international engagements the importance of the economic development of the African continent. It is the third fastest growing region in the world (after India and China) and has a combined market of one billion people. In our state visits to other African countries – including Angola, Zambia and Uganda – we have stressed the strengthening of economic ties.

We need to examine how this imperative affects our party-to-party interactions. It is our view that the party-to-party work cannot and should not be divorced from intergovernmental interactions. In fact, the political work should form the basis of the governmental interaction. It is therefore important that we are sending a second NEC delegation to China as this helps to cement ties.

This is indeed a good period for the country. After staging a landmark World Cup, this week we received accolades at the international aids conference in Vienna, Austria where we were represented very capably by our Deputy President leading the delegation.

We are also encouraged by the recent developments in our country around the Aids gel, which may help us reduce the transmission of HIV to women. This has been another success story for South Africa and we will watch the developments very closely.

### **ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

Comrades, this NEC meeting is expected to look in some detail at preparations for the National General Council. The NGC is a crucial moment in the life of our organisation. This NGC will be the most significant national meeting since the Polokwane conference, and is likely to be the last such gathering before the ANC's centenary in 2012. It is also taking place less than a year before the next local government elections.

It is our responsibility to ensure that it is successful and productive. The value of the NGC extends beyond the few days that it will be held. It is in the process of preparing for the NGC, and in reporting back afterwards, that we can achieve the most in terms of organisation building and renewal.

We have frequently observed that part of the problem we face in the organisation is the lack of political discussion within our structures – from the branches right up to the NEC. This is an opportunity to address that deficiency. We must ensure that discussions do indeed take place on all the matters that will come before the NGC for deliberation. It is important that the views expressed at the NGC reflect the thinking of the membership.

It is just as important that members feel part of the NGC process, and are encouraged to participate in the activities that must follow. We should not take this process for granted. All leaders need to be going out to structures in the period before the NGC to facilitate discussions. We must ensure that our discussion documents are accessible to the general membership.

We have frequently observed that an active and politically conscious membership is important to the continued existence of the ANC as a mass movement and servant of the people. We should place that at the centre of our deliberations around the NGC. It is the quality of our cadres and their engagement in the programme of the movement that will determine the fate of this organisation and the direction of our country.

In fact, we must acknowledge that there is more at stake here than only South Africa. Wherever we go in the world, whether in Africa or Europe or South America, we are asked about the state of the ANC – we are asked: “What are you doing to our organisation?”

There is a very real sense of ownership of the ANC among progressive forces across the world. They see in the ANC an organisation capable of advancing the cause of a more equitable and just global order. We must accept that challenge and live up to that responsibility.

The draft Mid Term Review that will be discussed later makes the point with which we are already too familiar. It says:

*“Infighting and destructive contestation in the structures of the ANC remain one of the many challenges facing the movement. The influence of money in our processes is having the biggest potential to change the character of the movement from being people-centred and people-driven in all the processes, to one where power is wielded by a narrow circle of those who own and/or control resources.”*

*“This is at the centre of the re-emergence of factions in the movement where contestation is not ideological but driven by narrow interests.”*

We have made this fundamental point on many occasions. The pursuit of power, influence and resources is undermining the struggle for a better life for all our people.

We should ensure that while we appreciate this critical point, we should not allow lamentation to paralyse us. We should focus our energies at this NGC on addressing this tendency. We know what needs to be done.

This NGC must look at what prevents us from implementing our programmes of renewal and organisation building. This must start with the NEC. As the NEC, we have a responsibility to prepare a report to the NGC on the state of organisation and progress in the implementation of Conference resolutions.

If it is necessary, for example, to release NEC members in government to do organisational work for two full weeks every quarter, then we should agree to do so. People may be concerned that government work will suffer as a result. But it will suffer far more if there is no viable ANC to drive the process of social change.

As the NEC, we have a responsibility to prepare a report to the NGC on the state of organisation and progress in the implementation of Conference resolutions.

We also have a responsibility to examine our own performance, and the progress we have made in living up to the expectations of those who elected us at Polokwane. Again, we should not be pre-occupied with the problems. We must focus all our attention on finding solutions.

We will have an opportunity to spend time visiting provinces from August until the NGC. The programme will continue after the NGC. It is important for us to get a good sense of the situation on the ground, and intervene to help build a stronger organisation. Let us spend enough time on such issues and ensure that we are able to guide our branches well going forward.

The Deputy President and I will undertake a road show in August and September before the NGC and afterwards, to meet structures in the provinces. We look forward to successful engagements, which are aimed at strengthening the organisation and promoting renewal.

## **AFRICAN UNITY**

The 2010 World Cup demonstrated African unity in very practical terms. The support for African sports fans and visitors as well as African teams indicated solidarity and friendship. We need to work with branches to entrench that kind of unity so that we can isolate those who may seek to sow the seeds of any prejudice, including xenophobia.

As the African National Congress, which will celebrate a centenary soon, we are called upon to lead this process of promoting continental unity and solidarity.

Working through our structures, we must spread the message that South Africa is part of the African continent and that our destiny is intertwined with that of the African continent.

**WAY FORWARD**

# Decisions of the NEC

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress (ANC) met over two days – from 22-23 July 2010. Its main focus was the preparations for the National General Council (NGC) to be held on September 20-24, 2010 at the Exhibition Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The NEC also considered other matters that required urgent decisions.

The NEC agreed of the following:

**1. On the National General Council:**

**A. NGC Theme:**

*Towards Hundred Years of Selfless Struggle: working together to build a national democratic society*

**B. Purpose and Participants:**

The NGC would be the biggest political school with a participation of 2000 branch delegates and an additional 800 seats for invited guests. It will also assess and quantify progress made by the ANC and its government employees, in implementing the resolutions of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Conference and the priorities in the 2009 Elections Manifesto.

**C. Reports for Plenary Discussions:**

Political Report by the President  
 State of the Organisation: Mid-Term Review by the Secretary General.  
 Financial Report by the Treasurer-General

**D. Policy Papers for Plenary and Discussion in all Commissions:**

Strategy and Tactics  
 Organisational Renewal  
 Gender

**E. Commissions:**

Economic Transformation  
 Social Transformation  
 Education and Health  
 International Relations  
 Leadership Renewal  
 Local Government and Governance  
 Peace and Stability  
 Media and ICT

All commissions will be guided by discussion documents prepared for the NGC and distributed to the provinces by the Drafting Committee by Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Chairperson of the ANC Policy Committee and the Drafting Team will hold a special press conference, Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2010, to release the NGC discussion documents.

**2. Other NEC Business:**

**A. On the Re-alignment of Our Structures:**

The NEC discussed in detail the impact of the municipal demarcation on the structures of the ANC. It decided to deal with each case on its own merits.

*Furthermore it concluded that:*

The ANC has the responsibility of aligning its structures to the boundaries of the municipalities, as required by Rule 21.1 and 21.2

The emphasis will not be on disbanding but on setting up interim structures that will oversee the work of the ANC in the period leading to the 2011 local government elections. The views and voices of those affected are important in this process.

The current Regional Executive Committees will form the core of the interim structures and additional members will be co-opted to these interim structures.

Provincial Executive Committees will take full responsibility for this important work, with the NEC supervising it closely.

We will also engage the Municipal Demarcation Board and other Government institutions about areas of potential resistance and conflict.

The ever so-often and regular re-alignment of municipal boundaries, sometimes with negative implications for the affected communities, should be reviewed and appropriate action taken. The NEC is convinced that boundaries cannot be adjusted, as matter of course, every five years.

### **B. On Gender and the State-Owned Enterprises (SoE) and Development Finance Institutions (DFI):**

The NEC notes and recognises the importance of these areas of our work. On gender, the NEC affirmed the need for the ANC to both assess progress made and take forward gender transformation in the movement and in society. It was, therefore, agreed that

- A discussion paper on gender should be developed for engagement at the NGC.

- The NEC Subcommittee on Gender should be revived.

On the SoEs and DFIs, the NEC reasserted that these institutions are important instruments in the hands of a developmental state. Therefore, it is critical that they maintain a clear focus in order to advance the developmental goals of our country, and also meet the commitments made in the 2009 Manifesto. The NEC, therefore, agreed

- To establish an NEC Subcommittee on State-Owned Enterprises (SoE)/ Development Finance Institutions (DFI)

### **C. FIFA World Cup, South Africa:**

The NEC thanked all South Africans, Bafana-Bafana, the FIFA Local Organising Committee, and SAFA for the successful hosting of the World Cup tournament. South Africans should be encouraged to excel even more as part of preserving the legacy of the World Cup.

The NEC further agreed that,

- In the same vein as there was a national prayer before the tournament, a national thanksgiving prayer should be called;

- A celebration festival be organised to give an opportunity to artists and other key stakeholders to participate;

- A special Parliamentary Session to thank all our people should be convened.

- In the spirit of celebrating our national successes, the NEC also congratulated Louis Oosthuizen for achievements at the British Golf Open.

### **D. On the Microbicide Gel:**

Following our success in hosting the FIFA World Cup, this scientific breakthrough is another feather in the South African cap as evidenced by the standing ovations that followed the addresses of our Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi at the 18<sup>th</sup> World Aids Conference in Vienna.

The NEC congratulates and unreservedly welcomes the breakthrough of the research outcome announced by Professors Quarraisha and Saleem Abdool-Karim on the effectiveness of a vaginal microbicide gel in reducing the spread of HIV infections through sexual contact.

Furthermore, the NEC committed that South Africa would support and lead the implementation of the African Union (AU) resolution to establish a fund for scientific research in the continent. A special word of appreciation was sent to the Ministry and Department of Science and Technology for supporting and stepping up research initiatives in South Africa.

### **E. On the Chikane Files:**

Having noted the articles written by Reverend Frank Chikane that appeared in the Independent Newspapers recently, the NEC concluded that It is in the character of the ANC to promote freedom of speech and free circulation of ideas and information within the ANC and broader society,

The Chikane Files, in particular those aspects reporting about NEC meetings where Rev Chikane was not even present, are viewed with grave concern. Therefore our members and our people are called upon to exercise caution when reading them. Cognisant of his membership and leadership role in the ANC, the Officials will seek an audience with him.

***F. On Xenophobia:***

Reporting of alleged xenophobic attacks is exaggerated and overly sensational. Security forces are commended for their decisive intervention.

ANC branches should participate in all efforts to fight xenophobia.

## **CLOSING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT ZUMA**

# **We all should work towards building the organisation**

The xenophobia utterances have been exaggerated. The criminal element has also taken advantage of this. The security forces must be commended for acting swiftly and containing it. The branches of the ANC must begin to engage and take action on the matter as it flies in the face of the call for unity among all Africans.

There have been clear statements on the successes of the World Cup, including the legacy projects. South Africans performed very well. A national thanksgiving prayer should be organised. Gratitude should go to all South Africans, and a Special Parliamentary Session should be convened – it would also help taking forward the spirit of reconciliation.

There should be ongoing engagement, through meetings, with the Leagues of the ANC. The proposals on the constitution should be looked at. The African Research Fund should be endorsed, and South Africa should play a key part in that process.

The matter of discipline should continue to be probed and discussed in many ways because it is important. Discipline should be understood broader than the mechanical way, that is, it should transcend disciplinary mechanisms and tools towards embracing a culture, attitude and practice in our movement.

The responsibilities and challenges of the ANC are huge. Being in the ANC should encourage enough confidence among members, enabling one to feel comfortable to being among one's comrades.

It would be wrong if the NEC cannot talk within its ranks, even if the issues raised are rumours. We should be in a position to call ourselves to desist from actions that are not acceptable.

The forthcoming NGC is going to be a success. The ANC always succeeds to overcome its difficulties and the challenges confronting it.

The 2010 NGC is different and better in comparison to the 2005 one. However, a positive climate does not preclude us from encouraging us to be good to one another. The ANC, throughout its different contexts such as prison, exile, etc, came across difficult challenges. When we meet in the NEC we should be honest to one another, be fearless. The NGC must know that no matter the difficulties, the ANC will emerge even stronger.

We will continue with the Imvuselelo campaign. We should all work towards building the organisation. The political overview is not aimed at anyone. The adverse role of money in the organisation is a fact. At the heart of even some of the protests, including contestation on councillors is the desire to access resources. What is important is not to shy away from these matters, but to address them honestly.

Where it is realised that the situation is not well analysed, the NEC members should be in a position to make input. We should avoid a situation similar to the past, where it was difficult for anyone to raise issues. It is important that at the leadership level, comrades are free and comfortable to raise issues and are open to being challenged.

We have gone through difficult times even where others thought the ANC should be redesigned. Leaders must act and behave different to ordinary members, must hold hands and be exemplary to members. We should not be members of other members. We should be strong and united.

**For the sake of many, those who have gone before us, our members, the country and the continent, we should keep the ANC alive.**