



NEC

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BULLETIN

March 2015

Produced by the African National Congress

FOREWORD

By the Secretary General
GWEDA MANTASHE



Branches must be vibrant

THE National Executive Committee met in Cape Town and spent substantial time discussing organisational matters. Four comrades have been drawn into the NEC to fill the vacancies left by three comrades who passed on and one who resigned from the NEC. This is intended to ensure that the NEC has a full complement to be available to respond to invitations from the structures of the ANC, and for members of the NEC to be deployed accordingly.

The National General Council has been postponed to the second week of October. This was informed by the need to ensure that the Leagues go to their conferences and are in good shape when we go to the NGC. Being in good shape is not a function of just the conference but one of comrades being committed to working for unity. If the contestation for leadership positions is factional and divisive comrades will ascend to the positions but the organisation will be polarised and flatfooted. The ANC Women's League is scheduled for conference at the end of April. However, if comrades relegate women into proxies for men in leadership, then the conference is likely to confirm a structure that is not standing on its own. The Veterans' League will go to its conference in May and will hopefully, beyond conference, grow into what it was intended for. In June the ANCYL must hold its conference and elect a leadership structure that is visible in the space of the battle of ideas.

This focus on organisational matters must be emulated at all levels of the organisation. We may have all the programmes as contained in this bulletin but if our structures are weak those programmes will not be sustainable. Our branches should not be revived only

for conferences or elections. They must be vibrant throughout the year. Every branch is expected to hold a branch general meeting every month.

The developments in COSATU remain a source of serious concern for the NEC. The latest rupture has all the potential of seriously dividing the federation in the long term. Every structure of the ANC must take up some responsibility by engaging comrades in COSATU. Comrades must be made to appreciate that there are no victors and vanquished when the organisation is divided. They all feed on the carcass of the organisation but that fact will be realised much later when there are only pieces remaining.

We are an internationalist movement that is ever engaging in that space. The diplomatic breakthrough in the Cuba/United States relations is something that must be celebrated. We remember that the illegal blockade remains in force. Our solidarity remains critical for the friendly island of Cuba to get the space for full development and play its rightful role in the international community.

Enjoy your reading.

This edition of the NEC Bulletin focuses on the meeting of the National Executive Committee of the ANC, held 27–29 March 2015.



POLITICAL OVERVIEW

By President **JACOB ZUMA**

Build strong Leagues of the ANC

WE MEET for the first time as the National Executive Committee since the tragic and untimely passing of our dear brother and comrade, Collins Chabane. We laid him to rest last Saturday in his home village of Xikundu in a dignified and respectable manner, joined by thousands of our people. His contribution to the NEC, in which he has served for many years and also the organisation and our country, will be sorely missed.

Comrade Collins passed on as we were bidding farewell to two giants of the liberation struggle, Malume Moses Kotane and Uncle JB Marks, who were repatriated and were reburied on the 14th and 22nd of March respectively.

These reburials were as a result of our successful efforts to repatriate these icons of our struggle from the Russian Federation as per the request from their families. The successful repatriation is yet another success story of an ANC administration and it is indicative of our capacity to work efficiently and effectively, and achieve results if we commit ourselves. The return of the remains of JB Marks and Moses Kotane served to mobilise our people and to remind them of the glorious struggle that brought about the freedom and democracy we enjoy today.

It is important for us to gradually repatriate the remains of all our cadres who fell on foreign soil, to enable closure and also as part of building our new heritage. It will be a long and costly process in financial terms, but our view is that it should be done.

The year 2015 is indeed a very busy year in the political calendar of our movement.

All our leagues, the Veterans League, the Women's League and the Youth League will convene their National Conferences. We are also due for the National General Council of the ANC later this year.

The SACP and Cosatu will also hold their National Congresses before the end of this year. It is important to note that some of these conferences are taking place

this year outside of the normal schedule. The reason is either because of the need to respond to urgent matters which have arisen or to correct certain things which may have gone wrong.

An example of this is the Youth League conference which was supposed to have taken place last year but was converted into a National Consultative Congress, in order to allow more time to build organisationally cohesive structures thoroughly steeped in the traditions and discipline of the ANC.

In other words, the fact that we are having so many conferences in one year, some of which are not in line with the ordinary schedule, partly points to weaknesses and challenges in our movement that we must decisively deal with. It is a reminder that building the organisation remains a critical task that requires our undivided attention. We call on all ANC leaders to give the necessary political support to the leagues. The Leagues constitute an integral part of the ANC.

However, we must desist at all times from excessive intervention and interference in the affairs and processes of the Leagues. We must allow the leagues to function as autonomous bodies within the confines of the ANC's organisational discipline.

Our task as the NEC in particular, is to support the Leagues so that they emerge from their conferences more united and stronger than before. The Veterans League, in particular, must emerge from its conference with capacity to effectively play their revolutionary role as torch-bearers and guardians of our movement.

The Women's League conference next month must strengthen and re-energize the league to relentlessly pursue the struggle for women's emancipation from the shackles of patriarchy, and with clear programmes to advance the status and quality of life of women in the country, especially the poor and the working class in both urban and rural areas. The conference must also come up with creative ways on how to reposition the Women's League to become the leading voice on women's issues

and status in the country, and which is capable of defending women against any form of gender discrimination. The League must be heard on issues of basic services such as water, sanitation, education, health, electricity and others which affect women directly, alerting government where the delivery of such services is delayed or poor.

Similarly, the Youth League must emerge from its conference as a League of the ANC which does not have any objectives that are contrary to those of the ANC. It must be a radical, militant and disciplined ANC Youth League with the capacity to skilfully execute its twin tasks of mobilising young people and advancing their interests, while at the same time rallying them behind the banner and vision of the ANC.

It must be a Youth League that will capture the imagination of the youth in the country. It must articulate its programmes and policies and run campaigns that make our youth from all walks of life to view it as their natural political home.

It is therefore our responsibility as ANC leaders to ensure that all our structures and leagues function properly in line with the provisions of our constitution.

We meet here less than a week after we marked Human Rights Day and exactly a month before we celebrate the 21st anniversary of our freedom on April the 27th.

Days such as these give us the opportunity to reflect on the journey we have travelled thus far in the struggle for equality, justice and freedom. We must celebrate the fact that we have successfully entrenched a human rights culture in our national consciousness. We must continue to develop programmes aimed at teaching our people about their hard won rights as well as the responsibilities that naturally come with them.

The year **2015 is the year of the Freedom Charter**. Therefore, this year's Freedom Day must necessarily have a much deeper meaning than ever before. We must use this day to reflect in earnest on the progress we have made since 1994 to meet the demands of the Freedom Charter and to boldly state our achievements as well as where we could have done better.

We need to pay serious attention to the socio-economic rights that the Freedom Charter envisaged all our people would enjoy once freedom had been won.

The reality in our country is that most of the rights

We must use this year's Freedom Day to reflect in earnest on the progress we have made since 1994 to meet the demands of the Freedom Charter and to boldly state our achievements as well as where we could have done better.

enshrined in the constitution of the Republic for our people to enjoy are persistently undermined by the socio-economic conditions under which they live.

For example, whilst everyone has the right to freedom of movement, too many of our people simply do not have the requisite and enabling resources to move where, when and how they please. The ANC government's infrastructure development

programme is designed to respond to this challenge of either decent human settlements near places of work or efficient public transport.

Freedom Day will also remind us of the anniversary of 25 years since the release of Comrade Nelson Mandela and 25 years since the unbanning of political organisations, which unleashed a chain of events leading to where we are right now, in a free and democratic South Africa.

I really wish to emphasise that we should not take our achievements for granted, nor should we allow others to define how we should celebrate our freedom. For many years we have allowed others to tell us on Freedom Day that nothing has been achieved in this country. We must tell the Good Story of this country, the story of a South Africa that is much better to live in that it ever was before.

At the same time we should communicate the work we are doing to implement resolutions of the ANC in ensuring economic emancipation, which should involve all our people.

Let me remind us, as I did to delegates at the Black Industrialists indaba this week, that the ANC's approach to economic issues is informed by the historical principles espoused in the *Freedom Charter*, *Ready to Govern* and the *Reconstruction and Development Programme* and further elaborated in conference resolutions.

We approach economic transformation guided by the following pillars:

- (a) creating decent employment for all South Africans.
- (b) eliminating poverty and dealing decisively with extreme inequalities in our society.
- (c) democratising the ownership and control of the economy by empowering the historically oppressed, Africans and the working class in particular to play a leading role in decision-making.
- (d) Restructuring the economy so that it meets the basic needs of all South African and the people of the region, especially the poor.

- (e) Ensuring equitable and mutually beneficial regional development in Southern Africa, thereby fostering the progressive integration of the region; and
- (f) Limiting the negative environmental impact of our economic transformation programme.

The vehicle for us to achieve these goals is a mixed economy. We defined the mixed economy in the ANC's 52nd National Conference resolutions as an economy in which the state, private capital, co-operative and other forms of social ownership complement each other in an integrated way to eliminate poverty and to foster economic growth.

We have also expressed our belief in a developmental state that is located at the centre of a mixed economy and which intervenes in the interest of the people as a whole.

We need to constantly communicate our policies so that people understand the objectives behind our programmes and action plans.

We have constantly said in this NEC that the ANC must be a campaigning organisation.

In this year of the Freedom Charter and as part of celebrating twenty one years of freedom, we should have Freedom Charter Forums in our branches where our people will learn about the Charter and engage on how far we have come as a nation as well as ponder about the road ahead. These types of forums will help us draw on the strengths and resilience of our people as we continue the long walk to the National Democratic Society.

We must teach our people that they are their own liberators. They must own their freedom, be responsible for it and defend it, with the ANC always leading them.

We need to rely on our presence amongst the people as the most potent weapon at our disposal in the ongoing battle of ideas.

We have set the vision for this year during the January 8th Statement and the State of the Nation Address, both of which took place here in Cape Town.

We have had the ANC National Lekgotla as well as the Cabinet Lekgotla, both of which were about concretising our vision into a solid programme of action. What we are called upon to do now is no longer to plan but to implement.

The work of our NEC Sub-Committees must be

geared towards the achievement of the goals we set for ourselves, especially those related to the nine point plan to boost the economy.

As I indicated earlier, our National General Council will take place later this year.

As a result, Sub-Committees are called upon to do a firm audit of what has been achieved since December 2012 against the resolutions of the Mangaung Conference.

This exercise will enable us to know whether we are on course executing the mandate of conference. It will also help us to know where we need to work harder or increase capacity.

The unity of our movement as a whole remains the rock upon which the unity of the South African people is based. We are deeply troubled by the occurrences in Cosatu. We remain committed to the unity of the Alliance and all its individual components. We are

inspired by Moses Kotane and JB Marks, who are the founding fathers of this Alliance and who served all its components with distinction. JB Marks and Moses Kotane worked for the unity of the Alliance and the liberation movement.

The ANC is the leader of the Alliance and its leadership must be visible especially during difficult times. As Madiba said, **"Unity is the rock upon which the ANC was founded."**

At the reburial service of Comrade JB Marks, I made a call for an urgent week long Alliance leadership summit where we will tackle issues and discuss everything that is troubling the Alliance. We must plan for that Summit and be ready to contribute toward rebuilding the Alliance and entrenching unity. Many of our illustrious leaders worked hard to build this alliance; we owe it to them to make it succeed.

Next year we will hold local government elections. All of us must work hard to secure a resounding victory for the ANC. We must get an overwhelming majority which will enable us to continue implementing our progressive policies in all three spheres of government.

An election campaign has to be run through a highly organised machine. It has to have as its defining characteristics a good message, a good narrative, an impeccable public presentation and most importantly, highest levels of organisational discipline.

We have to take our local government's **Back to Basics** message far and wide, as it is a message of hope.

The unity of our movement as a whole remains the rock upon which the unity of the South African people is based. We are deeply troubled by the occurrences in Cosatu. We remain committed to the unity of the Alliance and all its individual components.

It assures our people that we know what is wrong in some municipalities and we also have solutions. The message also acknowledges the successes of the past 15 years of democratic local government.

The ANC is a progressive movement with an internationalist outlook. We continue to play our role to build a better Africa and a better world.

Nigerians are going to the polls this weekend. A stable and peaceful Nigeria is in our national interest and in the interest of the African continent. We need Nigeria as a partner for our progressive agenda on the continent and wish the Nigerians all the best during the elections.

Lesotho has just concluded its own election. Constitutional and security sector reforms must happen as recommended by SADC if Lesotho is to avert another crisis. We will be handing over our chairmanship of the SADC Organ later in the year, satisfied with the modest contribution we have made to the region. We congratulate Comrade Deputy President on the successful mission in the Lesotho. Our intervention in that Kingdom ensured peace and stability and culminated in peace, free and fair elections truly reflecting the will of the Basotho people.

As we prepare for Africa Month and the hosting the Summit of the African Union in June, we should continue to mobilise our people behind our continent for a better Africa. Overall, Africa is changing in the right direction, but peace remains elusive in some parts of the continent and we should work for peace relentlessly.

In June we will also host Africa and the world here in Cape Town, for the World Economic Forum African meeting. We look forward to a successful gathering building on the Davos meeting, which began to tackle inequality and inclusive growth more meaningfully.

The smooth leadership transition recently witnessed in Mozambique and Namibia is the way to go. The former

liberation movements are setting a good example and we congratulate them in this regard.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference which to this day remains a historic milestone in South-South solidarity and the Non Aligned Movement. We will attend the Celebration of Bandung in memory of Moses Kotane and the Indian Congress leader, Maulvi Cachalia, who attended that historic conference.

We should be more resolute in our struggle for a better world on all fronts – from the G77 that we currently chair, to the entire United Nations.

We must use the 70th anniversary of the UN, as Africa, to give traction to the reform of the UN organisation, especially its Security Council whose composition is outdated and not geared to tackling challenges facing humanity today.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda that is being negotiated in New York to replace the Millennium Development Goals must be transformative and place our respective countries on the path towards sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment.

The Freedom Charter says there shall be peace and friendship. But we never said that this peace and friendship will be delivered to humanity on a silver platter.

We must work for these ideals, individually as the ANC, and collectively as part of the global movement of progressive forces. A better Africa and a better world will enable South Africa to prosper and realise its full potential.

We have a lot of work ahead this year. We should remain focused on implementing ANC resolutions and ANC policies in general, and continue the meaningful socio-economic transformation of our country.

Decisions of the NEC

The NEC observed a moment of silence in memory of the three NEC members – cdes Nosipho Ntwanambi, Sisi Mabe and Collins Chabane – who passed on since its last meeting.

The NEC commended our Government for the repatriation and reburials of the stalwarts of the Congress Alliance, comrades Moses Kotane and JB Marks. They played a sterling and pivotal role in the history of our movement. The NEC reasserted the need for all members and components of the Congress Alliance to follow in the footsteps of these giants of our liberation struggle.

The NEC welcomed the newly elected leadership of the North West Province following the province's successful conference in February 2015.

■ Constitutional Structures

▼ National Executive Committee (NEC)

As a result of the passing of three NEC members, comrades Nosipho Ntwanambi, Sisi Mabe, and Collins Chabane, and the resignation of comrade Pallo Jordan from the NEC; the NEC agreed to replace them – using the 53rd National Conference NEC election list as a guide and applying the principle of gender parity. The following comrades were, as a result, drawn into the NEC:

- Mathole Motshekga (M)
- Dipuo Peters (F)
- Regina Mahaule (F)
- Fikile Mbalula (M)

▼ National Working Committee (NWC)

As a result of the gap left by comrades Sisi Mabe and Collins Chabane in the National Working Committee (NWC), the NEC elected two of its members into the NWC – that is, comrades:

- Sisi Ntombela (F)
- David Mahlobo (M)

■ Organisational Matters

▼ The January 8th 2015 Celebrations in the Western Cape

The NEC applauded the success of the celebrations. It commended the national, and provincial, teams involved in the mobilisation and organisation of the event. The participation of the majority of the people of the Western Cape, in particular, and other comrades from other provinces was commended. NEC reserved its special appreciation to the Bantu Christ Church, the Apostolic Church and the Cape Minstrels, for their support.

The NEC, however, took a dim view of the methods used by the DA-governed City of Cape Town – including attempts to use the city police – in trying to strangle the celebrations.

▼ The ANC NEC Lekgotla

The NEC agreed that the Lekgotla was a success in that:

- it provided an intensive sectoral analysis of the economy, the economic outlook and the fiscal challenges the country faces;
- it identified critical areas needing urgent attention in local government;
- it provided an overview of Infrastructure delivery and challenges.

Comrades across all the structures of the movement were encouraged to read the ANC Lekgotla Bulletin to familiarise themselves with the outcomes. These are important if the organisation is going to monitor the implementation and progress made by our Government.

▼ The National General Council (NGC)

The NEC agreed to postpone the National General Council with three months, from June 26th–29th, 2015 to October 9th–12th, 2015. The decision to postpone was because of the three Leagues conferences that take place between April and June 2015. The work of producing the discussion documents for the NGC proceed as had been planned.

■ The Provinces and regions

▼ Nelson Mandela Bay

The NEC commended the intervention made by the Officials in the Nelson Mandela Bay region. The intervention included the dissolution of the REC and the appointment of the Regional Task Team, which is convened by comrade Charles Nqakula. Comrades Pam Tshwete, Fikile Xasa, and Beauty Dzulane, who are part of the team, are the NEC deployees tasked to dedicate sufficient time in the region.

It was further agreed that the Officials will be visiting the area soon, to engage with all the structures and consolidate the work begun with the intervention.

▼ Mpumalanga

The NEC:

- Complimented the intervention of the Officials and the appointment of the team of ANC stalwarts who are attending to the challenges in the provinces.
- Condemned the actions of members of the ANC and the SACP who were involved in violent attacks against each other during the recent lectures. It also took a strong view on those comrades who make public statements against the chairperson of the ANC in the province, and the ANC generally. Unity between the ANC and the SACP was emphasised, including discipline among all the members.
- Urged the ANC leadership to move faster in arranging a bilateral meeting with the SACP, to discuss the relationship between our structures in both Mpumalanga and at a sub-national level generally.

▼ Western Cape

The NEC further congratulated the Western Cape Province for the successful hosting of the 103rd Anniversary Celebrations in January. The NEC agreed that the allegations levelled against its Provincial Chairperson, about promises of money to the Minstrels, are serious and must be followed up and resolved

The ANC in the province should build on the momentum generated by the January 8th 2015 celebrations; and work towards unity and a non-racial culture in the organisation and the broader society.

The NWC will visit the province on the weekend of April 11th–12th 2015, and meet with the PEC on April 13th 2015.

■ The Leagues

The three Leagues of the ANC will convene their national conferences between April and June 2015. Preparations towards all conferences are underway and the national conferences will take place as follows:

- ANC Veterans League: 29th–31st May, 2015
- ANC Women`s League: 16th–19th April, 2015
- The dates for the congress of the ANC Youth League will be finalised. The congress is expected to take place in June 2015.

In line with the statement of the President in his overview, the NEC directed all ANC structures to support the Leagues as they prepare for their conferences. It further recognised that the Leagues are important to the life of the ANC. The NEC emphasised the importance of all ANC leaders and structures to desist from wanting to place undue influence on the conferences, and the delegates, on the election of leaders of the Leagues.

■ International Relations

▼ China

The NEC received a report of the delegation, led by the Secretary General, which visited China recently. It further agreed on the following:

- The visit of the Deputy President of the ANC in March/April.
- Two ANC groups visiting China in 2015, the first between June 28th and July 20th, and the second between September 28th and October 12th.
- Political Education teams of the ANC and the CPC exchanging ideas on curriculum.

▼ Palestine

The NEC endorsed the planned Alliance partners visit to Palestine, which will be taking place soon. The delegation to Palestine will consist of two members from each partner, with the ANC sending comrades Secretary General and Letsatsi Pule-Duba.

▼ Cuba

The NEC expressed its appreciation of efforts by the USA President, Barak Obama, to begin engagements with the Cuban President, cde Raul Castro, on the possibility of normalising relations between their two countries.

It expressed the ANC's desire to host the Cuban Five later in the year. This is part of our continued solidarity and strong bonds with the Cuban people and recognition of the campaigns taken up by our structures and other progressive organisation to see to the release of the Cuban Five.

The NEC, however, recognised that the dialogue between Cuba and the USA, with the aim of normalising relations, happens under conditions where:

- The fifty years economic embargo by the USA against the people of Cuba continues.
- The USA continues to occupy Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Therefore, while the start of the talks and the overtures by the USA are welcome, real normalisation will be realised when these and other oppressive measures are removed. Further, real relations will happen when the two countries are recognised as equals. The NEC expressed the ANC's continued support and solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba.

▼ **Nigeria**

The NEC sent its well wishes to the people and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in their General Election.

▼ **Lesotho**

The NEC congratulated the Kingdom of Lesotho for holding free and fair elections. It encouraged the Basotho to continue working harder for peace, and also for South Africa to develop relations with Lesotho that will assist in the development of that country. The NEC further commended the President and the Deputy President for a successfully helping to mediate in the conflict preceding the elections.

▼ **Elections in Mozambique and Namibia**

The NEC recognised the smooth leadership transition recently witnessed in Mozambique and Namibia. It highlighted that former liberation movements are setting a good example and should be congratulated in this regard.

▼ **On Anniversaries and Upcoming Events in the Continent and Globally**

As part of creating a better world and a better Africa, the NEC noted the following important events, and the need for the ANC and our country to play a critical role

in them:

- There is an upcoming meeting of the Former Liberation Movements to take place in Mozambique.
- South Africa will host the African Union Summit in June.
- In June South Africa will host Africa and the world here in Cape Town, for the World Economic Forum African meeting. This is a follow up to the Davos meeting, which began to tackle inequality and inclusive growth more meaningfully.
- This year is the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference which to this day remains a historic milestone in South-South solidarity and the Non-Aligned Movement.
- This year is also the 70th anniversary of the UN. The anniversary should be used to further highlight the need to reform the institution and ensure that the composition of the Security Council includes Africa, and addresses challenges facing the world today.
- South Africa is the current chair of the G77 and should be more resolute in utilising its position in this body towards the realisation of a better world.
- South Africa should do more in the Post 2015 Development Agenda currently under discussion in New York to replace the Millennium Development Goals. We should ensure that this agenda brings about sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment.

■ **The Alliance**

The NEC received a report on the work being done by the ANC Task Team established to support COSATU. The meeting reaffirmed its position that a strong and united COSATU is in the interest of the ANC and South Africa as whole. The Task Team will continue to facilitate dialogue in COSATU. However, it is important that the federation recognises that it alone can overcome the challenges that face it.

The NEC endorsed the proposal by the President to convene, at least, a four days Alliance Summit where partners can do conduct introspection and undertake a critical analysis of the Alliance and today's challenges. The Alliance remains the best placed to lead society in building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. To this end, the Alliance owes it to the people of this country – past, present and future generations – to ensure that the Alliance remains intact and cohesive.

■ Governance

▼ Parliament

The NEC was pleased with the progress of ensuring discipline and stability in the National Assembly. It endorsed the ANC statement that the jamming of the signal during the SONA was an unfortunate error. It commended the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces for effectively handling those who wished to disrupt the State of the Nation Address. The NEC further applauded the President on his closing of the SONA debate and in the manner in which he replied during his questions and answer session.

▼ E-tolls

The NEC has noted the work being done by the Commission led by the Deputy President of the ANC, Cde Cyril Ramaphosa, on the e-tolls. The NEC is of the view that there is now building of consensus amongst the divergent stakeholders on a number of issues and trust that this matter will soon be brought to finality. The ANC, nationally and in the province of Gauteng, will continue to engage to ensure that the final outcome is a reflection of the concerns of our people and a caring organization. In the same vein, the NEC resolved to continuously assess the impact our infrastructure build programme throughout the country.

▼ Digital Migration

The NEC noted that the matter is adequately dealt with by our Cabinet and the ANC will be briefed accordingly, at the appropriate time.

▼ State Institutions

The NEC noted with serious concern the developments in a number of state institutions, among others, Eskom, the SABC, the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority and IPID. The NEC expressed confidence that developments at this level are receiving the necessary and urgent attention.

▼ Transformation of the institutions of higher education

The National Executive Committee reflected on the recent wave of protests and calls by students at a number of institutions of higher learning for symbols of colonial oppression and apartheid to be dismantled. The NEC unequivocally supports these students in their determined demands for transformation at universities across the country. We appreciate that statues are mere symbols of our racist history and believe that the transformation needed must be concerned with entrenching fundamental and far-reaching structural, systematic and cultural change; reflective of the aspirations and realities of our democratic and non-racial order. The NEC believes that there can no longer be negotiation on transformation 20 years into democracy; transformation of our institutions must be a reality as a matter of urgency. As society discusses the slow pace of transformation the question of racial polarization must be factored in.



CLOSING ADDRESS

By President **JACOB ZUMA**

Leadership carries huge responsibility

COMRADES will agree that there were detailed discussions on the political overview and the report by the SG. I thought I should touch on a few issues where comrades not only raised points but provided solutions.

We did something better today by taking specific decisions. This is an important matter as implementation remains our major challenge. We need to tighten this aspect of our work and be certain on who is delegated to carry out a specific task.

We all agree that there are challenges in Nelson Mandela Bay and the Officials have been keeping a close eye on the situation, and how we should attend to remaining challenges given the complexities. In relation to the Western Cape, having decided to return to the province, the challenge is to move faster on issues.

Regarding the Leagues, it is clear that they are all going to elections. We should strengthen the preparations. They should not move on their own. They require our help and participation of the leadership. There should be reports in the three Leagues at every NWC, until they all reach their conferences.

On the international front, we have a role to play. South Africa has a role to play in the continent. We should appreciate that the ANC is looked at as an organisation that is an example and one that should be followed. There are also other people outside the liberation movements who are eagerly waiting for the ANC and its leadership. This means we should also look beyond the continent where people and parties are seeking our help and leadership. Given that everyone is looking up to us to give leadership, it means our International Relations unit should be more active. There are a number of areas where we can act.

There is an upcoming Former Liberation Movements Summit in Mozambique. We could look at how we can firm up things at a political level in this regard.

We should continue to make a concerted effort to assist the conflict resolution process in South Sudan.

The ANC has been exemplary in how it has taken up issues and dealt with critical matters. The fact that we have decided not to go to the IMF and ask for loans, but rather tighten our belt, is one such indication. This is a political and principled position.

Earlier today we spoke to the students who are excited by what they are studying on developmental finance. They believe they have the world in their hands. We explained to them how the BRICS Bank came about. We should be thinking about how we are going to engage with the BRICS Bank located in our country. We could perhaps utilise comrades and individuals in other places who can assist us with our thinking.

This year we are celebrating 70 years of the United Nations. There is a view that it should transform. We have an African position called Ezulwini Consensus, which we believe needs to be reviewed. We have begun talking to various countries about this. We will be going to Algeria and, later, the UNGA; and we need to have clarity on this matter.

On the alliance, we speak to the need for coordination. We should clarify the extent to which each partner should go. We should also clarify that the partners cannot, individually, have one programme. However, we can have one common minimum programme. We have not, however, dealt with different interpretations that have developed in our struggle in recent times. Also, there has been lack of clarity on the vanguard role of the Party. Because we did not discuss the issue of coordination both operationally and politically, we have found ourselves in difficulties.

The partners need one another. The ANC needs these two to maintain its power. Under an ANC government, the workers have a better chance to capture worker power. The Party would rely on the ANC as means to

socialism. These are some of the motivations behind the idea of a four day meeting where these matters can be elaborated on. The summit should prepare very seriously. It should look at the unity of the alliance.

Going to Polokwane we parted ways with comrades we were together with. We were going through a very difficult time. It was a tough time. This is when the character and strength of the organisation was tested. We managed to pull through.

COSATU is now going the eye of the storm in the same way as the ANC did. The character and strength of the federation is tested through its affiliates; and the big ones in particular. The big unions took different positions, opting for different outlooks. Some have been haemorrhaging as a result of various incidents. We should engage everyone in the federation, including those who may want to leave COSATU.

The Party will possibly go through a similar situation as the ANC and COSATU. Its passage might be less severe, since it would have learnt from these developments.

Both Moses Kotane and JB Marks are our best examples. We should look at them and see if we are still following in their footsteps. This is why we need a week-long meeting. When I addressed the YL I said the ANC is in trouble. The ANC can deal with this. All revolutions have split at one point or another. We are very unique in some way. This is why these two old men are important to us. They defined our struggle in a scientific way.

The local government matter has been dealt with. The draft document proceeds from our resolution of conference. We have tried to implement our decisions, albeit with some weaknesses. We do take proper decisions and do a proper diagnosis. Comrades in government should find means and the money to pay for the important programmes we have agreed on.

As a ruling party we should do an analysis of all the political parties.

There was a question of why it is that we are failing our movement. There is no simple answer to this question. There was also a call to us engaging in the battle of ideas. We are weak in this area and when we engage we talk to ourselves. Most people who use the public space are negative about the ANC. We tend to be quiet, thereby, find ourselves overshadowed by other people. It is important to coordinate our communication at various levels of the organisation and deployments. I am happy that there is improvement in this area in certain aspects.

The resolution that we should discuss the Freedom Charter in each of our branches should be taken up earnestly. The political educators should be on this one.

The provinces should develop programmes.

The NEC should have a detailed discussion on Lesotho and how we can work together, supporting each other. In addition, we should discuss best methods on how we can assist Lesotho, ensuring that it benefits from development initiatives we undertake.

We should talk about our democracy. We are the only country that has no refugee camps. As a result, we cannot account for these foreign nationals. In the process we are pressuring our citizens. We should have discussion on this matter, looking at how we could deal with this.

Considering the issues you have raised, they are the ones we need to engage over a week. For example, we have taken it as a norm that there are parallel structures. We do not have a firm view that they are not accepted, and yet the comrades behind them are known. We should therefore accept the blame that we do not take action against these people. There are some issues we might not discuss now, but could do so in a week-long meeting and directly challenge each other when one suggests one thing or the other. It is wrong to operate on the basis of rumours.

To be member of the NEC is a huge responsibility. You cannot talk loosely or spread rumours. Also, the leaking of information by the NEC members places a heavy strain on this committee. Such conduct undermines the standing and the dignity of the NEC. Today, Officials in the ANC have the capacity and authority to take certain decisions. We said apologies to the NEC should be properly written, with clear explanation, and they should be approved by the Secretary General.

The lack of a quorum in parliament when important matters have to be voted on is serious. When members are absent and bills cannot be passed, it is an indication of a lack of discipline and lack of understanding why we are in parliament. We cannot be lax about absence at this level. Something should be done urgently on this matter.

We should also deal with the manifestations of tribalism and racism in our structures and in the country. Where ANC members are involved, they should be made to stop. We should deal with this matter, even make a national statement.

There are also various challenges with different state organs and state owned enterprises. These are complicated matters but they are being attended to adequately.

Comrades, these are some of the issues we need to attend to.



ISSUED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
P.O. BOX 61884, MARSHALLTOWN.
TEL: 011 376 1000. WEBSITE: www.anc.org.za