

Produced by the ANC Department of Communication, Information and Publicity.

1 - 6 AUGUST 2024

# PLANNING FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATIONS



# REMARKS

## Political Overview by ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa to the ANC NEC Lekgotla

National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe, Deputy President Paul Mashatile, Officials of the African National Congress, Cde Thabo Mbeki, Cde Baleka Mbethe, Cde Kgalema Mothlanthe, Members of the NEC, Leadership of the SACP, COSATU and SANCO, Leadership of SASCO, COSAS, CONTRALESA. Leadership of the ANCWL, ANCYL and ANCVL, Leadership of the MK Liberation War Veterans, Deployed Cadres, Comrades and Friends.

e are holding this NEC Lekgotla in the aftermath of an election outcome that has produced a seismic shift in South African politics. We join the SACP in celebrating its 103rd anniversary. The party is a trusted ally and a key partner in our Alliance. Since its founding, the South African Communist Party has played a major role in the struggle in our country. This includes the leading role it played in advancing the principle of non-racialism both in theory and practice as the first political organisation to organise on a non-racial basis in South Africa.





We honor **Mama Sophia Williams-De Bruyn's** legacy as a pioneering figure in the fight for gender equality and social justice.



For the first time in 30 years, the ANC lost its mandate to govern alone at a national level. Its share of the vote also fell below 50 percent in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Northern Cape.

Over the last three days, the NEC has deliberated extensively and in detail on the reasons for this dramatic decline in support, its implications and the actions we now need to take to restore our support within society.

In many senses, we have entered uncharted territory. We have suffered a strategic setback that has far-reaching consequences and implications for how we are going to conduct the struggle for the fundamental transformation of South Africa. One of the implications of this new situation is that the ANC can no longer govern alone.

Faced with this stark reality the NEC decided that the ANC should give leadership to take the country forward by inviting all parties that would subscribe and agree to a set of principles and a transformative minimum programme to form a government.

The NEC meeting held over the past three days reaffirmed, unanimously, the position that the government of national unity is the best tactical option that has the greatest possibility to improve the lives of the people of South Africa.



We did not arrive at forming a Government of National Unity easily. It is a decision that we took fully aware of the risks and opportunities inherent in this option. We firmly believe this is the best way to form a government that is stable, effective and able to advance the interests of the South African people as a whole.

We have entered into the Government of National Unity with nine other parties, some of whom are fundamentally opposed to our perspective on transformation of our economy and society.

But that is the nature of Governments of National Unity all over the world and across different historical periods and geographic specificities. They bring together parties from across the political spectrum for example at moments when a nation faces national conflict or deep socioeconomic challenges that can only be resolved through cooperation.

A Government of National Unity is different from a typical coalition. Nor is it a forum of allied or like-minded parties.

The first fundamental decision we took was to accept the outcome of the elections. We accepted that the people of South Africa made it clear that they are impatient with political bickering and the endless blame game among politicians and political parties. They want us to put their needs and aspirations first and they want us to work together for the sake of our country.

We have heard our people and we will work with our Alliance Partners and every sector that is willing to contribute to solutions to the challenges our country faces as we transition to a new decade of freedom.

And so, even as we undertake our work under substantially changed conditions, we remain firmly committed to the advance of the National Democratic Revolution and the achievement of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

These changed conditions require that we strengthen our resolve and pursue our historic mission with greater clarity, purpose and vigour.

Rather than see the decline in our electoral support as a defeat, we see it as a call to action. This is not the time to be bitter. It is the time to be better, and to do better

The people of South Africa have said that we must do more and we must do better, but also that in many respects, we must change our ways.

The task of this Lekgotla is therefore to set out the work we need to do at this moment. We need to determine the work we must do in these circumstances, to build a strong, growing and inclusive economy that protects workers rights and offers endless opportunities and livelihoods to the people as a whole.

We must spend the next three days planning how we will achieve the task of democratic renewal and socioeconomic transformation so that no one is left behind as our country enters the fourth decade of freedom.

During the course of the election campaign South Africans were unequivocal in expressing their disappointments and disapproval of our performance in some of the areas in which we have failed them.

Communities told us of instances where our work in government and the achievement of our policy objectives have suffered because of the problems in our organisation.

The ANC and our Alliance partners agree that the national faultlines of unemployment, inequality and poverty have persisted despite progress over the past thirty years.

These fault-lines have been exacerbated by crises such as the effect of state capture, a once in a century pandemic, the shock caused by the July 2021 unrest, load shedding and the high cost of living. These all contributed to widespread loss of confidence in our movement's ability to address peoples' concerns.

The ANC and the Alliance therefore agree that at this Lekgotla we must first and foremost focus on the economy and the important issue of economic transformation.

Our people want a transformed, growing and inclusive economy that creates work for millions of job seekers, and offers business opportunities to all entrepreneurs in our nation – women and men, young and old.

Women, as in the past, have once again shown during these past elections that they remain the torch bearers of our democracy. Women are 55% of registered voters and registered a turnout of 62%, well above the national average turnout.

Women are community builders, playing a vital role in all sectors of society, even when their contributions are not always recognised or appreciated. Indeed, women bear the brunt of poverty and violence in our society.

As we craft our contributions towards the programme of the 7th administration, we must ensure we make decisive progress towards women empowerment and a nonsexist South Africa.



Together as the Alliance we must confront the fact that our economy has barely grown over the last 14 years.

Between 2010 to 2024, the average annual GDP growth rate was 1.2 percent a year.

This was lower than the rate of population growth over that period. What this means is that per capita GDP has been declining over the last decade-and-half.

That is why we say that inclusive growth must be our apex priority.

This is necessary to create employment, to reduce poverty, and reduce inequality.

As Alliance partners we are determined that growth must be inclusive. It must be transformational.

Inclusive growth must drive the redistribution of wealth and opportunity.

It must support the empowerment of black South Africans and women, and all those who in the past had been relegated to the fringes of the economy.

We must continue to protect and uphold the hard-won rights of workers, and continually strive to improve the conditions in which they work and live.

Inclusive growth demands that we affirm the position of women and youth in the economy and enable the full participation of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in the economy.

We have demonstrated the value of public and social employment in creating immediate work and livelihood opportunities. Over the next three days we must plan to ensure these programmes are massified and become more effective.

Much work has been done in creating conditions for greater investment in infrastructure, improving mechanisms for planning, financing and implementation. But we need to massively increase the scale of investment particularly in a number of sectors of our economy.

We need to pay greater attention to infrastructure maintenance. We have worked with stakeholders including business and organised labour to develop Master Plans in important sectors of the economy, focusing on the actions needed to enhance growth in the respective industries, increase investment, create jobs and foster transformation.

At this Lekgotla we need to assess the efficacy of these Master Plans and the contribution they are making to industrialisation and local production. We need to focus on our industrial policy to enhance economic growth. We need to add value to our minerals through beneficiation to generate economic growth.

We must be more targeted in the support that we provide to emerging businesses, ranging from black industrialists to SM-MEs and cooperatives. We need to look at the impact of this support and ensure that it reaches businesses in townships and rural areas.

Through the Energy Action Plan, the ANC-led government has reduced the severity of load shedding and has enabled massive investment in new generation capacity.

We are in the process of far-reaching reforms to establish a competitive energy market for the first time.

The ANC government has similarly undertaken reforms that will increase investment in our ports and railways, improve efficiencies, increase competition and lower the cost of doing business. We must ensure that we fix our logistics sector so it supports our economic and trade objectives.

Through legislative, regulatory and operational changes, the government has made substantial progress in telecommunications, water and visa reform. As the Alliance, we know that poverty has many dimensions. While economic growth and job creation are critical to poverty reduction, the government must use the resources and capabilities of the state in an integrated manner to tackle poverty.

At this Lekgotla we must discuss

how the government can use the social wage more effectively. By this we mean we must discuss how the government can maintain and improve the provision of subsidised housing, transport and basic services to poor South Africans.

We have seen how the Special Social Relief of Disaster Grant that the ANC-led government introduced during COVID provided a lifeline to millions of people, particularly in the context of rising prices. We need to examine how this grant can support the introduction of a sustainable form of income support for unemployed people.

We need to appreciate the impact that a well-functioning and quality education system has both on reducing poverty and driving inclusive economic growth.

We should discuss how to achieve universal access to early childhood development and strengthen teaching and learning in the foundation phase of schooling.

To ensure that we produce the skills that our economy needs, the government must expand vocational and technical training in schools and post-school institutions, and take a demand-led approach to skills development.

As Alliance partners we are committed to implementing the National Health Insurance. As part of this work, the government must strengthen health care infrastructure, improve training of health care personnel and use technology to improve health care management.

As the Alliance we must support and advance the professionalisation of the public service, ensuring that we attract into the state, people with skills, capabilities and integrity.

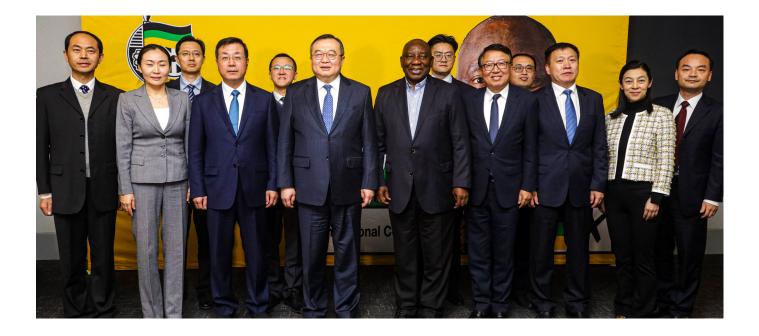
We must continue with the work to reduce the potential for corruption and prevent undue political interference in the administration of the state.

We must modernise the state, learning from global best practice and undertaking the digital transformation of public services.

Government must complete the work to restore the financial position and operational performance of our state-owned enterprises.

This includes completing the implementation of a new centralised ownership model for SOEs. This will improve accountability, transparency, governance and oversight, while reducing the potential for corruption and inefficiency.

At the same time, we must ensure that key State owned enterprises account on policy performance to their line departments. Our Alliance partners and the



broader public have noted on several occasions the devastating impact of state capture on our law enforcement agencies and security services.

There is much work to be done to strengthen the other parts of the criminal justice system, from the police and the Hawks to the NPA, the courts and correctional facilities.

An area that requires particular attention is local government. Municipalities, which are most critical for the delivery of infrastructure and services to the people, are failing.

Together with our Alliance partners we have agreed that municipalities are most critical for creating the conditions in which businesses can grow and create jobs – and are therefore essential for the achievement of inclusive growth. In our Manifesto, we said that the national and provincial government would use the levers provided in the Constitution and in law to strengthen municipalities and to intervene where they are failing.

We have seen the impact of the failure of local government in the election results. We know that many people withheld their votes because of their dissatisfaction with the provision of services and the state of infrastructure at a local level.

Our analysis of the election results show that the ANC experienced the greatest decline in its share of votes in the metros. The instability, dysfunction and poor performance of metros like Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Ethekwini and Buffalo City are clearly reflected in the election results. We therefore need decisive interventions in these metros. This is necessary not simply for the ANC's electoral prospects, but for the sake of inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction. These metros are where millions of our people live and where most economic activity takes place.

The NEC has made an assessment in all hung municipalities and has decided to intervene to work with a range of parties to stabilise municipalities across the country.

During this month the National Task team on Coalitions will be engaging starting in Johannesburg. Restore, rebuild and renew the ANC.

In its analysis of the election results, the NEC recognised that much of the decline in our electoral support can be attributed to the weaknesses in our movement.

The people of South Africa can see, and have punished us for, the erosion of our values and principles, the deterioration of our organisational capacity, the prevalence of corruption and patronage, division and factionalism.

Following the 54th National Conference in December 2017, we embarked upon a process of renewal and rebuilding. Seven years later, despite some setbacks and resistance, we can point to important progress.

But it is not enough, either to meet our own objectives or the expectations of the people.

Therefore, one of the central tasks of the movement now is to take decisive action to rid our movement of practices that undermine our ability to build a united, non-racial democratic, non-sexist and prosperous society.

As directed by the 2024 January 8 Statement, we must build and strengthen the capacity of the ANC to lead meaningful social and economic transformation, so that the people and in particular workers and the unemployed benefit.

We must strengthen the quality and calibre of our membership, cadreship and leadership. We need to strengthen the Leagues to fulfil their crucial roles within the movement and society. We must be principled and consistent about instilling discipline and respect for organisational processes and principles. Leaders and public representatives must be held accountable through organisational processes.

Renewal must be our mission, our preoccupation and our driving force. Renewal is about reclaiming, rebuilding and restoring.

Reclaiming our position in society. Rebuilding our structures from the ground up. Restoring the trust of our people.

As we reflect on the work we must do to rebuild the movement, we need to work to strengthen the progressive forces in society.

Central to this is the Alliance, which remains the only progressive force of the left that has the organisational capability and mass support to lead the fundamental transformation of our society.

We need to be actively involved in the lives of communities. We need to organise among workers, women, youth, professionals, traditional leaders, cultural workers, religious communities, and others.

The unity of the Alliance and the mass democratic movement is therefore key. We need to build a powerful progressive movement that will provide leadership in addressing the needs of the people.

I have supported the proposal to convene a National Dialogue, which I believe has the potential to galvanise South Africans across all strata and formations behind a national programme of growth, development and transformation.

In our NEC meeting yesterday, we agreed that the convening of this Dialogue is an important and urgent priority. The modalities of undertaking this task is receiving urgent attention.

One of the areas that requires specific attention is the organisation of young people. The election results have demonstrated in stark terms that young people are disengaged from the electoral process.

We need to better understand the concerns and attitudes of young South Africans, and the forms of social, political, cultural and other activities in which they engage. We need a new mindset: we can longer expect young people to come to us; we need to go to them.

Building a better Africa and a better world remains our objective.

The NEC reaffirmed our historic and ongoing support for the inalienable right of self determination of the people of Western Sahara.

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We reaffirm our support for the struggle for self-determination for the people of Palestine. We condemn and have taken action at the International Court of Justice against Israel's genocide against the people of Gaza.

We reconfirm our principled stance to the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and will continue to work towards ending the conflict through dialogue and negotiations.

South Africa will host the annual G20 Summit in 2025. This is an important platform to advance the interests of Africa and other countries of the Global South, and to mobilise support for a more just and equal world order.

The African Continental Free-Trade Area offers all countries a great opportunity to benefit from inter-regional trade within the African continent.

We will continue to pursue a for-

eign policy based on our country's national interest, economic objectives, and in furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

In conclusion, we find ourselves in one of the most grave and challenging moments in the 112 years of our movement.

We have suffered a great setback. Yet we are neither daunted, nor defeated. As a movement, we have weathered many storms. We have walked through many fires.

Storms, like fires, soon pass. Failure is not final, setbacks are not defeats. We must never wallow in our setbacks. We must learn from them, regroup, adapt accordingly, and move on.

Although we face a difficult road ahead, we are resolute. We must, as we have done before, critically examine our strategies, tactics, programmes and practices. We must analyse the domestic and international environment, the balance of forces, and the macro-trends that are shaping our world. And we must agree on the actions we must take to restore our movement and pursue the NDR with greater vigour.

We must be prepared to take difficult decisions and to follow through on our decisions.

These elections have focused our attention on state power, on how to retain it, and on how to use it to advance the interests of the people.

Over the next three days, we will have to grapple with difficult and complex matters. We will have to deploy our collective intellect, insights and political understanding.

As we do this, let us remember what is required of us above all else: honesty, hard work, humility, ethics and respect for the people

I thank you.

# NEC STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL CDE FIKILE MBALULA

Media Statement on the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) & National Executive Committee (NEC) Lekgotla Outcomes

#### **NEC MEETING** 1 – 3 AUGUST 2024

he National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting of the African National Congress (ANC) was convened from the 1st to 3rd August 2024 at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Boksburg. This was the first ordinary meeting of the NEC after the 2024 National and Provincial Elections.

The NEC focused extensively on an analysis of the election results, the ideological currents that are playing out in the country as expressed in the elections outcomes and the strategic issues that the ANC must focus on to defend and advance the agenda of progressive social transformation.

#### Elections Results and 2024 Moment

The ANC NEC characterised the outcomes of the 2024 National and Provincial Elections as a sig-



nificant setback for the national democratic revolution since the 1994 democratic breakthrough. In the engagements with our Provinces as well as the ANC's Alliance partners (SACP, COSATU and SANCO), this NEC conclusion has been reaffirmed as a correct characterization of the profound nature of the setback: significant, fundamental, and strategic. In diagnosing the moment, the ANC NEC agrees that the national fault-lines of unemployment, inequality and poverty have persisted despite progress over the past thirty years, with serious negative impacts on all segments of the motive forces.

These fault-lines in our economy have been exacerbated over the last five years by crises such as the effect of the COVID pandemic, the impact of the July 2021 unrest, load-shedding, geopolitical tensions that have disrupted global supply chains and the resultant high cost of living.

The election results - which saw the ANC not receiving a decisive majority - were therefore as a result of three interrelated and intersecting factors: crisis of the economy and social reproduction; profound governance weaknesses; and major organisational problems that can only be addressed through fundamental renewal.

South Africans were therefore unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in these areas, giving rise to a crisis of democracy, with close to 25 million people not participating in the elections.

The 2024 moment requires us to internalise the messages from our people, and to self correct.

The principal crisis confronting the national democratic revolution is a national economy that reproduces inequality, poverty, under-development and slow levels of growth in a manner that frustrates the social circumstances of the urban working class, the middle class and especially the rural poor.

This characterisation of the electoral setback implies that it has strategic implications and far reaching consequences on the conduct of the struggle, both in terms of how we govern the affairs of the organisation and how we govern the affairs of the country. It can therefore not be business as usual neither in the ANC nor in government.

As the party with the largest votes, the ANC seized both the tactical and strategic initiative and shaped a common understanding about the need for political parties to work together and voluntarily cooperate in setting up an inclusive, viable and stable government that will address people's needs and advance the transformation agenda.

It became clear that no other party has the capacity and legitimacy of the ANC to give direction to the nation. Even those who were fiercely opposed to the movement during the elections started to make frantic calls that South Africa needs the ANC in order to avoid a potential electoral stalemate. The coalition chaos, institutional instability and government dysfunction which has been the order of the day in our country's municipal landscape must never be allowed to define the overall state of affairs in our country.

The ANC is in the driving seat of a more stable GNU that has adopted principles and a minimum programme derived from the Constitution of South Africa, ANC core documents such as the Freedom Charter as well as the ANC's 2024 Elections Manifesto. The task now is for ANC members and leaders to conduct themselves with utmost humility, integrity and demonstrable competence in addressing the needs of the people.

The NEC resolved that we must use this moment to also shed all signs of complacency and arrogance; to be totally intolerant of corruption and incompetence. This moment will also require a more agile and dynamic ANC machinery that can hold individual deployees and leadership collectives accountable to specific outcomes in the ANC Manifesto. We must use the deployment to positions in the state for the sole purpose of pursuing the ideals of liberation to which millions remain committed.

The NEC recognises that the GNU is our best tactical intervention that provides us with a platform to defend the gains of freedom and advance the core elements of the ANC Manifesto.

The NEC is fully aware that the GNU is inherently with risks. This

arises from the understanding that GNUs and Coalitions have inherent contradictions as contested governments composed of rival parties that have ideological and policy differences.

The balance of power and how the ANC emerges as a dominant political force in the long run will depend significantly on how we pursue a strategic course of action inside and outside government, mobilising the motive forces behind a clear programme action for progressive change. The NEC will put in place measures to ensure that the GNU is managed effectively in order to succeed in addressing the pressing challenges facing the people.

The ANC will be releasing the Strategic Perspective Document on the 2024 moment and the GNU to all of its structures as part of the process of briefing its members.

Having concluded that the election outcomes constitute a major setback, the NEC had a revolutionary duty to answer the next question: What is to be done?

#### Implementing our manifesto and Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation framework

The Department of Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (PMER) at headquarters, working with the Manifesto Monitoring Technical team of the Alliance, have developed an Outcomes and Accountability framework for our 2024 Manifesto. The quarterly reports on implementation of our Manifesto will be submitted to the Secretary General's Office (SGO). The SGO will be central in ensuring that all deployed cadres deliver on their mandates, with regularized assessment processes.

The NEC emphasized that proactive monitoring and evaluation will constitute important tasks, given that the GNU will not be business as usual, to fulfill our electoral mandate entailed in the Elections Manifesto as well as ANC National Conference resolutions.

#### **National Dialogue**

The NEC noted and welcomed that a National Dialogue will be convened post the ANC Lekgotla, as resolved by the ANC NEC, and recommended by various stalwarts such as former President Thabo Mbeki.

The National Dialogue will seek to foster national cohesion and social compact as we champion the NDR, consolidate the gains of democracy and accelerate realisation of the objectives of the National Democratic Society as highlighted in the ANC Strategy and Tactics document. The NEC fully supports the convening of the National Dialogue which must be led by the President as Head of State together with civil society. The modalities on how it will be convened will be worked out between the Presidency and civil society formations to ensure inclusivity and the maximum reflection of the broadest cross-section of South Africa. This must include the rural poor, women, residents of informal settlements, social movements and the urban working class.

#### Briefings on GNU negotiations formal report-back to and engagements with the provinces

The NEC noted and welcomed the fact that briefings on the GNU with all PECs were concluded. The NEC directed that the SGO must lead a visit to all regions across the country to brief regional structures and assess the state of the organization.

# Briefings to Alliance partners

The NEC noted and welcomed the fact that briefings on the GNU negotiations have been conducted with the Alliance partners, the SACP and COSATU. The COSATU affiliate SAMWU was also briefed by the ANC Secretary General on request. A briefing with SANCO will be scheduled. The NEC further noted that the Alliance partners were briefed on the intricate negotiations process imposed by the hung outcome of the National and Provincial Elections. The Alliance Secretariat later met to discuss issues of unity within the Alliance as well as the evaluation of the elections programme, the strategic focus of the GNU and related implications. The Alliance Secretariat resolved that most of these issues would be dealt with at the Political Council. The issue of unity was raised with acknowledgement that each Alliance partner is free to raise issues, including those pertaining to differences of political perspectives but that we remain united on the strategic orientation of the NDR.

#### ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS: MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES

#### Update On Membership System

The Membership system is receiving urgent attention with the aim of restoring its online operations and therefore will help resolve membership backlogs.

The NEC welcomed the continued strengthening of the Membership System to ensure that it responds to and serves the organisational interests of the ANC, in the broader context of ongoing organisational renewal and building a strong organisation that is one with the masses of our people in their daily struggles.

#### **Special NEC Meeting**

The NEC resolved on the convening of a Special NEC meeting that will make comprehensive evaluation of the State of organisation, including matters pertaining to renewal.

#### **Strategy and Tactics**

The NEC resolved that the Political Education Subcommittee should immediately commence a process of review of the Strategy and Tactics document as per the directive of the 55th National Conference.

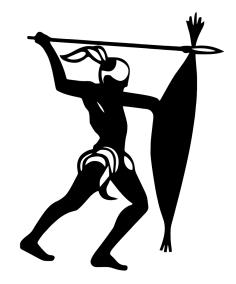
#### **Organisational Integrity**

The NEC has reaffirmed its stance on processing without delays all allegations of impropriety through the National Disciplinary Committee, particularly those arising from the "Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State." As part of the continued renewal of the organisation, there will be a dedicated NEC meeting to implement the Terms of Reference of the Integrity Commission and to deal with outstanding Integrity Commission report issues.

#### **Gender Equality**

The NEC discussed the implications of the rule on 60/40 gender representation in provinces where the premier is male. The affected provinces were urged to implement the rule as soon as possible.





The ANC's application for leave to appeal against the judgment of the High Court Durban in the matter of ANC vs MK Party regarding the illegal use of the MK logo sat down for hearing on 7 Thursday, 1 August 2024 and the recent verdict being that leave for appeal to the SCA was granted. The NEC reiterated its full support for the restoration of its historic heritages, such as the use of the name MK / Umkhonto Wesizwe.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

The ANC notes that over 95 Libyan nationals were arrested in Mpumalanga in what is reported to be a military camp. The ANC urges the South African National Defence, Home Affairs and the Border Management Agency, to strengthen their efforts at securing South Africa's borders as well as all our ports of entry to combat all acts of illegality. The ANC welcomes the outcome of the Presidential elections in Venezuela amidst reports of violence, with President Maduro successfully re-elected. Again, the ANC respects the self determination of all countries across the world and condemn any external intrusion. The ANC accordingly congratulates President Maduro for his re-election as President of Venezuela.

#### Schools Mid-Year Opening

The ANC welcomed the smooth schools nationwide re-opening following the mid-year break without any adverse incidents. However, the ANC was devastated with the news regarding the death of the 12 learners.

The ANC further condemns the murder of the 46 year old school teacher, Dudu Khumalo, who was gunned down at Phikiswayo Primary School in full view of pupils by unknown gunmen. We call on the Department of Basic Education, working in conjunction with the SAPS, SGB's, Community Policing Forums, local businesses and all members of the community, to help safeguard our schools from violence and criminality.

#### VBS

On the issue of the VBS Court Judgment, the ANC has noted that the account holders of the VBS now want their bank back, and that all due efforts by relevant stakeholders should be made towards ensuring that this bank is restored to full operation and returned to its legitimate owners.

The NEC reaffirmed our position that all people implicated for wrongdoing on VBS must be subjected to the full course of the law. Additionally, the NEC committed that the ANC will return any monies proven to have accrued to it, unknowingly, from the destruction of VBS.

#### **INTERNATIONAL MATTERS**

There have been shifts to the international balance of forces in recent years, with rising levels of conflict. This calls on South Africa to intensify its diplomatic relations to enhance peace across the globe. We remain committed to the principles of solidarity, human rights, and anti-colonialism in the interest of a humane world order.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE



The NEC agreed to focus for this period on the Campaign to isolate Israel in the sports terrain, with specific focus on the 2024 Paris Olympics and the call for FIFA to suspend Israel. The campaign kicked-off with pickets in Limpopo on 30 July 2024, followed by a national picket on 31 July in Johannesburg, and other provincial pickets. The NEC noted these progressive acts of solidarity and further condemned the continued genocidal acts against Palestinians highlighted by recent air raids and the assassination of the Hamas Leader in Iran.

**PARTICIPATION AT BRICS** 



The NEC welcomed the African National Congress (ANC) participation in Russia at invitation by the United Russia Party to take part in the international Inter-Party "BRICS and Partners Countries Forum" that took place in Vladivostok, Russia (17-19 June 2024). 9 The NEC welcomed our participation as the ANC at the BRICS political party meeting as represented by Comrade Obed Bapela - National Executive Committee Member, Deputy Chairperson of the NEC Sub-Committee on International Relations and Comrade Lindiwe Zulu - National Executive Committee Member.

#### PRIORITY ACTIONS TO DO MORE AND BETTER DURING THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATION

The ANC Lekgotla looked at all the priority issues in the context of the ANC 2024 Manifesto, to ensure that during the 7th administration, we get the country back on track to decisively deal with the triple challenge of unemployment; poverty and inequality, as reflected in the six [6] priorities elaborated in the Manifesto.

The Lekgotla also focused on burning platforms such as crime and policing, immigration, as well as water and electricity.

The deliberations of this NEC Lekgotla reaffirmed all the Manifesto objectives and how it would translate and tackle the six priorities, and turn them into the 7th administration's Medium Term Development Plan that will enable the implementation of our electoral mandate. A detailed Lekgotla Outcomes report is herein.

The Lekgotla therefore emphasised the need to focus on implementation of decisions

It implored ANC cadres to implement commitments of the ANC Manifesto, the GNU Statement of Intent and the directives of the President as stated in the Opening of Parliament Address. The ANC remains committed to accelerate the implementation of all these resolutions, both with regards building a strong organisation steeped in the masses of our people as well as a robust government implementation programme to deliver on our manifesto mandate. We will be publishing a full NEC Bulletin detailing all the Lekgotla outcomes which will be published on all the ANC platforms.

The NEC Meeting noted with sadness the passing of the following comrades and fellow South Africans:

- (a) Stanley "Bra Stan" Screamer Tshabalala
- (b) Comrade Tito Maleka, serving Head of ANC Security at the ANC Head Office.
- (c) Iconic cultural professional and activist, Benji Francis, artistic director at the Afrika Cultural Centre in Johannesburg,
- (d) The 12 learners who died in an accident on their way to school.
- (e) The learners who perished in a bus collision with a train in Mpumalanga,
- (f) The members of various families due to the adverse weather conditions in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The NEC Meeting further noted that over 15 000 people were displaced in the Western Cape alone.

The NEC accordingly resolved to communicate its condolences on this occasion, to all those who lost their loved ones. The ANC further urges the provincial governments of the Western Cape and of Kwa-Zulu Natal to continue to support those displaced by the storms.

The ANC wishes the Women of South Africa a great Women's Day tomorrow. This day is important in our national calendar as it commemorates the valiant struggles of the women of South Africa in shaping our current reality. It also recognises the continuing efforts of women to improve the substance of our democracy by insisting on a politics of emancipation that is in the interest of humanity as a whole.

We also send our condolences to the family of Mme Connie Chiume who sadly passed away two days ago. She is a veteran of our arts and culture industry and one of the most recognisable exports of South Africa to the global film industry as evidenced by her role in the globally renowned Marvel blockbuster film – Black Panther.

This afternoon, I will be leading an ANC delegation to visit the family of Mme Connie to officially convey the condolences of the ANC

#### Conclusion

# **CLOSING REMARKS**

# BY ANC PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA to the ANC NEC LEKGOTLA

Officials of the African National Congress, President Thabo Mbeki, Members of the NEC, Stalwarts and Veterans of our movement, Leadership of the Leagues and Alliance partners, Representatives of mass democratic formations, Deployed comrades, Comrades,

e have come to the conclusion of the first NEC Lekgotla after the National and Provincial Elections held in May this year.

Through the deliberations held over the last three days, the cadres of our movement gathered here have fully understood and responded pragmatically to the momentous tasks that lie ahead.

Having dedicated much time to

analysing the effects and implications of the outcomes of the 2024 elections, this Lekgotla has in more ways than one provided critical direction to our movement, to our government and to our country.

In line with a longstanding tradition of our movement, we have not shied away from confronting difficult questions and uncomfortable truths, from admitting mistakes and acknowledging our weaknesses.

At the same time, we have not allowed the strategic setback we have suffered in these elections to break our spirit and wear us down.

Even in the most trying moments in the complex history of our struggle and country, the ANC has always taken decisions in the best inter-



ests of the people of South Africa. We have not succumbed to cynicism and despair.

We have recognised the strengths of our movement, the enduring faith of the South African people in the vision of a free, democratic, united and equal society, and the enormous potential in our country to provide meaningful livelihoods and opportunities for all.

We have reaffirmed our determination to achieve a National Democratic Society. This is a vision from which we will not retreat.

We have agreed that the challenging conditions in which we must now prosecute the National Democratic Revolution demand greater focus, discipline, application and focused execution of our decisions.

These new conditions require that we be innovative and agile in dealing with the pressing problems of the people in every locality across the length and breadth of our country.

They also require that we be firm and unwavering in our strategic intent and foresight, while remaining flexible in our tactics.

The Lekgotla has outlined the actions we need to take in government, in our movement, in communities and in other areas of society to advance fundamental social and economic transformation.

This Lekgotla has underscored the centrality of the ANC structures, especially in communities, and the quality of ANC members who must undertake work in every community and sector of society. We have said that we cannot undertake the tasks required of us if we do not unite, strengthen and renew the ANC.

As the 2024 elections have reminded us – and as we know from our history – there is no way that we can advance the NDR without effective and active structures of the Alliance and the broad democratic movement.

By the same measure, we need ANC members, volunteers, cadres and leaders that are committed, selfless and capable. They should be people who have integrity and that display advanced levels of political consciousness.

Through organisational renewal, we need to promote principled, transformative and emancipatory activism and politics.

This Lekgotla has confirmed that the ANC must proceed without de-

lay and with greater energy with the renewal of our movement.

Cde Blade Nzimande reminded us that we cannot renew the ANC without renewing the Alliance. We agree. We must now make it a priority to build the Alliance as a cohesive and effective agent of change within a common programme of action.

We will continue to engage with our Alliance partners on the Government of National Unity. Having taken the view that the GNU is the best tactical option, the ANC is fully aware about the risks and potential threats of this moment.

We have noted the statement of the South African Communist Party on the occasion of its 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary that the Party "takes a critical but non-oppositionist stance" towards the GNU. We welcome this.

We agree with the statement by the SACP that: "We must ensure that our participation [in the GNU] does not undermine our core principles and goals but serves as a platform to defend and advance working-class interests."

It is necessary that the entire Alliance must discuss how to handle all the pressing political, strategic, tactical and organisational questions. We will emerge stronger from the current strategic setback if we are united and work together as comrades and not personalise political issues.

We are inspired by the words of President OR Tambo at the 48<sup>th</sup> National Conference in 1991, when he said: "We did not tear ourselves apart because of lack of progress at times. We were always ready to accept our mistakes and to correct them. Above all, we succeeded to foster and defend the unity of the ANC and the unity of our people in general. Even in bleak moments, we were never in doubt regarding the winning of freedom. We have never been in doubt that the people's cause shall triumph.

The ANC-led Alliance can handle all the challenges of this moment and turn the setback into a strategic advantage to propel the transformation agenda forward. When we are united, we can never be defeated.

The Lekgotla has paid particular attention to the task of communications and the need to engage more vigorously in the battle of ideas. We are reminded that communications is an essential political task that must be integral to all our work, whether in the movement, in communities or in government.

We know that actions speak louder than words. We communicate through our conduct, our actions and the difference we make in people's lives.

If we are divided, if we tolerate acts of corruption and patronage, if we live lavish lifestyles through which we show ourselves to be better than our people and appear to only look after our own, then not even the best communications strategy will be able to improve our standing among the people.

The renewal of the ANC must be reflected in our every day behaviour, on how we conduct ourselves in public platforms and what we post on social media. Let us not occupy headlines for the wrong reasons. Let us be known for excellence and competence.

Every NEC member, every public representative, every deployee and every cadre must consider themselves as communicators. They need to be suitably skilled and capacitated, need to understand the positions and messages of the ANC, and need to exercise discipline and responsibility.

This Lekgotla has confirmed that among the many actions that we must now take, our apex priority at this time is inclusive economic growth.

We understand inclusive growth to be a process that creates employment for the millions of South Africans who are today without jobs. It must be growth that prioritises the interests of the poor and working class.

We understand inclusive growth to be transformative.

It must contribute to fundamental changes in the economy's structure, systems and institutions to benefit all South Africans, focusing on blacks in general and Africans in particular. The economic growth we must pursue must benefit women, young people and vulnerable groups.

The Lekgotla has agreed that we should finalise an overarching economic policy integrating transport, energy, logistics, mineral beneficiation and industrialisation. As we undertake this task, we must, as a matter of urgency, intensify the work to drive investment in infrastructure and productive economic activity.

We must complete the reforms that are currently underway to improve the efficiency and capacity of our network industries, especially electricity, transport and logistics, water and telecommunications.

We have said that we will continue to use public procurement to support SMMEs and increase financial and non-financial support for SMMEs. We need in particular to support women- and youthowned businesses and emerging industrialists.

We recognise that participation in economic activity is the most effective way to lift people out of poverty and improve their lives on a sustainable basis.

We also recognise that we must use the substantial capabilities of the state to far greater effect to reduce poverty and shield people from the high cost of living.

This requires us to strengthen social protection measures, such as grants and the provision of subsidised services, while providing people with pathways into economic activity and skills development.

We have said that among the steps we must take to address the rising cost of living, we must conduct a study and review the mechanisms for determining various administered prices, such as fuel and electricity, and look to expand the list of basic goods that are VAT-exempt. With so many people living far from economic opportunities and services, transport costs take up a large part of people's income and drive up the cost of living.

We therefore need to invest in public transport, restoring and expanding the operational capabilities of the commuter rail system and implementing an integrated public transport system that is safe and affordable.

We have highlighted the social and economic value of affordable, accessible, quality health care that is available equally to all South Africans.

We will therefore proceed with the implementation of the National Health Insurance. We will invest in our health infrastructure and the training of health personnel and improve the quality of care in both the public and private health sectors.

It is essential that we undertake this work so that South Africans can live longer and healthier lives. This will enable our people to be more productive so that they can be lifted out of poverty.

We have emphasised that our education system, from early childhood education through to postschool education and training, must prepare young people for the changing world of work.

The Lekgotla has identified practical actions that we must take to strengthen vital areas in our education and skills development system, which we need to implement conscientiously and fully.

We have recognised that build-



ing a capable developmental state must begin with the ANC and the Alliance. We need to build the capacity of the ANC to provide leadership to the state and to ensure that the state faithfully and fully implements the electoral mandate.

The Lekgotla has reaffirmed the developmental importance of a professionalised public service, with robust mechanisms for capacity-building, which will involve regular training for our public servants. We have agreed that performance management and the exercise of accountability must be enforced.

We should not limit our understanding of a capable state to the Executive. Parliament and the legislatures are vital to ensuring that the state is both efficient and accountable.

As the movement, we need to give equal attention to the work of Parliament and the legislatures, ensure that we deploy capable and committed people to these institutions, and that they have the resources and capabilities to advance our movement's electoral mandate.

We must focus at this time on building capable and developmen-



tal local government. It is at this sphere of government where the state can have the greatest effect and where there is now the greatest need.

The Lekgotla has identified the value of the District Development Model in aligning the work of all spheres of government more effectively in strengthening the provision of local infrastructure and services.

We have agreed that local government must be placed more firmly on the national agenda, because the performance of local government is vital to the success of our efforts to achieve inclusive economic growth and reduce poverty.

The Lekgotla has called on government to focus on the prevention of crime and to address the social and economic conditions that fuel crime and violence.

As the ANC and Alliance, we need to take a far more assertive role in mobilising communities and all social formations in a country-wide effort to tackle crime, gangsterism and violence.

An integral part of that work must be the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. As we strengthen the response of the



criminal justice system and improve the support provided to survivors of these crimes, our priority must be prevention.

We must ensure that the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is constituted without delay, and it must be capacitated so that it can coordinate and drive a response that is multi-dimensional and involves all stakeholders.

As the ANC, we have a clear mandate from the electorate. Wherever we are deployed, we have a responsibility to implement the commitments contained in our Manifesto. This Lekgotla has provided us with further direction.

We have recognised that we need to undertake this work within a Government of National Unity comprised of parties, some of which we have sharp political and ideological differences with.

We need to provide leadership to the work of the GNU not through the imposition of our will, but through the strength of our positions and the clarity of our purpose.

We need to make use of the fact that the principles and minimum programme contained in the



Statement of Intent that the 10 parties of the GNU committed themselves to provides a basis for far-reaching social and economic transformation.

Drawing on the deliberations of this Lekgotla, we will translate the minimum programme into the 7<sup>th</sup> administration's Medium Term Development Plan that will enable the implementation of our electoral mandate.

The Lekgotla supported the calling of the National Dialogue that will develop a comprehensive social compact. We agreed that the National Dialogue should be as inclusive as possible.

Many countries are increasingly recognising the important and constructive role that South Africa has played and needs to play in continental and international matters.

As the ANC and the Alliance – and as a country – we need to better understand and appreciate our international responsibilities. We need to give greater strategic attention to our international work and ensure that it is better capacitated. The Lekgotla has recognised the significance of our Presidency of the G20, and the opportunities that it provides to advance the needs and interests of the African continent and the Global South.

We need to make our G20 Presidency an important pillar of our efforts to advance sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, justice, peace and stability across the globe.

The positions of the ANC on solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba and elsewhere must continue to find expression in the programmes of our government.

As we have done in the past, the Secretary General's Office will publicly communicate the more detailed outcomes of the Lekgotla as canvassed in the commissions and as adopted in the next few days.

We leave this Lekgotla encouraged and inspired. We have identified the tasks that our movement needs to undertake in the weeks and months ahead to meet the expectations of the people of South Africa.



We have a firm sense of what we must do to rebuild the ANC and the Alliance and to begin to restore people's trust in the movement.

The NEC will be holding another meeting in a few weeks to undertake a thorough review of our organisation on a branch by branch basis with a view to strengthening and renewing our movement.

We are committed to a robust outcomes, monitoring and accountability framework.

Every leader, cadre, public representative and deployee must accept the tasks they have been given and take personal responsibility for the manner in which they perform these tasks.

This Lekgotla has provided the guidance we need.

Let us now go out and do the work.

We call on all South Africans to support the Government of National Unity and wish it well in the work it must do

I thank you.

# NEC LEKGOTLA OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

4 - 6 August 2024 / Birchwood Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni

#### **Overview**

The ANC NEC Lekgotla on 4-6 August 2024 was held after an NEC meeting that made a thoroughgoing assessment of the 2024 National and Provincial electoral outcomes. The NEC's conclusion is that the election outcomes represent a strategic setback for the ANC, the liberation forces and the mission to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The Lekgotla confirmed that we face a difficult road ahead. However, we will not be deterred or derailed by an electoral setback. We remain resolute to self-correct and win back the trust and confidence of the citizenry, in particular the motive forces. We respect the will of South Africans.

This year, we celebrate the 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the South African Communist Party's formation in 1921. The SACP, through its revolutionary theory and practice, produced leaders for the SACP and ANC such as Moses Mabhida, Joe

Slovo, Chris Hani, Josie Mpama, Ruth First, Moses Kotane, JB Marks, Dora Tamana, Thabo Mofutsanyane, Govan Mbeki, Moses Mabhida, Harry Gwala, Ray Alexander, Alpheus Malivha, Mfengu Makhalima, Annie Silinga, Vuyisile Mini, Ahmed Timol, Raymond Mhlaba, Harry Gwala, Matthew Goniwe, Mfengu Makhalima and Basil February, amongst many others.

As President Ramaphosa stated, the SACP played a major role in advancing the principle of non-racialism in theory and practice as the first national political organisation to organise on a non-racial basis, in addition to its infusion of class analysis in understanding the South African question.

Lekgotla noted that, in 2024, we also commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Charter, adopted at the 1954 founding conference of the Federation of South African Women, a non-racial and multi-class movement of women. The first Women's Charter infused into the theoretical and strategic approaches of the Congress movement, the imperative of women's emancipation as key to the struggle for national liberation.

This today is expressed as our commitment to the building of a non-sexist South Africa.

#### The Purpose and Objective of the NEC Lekgotla

ANC NEC Makgotla are convened by the ANC to reflect and deliberate on the work of government and the programme of social transformation.

The August 2024 Lekgotla took place 30 years into our democracy and at the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration.

The 2024 NPE, which produced the 7<sup>th</sup> administration, resulted in no single party gaining an outright majority to form national government on its own. This further led to the decision, led by the ANC, to form a Government of National Unity, which cooperates in the Executive as well as in Parliament. The GNU is based on foundational principles and a transformative minimum programme set out in the GNU Statement of Intent put forward by the ANC.

The Lekgotla welcomed the Opening of Parliament address by the President on 18 July 2024, which sets out three strategic priorities of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration. These are:

- (i) driving inclusive growth and job creation,
- (ii) reducing poverty and tackle high cost of living, and
- (iii) building a capable and ethical developmental state.

Cabinet will in its follow-up lekgotla discuss the Medium-Term Developmental Plan (2024-2029) and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration, with further elaborations on these priorities. Provincial administrations will align their plans with the MTDP.

The ANC NEC Lekgotla deliberated in Plenary and its Commissions on the burning platforms and pressing issues that should inform this MTDP, bearing in mind the unequivocal message by the electorate about the direction of the country, and the need to give confidence that we will do things differently and set the country on a positive trajectory.

The ANC Lekgotla looked at all these issues in the context of the ANC 2024 Manifesto, to ensure that during the 7<sup>th</sup> administration, we get the country back on track to decisively deal with unemployment, poverty and inequality, reflected in the 6 priorities elaborated in the Manifesto.

It is important to note that the ANC Manifesto committed us to do more, to do it better and faster. It called for effective planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, accountability and corrective measures so as to deliver tangible results. Based on this commitment, the ANC developed a Comprehensive Outcomes, Monitoring and Accountability Framework.

The NEC Lekgotla lived up to a changed way of planning, yielding defined priorities that should inform our inputs into the programme of government for the coming five years.

# Elections Results and 2024 Moment

In diagnosing the moment, the ANC and the Alliance agree that the national fault-lines of unemployment, inequality and poverty have persisted despite progress over the past thirty years, with impacts on all segments of the motive forces.

These fault-lines have been exacerbated over the last five years by crises such as the effect of state capture, the COVID pandemic, the impact of the July 2021 unrest, load-shedding and the high cost of living.

The election results, which saw the ANC not receiving a decisive majority, were therefore as a result of three inter-related and intersecting factors: crisis of the economy and social reproduction, profound governance weaknesses and major organisational problems that can only be addressed through fundamental Renewal.

South Africans were therefore unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in these areas, giving rise to a crisis of democracy, with close to 25 million people not participating in the elections.

The 2024 moment therefore requires from us to internalise the messages from our people, and to self-correct.

#### The ANC-led GNU

The Lekgotla acknowledged that the changed national conditions require that we strengthen our resolve and pursue our historic mission with greater clarity, purpose and vigour – the fundamental transformation of South Africa is a goal from which the ANC will not retreat.

Under the leadership of the ANC, the parties to the GNU agreed on a Statement of In-

tent underpinned by Foundational Principles and Minimum Programme as the basis for the work of government, in line with the people's vision and aspirations as espoused in the ANC Manifesto. The Constitution is a founding principle that frames the ANC's mission and policy, inscribed in government policy and legislation. Through state power, we protect, defend and advance the democratic gains.

The inevitable ideological contradictions and political differences among parties in the GNU, and those parties outside of the GNU, must be managed and contested so as to advance the fundamental programme of inclusive growth and employment creation, the war on poverty and the high cost of living.

These are to be actively managed as we engage other parties and take them along. Through the power of persuasion and evidence, we must prevail on other political parties to appreciate the urgency of fully implementing the provisions of the Constitution, especially the injunction of addressing the imbalances of the past and building a just and fair society. The democratic dividend must be enjoyed by all, especially the historically disadvantaged.

The GNU must be action-oriented and forward-looking with the aim of restoring trust and confidence in our democracy and direction of our country. It must ensure that it continues to combat all divisions such as regionalism, ethno-nationalism, anarcho-populism, as well as neo-liberalism. Those who divide South Africans must correctly be treated as counter-revolutionaries.

The Lekgotla resolved that the ANC must do everything in its power to ensure that the GNU works in order to meet the aspirations of the people and the country's national development agenda.

The ANC – in government and in the party - must undertake effective and regular monitoring and evaluation to assess performance in implementing the transformation priorities elaborated, the achievement of outcomes and ensure accountability.

We remain firmly committed to advancing the National Democratic Revolution and achieving a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa.

The ANC is the leader of the GNU! The principles adopted to guide the effective functioning of the GNU must apply to coalition governments as well.

#### Towards a National Dialogue

The ANC, throughout its history, has sought to unite and bring together all South Africans, to find common solutions to pressing national issues, including the 1954 Women's Charter and the 1955 Congress of the People that adopted the Freedom Charter, as primary examples. The CODESA negotiations process also took forward this approach, leading to the democratic transition in 1994.

Post 1994, the ANC-led governments have continued this tradition, in the manner in which we drafted the Constitution of the Republic, and bringing together social partners in social compacts around a myriad of issues. These range from the 1994 Botshabelo Housing Summit to various social compacts on growth and job creation, the approach to the various industrial master plans, to more recently the outcomes of the Presidential summits on health and gender-based violence and femicide.

The call for a National Dialogue by former President Mbeki and amplified by President Ramaphosa, is, therefore in this tradition.

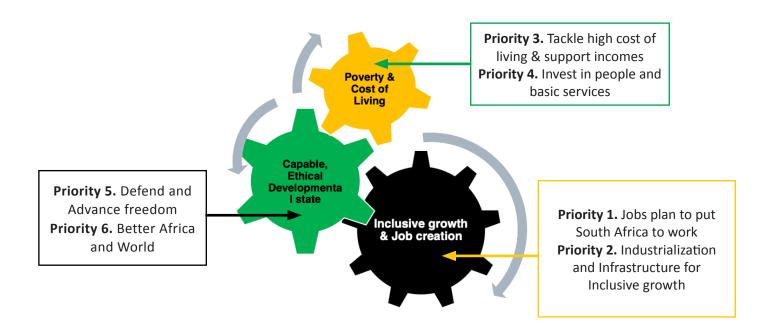
The Lekgotla supports a National Dialogue that should seek thorough public participation amongst South Africans and the participation of all social partners, find common solutions to the overarching burning challenges of the economy, unemployment and inclusion, service delivery and social protection, social cohesion and sustained campaigns against corruption, sexism, racism and homophobia.

#### PRIORITY ACTIONS TO DO MORE AND BETTER DURING THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ADMINISTRATION

Amongst the commitments of the ANC Manifesto, the NEC Lekgotla prioritised urgent focus on various specific interventions. The Opening of Parliament address of the President on 18 July 2024 captured these under three overarching strategic priorities of government, namely:

- driving inclusive growth and job creation,
- reducing poverty and tackle high cost of living, and
- building a capable and ethical developmental state.

#### Figure 2. ANC 2024 Manifesto Priorities viz GNU 7th Administration

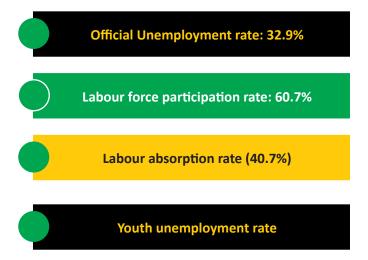


#### **Priority 1:** Our Jobs Plan

The NEC Lekgotla re-affirmed the Manifesto objectives to expand public employment opportunities targeting Youth Not in Employment Education and Training and those above the age of 35. This includes the Presidential Employment Initiative, SANDF-National Youth Services, Young Women in Defense Industries Apprenticeship Programme, EPWP, and Women in Energy Security: Emerging Industrialist Accelerator Programme, Digital Skills Development Programme (Targeting Youth and Women), and skills development opportunities from SETAS and other programmes.

Increase support for small enterprises, entrepreneurs and cooperatives, especially in townships and villages, providing additional work opportunities, with set-asides for women, youth and persons with disabilities.





The Lekgotla noted that the employment crisis is at the lower end of the labour market therefore, unskilled and semi-skilled people are failing to access the labour market and resolved that unskilled and semi-skilled jobs (such as the hospitality sector, retail, etc.) must be reserved for locals.

Through the implementation of an overarching Industrial Policy and Master Plans, we will increase the number of employed South Africans and decent job creation.

#### **Priority 2:** Build Industries to achieve an inclusive economy.

The NEC Lekgotla reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive socioeconomic transformation that includes fundamental changes in the structure, systems, and institutions to reform the economy's ownership, management, and control patterns in favour of all South Africans, with a focus on the marginalized, vulnerable, and poor, who are primarily Africans and women.

The Lekgotla asserted that the ANC-led GNU must take decisive steps to advance the apex priority of inclusive growth and employment creation. This will require increased levels of public and private investment, improved state capacity, focused industrial policy, popular support for the programme

of the GNU and participation of the citizenry and all sector through the envisaged National Dialogue for united and decisive action.

The lekgotla resolved on an overarching Economic Policy that incorporates policies on transport, energy, logistics, and industrialisation.

South Africa's economic prospects are heavily reliant on efficiently operating network industries. The Lekgotla welcomed the progress and outcomes of Operation Vulindlela and further called for a strengthened focus on unlocking bottlenecks in local government to improve service provision.

Reaffirms infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation through expanding social and economic amenities, namely electricity, water and sanitation, roads and prioritise rural roads and bridges, human settlements, health and education, digital infrastructure, and public transport, ports, rail etc

Identify catalytic projects across the country (especially in non-metro areas) to drive infrastructure development, which will also drive industrialisation through localisation.

We reaffirmed that the country needs an overarching industrial policy that will drive localisation and reverse de-in-

dustrialisation. Implement all the master plans to increase the utilization of sectoral productive capacity and identify new growth areas to diversify the economy.

We reaffirmed a developmental Macro economic framework and the need for coordination with industrial policy so that both fiscal and monetary policy support industrialisation. The Lekgotla welcomed the assent of the Public Procurement Bill and called for implementation of the Act to support women, youth, persons with disabilities, businesses-SMME, and emerging industrialists through set-asides.

Advance SMEs, cooperatives, township and villages economies, and the informal sector to boost the economy and create employment.

Build on the significant milestone of ending load-shedding through the implementation of the Energy Action Plan and focus on Eskom's Plant performance and transmission maintenance and development. Maintain an optimal energy mix that includes coal, gas, nuclear, solar, wind, nuclear and hydro to sustain the security of the supply.

Ensure that South Africa mitigates and adapts with speed to climate change, including a just transition strategy that balance our international obligations with national development imperatives. Plans must be developed for all sectors of the economy, including human settlements, agriculture and infrastructure, in all regions of the country and particularly for affected regions like Mpumalanga.

The Lekgotla reaffirmed the Manifesto Commitment to accelerate land reform and redistribution to reduce asset inequality and protect security of tenure, improve food security and agricultural production, promote rural and urban development and enable greater access to housing.

We will focus on growing production and employment in Agriculture, Mining, Creative Industries, Tourism, and the digital economyy and implement the data must fall Competition Commission recommendations, Ocean Economy strategy, modernise and improve access to postal Services and increase investment in research and development as a catalyst for innovation and industrial growth.

For inclusive growth and to address South Africa's employability, our skills development programmes and industrial policy must align, with emphasis on increasing the number of young people enrolled in technical education and reskilling workers.

#### **Priority 3:** Tackle Poverty and the High Cost of Living

Lekgotla notes that poverty and the cost of living crisis intersect multiple hierarchies, authority structures, and policy domains within and between organizations, and span across political and administrative jurisdictions.

Stats SA defines poverty with three categories: the food poverty line, the lower bound poverty line and the upper bound poverty line. Approximately half (49,2%) of the adult population are living below the upper-bound poverty line (UBPL). This translates into well over 30,4 million South Africans living in poverty. In 2021, about 2,1 million (11,6%) of South African households experienced poverty-induced hunger.

This has led to problems such as stunting, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies that affect physical growth and cognitive development, especially among children.

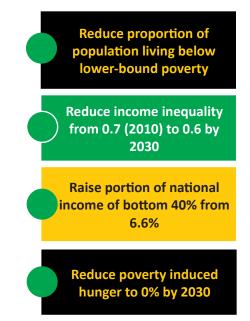
Lekgotla recalled the targets on our Poverty Eradication Targets in the NDP:

- Firstly, we aim to reduce the proportion of the population living below the lower-bound poverty line from 39 per cent (in 2009) to zero by 2030.
- Secondly, we aim to reduce income inequality from 0,7 in 2010 to 0,6 by 2030.
- Thirdly, we aim to raise the share of income going to

the bottom 40% of income earners from 6% to 10%.

 And lastly, we aim to reduce poverty-induced hunger to 0% by 2030.

*Figure 4.* 2030 National Poverty Eradication and Inequality Targets (NDP, 2023)



In all these four targets, we are not seeing sufficient progress, and in some instances regression. Lekgotla therefore noted that the ANC Manifesto priorities are all aimed at getting back on track with meeting these overarching objectives during the term of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration.

To tackle **Poverty and the High cost of living**, Lekgotla resolved on interventions to be undertaken, such as:

 Supporting the focus on Job creation as set out in Priority 1 of the ANC Manifesto and as outlined in the Opening of Parliament address.

- At the Local government level, maintain and expand subsidised basic services like water, houses for indigent in municipalities;
- Provision of free sanitary pads at public health and education institutions for indigent persons.
- Review the General Fuel Levy (GFL)
- Review and expand the basket of zero-rated food items
- Continue Social Relief of Distress Grant, adjusting it for inflation and to reach the food poverty line toward a basic income support grant.
- Roll out of solar water heaters for working class and poor families
- Assess and review administrative and regulated tariff – including electricity pricing policy and water policy
- Ensure the National Minimum Wage increases in line with inflation and ensure full compliance.
- Expedite the finalisation of the transport subsidy policy that would introduce transport subsidies to different modes of transport, including taxis.
- Introduce measures to regulate rental prices for student accommodation.
- Progressively strengthen the social wage to en-

sure universal and affordable access to education, health, transport, water, sanitation, communications and energy.

The Lekgotla resolved that Poverty Initiatives should be coordinated by the Presidency to ensure maximum coordination of all poverty alleviation interventions.

# **Priority 4:** Invest in People

On Basic Education: The Lekgotla supports strengthening ongoing initiatives to improve reading and numeracy of learners in public schools, and curriculum reforms to ensure school leavers are equipped to play a productive role in the economy and society.

It resolved on the significance of the BELA Bill being enacted as law, strengthening the school nutrition programme to address hunger and learning outcomes, completing the process of eradication of pit latrines in schools, improve provisions on scholar transport, integration of ICT (coding, robotics, AI) into our curriculum, strengthening teacher development and support, ensure universal access to quality early child development by 2030, and fast track certification from grade 9.

On Post-School Education and Training: The Lekgotla resolved on the finalisation of the implementation of the student funding model, turnaround strategy for NSFAS, funding for the missing middle, PPP in delivering student accommodation, aligning basic and higher education curriculum with economic and skills demand, and strengthen and promote TVET and Community colleges.

*On Health:* The Lekgotla reaffirmed the phased implementation of the NHI, prioritising the establishment of the NHI Fund and Section 57 Committees, investing in public health facilities, and escalating the implementation of the National Health Information System.

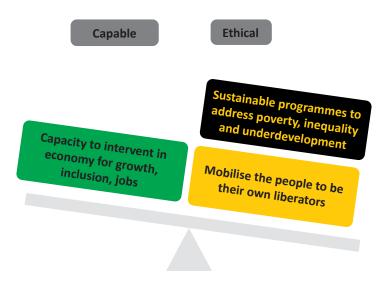
#### **Priority 5:** Defend Democracy and Advance Freedom

#### 5.1 Build a capable and ethical developmental state.

Lekgotla reaffirmed that a capable and ethical developmental state is critical to the achievement of a better life for all. As a country, we seeks to build a developmental state shaped by the history and socio-economic dynamics of South African society, to guide national economic development.

It will have attributes that include: (i) capacity to intervene in the economy in the interest of higher rates of growth, employment creation, inclusion and sustainable development; (ii) sustainable programmes that address poverty, inequality and underdevelopment with emphasis on vulnerable groups and regions; (iii) and mobilising the people as a whole, especially the poor, to act as their own liberators.

*Figure 5.* Attributes of Developmental State



# To improve the capability of the state, the ANC will:

- Strengthen planning and project implementation capabilities, improve monitoring and evaluation tools and attract, develop and retain skilled personnel across government.
- Take forward initiatives to build a professional, ethical and developmental public service.
- Advance e-government and digital services to make government services accessible, interoperable and efficient.
- Work with labour, civil society and business on social and economic initiatives.
- 5) Increase disaster response capacity and funding.
- 6) Improve the capacity of Parliament and legislatures to fulfil their legislative, oversight and accountability responsibilities.
- 7) Protect judicial independence and increase access to justice.
- 8) Support institutions that uphold democracy.

The Lekgotla further resolved to strengthen coordination through a refocused Presidency as the centre.

Lekgotla also emphasized the importance of strengthening the ANC's governance capacity at all levels, including the following measures:

- Implement meritocracy, pragmatism, honesty & fit-for-purpose appointments in all organs of state, and when selecting cadres for all type of assignments.
- 10) A robust programme of training & re-training, through the OR Tambo School of Leadership and Regional Political schools, to be central in providing the necessary capacity building of ANC cadres.
- Programmes to improve economic literacy, understanding of the political economy of the country, and planning and implementation proficiencies should be made compulsory courses as proposed in the burning platforms presentations.
- 12) The ANC & its alliance partners should strengthen the social compact aimed at ensuring that the public service is able to implement the mandate of the government and the Constitution.
- 13) In line with the 55th conference resolution of improving monitoring & evaluation function through the 2nd DSG, ANC should develop a performance management system to regularly measure the performance of all deployees across all spheres of government. This will be useful in measuring the professional development of its deployees, as well as their role in supporting responses to issues facing their respective constituencies.
- 14) The integrity committee should be tasked with monitoring the public behaviour of leaders as a part of monitoring the reputation of the ANC. This should not be punitive, but developmental so that cadres fully understand the consequences of their public conduct in diminishing the reputation of the ANC. Leaders must avoid becoming social media "Memes"/ objects of ridicule.

#### **5.2 Local Government, Basic Services** and the District Development Model

The NEC Lekgotla emphasised the importance of strengthening local government support and interventions. The National dialogue should enable the development of a Local Government vision. Priority actions to turn the corner require strengthening Local economic development and partnerships and implementing the DDM minimum programme.

To address the structural factors impacting the local government sphere of government the Lekgotla reaffirmed the commitment to review the White Paper and supporting legislation, capability to implement, review the local government funding model, consider implementing zero-based budgeting principles, develop a differentiated debt management strategy with an emphasis of revenue enhancement strategies and emphasised importance of the user pay principle for citizens who can afford and strengthen indigent programmes for the poor.

To respond to the impact of climate change and disaster, the risk reduction strategy and enhancing funding should be implemented across the three spheres of government.

The Lekgotla reaffirmed the ANC's commitment to supporting traditional houses by taking actions to standardise benefits across all provinces, enhancing the role of traditional leaders, and strengthening traditional houses. For efficient basic services provision, repairs and maintenance budget allocations will be ringfenced, and regulations will be reviewed to enable local government to leverage grant funding to raise capital in the market and to respond to urgent basic service challenges.

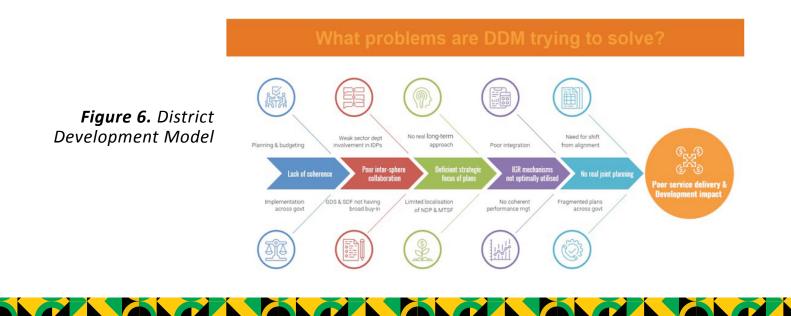
To mitigate the skills gap, national entities such as MISA and ISA will drive infrastructure development by, amongst other things, providing skills capacity to municipalities and project management support.

The commitment of the ANC to defend, protect and advance the interest of workers is a priority of the ANC, and Alliance to resolve labour disputes and other matters affecting workers in local government.

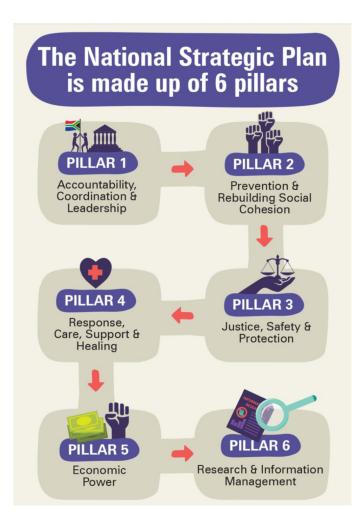
#### 5.3 Fight Crime, GBV and Corruption

The Lekgotla noted that South Africa also continues to grapple with issues of high levels of crime, gender-based violence and corruption.

Counter-revolutionary forces have also affected the capacity and capability of critical institutions such as SARS, NPA, Crime Intelligence, etc. There are serious concerns about the state's capacity to fight crime & violence, as seen in July 2021 unrest. Despite the various interventions to address corruption, there is a need integrated structural mechanisms and technological innovation to tackle this cancer.



# *Figure 7.* National Strategic Plan against GBVF (Source: Sonke Gender Justice)



The ANC therefore recommits to advancing the agenda of building safer communities and fighting corruption, including:

 Implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide; expanding victim support services, like the Thuthuzela Centres, and GBV desks and social workers in police stations; public campaigns against toxic masculinity, sexism and homophobia; promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and working with trade unions and businesses, promote adherence to the ILO Convention 190 to eradicate violence and harassment in the workplace. Operationalisation of the GBV National Council and engage with civil society and business on proposed amendments.

- A comprehensive approach to fighting crime through the Integrated Violence and Crime Prevention Strategy; modernising policing; make the war on crime everyone's business with critical role of communities through adequate support of Community Policing Forums; developing capabilities to combat cybercrime, essential infrastructure crimes, illegal firearms, gang violence, crime syndicates, organised crime, human and drug trafficking, and corruption; Strengthen the justice system, including the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), review the Criminal Procedures Act, reduce case backlogs and delays, support the Legal Aid Board to provide fair access to justice, introduce technology to make court procedures more efficient and accessible, and strengthen the protection of whistleblowers.
- Complete the overhaul of our immigration policy and systems including the Citizenship Act, Refugees Act and Immigration Act, towards a single law dealing with citizenship, immigration and refugees to meet new and burning national challenges, strengthen border management, modernise systems and simplify visa applications.
- Ensure that every sector of society, government and business contributes to the restoration of dignity to military veterans, particularly former liberation war combatants and those who served in the army of democracy, and ensure that their welfare and that of their loved ones is taken care of.

# 5.4 Communications and Battle of Ideas

The need to reposition the ANC to lead and drive the Battle of Ideas is now more than ever, absolutely crucial and urgent. We will re-centre the communications message of the ANC towards rebuilding the hegemony & trust of the citizens.

The ANC has to ensure that it reconnects with the people, comprehends and handle their concerns, and reorganise structures for better engagement. Every NEC leader, activist and member, every public representative, every deployee and every cadre must consider themselves communicators.

Strengthening the government communication system as a whole for effective, coherent and coordinated communications of the GNU.

Lekgotla therefore agreed on the following areas of priority in Communications and the Battle of Ideas:

- Reconnect the ANC with the people in communities and all sectors, comprehends and handle their concerns, and reorganise structures for better engagement and representation.
- Strengthen and capacitate DCIP with the requisite skills and resources to enable it to implement a comprehensive and adaptive communication strategy,
- Develop a robust social & online media strategy incorporating innovative use of new technologies including Search Engine Optimisation, Podcasts and AI.
- 4) Enforce discipline and accountability compliance in members public conduct including on social media through amongst others developing and enforcing code of conduct and revising the ANC communication protocols.
- Develop the capacity to counter negative and unfounded media coverage, fake news (misinformation and disinformation).
  - Develop policy towards the establishment of a social media obudsman to give a platform to those whose rights maybe violated on social media platforms.
  - Strengthen the GCIS and government communication system as a whole for effective, coherent and coordinated communications of the GNU. ANC deployees must ensure that visible action and consistent communication through amongst other regular briefings to the media and active, responsive participation on social media.
  - Engage in a dialectical examination of language and tone, confront class disparities, initiate a revolutionary renewal, and

harness the collective wisdom of ANC veterans.

Strengthen the ANC Caucuses and PCOs as platforms of communication.

On **Communications and Digital Technology**, the Lekgotla identified the following priority actions:

- Develop and implement a coherent ICT Policy framework enhancing digitization of government and public services, facilitating investment in digital infrastructure of the future, as part of response to the Fourth Industrial Revolutions, including expanding 5G services and fibre networks to the townships and rural areas.
- Issue Policy directives for the licencing of spectrum for 5G and 6G technologies, ensuring transformation and competition.
- Implement the data must fall recommendations emanating from the Competition Commission findings immediately as part of lowering the cost of communications.
- Finalise the Analogue Switch-Off including migrating of broadcasting services to the digital technologies by December 2024.
- 5) Complete the rationalization of State Owned entities, including Sentech and Broadband Infraco, and licence the entities with adequate spectrum to fulfil the role of ensuring access to universal access to digital services.
- 6) Address the funding mechanism of the SABC public mandate.
- Strengthen digitisation of government and public services with a specific focus on SITA and challenges faced by the entity.
- Invest in digital skills capacity building to improve the performance of the state to deliver in national, provincial and local government department and institution in the short to medium terms.

# **PRIORITY 6:** BETTER AFRICA, BETTER WORLD

South Africa remains committed to the principles of solidarity; human rights; anti-colonialism; anti-imperialism; African unity; Pan-Africanism; and contribution towards a stronger capable SADC and the African Union (AU). Using these principles, South Africa is able to identify partners to collaborate in the pursuit of its foreign policy.

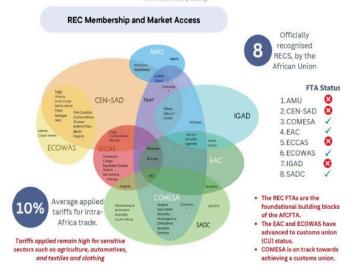
The Lekgotla reaffirms the critical role of international relations in the development and growth of South African society.

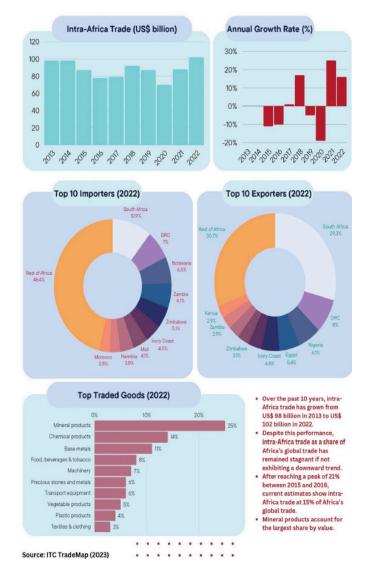
There have been shifts to the international balance of forces in recent years, with rising levels of conflict. This call on South Africa to intensify its diplomatic relations to enhance peace across the globe. We remain committed to the principles of solidarity, human rights, and anti-colonialism in the interest of a humane world order.

*Figure 8.* Intra Africa Trade (TRALAC, 2020)

#### INTRA-AFRICA TRADE Facts and Figures (2022)

Boosting African Economies through Trade For decades, Africa has been striving to achieve regional integration, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) coming into effect on May 30th, 2019, is a significant achievement in this regard. The promotion of regional trade has been a key objective of many of Africa's regional economic communities (RECs).





The positions of the ANC on solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba and elsewhere must continue to find expression in the programmes of our government.

There is a need to strengthen and improve bilateral and multilateral relations to ensure maximum benefits for the ANC and South Africa. To this end, the government needs to capacitate and strengthen coordination across governments in implementing economic diplomacy.

The Lekgotla reaffirms the importance of our BRICS plus partners and South to South Cooperation in supporting growth and development in countries of the global south.

The Lekgotla resolved that South Africa should

strengthen economic diplomacy at its embassies in especially BRICS and G7 countries and the African continent, including in strategic locations like the AU Headquarters, SADC and other regional economic community Headquarters, and the Headquarters of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA).

The Lekgotla has recognised the significance of our Presidency of the G20 and the opportunities that it provides to advance the needs and interests of the African continent and the Global South. South Africa will use the G20 Presidency as an important pillar of our efforts to advance sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, justice, peace and stability across the globe.

#### Women and Youth

Lekgotla noted that the women of our nation have shown that they remain the torchbearers of our democracy. Not only did they represent 55% of those who registered, but they also recorded a 62% turnout, above the national average.

Indeed, they are our community builders, playing a vital role in all sectors of our society, even when their contributions are not always recognised or appreciated.

At the same time, they bear the brunt of poverty and violence in our society. As we therefore, craft our contributions towards the programme of the 7th administration, we will ensure decisive progress towards women's empowerment and the creation of the non-sexist South Africa. We will therefore, monitor all programmes to analyse the extent to which they mainstream gender in the priorities of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration, and, therefore the impact on women, girls, and on gender-relations, including through gender budgeting.

The Lekgotla noted that the participation of young people in elections have significantly decline. At the same time, many young people expressed their activism through involvement in a range of community and issue-based movements, eschewing traditional forms of political involvement.

The number of our young men and women between the age of 14 and 34 has climbed from 16.5 million in 2002 to 20.8 million in 2024, representing nearly one third of our total population. Youth unemployment continue to be a crisis in our country, with approximately 6 out of 10 people aged 15-24 years outside of the formal economy.

Youth represents a blessing with limitless potential. For us to reap our demographic dividend, we need to elevate the notion of an engaged, skilled and empowered youth as a strategic resource in our ef-

forts to reduce poverty, re-industrialisation and tackling the cost of living crisis. The programmes outlined in all priority areas will, therefore be consolidated and analysed, so that it adequately respond and give hope to young people.

#### 2024 MOMENT AND ANC AND ALLIANCE RENEWAL

The challenges being experienced by our democracy did not only manifest themselves in the low turnout during the May 2024 elections. Lack of trust in public institutions and lower than expected involvement of ordinary citizens in development processes is also a concern. In this connection, we are reviewing the state of ANC structures, to empower them to engage communities and the motive forces, as part of the task of rebuilding public trust and foster people's participation.

The ANC and its Alliance will have a systematic process of or renewal of its structures, including supporting the unity and strengthening of the trade union, the student and youth movements including the AN-CYL, COSAS and SASCO to rebuild the movement under the changing conditions.

The ANC NEC will convene an urgent Retreat to consider immediate renewal actions in such areas as membership, leadership, cadre policy, role of branches, organising the motive forces, ANC values and

integrity and modernising all organisational systems and processes. A special NEC meeting will also be convened to process all Integrity reports, and to review and strengthen the Regulations of the Integrity Commission.

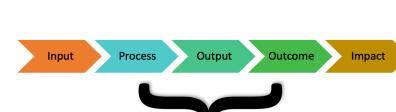
The Lekgotla confirmed that in this moment and more than ever before, a strong, united and campaigning Revolutionary Alliance. remains central to the pursuit of the National Democratic Revolution. The Alliance Political Council must therefore convene urgently, and regularly, to ensure renewal of all components of the Alliance and common action to address the urgent tasks of the moment.

#### MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The ANC and Alliance partners will undertake effective and regular monitoring and evaluation to assess performance in implementing the programme of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration, ANC Manifesto commitments, and the achievement of outcomes in order to ensure accountability. This will also aid evidence-based analysis and policy making.

The ANC, including through the national and provincial executives and legislatures, and through ANC Caucuses and Study Groups, must ensure that national and provincial departments and other organs of state align their five-year and annual performance plans and monitor and report quarterly on the overarching goal of inclusive growth, job creation, the war on poverty, service delivery and tackling the cost of living.

This includes consideration for enhanced contributions by Deputy Ministers to support the delivery and improvement of frontline services and playing an active role in cluster, inter-departmental and inter-sphere coordination, including as District Development Model champions.



Number of

nternships per

/ear against

Output

Outcome

Reduce youth

unemployment

and country's skills shortage

Impact

Set bold

targets for

youth internships

Inputs

Department

to set targets.

plan and

budget

Activities

# *Figure 9.* Implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation

#### **Call to Action**

As President Ramaphosa emphasised in his opening address of the Lekgotla, "We have suffered a great setback. Yet we are neither daunted, nor defeated. As a movement, we have weathered many a storm. We have walked through many a fire. Storms, like fires, will pass. Failure is not final, setbacks are not defeats. We must never wallow in our setbacks. We must learn from them and regroup. It is the time to do more and to do better. "

## **Media Briefings...**



Acting Spokesperson Cde Zuko Godlimpi: Giving overview of each days programme at the NEC and NEC Lekgotla



**Reflections on the 2024 National and Provincial Elections** Led by DSG Cde Nomvula Mokonyane; Head of Elections/ANC Chief Whip Cde Mdumiseni Ntuli

## **Media Briefings...**



**Policy Position** Led by Cde David Makhura; Cde Febe Potgieter



Lekgotla Media Briefing on Crime and GBV; Immigration; Local Government Intervention and Water Issues Led by Cde Polly Boshielo; Cde Senzo Mchunu; Cde Njabulo Nzuza; Cde Parks Tau



Lekgotla MEdia Briefing on Inclusive Growth; Job Creation; Investing in People and Tackling High Cost of Living Led by Cde Mamoloko Kubayi; Cde Sihle Zikalala; Cde Nobuhle Nkabane; Cde Aaron Motsoaledi

### ADDENDUM

All the presentations done at the NEC Lekgotla are available via the following links as outlined in the Bulletin, under the Lekgotla Outcomes:

- » A Better Africa and World
- » Communications & the Battle of Ideas
- » Ethical and Capable Developmental Sate
- » Inclusive Growth and Job Creation
- » Local Government and Basic Services
- » Fighting Crime, GBVF & Corruption
- » War on Poverty and High Cost of Living



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Issued by the African National Congress, **Headquarters**, 54 Pixley ka Isaka Seme Street, Johannesburg, 2001. **www.anc1912.org.za** 



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