



ANC PARLIAMENTARY Caucus

Newsletter

FEB 2025

THE ANC PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OFFICE AS A VEHICLE FOR CHANGE

The ANC has consistently reaffirmed its support for the role of the legislature to exercise its oversight role over the executive, facilitate public involvement in its work and pass legislation to transform society and change the status quo. The role of oversight is to ensure accountability and compliance, as well as to instill a developmental approach to the state.

The parliamentary oversight function is one of the cornerstones of democracy. It holds the executive accountable for its actions and ensures that it implements policies in accordance with laws and budgets passed by Parliament. To fulfil this, the ANC Parliamentary Constituent Office (PCO) needs to be strengthened to serve as a central hub for the realization of the aspirations of the Freedom Charter.



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The ANC caucus, through its PCOs, remains steadfast in its commitment to fully implement the ANC program of action for 2025 and beyond. This initiative is essential for guaranteeing and restoring human dignity, ensuring that community members actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives and that their voices are valued. The ANC PCO has a vital role in driving public involvement and ensuring a government that is genuinely responsive to the people's



The year of Renewal to make the ANC a more effective instrument of the people to achieve the vision of the Freedom Charter: The people shall govern! The people shall share in the country's wealth!



needs. In our efforts to serve the people of South Africa, ANC Caucus members (MPs) must uphold the highest standards of integrity when carrying out their outreach programs. They should be guided by the ANC values of non-sexism, non-racialism and the vision of a prosperous South Africa. The National Democratic Revolution, as the ANC's theory for social change, promotes these values and provides the foundation for a non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous South Africa.

The ANC has proclaimed 2025 as ***"the year of renewal," with the purpose of transforming the ANC into a more powerful advocate for the people in realizing the vision of the Freedom Charter: "The people shall govern; the people shall share in the country's wealth."***

The Freedom Charter continues to be a vital and revolutionary document, guiding us toward the just and equitable society we are determined to build

together. Realising the goals of the Freedom Charter is vital for fulfilling the vision of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR). The NDR is committed to transforming South Africa into a National Democratic Society, dedicated to abolishing all remnants of apartheid, colonialism, and patriarchal power structures. This transformation is essential for creating a more just and equitable nation for all. The transformative vision outlined by the NDR is captured both, in the Freedom Charter and the republic's constitution, embodying the highest ideals of human civilization and ensuring that everyone is included and valued.

To realise our vision for a thriving future, the ANC Caucus is resolutely focused on enhancing the ANC's presence in communities by establishing robust and effective Parliamentary Constituent Offices (PCOs) as central hubs for community development. These PCOs will actively engage

with citizens, attentively listen to their concerns, and partner with them to tackle the challenges and grievances they face. The ANC Parliamentary Constituent Office is dedicated to turning the aspirations outlined in the ANC election manifesto into reality.

By prioritising the acceleration of economic growth and job creation, we are addressing the critical issues of unemployment, poverty, and inequality, especially for women, young people, and those in townships and rural areas. People remain at the forefront of the ANC's priorities, as stated at the 55th Conference, where the ANC pledged to take decisive action to advance the interests of the people. The ANC exists to serve the people and aims to enhance their quality of life by building a better future for all.

When every citizen of South Africa embraces the vision outlined in the Freedom Charter as enshrined in our Constitution, we will achieve the triumph of our struggle •

MARCHING ORDERS ARE CLEAR – ITS ORGANIZATIONAL RENEWAL AND THERE IS NO TURNING BACK

REFLECTION ON THE JANUARY 8TH STATEMENT 2025



The January 8th Statement of the ANC National Executive Committee delivered by the President each year provides us as members of the movement and as deployees, with clear marching orders.

The January 8th statement delivered by Cde President Ramaphosa at the Mandela Park Stadium in Khayelitsha was no exception. We recall the challenge of political commissars in the past calling on us as young activists to commit the Freedom Charter to memory!

So too this year's January 8th statement must always be at hand, etched in our minds and inform our actions as we seek, individually and collectively, to ensure its implementation.

We find ourselves as members of Parliament in the 7th



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administration confronted by a unique situation. Compared to those that came before us, we must exercise the responsibilities outlined in the Constitution of the Republic, the objectives outlined in 2024 Election Manifesto and now the January 8th statement, in a situation where our movement has suffered a strategic setback.

We no longer have a

Parliamentary majority. The battle of advancing the NDR, which the January 8th Statement refers to as our movements "theory of social change", takes place in very different material conditions.

It is important that we embrace and support the clear explanation of the choices faced by the NEC as they discussed the outcomes of the 2024 National and Provincial elections. We need to sing from the same hymn sheet regarding the formation of the GNU .

Our President, on behalf of the NEC said boldly:

"The formation of the GNU is a tactical decision to pursue the NDR under new conditions occasioned by the electoral setback. The ANC's strategic objective has not changed but we pursue this objective under conditions where we no longer have a majority to form a government on our own.

As the ANC, we are determined to regain public confidence and return as a majority party in the next elections. In the meantime, we will work with other political parties, even those with whom we have fundamental differences, to secure space for addressing the needs of our people as articulated in our 2024 manifesto.

"The false notion that the character of the ANC and strategic objective of the NDR has now been redefined by a single tactic of forming a broadly inclusive GNU, is a distortion of the realities our movement faced. This should be dismissed out of hand."

As cadres of the movement, we must always defend and explain this position with confidence.

At the same time, we need to be honest that only a renewed, strong and united ANC can rebuild trust in our movement to ensure that we win back our electoral majority in 2029.

The GNU must not become a permanent feature of our country.

The attainment of a national democratic society which is the objective of the National Democratic Revolution can only be realised by a renewed ANC.

It is thus to be welcomed that of the six priority actions for 2025, **"Decisive and visible action to renew the ANC" is priority number 1.**

Renewal of the ANC remains the number one priority, while resolving the water crisis, fixing local government and fixing the economy remain the top priorities in the six tasks for this year.

Before we are MP's, we are cadres. We are members of ANC branches. We are members of the Women's and Youth Leagues. Our comrades serve in regional, provincial and national leadership. Amongst us are leaders within the revolutionary alliance.

The orders of January 8th statement are crystal clear!

Everyone of us must be part of "strengthening the presence of the ANC in communities through strong ANC branches as centres of development, that engage and listen to citizens, and work with them to address challenges and grievances. The work of building strong

branches is the responsibility of all structures of the ANC"

This instruction brings added responsibility to the constituency work we do. We must ensure that we are active and visible, not only within the ANC structures, but also in the broader community and civil society.

Renewal is also about living out the values of our movement in our daily lives. We need to conduct ourselves in ways which never bring the name of the ANC into disrepute. Renewal is also about being accountable. Accountable to the organisation. Accountable to our caucus and our study groups and clusters. We must serve our communities with respect, humility and honesty.

The January 8th statement also makes it clear that as public representatives and deployees, we will be subjected to an Accountability Framework. The line has been given that there shall be consequence management in the entire organisation.

Renewal is also about ethics and integrity. Not only will these issues be included as a compulsory course as part of the political education curriculum, but we have been informed that the terms of reference for the Integrity Commission have been strengthened. The January 8th Statement of 2025 reminded as that a renewed ANC "must enforce discipline in the ranks".

The 2025 statement reminded us of what the NEC said in 2024.

"as renewal gains momentum, those whose conduct is in conflict with our values and principles the criminals, the corrupt, the careerists, extortionists and factionalists, and those who actively work against the organisation will find themselves outside the ANC".

The January 8th statement of 2025 appeals directly to all of us when it says: "Let us be known for excellence, ethics, humility, hard work and competence".

If we can live up to this, we will be contributing to the renewal of our beloved movement.

Let us embrace the renewal challenge.

Indeed, there is no turning back! •

SPEEDING UP INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The ANC celebrated its 113th Birthday Anniversary in the Western Cape, Dullar Omar region, and its rally to deliver its NEC January 8th Statement was in the Khayelitsha Township. The January 8th statement is an opportunity for the ANC NEC as presented by the President to reflect on work done and give direction on the path and tasks for the coming year. The 2025 January 8th Statement has done just that with the ANC NEC declaring the year 2025 as the 'The Year of Renewal to Make the ANC a more Effective Instrument of the People to Achieve the Vision of the Freedom Charter: The People Shall Govern! The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth'

The realisation of this ANC NEC declaration is dependent on the movement as a whole internalising and meticulously carrying out the six (6) priority tasks outlined in the Statement. The intention (for purposes of this opinion piece) is not to engage all of them as the focus will be on the 3rd priority task which is 'to speed inclusive economic growth to create jobs' but more for purposes of understanding all 6 priority tasks as interrelated than being stand alone. Therefore, brief points of emphasis to be advanced



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here should be understood as just a contribution on the specific priority but taking into account the importance of carrying out other priorities for this one to succeed.

In understanding the emphasis on speeding up inclusive economic growth to create jobs, it is important to remind ourselves that in the 'Ready to Govern' document, the ANC was clear that the mixed economy was its approach to the economy in South Africa, and that its policy choices are to be based on the balance of evidence (evidence based). Quite clearly right from the beginning the ANC saw the state, private sector, labour and all other sectors of society involved in a social compact as a way to guarantee the prosperity of the South African

nation. Furthermore, the ANC in its Mangaung National Conference in 2012 concluded that the transition from Apartheid to a Democratic government yielded political power as the first phase and that a second phase of the same single transition focusing on radical social and economic transformation had to be ushered in. Through its Election Manifestos in every election the ANC implantation of its policies, with 2024-2029 Election Manifesto implemented through a GNU regulated by a statement of intent signed by all parties invited to participate in the GNU. Lots of intervention especially on the side of government has been made in the past 30 years as documented in several government's 'Review Reports'.

However, it remains important to remind ourselves that in the 30 years of democracy, a number of obstacles undermined the noble work of the democratic government, and this includes but not limited to; the 2008 global economic crisis; the state of capture; crime and corruption; and fiscal squeeze which make spending choices difficult. Covid-19 and rolling blackouts impact on the livelihoods of South Africans which the country is still to overcome permanently. The



social compact (Operation Vulindlela) as an important element of economic reconstruction and recovery plan was a critical intervention especially post covid-19, which focused amongst others on improving energy security; enhancing stability and efficiency of our ports and rail network to facilitate economic growth and industrialisation; and the fight against crime and corruption. Therefore, the progress made in this regard, which is visible on the electricity front as led by the Minister of Electricity, is because of deliberate actions taken. The same could be said about the rail improvement in different routes as lead by the Minister of Transport. However, this is a call for all sectors of society to work together to protect infrastructure investments from theft and vandalism.

Building on all these efforts an overarching Industrial Strategy and/or policy needs to be speeded up to harness our mineral endowments sector, economic infrastructure investment, deployment of enabling technologies and facilitation of a skills revolution that responds to the needs of the South African economy. The government, in particular, DTIC under the leadership of the minister and deputy Minister has been seized with this understanding and its urgency. In the intervening period the unemployment which is currently rated at 32.5% requires immediate attention.

The youth remains the most affected, and requires both state and private players to act together urgently. The government has already introduced public employment programmes scattered in different departments and entities and this includes funding of skills. The call for consolidation and central coordination shall not only address accountability for the number of participants but will go a long way in ensuring positive impact on the lived reality of its beneficiaries. Furthermore, different

funding mechanisms involving private players on training e.g. Labour Activation Programme (LAP) which is through UIF funds will ensure that unemployed UIF beneficiaries are reintegrated back into the labour market. The Unemployment Insurance Amendment Act provides for the funding or retention of contributors in employment and the re-entry of contributors into the labour market.

On the 9th of January 2025, for example, Minister and deputy Ministers of Employment Labour handed over to LAP beneficiaries (12 entities) in Western Cape R651.5million funding collectively which will create 17,330 employment opportunities in different sectors of the economy. Therefore, private sector remains critical in helping training programmes by creating space for trainees to have practical work environment experience especially artisans.

In conclusion, legislative reforms that allow for investments by both the state and private sector have to be speeded up without compromising the rights of workers and employers, especially small businesses. However, no law or investment is good enough if it does not put SA citizens as the first beneficiaries in opportunities created. It is against this understanding that compliance inspections must be carried out by relevant authorities and the draft legislation and policies before Cabinet and Parliament must be concluded as presented by DEL; DSBD; and DHA on migration related matters. The complementary nature of these proposed legislative frame works shall not only empower different departments to act in unison but will be a direct response to the cries of South Africans about the real or perceived prioritisation of people who are not South Africans, even in economic sectors requiring unskilled and semi-skilled workers. The continuing work of Nedlac on these aspects remains vital. However, the National Dialogue could create even a broader platform of engagement on the give and take that can help speed up inclusive economic growth to create jobs •

FIXING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENSURING WATER AND ENERGY SECURITY

Local government in South Africa serves as the foundation of service delivery, yet its challenges have significantly hindered progress in critical areas such as water and energy security. As the ANC celebrated its 113th anniversary during the January 8 statement, it reaffirmed its commitment to addressing these pressing issues. The ANC's manifesto also lays the groundwork for practical interventions that focus on creating sustainable and effective local governance systems.

Water security

Water is a constitutional right and an essential resource for economic growth. However, South Africa's water supply systems face multiple threats, including aging infrastructure, pollution, and the im-



pact of climate change. Many rural areas remain without access to safe drinking water,



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and urban centres frequently experience water shortages due to mismanagement and poor planning.

The ANC manifesto identifies the need to rehabilitate existing infrastructure, invest in water storage and distribution systems, and ensure the equitable allocation of water resources. During the January 8 statement, the ANC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting municipalities in adopting innovative water conservation strategies, such as rainwater harvesting

and wastewater recycling. Also, partnerships with the private sector and communities are critical to mobilizing resources and creating collective ownership of water management systems.

Energy security



Load shedding remains a major constraint on economic growth and a source of frustration for South Africans. The persistent energy crisis has been worsened by outdated infrastructure, poor maintenance, and a reliance on coal fired power plants. The ANC has proposed an approach that integrates renewable energy, improved governance at Eskom, and increased private sector participation.

The ANC January 8 statement highlighted the progress made through the Just Energy Transition, including efforts to scale up renewable energy projects and diversify South Africa's energy mix. The manifesto reinforces this by advocating for localized energy solutions, such as rooftop solar installations, to re-

duce dependency on the national grid. The ANC is committed to addressing energy theft and corruption within the sector, which have further strained resources.

Strengthening local government

Achieving water and energy security hinges on functional and capable local governments. The ANC recognizes that financial mismanagement and weak leadership undermine service delivery. To remedy this, the party's manifesto proposes targeted capacity building programs for municipal officials and the implementation of stringent oversight mechanisms to combat corruption.

The ANC January 8 statement also highlighted the importance of creating active community participation in local governance. In empowering citizens to hold leaders accountable, local governments can be more responsive to the needs of their communities. Also, collaboration with traditional leaders and civic organizations can enhance service delivery and promote social cohesion.

Fixing local government and ensuring water and energy security require a comprehensive and collaborative approach. The ANC's January 8 statement and manifesto provide a clear roadmap for addressing these challenges through ethical leadership, innovative solutions, and strengthened partnerships. The task ahead is undoubtedly challenging, but with steadfast commitment and decisive action, local governments can be transformed into engines of development and service delivery •

BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND BETTER WORLD

There are four themes covering international relations in the Jan Statement 2025, namely: Global instability, African Agenda, International Solidarity and Multilateralism

In a celebratory mood in the dusty streets of Khayelitsha, the masses of our people gathered from dawn to adorn the 113 years of the African National Congress's existence. It is also through bonds of our friendship within the region, continent and the world that the painful history of the liberation of our people is known, and South Africans are beginning to reap the benefits of internationalism from which this organisation has been nurtured.

In his January 8 statement of this year, President Ramaphosa emphasised the ANC's call for a more peaceful global paradigm. In this world that is marred with unpredictability and uncertainty and characterised by increased insecurity and the rise of populism, South Africa is exposed to global economic risks such as geopolitical tensions which can impact



our economic outlook, global financial conditions and challenges to trading partner growth. These risks can impact the country's economy negatively, which has already faced challenges such as unemployment, inequality and climate change.

The ANC, in its international relations remains deeply concerned about the increase in regional, continental and global conflicts particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. These have a direct impact on the developmental needs of the economically marginalised countries in Africa and the Global South. However, the ANC is resolute to navigate, along with Africa and the Global

South, these turbulent waters generated by global capitalism, colonialism and imperialism, towards a shared prosperity and peaceful future.

In our Pan Africanism outlook, the ANC remains committed to advancing the African Agenda 2063 to build a peaceful, united and prosperous continent. We are mindful of the growing conflicts in our continent, some of which are driven and fuelled by the West in their quest for enriching themselves with minerals from the continent.

The ANC believes that we need to work hard within the African Union and SADC, to advocate and participate in efforts aimed at bringing about peaceful resolution of conflicts.

President Ramaphosa noted that **"South Africa's**

fortunes are inextricably linked to those of our continent, and to the Southern African Development Community in particular. For the sake of our own stability and prosperity, we are duty bound to pursue interventions that will bring peace, stability and development in our continent"

Without durable peace, it will be difficult to fully implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Global capitalism is working tirelessly financing the conflicts in the continent to ensure Africa does not trade amongst itself and remain under the bondage of the colonial yoke of absolute dependence on the Global North for economic survival. We need to join hands to meet the economic integration ideals of Pan Africanism through advancing food, water, energy and critical mineral security as well as infrastructural development in Africa.

The SADC region continues to consolidate democratic practices in Southern Africa with more countries holding successful elections last year. Post election conflict in Mozambique should be an area of concern for SADC, while conflicts in the Sudan and the Eastern parts of the DRC remain a challenge that the African Union needs to remain seized with. We look forward with great anticipation for the 45th anniversary of SADC formation. It will be a befitting occasion as the ANC holds a liberation movements conference to remind ourselves of the sacrifices endured by the region for the liberation of South Africa.

The ANC's approach to international relations is underpinned by international solidarity as a key pillar of our struggle. The President of the ANC has iterated 'the importance that the countries of the Global South strengthen our international solidarity to ensure that the world moves away from the current unipolar disorder and domination by the Global North, towards a more multi-polar, multi-cultural, multi-civilizational, humane, fair and inclusive world order'.

Our unwavering support remains with the people of Western Sahara, Palestine and Cuba. We continue to call upon the UN to enforce a referendum resolution for the Sahrawi people to self-determination

and condemn the human rights abuses by Morocco security forces on the Sahrawi people. We applaud all efforts which brought about a ceasefire to end the merciless slaughtering and the genocide committed by Israel on the Palestinian people; we rally behind President Ramaphosa's argument that the fundamental principle of human rights and freedom underpins why South Africa has "taken up the Palestinian cause to prevent further deaths and destruction in Gaza". We stand with both for their fight for independence. The decades-long US unilateral economic blockade against Cuba cannot remain unchallenged, as the ANC we call for the removal of Cuba from the list of terrorist states. Cuba undertook the ultimate human sacrifice for our liberation, and we will never leave their side.

The greater contestation in the United Nations and international organisations over matters of the use of power by the powerful nations have indeed brought about threats to multilateralism and respect for international law and its institutions. The South African presidency of the G20 will provide huge opportunities to advance the interests of the African continent and the Global South. South Africa has been instrumental for the inclusion of the African Union in the corridors of the G20.

With South Africa in the driving seat of the G20, the ANC will champion interests of South Africa, Africa and the Global South towards sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, justice, peace, stability, multilateralism and human rights across the globe. The ANC will strengthen its call for the reform of the international financial agencies and the multilateral development banks to ensure equal access for developing countries to ensure inclusive sustainable development for all •

BUILDING A SOUTH AFRICA THAT BELONGS TO ALL: NATIONAL DIALOGUE AS A PRIORITY

Cde Cyril Ramaphosa, delivered a January 8th statement in celebration of the 113th birthday of our glorious movement, African National Congress in Khayelitsha on 11 January 2025. The overwhelming turnout characterised by both enthusiastic response to the message of the day and commitment displayed by mostly young and elderly people from our people underscored the enduring strength of our organization and the unshakable trust and commitment of our people to the principles and transformative programmes the ANC stands for.

As we celebrate this achievement, we must take the next step in building upon this organisational rebirth and momentum. We must translate this mobilisation into effective organisation.

Guided by the ideals and directives of our movement, it is incumbent upon us—especially as the national caucus—to define in precise terms how, collectively, we will put shoulders to the wheel in pursuit of this essential goal. We are at a moment where action must



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meet intent and where vision must translate into measurable outcomes. Our efforts must be focused, strategic, and aligned with the broader goals of our organization.

On the global stage, we are witnessing events that require our unwavering attention and action. The breakthrough in the Middle East—the recent steps toward a ceasefire—offers hope in the face of great adversity. But as we know, this ceasefire is fragile, and the road to lasting peace remains arduous. We must reaffirm our support by ensuring that pressure is brought to bear through our International Court of Justice (ICJ) case

and all other forms of solidarity for Palestine. Our collective work must continue to exert the necessary pressure to ensure that this ceasefire holds, and, more critically, that the longstanding and unresolved question of Two State solution with an independent Palestine state is addressed with the urgency it deserves. We must stand resolutely in demanding its full implementation.

The Vision for National Dialogue

The statement made on this historic day emphasizes that National Dialogue is the path through which we will navigate our challenges, reconcile our differences, and build a united, inclusive society. This commitment is rooted in the understanding that a diverse country like South Africa can only thrive if every citizen feels heard, valued, and part of the decision-making process.

At the core of the ANC's vision for a prosperous South Africa is the recognition that our country's development hinges not only on economic growth and political stability, but also on the social cohesion of its people. The

ANC believes that true transformation comes when we engage in open, honest conversations about the issues that matter most to us all—whether they be poverty, unemployment, education, land reform, or the challenge of healing the divisions of the past.

The National Dialogue will be structured to ensure the active involvement of all sectors of society, including political parties, civil society, business, trade unions, and communities. This inclusive approach will ensure that every voice, no matter how big or small, is heard and that decisions made reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of South Africans across all walks of life.

Key Priorities for 2025

Unity in Diversity: The ANC will continue to champion the unity of the people of South Africa, embracing our diversity as a strength. National Dialogue will focus on promoting social cohesion, mutual respect, and understanding across the country's various racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.

Economic Justice: One of the core components of this dialogue will be the creation of policies that address the inequalities of the past while fostering inclusive economic growth. The ANC is committed to ensuring that the benefits of economic progress reach all South Africans, especially those historically marginalized.

Educational Reform: Education is the foundation for our future. The National Dialogue will focus on ensuring quality education for all, with an emphasis on skills development, digital literacy, and innovation to meet the demands of a modern economy.

Job Creation and Sustainable Development: Unemployment remains one of the most pressing issues facing South Africa. The ANC will focus on solutions that create meaningful job opportunities and sustainable economic development, especially for the youth.

Social Justice and Safety: A safe and just society is the backbone of any democracy. National Dialogue will include conversations on improving the justice system, enhancing safety measures, and fostering a society where the

rights of all citizens are protected.

A Call to All South Africans

The ANC calls upon all South Africans to engage in this dialogue, to contribute their ideas, and to work collectively toward building a nation that offers equal opportunities to all. Whether you are a student, a worker, a business owner, or a community leader, your voice matters in shaping our collective future. We must learn and build on the foundations laid since the 1994 democratic breakthrough.

The ANC will initiate a series of regional and national platforms for dialogue, where South Africans can come together to discuss these priorities. We encourage everyone to participate in these forums, share their views, and help craft a South Africa where every citizen can proudly say, "This is my country."

Together, let us build a South Africa that belongs to all, a country where democracy, equality, and justice are not mere ideals but the lived reality of every citizen. Finally, as we look toward our own national future, the call for a National Dialogue is more pressing than ever. Our discussion today must reflect the key directives of the January 8th statement—principles of unity, transformation, and a commitment to the betterment of our people. As we forge ahead, let us remember that the work of nation-building is not merely about words; it is about action, inclusivity, and the forging of a society where all can thrive.

In conclusion, let us take inspiration from the response to the January 8th celebrations, let us draw strength from the solidarity we continue to offer to our Palestinian brothers and sisters, and let us renew our commitment of building an economically strong, equal and prosperous South Africa •

THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Corruption and crime are two socio-economic issues which are pervasive and detrimental facing South Africa. They undermine the country's economic growth, social development, governance systems, and the overall trust of its citizens.

The consequences of corruption and crime are felt across all levels of society, disproportionately affecting the poor and marginalized, while eroding the nation's democratic values and institutions. The ANC has for a number of years identified corruption and crime as some of the biggest societal problems we face, both in the private and public sector.

The 2025, January 8 statement indicates that law enforcement agencies, alongside municipalities, must combat sabotage, theft, and corruption by water tanker mafias who have now



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engulfed themselves in our service delivery networks and society at large. Corruption and crime also erode the integrity of South Africa's governance structures. When public officials misuse their positions for personal gain, it undermines accountability and transparency.

Key institutions such as law enforcement agencies, and state-owned enterprises have been compromised by corrupt and criminal practices. The failure of some SOEs, due to corruption, crime and mismanagement has led to frequent power outages and inefficiencies in transport, which further cripple the economy.

The 2025, January 8 statement further indicates that last year we highlighted that crime erodes and threatens the gains of freedom and shared prosperity, as well as our constitutional democracy and the NDR's goals. By November 2024, our law enforcement agencies' efforts, in collaboration with communities, Community Policing Forums (CPFs), and private security firms, were beginning to make a difference. The majority of reported crimes and some sexual offenses have significantly decreased, according to crime statistics. The hiring of 10,000 additional police officers has improved public safety.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts Study Group is of the view that corruption and crime diminish the effectiveness of public policies. Policies designed to address inequality, improve healthcare, and ensure access to education are often undermined when funds are siphoned off or when decisions are influenced by corrupt and criminal motives. This weakens the state's capacity to deliver on its developmental mandates, perpetuating inequality and social injustices.

We are pleased to see the 2025, January 8 statement highlighting the establishment of the Border Management Authority (BMA), this marks a significant milestone in safeguarding

our territorial integrity and enforcing immigration laws effectively. Its interventions are commendable for addressing critical challenges in border security and compliance. However, despite this progress we still face a problem of migration by undocumented people.

Another societal issue we have is the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in our society, women across the country, particularly in rural and farming communities, continue to endure the relentless threat of gender-based violence and femicide. Among these challenges is the alarming rise in statutory rape, often leading to the impregnation of young girls, which perpetuates a devastating cycle of poverty and hardship.

This is a crisis of profound magnitude that no nation can afford to overlook. We are also pleased to see the ANC continuing with effects to further deal with corruption and crime. These effects include fostering a united front involving community leaders, civil society, businesses, and citizens to take a stand against crime.

Completing the establishment of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, ensuring it is well-funded and properly resourced. Bringing together all sectors of society to promote social values and practices that contribute to eliminating GBVF in all areas of life. Taking firm action to address the employment of illegal and undocumented migrants in sectors such as agriculture, domestic work, catering, and other areas of the economy•

THE ROLE OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The influence of non-profit organizations, such as AfriForum, in South Africa's political and social spheres has garnered significant attention in recent years. These organizations often present themselves as defenders of constitutional democracy, but their actions and public statements have raised questions about their underlying motives and their impact on the country's democratic processes.

In the lead-up to the 2024 National and Provincial Elections, concerns about racial and political divides were brought to the forefront. A high-profile example was the Democratic Alliance's (DA) formal appeal to the United States, alleging that the ANC government might manipulate the election results. The subsequent engagement between the U.S. ambassador and the Indepen-



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dent Electoral Commission (IEC) raised further questions, particularly due to the lack of transparency around the meeting's discussions and the absence of public information regarding its outcomes.

Following the elections, organizations like AfriForum and some political parties continued to raise alarms about the ANC's governance, particular-

ly regarding policies on land reform and education. These policies have been presented as attempts to address historical inequalities, yet they have faced substantial criticism from various quarters, with some opponents suggesting that they undermine constitutional principles and property rights.

One of the key pieces of legislation that sparked significant debate was the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill. The bill aimed to address educational challenges in South Africa, but it was met with protests from various groups who believed that it posed a threat to their interests. Likewise, the Land Expropriation Bill, which seeks to enable land redistribution to address past injustices, also faced intense opposition, particularly from sectors that fear the policy could erode property rights.



Additionally, international influences have played a role in shaping the discourse around South Africa's domestic policies. For example, the U.S. government's decision to halt USAID funding to South Africa, citing concerns about the treatment of white landowners, highlights the international dimensions of the country's land reform debates. These external perspectives can complicate the local political landscape, adding pressure on the South African government to navigate between its domestic policies and international relations.

Amidst these political dynamics, it is important to acknowledge the role of strategic legislation in shaping the future of the country. The signing of the BELA and Land Expropriation Bills by President Cyril Ramaphosa demonstrates the government's commitment to fulfilling its constitutional obligations and addressing long-standing issues related to land redistribution and education. These legislative actions reflect broader goals of economic transformation and social equity, which are key elements of South Africa's ongoing development agenda.

The process of land reform and education policy adjustments highlights the complexities of balancing the needs of different sectors of society, while also staying committed to the principles of justice and equality. As South Africa continues to evolve as a democracy, these policy debates will remain central to the broader conversation about the country's future and the continued pursuit of equitable growth and development.

So, South Africa's political landscape remains shaped by the interplay of domestic policy decisions and international influences. While non-profit organizations and political parties continue to voice their concerns, the strategic legislation passed by the government reflects an ongoing commitment to addressing historical disparities and building a more inclusive society. The challenge moving forward will be to ensure that all voices are heard and that the country's democratic principles remain firmly intact •

EXILE! WAS IT WORTH IT?

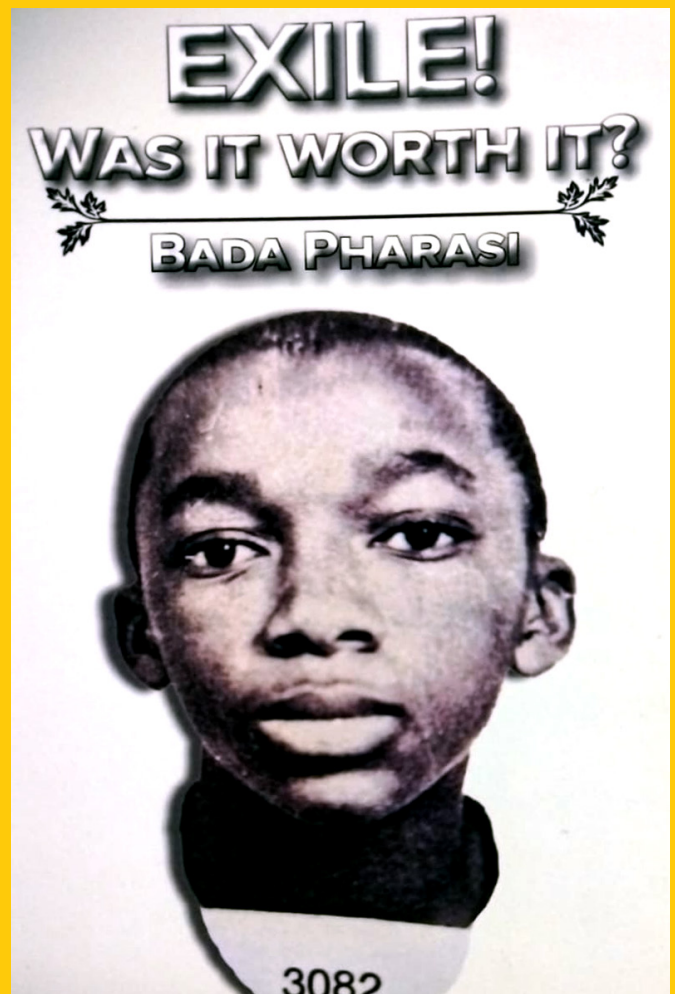
BOOK REVIEW

Cde Saul Pelle

Brimming with hope, this memoir of Bada Pharasi brings forth a remarkable insight into the life of a generation which history imposed a responsibility to fight a relentless struggle for the freedom of South Africa. In his life's journey, Pharasi takes us through the dusty streets of Two Location, Galeshewe in Kimberley, where he delicately took the necessary baby steps before plunging headlong into the realm of the unknown.

Ever the one with a big heart to offer large parts to his family, Bada was certainly born with a hawk's eye; observant and recording even the smallest detail too intricate for his age. This book is awash with goodness and kindness oozing from the driver of this well-knit story. It is here that he honed his dexterity in the ever changing and challenging milieu called life. The "clumsy" welcome fingerprints of the teachers from St Timothy High School can be discerned everywhere in this memoir.

Bada's humility, especially his involvement in the student's struggle both at Turfloop University and Galeshewe respectively, belie the critical role that he and other unsung hero/activist of the pre-1976 played, each in his or her own way in the grand project of spreading the seeds of black awareness and consciousness.



His exploits, leading to his surreptitious flight into exile which starts in Botswana, is a gripping odyssey, fraught with danger at every turn. His life takes a radical turn as he is thrown in the

deep end, learning and dabbling in skills and strands that hitherto had been mere dreams.

This continues while he was based in Tanzania, the land of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. He narrates his stay with the passion of a young revolutionary, for it is here that his political maturity broadens, as if preparing him for the challenges that lie ahead in his unfolding youthful life. And it is here that he finds deep and abiding love.

Then fate lands him slap bang in Bulgaria where he studies Pharmacy, which is what he'd always preferred. Even here he plays a critical role in students politics, honing more and more his political skills.

And it is at such times that bonds of love and friendship between comrades are forged. In the process some stand the test of time; others fall by the wayside. New, stronger and firmer ones are maintained in the crucible of struggle. And then there are deep and lasting friendships which endure the test of time. Bada and many of his compatriots experienced all these at one or other times during the long flight to freedom. These are beautifully chronicled in this memoir. Bada gives pride of place in this memoir, in not so many words, to Cuba, the land of the brave. This is the land of revolutionaries. And here he meets rubs shoulders with the likes of Fidel Castro and many other struggle-tested Cuban heroes.

The Zimbabwean leg of Pharasi's sprint to freedom is all the more enthralling because of its proximity to South Africa. Despite the fact that he practiced and worked in Zimbabwe during the time when the brutality of the racist regime was at its fiercest, Bada's narrative of his time in Harare and later in Bulawayo shows the versatility and brilliance of the underground movement.

The struggle continues and the cadres fighting in the forefront are of flesh and blood, dedicated to the struggle; humble, brave, trustworthy, and imbued with the spirit of Ubuntu/Botho. Pharasi relates the stories of these brave men and women and help us answer the question that is at the core of this incredible journey: Exile! Was it worth it?

In this 400 page testament first published by Pharasi Publishing, Bada unswervingly offers his humble opinion on this question:

"I would I would say that, to the extent that we became part of the events and history that led to Madiba , a black man and former political prisoner, being able to address the parliament of South Africa as the head of state, our efforts were certainly worth it."

The cover of this book is a photograph of Pharasi from his "dompas". These documents had been kept on file of exiles by the previous apartheid government.

This book is a must read, especially for the youth which represent the future of our country. The events captured herein will certainly stand them in good stead.

Remembering

John Langalibalele Dube

22 February 1871 - 11 February 1946

The ANC honors Cde John Langalibalele Dube on his 154th birthday.

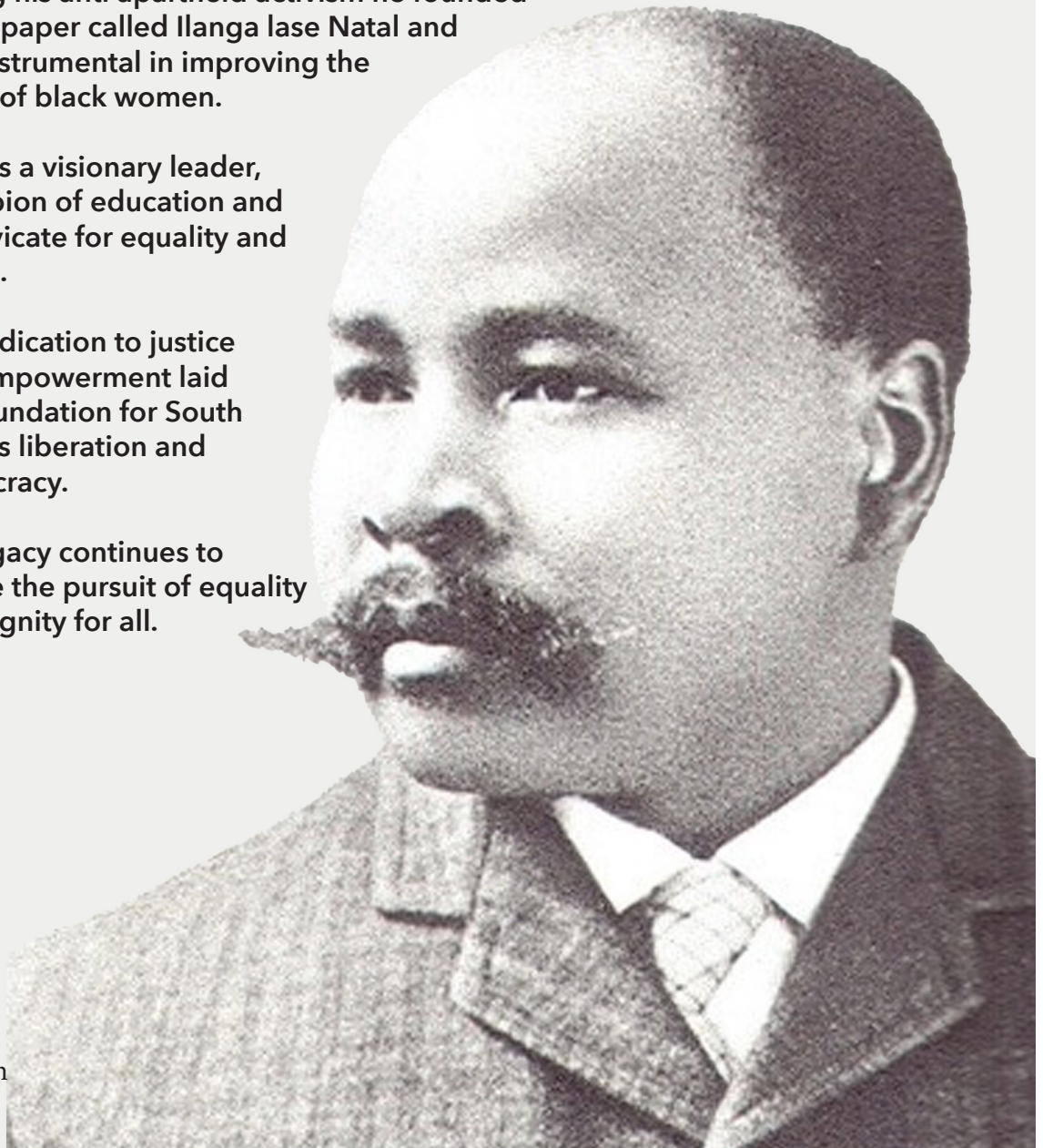
Cde John was elected the first the President of the ANC in 1912, a position he held until 1917.

During his anti apartheid activism he founded a neespaper called Ilanga lase Natal and was instrumental in improving the status of black women.

He was a visionary leader, champion of education and an advicate for equality and justice.

His dedication to justice and empowerment laid the foundation for South Africa's liberation and democracy.

His legacy continues to inspire the pursuit of equality and dignity for all.



Contribution