

NEW

CADRE

ANC CAUCUS STAFF NEWSLETTER

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"I, solemnly declare that I will abide by the aims and objectives of the African National Congress as set out in the Constitution, the Freedom Charter and other duly adopted policy positions, that I am joining the Organisation voluntarily and without motives of material advantage or personal gain, that I agree to respect the Constitution and the structures and to work as a loyal member of the Organisation, that I will place my energies and skills at the disposal of the Organisation and carry out tasks given to me, that I will work towards making the AN an even more effective instrument of liberation in the hands of the people, and that I will defend the unity and integrity of the Organisation and its principles, and combat any tendency towards disruption and factionalism."

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FOREWORD BY DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP



CDE N NKABANE

*Dear
Comrades,*

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of revolutionary duty that we present this first edition of The New Cadre for 2026. This publication arrives at a historic and emotionally resonant moment on our national calendar—Youth Month. As we reflect on the unbroken thread of struggle that connects the generation of 1976 to the young professionals and support staff driving our parliamentary machinery today, we are reminded that the lifblood of our glorious movement, the African National Congress (ANC), has always been its youth.

To the support staff of the ANC Parliamentary Caucus, you are not merely administrators or functionaries. You are the engine room of our legislative arm of the state. You are the strategic core that translates the aspirations of the Freedom Charter into actionable legislation, robust oversight, and transformative policy. This journal is a celebration of your labour, a forum for your ideas, and a tool for your ongoing political and professional development.

When we reflect on the science of social transformation, we are often drawn back to the profound insights of Vladimir Lenin on the role of the youth in a revolution. Lenin famously understood that the youth are not just passive recipients of a political legacy, but the active vanguard of any meaningful transformation. He asserted that a revolutionary movement must look to the youth because they are unburdened by the stagnation of the past, filled with vital energy, and uniquely capable of mastering the new skills required to confront changing historical conditions. Lenin argued that the triumph of a revolution depends entirely on the degree to which the youth are organized, politically conscious, and integrated into the structures of the vanguard party.



For the ANC, this insight remains a guiding star. In our context, the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) is a continuous, living process aimed at resolving the historical contradictions of colonial oppression, racial capitalism, and structural inequality. The Freedom Charter boldly declares that “The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!” and that “The People Shall Share in the Country’s Wealth!” These are not static promises; they are dynamic mandates.

The youth among our staff are the contemporary custodians of this mission. By bringing your sharpness, technological literacy, and fresh perspectives into the corridors of Parliament, you ensure that the ANC remains capable of waging the battle of ideas in a rapidly evolving global and domestic landscape. You are the realization of Lenin’s call; a disciplined, ideologically grounded youth cadre executing the program of the NDR.

The ANC is currently seized with the monumental task of organizational renewal. Renewal is not merely a slogan; it is an existential necessity. It requires an honest introspection, a return to our foundational values of selfless service, and

a deliberate injection of new energy into our structures. True renewal cannot happen without the youth, and it certainly cannot happen if we do not prioritize youth retention within our own workforce.

Investing in and retaining young employees within the ANC Parliamentary Caucus is a strategic investment in the longevity of the movement itself. When we cultivate a workspace that offers mentorship, professional growth, and ideological clarity, we secure the future leadership of the ANC. We must intentionally bridge the gap between historical memory and contemporary innovation. By retaining young talent, we build an institutional memory that is agile, tech-savvy, and deeply committed to the objectives of the NDR.

Our task extends far beyond the walls of Parliament. The primary crisis facing South African youth today is the dual scourge of unemployment and economic exclusion. As the ANC Parliamentary Caucus, our legislative program must remain relentlessly focused on economic transformation and massive job creation for the youth.

Securing the future of the ANC depends on our ability to answer the material cries of the young people of our country. Through progressive legislation, aggressive oversight of state departments, and the radical implementation of transformation policies, we must reshape society. We seek to build a National Democratic Society that is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous society.

As you read through this edition of *The New Cadre*, let it provoke debate, spark innovation, and deepen your commitment to the total liberation of South Africans and the African continent. Let us use this Youth Month to dedicate ourselves to the principles of discipline, intellectual rigor, and revolutionary humility.

To our young cadres: the renewal of the ANC is in your hands. Master your responsibilities, sharpen your political consciousness, and let us continue to serve our people with distinction.

Amandla!

RESPONSIBLE

BALANCING MACHINE INSIGHTS WITH ETHICAL DUTY



Cde D Jeffery

HOW DOES AI WORK?

When we refer to ‘AI’, we typically mean Large Language Models (LLMs). These models typically work by predicting what word most likely comes next in a sentence. (Although, to be frank, not even AI companies are entirely sure how they work.) This means that LLMs are not designed primarily to produce true sentences. Companies that build LLMs have been trying to improve the accuracy of their models, but it is still not fully accurate.

Advice

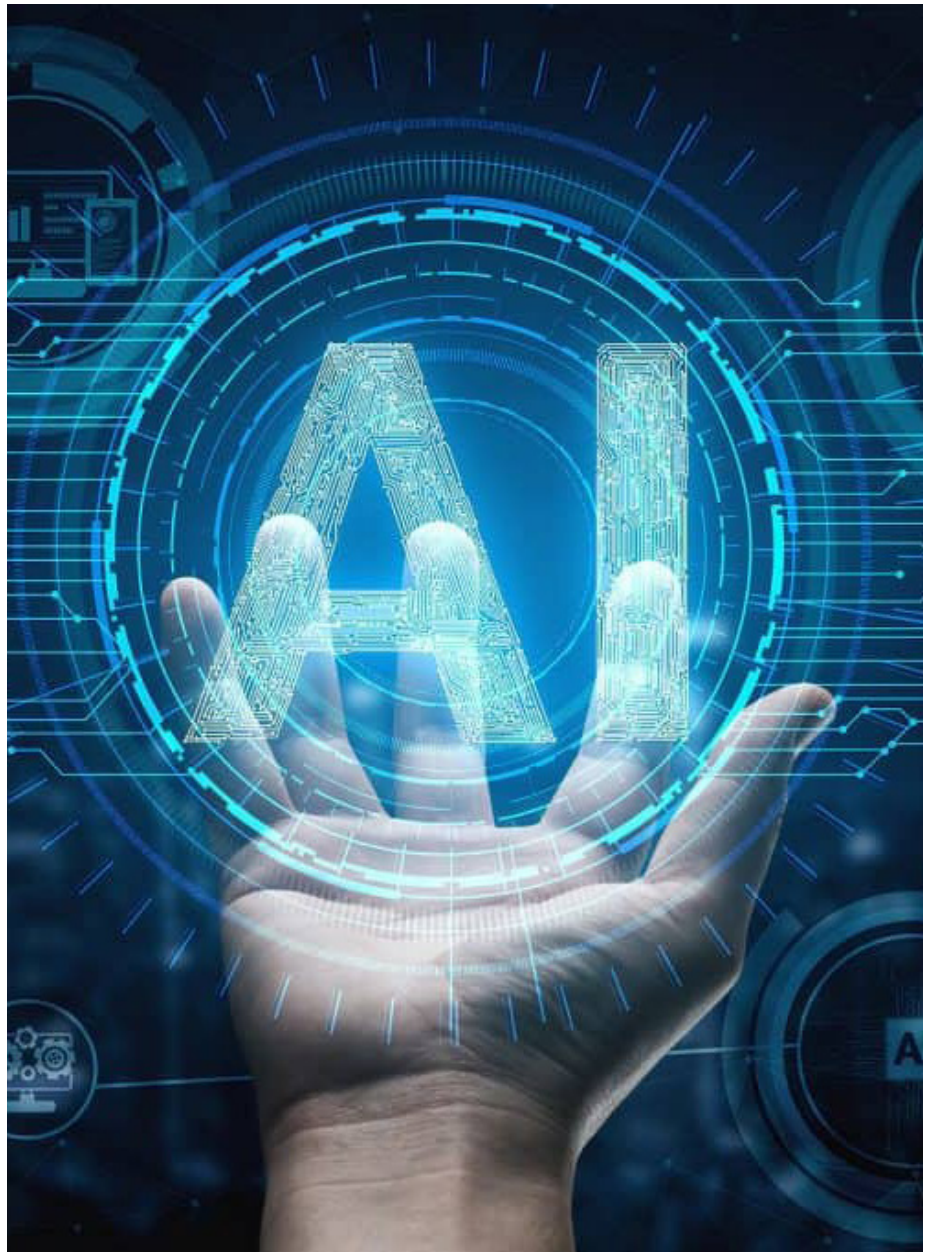
- You should consider LLMs as a intelligent, hard-working, but inexperienced 20-year old research assistant. You need to provide inexperienced research assistants with precise and unambiguous instructions. There is also absolutely no way that you would pass on the work of a young research assistant without carefully checking it yourself. The same is true of LLMs.
- Note that LLMs get less accurate and ‘stupider’ the longer your conversation with them. For long conversations, it is better to start a new chat. You can ask the LLM in your old chat to summarise what it would need to know to continue the conversation in a new chat. You can then paste that prompt into the new chat and continue.

- For complex tasks, you can provide your instructions and end with “Interview me to collect the information you need to do this task well.” The LLM will then ask you a series of questions and this significantly improves its output.
- There is a real risk of ‘cognitive atrophy’ if you use LLMs a lot—in other words, you become worse in your own capacity to think because you come to rely on LLMs. I tend to outsource tasks to an LLM if I do not care about developing the skill myself. Since I personally care about being a clear writer and a sound researcher, I rarely outsource these tasks.

Professional and Ethical Guidelines

LLMs are the future. They can save us hours, days, or even weeks for work. However, the following professional guidelines are vital. Note that some teams do not allow the use of LLMs—check with your manager before you do.

- When engaging with colleagues, be upfront with whether you used an LLM and how. This will help you colleagues know how carefully to read the output. It can seem embarrassing to admit that you used an LLM, but you should not be embarrassed. In my experience, colleagues have responded well to this, and it is much more embarrassing for colleagues to find out that you used an LLM when you didn’t disclose it.



- Generally, you read less critically when you are only reading rather than writing. I rarely copy and paste what the LLM has written. Rather, I have it open next to me and write the sentences into my document myself. I almost always spot errors the LLM has made; not normally in facts, but in how to think about the issue.
- You should also always check the references produced by the LLM. I sometimes find that the URL or citation is made up

entirely (remember, LLMs are designed to create plausible URLs, not real URLs). I very often find that the LLM is not entirely correct with what the citation says.

- Ideologically, LLMs tend to be centrist and often in favour of free markets. Remember our work is political, and we should not outsource our political thinking to an LLM—don’t forget that almost all LLMs are based in the USA.

WHAT DOES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NHI MEAN FOR STAFF?



Cde L Nogcinisa

People who know anything about my political views over the past twelve months would know that I am an unapologetic fan of the Mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani. I first became aware of Mamdani when he surprisingly won the Democratic Party primary to become the candidate for the mayoralty of the wealthiest city in the world. Mamdani essentially ran and won on a single message - AFFORDABILITY!

In US politics, “affordability” emerged as the defining issue of 2025, driving the legislative and economic agenda amid persistent cost-of-living challenges. In our own country, various organisations have also raised the issue. COSATU organised national affordability marches on Friday, 19 June 2026.

The affordability crisis has hit many professionals and public servants in South Africa. Many of us are often forced to choose between buying monthly essentials and paying exorbitant medical aid premiums. An average South African family spends roughly R20,000 to R36,000 annually on medical aid, which translates to about R1,600 to R3,000 per month for a basic single plan. This can go up to R12,000 per month for comprehensive family coverage.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) is an essential tool in the arsenal of the ANC-led government aimed at extending health services to all South Africans and reversing the legacy of apartheid. By creating a national fund to move us towards universal health coverage, the government will relieve the burden on the shoulders of many working-class families.

NHI



South African right-wing and free-market groups, along with private healthcare providers, fiercely oppose the NHI. They argue that it is an unconstitutional and unaffordable policy that will collapse the country's healthcare system and destroy medical aids.

As the staff of Caucus, we campaigned for the NHI Act during the 6th term of Parliament. We did so because we believed that it is a progressive piece of legislation that is a moral and constitutional

imperative. We view the single-payer system as a vital step to redistribute resources, eradicate the two-tiered (public vs. private) system, and ensure that care is provided based on need rather than socioeconomic status.

We must revive the campaign despite the setback we have suffered in the courts. It is a central pillar of our fight for a more affordable South Africa.

THE GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN RETIREMENT DEBATE

IS YOUR PENSION OR PROVIDENT FUND ENOUGH, OR DO YOU NEED A RETIREMENT ANNUITY TOO?

Retirement planning has become an intense topic in South Africa, particularly since the introduction of the Two-Pot Retirement System in September 2024. Around dinner tables, in financial planning sessions, and even in workplace conversations, many South Africans are asking the same question: If I already contribute to a Pension Fund or Provident Fund through my employer, do I really need a Retirement Annuity (RA) as well?

The answer is not always straightforward. However, understanding how these retirement vehicles work can help you make more informed decisions about your financial future.

The Impact of the Two-Pot Retirement System

The Two-Pot Retirement System was introduced to provide a balance between preserving

retirement savings and allowing limited access to funds during financial emergencies. While many South Africans welcomed the flexibility, financial experts have cautioned that withdrawing retirement savings before retirement can significantly reduce the value of one's retirement benefit over time.

Simply put, money withdrawn today loses the opportunity to grow through years of investment returns and compound interest.

Is Your Employer Retirement Fund Enough?

For many employees, a Pension Fund or Provident Fund is the cornerstone of their retirement planning. Contributions are made automatically, helping to build retirement savings in a disciplined manner. In addition, many employer-sponsored funds provide valuable benefits such as life cover, disability cover, and funeral benefits.



Cde G Swartz

However, whether these savings will be sufficient at retirement depends on several factors. Rising living costs, inflation, career interruptions, previous withdrawals, and increased life expectancy can all affect how far retirement savings will stretch.

This is where the retirement debate begins. While some employees may be on track to achieve their retirement goals through their employer fund alone, others may need to supplement their savings to maintain their desired standard of living after retirement.

Where Does a Retirement Annuity Fit In?

A Retirement Annuity is a personal retirement investment that can complement an existing Pension or Provident Fund. Unlike employer-sponsored retirement funds, an RA remains with you regardless of where you work, making it a flexible long-term savings vehicle.

For employees who wish to boost their retirement savings, make up for periods where they may not have saved enough, or preserve savings from previous employment, an RA can provide an additional layer of retirement security.

One of the most attractive features of an RA is its tax efficiency. Contributions towards qualifying retirement funds, including Retirement Annuities, may qualify for tax deductions within the limits prescribed by legislation. This means that saving for retirement can also provide tax relief,



helping individuals build long-term wealth more efficiently.

A Practical South African Reality

Of course, retirement planning does not happen in isolation. Many South Africans face competing financial priorities such as housing costs, school fees, debt repayments, and rising household expenses.

For many households, balancing present-day financial pressures with long-term retirement planning is not always easy. However, even small additional contributions made consistently over time can have a meaningful impact on retirement outcomes.

For some individuals, building an emergency fund or paying off high-interest debt may be the immediate priority. For others, increasing retirement contributions may be the next logical step. The right approach depends on each person's financial circumstances and long-term goals.

Questions Worth Asking
Rather than asking whether a

Pension Fund is better than a Retirement Annuity, employees may benefit from asking:

- Am I saving enough for retirement?
- Have I withdrawn retirement savings in the past?
- Am I taking full advantage of available tax benefits?
- Do I have sufficient emergency savings outside my retirement fund?
- Will my current retirement savings support the lifestyle I hope to enjoy in retirement?

Final Thoughts

The Two-Pot Retirement System has given South Africans greater flexibility, but it has also highlighted the importance of preserving retirement savings and planning ahead. Whether you rely solely on your employer-sponsored Pension or Provident Fund or choose to supplement it with a Retirement Annuity, the most important step is to have a retirement strategy and review it regularly.

Retirement may seem far away, but the decisions made today can have a lasting impact on your financial wellbeing tomorrow.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



The ANC Parliamentary Caucus is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and productive workplace for all employees. The recently updated Substance Abuse Policy serves not only as a workplace rule but also as an important reminder of the impact that alcohol and drug misuse can have on individuals, colleagues, and the organisation.

From a Human Resources perspective, the primary purpose of the policy is to promote employee wellbeing while ensuring that all employees can perform their duties in a safe and professional environment. Substance abuse can affect concentration, judgement, attendance, productivity, workplace relationships, and ultimately the quality of service delivered by the organisation. In some instances, it may also create significant health and safety risks for both the employee concerned and those around them.



Cde G Swartz

The policy therefore prohibits employees from reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol or drugs, possessing illegal substances on organisational premises, or engaging in substance-related misconduct while representing the organisation. These provisions are not intended to punish employees unnecessarily but rather to protect the interests of everyone in the workplace.

Importantly, the policy recognises that substance abuse is often a complex personal challenge that may be linked to stress, trauma, mental health difficulties, financial pressures, or other life circumstances. For this reason, employees who may be experiencing substance-related difficulties are encouraged to seek assistance voluntarily. Early intervention is often the most effective way to prevent personal difficulties from escalating into workplace problems.

Employees should also be aware that certain prescribed medications may impair concentration, reaction times, or decision-making abilities. Where prescribed medication may affect work performance or workplace safety, employees are required to inform their line-manager or the Human Resource Unit so that appropriate support measures can be considered.

While the organisation is committed to supporting employees, the policy also makes it clear that ongoing performance, attendance, conduct, or safety concerns arising from substance abuse may result in disciplinary action. The organisation must balance its duty of care towards employees with its responsibility to maintain an effective and professional working environment.

Substance abuse can sometimes develop gradually and go unnoticed until it begins affecting an individual's work or personal life. Common warning

signs may include increased absenteeism, frequent lateness, unexplained declines in performance, mood changes, difficulties concentrating, unexplained accidents, strained workplace relationships, or neglect of responsibilities. Recognising these signs early and seeking assistance can make a significant difference.

Colleagues also play an important role in creating a supportive workplace culture. Rather than ignoring concerns or perpetuating stigma, employees are encouraged to approach situations with empathy and encourage affected colleagues to seek appropriate assistance where necessary.

Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Recovery is possible, and support is available.

Employee Wellness Support
As part of the organisation's commitment to employee wellbeing, employees also have access to support services through the Sanlam Reality Wealth Bonus Lifestyle for Corporate benefit.

Sanlam Virtual Doctor
Employees have access to confidential virtual consultations with a general practitioner, psychologist, or nurse, regardless of whether they are members of a medical aid scheme.

This service may be particularly valuable for employees experiencing stress, emotional challenges, substance-related concerns, or other health-related matters and who would like professional guidance in a confidential and convenient

manner.

Seeking support early can help employees address challenges before they begin to affect their health, personal wellbeing, or work performance.

For additional information, staff may visit the Sanlam portal: www.sanlamreality.co.za or contact the Sanlam call centre on 0860 732 548 / 9 and follow the prompts for "Wealth Bonus Lifestyle for Sanlam Corporate. Support Services and Helplines Employees who require assistance or information relating to substance abuse may also contact the following support services:

- Department of Social Development / SADAG Substance Abuse Helpline: 0800 12 13 14 (24 hours)
- SANCA (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence): 011 892 3829 or WhatsApp 076 535 1701
- Alcoholics Anonymous South Africa: 0861 435 722
- Narcotics Anonymous South Africa: 083 900 6962
- SADAG Mental Health Helpline: 0800 456 789
Employees may also approach the Human Resource Unit for guidance on available support mechanisms and referral options.

A healthy workplace begins with healthy choices. By working together, we can create a supportive environment that promotes wellness, protects safety, and enables all employees to perform at their best.

THE ANC PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS BURSARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, COMPLIANCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS



The ANC Parliamentary Caucus recognises that its greatest asset is its people. In an increasingly complex political and administrative environment, employees' ability to adapt, innovate, and perform effectively depends largely on their access to learning and development opportunities. For this reason, the Caucus continues to invest strategically in employee education through a structured bursary management system that promotes transparency, efficiency, compliance, and student success. The bursary programme is more than a financial assistance initiative. It is a deliberate investment in human capital aimed at developing a highly skilled, knowledgeable, and capable workforce that can contribute meaningfully to the organisation's mandate and to South Africa's broader developmental objectives.

A System Built on Transparency and Accountability

A key strength of the ANC Parliamentary Caucus bursary programme is its commitment to fairness and transparency. Employees are provided with clear application processes, eligibility requirements, and reporting obligations. This ensures that bursary opportunities are administered consistently and equitably, while maintaining



Cde G Botha

accountability for both the organisation and bursary recipients. Transparency in bursary administration promotes trust in the system and ensures that educational support is directed towards employees who demonstrate commitment to personal and professional development.

Driving Efficiency Through Effective Administration

Managing educational support for employees requires robust administrative systems. The Caucus has continued to strengthen its bursary management processes to ensure timely application reviews, effective communication with beneficiaries, monitoring of academic progress, and efficient utilisation of available resources. These processes enable the organisation to track employee development, identify emerging skills needs, and ensure that investments in education translate into measurable benefits for both employees and the institution.

Compliance as a Foundation for Sustainability

Good governance requires that educational funding programmes operate within established policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements. The bursary management system, therefore, places strong emphasis on compliance, ensuring that funds are utilised responsibly and that beneficiaries meet the academic and reporting requirements associated with their awards. This disciplined approach helps safeguard the programme's sustainability

and ensures that educational investments continue to benefit current and future employees.

Supporting Student Success

At the heart of the bursary programme is a commitment to student success. The ANC Parliamentary Caucus recognises that obtaining a qualification requires more than financial support alone. Success is achieved through determination, commitment, and a supportive environment that encourages continuous learning. Employees who participate in the programme are empowered to pursue qualifications in fields such as public administration, law, finance, communications, human resources, and other disciplines that contribute to organisational effectiveness.

The benefits are evident. Employees who further their studies frequently return with enhanced analytical skills, improved problem-solving abilities, greater confidence, and a deeper understanding of the legislative, governance, and socio-political environment in which the organisation operates.

Strengthening Partnerships for Skills Development

The impact of the bursary programme has been further enhanced through collaboration with the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDPSETA). Through Discretionary Grant funding, additional educational opportunities have been made available to employees, expanding access

to higher education and skills development. Special recognition is extended to ETDPSETA, whose commitment to skills development has significantly expanded bursary opportunities within the organisation. These partnerships demonstrate that building a capable workforce is a shared responsibility requiring collaboration among employers, educational institutions, sector bodies, and individual employees.

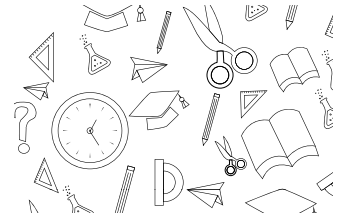
Looking Ahead

As the ANC Parliamentary Caucus continues to strengthen its learning and development agenda, the focus remains on expanding access to educational opportunities, aligning bursaries with strategic skills requirements, enhancing monitoring and support mechanisms, and celebrating employee achievements. The bursary management system reflects the organisation's belief that education is not merely an employee benefit; it is a strategic investment in institutional capability, service excellence, and the future of democratic governance.

By promoting transparency, efficiency, compliance, and student success, the ANC Parliamentary Caucus continues to build a culture of learning that empowers employees, strengthens organisational performance, and contributes to the development of a capable and responsive institution. When we invest in people, we invest in the future.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT



The success of the bursary programme is reflected in the achievements of its beneficiaries. Here are a some of our graduates of 2025.



CDE OFENTSE NTSANE

Master of Laws LLM
(Law of Mineral & Petroleum
Extraction & Use)



CDE SAMKELISIWE MAJIYA

**Bachelor of
Administration Honours
in Public Administration**



CDE MAHLOLO MAKGATI

**Bachelor of Arts
Honours in Philosophy**



CDE MATSHEGO MFULO

**Bachelor of
Administration Honours
in Public Administration**



CDE NAREEMA KELLY

**Bachelor of Public
Administration**



CDE MOOKGO NTABANYANE

Bachelor of Laws



CDE CHARMAINE NZWANE

**Bachelor of Accounting
Science**



CDE SIVUYILE MATSOLO

**Postgraduate Diploma
in Strategic Human
Resources Management**



CDE BONGIKYAYA QAMA

**Postgraduate in Public
Law**



CDE SWEETNESS NZIMA

Higher Certificate in Public Administration & Management



CDE BABALWA NTSHOZA

Practical Labour Law (Short Course)



CDE MICHEAL ZONDI

Post Graduate Diploma in Public Law



CDE THEMBA MAKHUBELA

Higher Certificate in Paralegal Studies



CDE PABALLO PONOANE

Compliance Management (Short Course)



CDE XOLANI MBALI

Post Graduate Diploma in Public Law



CDE APHELELE NDABA

Post Graduate Diploma in Information Management



CDE SIYATHEMBA SOKOFO

Data Analysis (Short Course)



CDE CLAUDIO CONRADIE

Advanced Diploma in Public Law



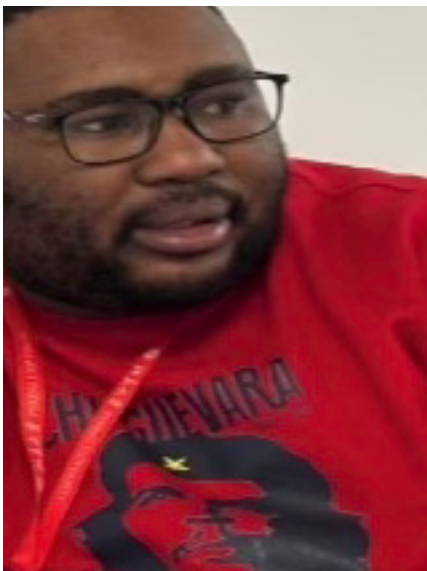
CDE MAHULA PHAKGADI

Higher Certificate in Public Administration & Management

STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS:

GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND LESSONS FROM CHINA AND BRICS



Cde L Mtshingana

The African National Congress (ANC) leading the Government of National Unity in South Africa (SA) is confronting a major challenge when it comes to unemployment with the official unemployment rate rising to 32.7%, with more than 8.1 million individuals unemployed. When it comes to the youth, the statistics are more alarming: youth unemployment is at 60.9% for individuals aged 15–24 and 40.6% for those aged 25–34 with approximately 4.7 million youth which are not employed and more than 3.4 million are neither working, studying, nor in training, a generation at risk of being lost.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has recognized that youth unemployment as “one of the most significant dangers to South Africa’s future wealth and social cohesion.” The ANC’s 2024 Elections Manifesto clearly vows to “Put South Africans to work” as its primary focus, pledging to generate and maintain 2.5 million job opportunities via public employment initiatives and assistance for small businesses. The ANC/government administration has achieved some form of notable success over the years and we can start with the Presidential Employment Stimulus which has successfully generated more than 1.8 million jobs and economic opportunities, whereas the SA Youth.mobi platform has enrolled 4.5 million young individuals, connecting them to employment and educational prospects. The National Youth Service, alongside the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has offered organized work experience for the youth.



The 2024 ANC Manifesto sets out specific goals which are: creating 2.5 million new public job opportunities, facilitating 1 million extra jobs for small businesses and cooperatives and enhancing assistance for black industrialists aiming at 2,000 firms under the broadened black industrialist initiative. The organization has eliminated experience prerequisites for entry-level roles in the public sector, lifting a major obstacle for aspiring young employees. The National Development Plan (NDP) vision 2030 has established bold objectives which are: lowering unemployment from 25% to 6% by 2030, generating 11 million more jobs, and increasing the labour force participation rate from 54% to 65%. The NDP suggested tax breaks for

employers who hire young individuals entering the workforce, funding for placement services and increased learnerships and training vouchers.

The National General Council (NGC) in the ANC Base Document in 2025 openly acknowledged that the organizations electoral backing reduced to 40% and that voter participation in the country also reduced, this was a clear indication of public dissatisfaction with the government's capacity to perform. The country still faces a mismatch between skills and education where the Education and Training (FET) system remains ineffective and overly limited. The ANC Manifesto committed to enhancing vocational training, yet the disparity between young people's skills

and employers' requirements is still faces imbalances.

The NGC document highlights that graduates also encounter unemployment, with "graduate unemployment" remaining a systemic issue. The nation continues to be the most unequal country globally, having a Gini coefficient of 0.67. State capture resulted in unparalleled decline of state capability and public confidence. Government is working tirelessly to address the "lumpen class" of corrupt officials and tenderpreneurs which have weakened service delivery and job creation initiatives.

The NGC Base Document clearly mentions China as a point of reference, it highlights that China's decade-long anti-corruption campaign sanctioned an incredible 4.7 million individuals, emphasizing the necessity for zero tolerance. China's shift from being primarily agricultural to to a manufacturing giant was developed through international state directed industrialization, substantial infrastructure investment and an education system tailored to meet industrial demands. The NGC document recognizes that South Africa has gone through "de-industrialization" and states that re-industrialization is essential for job creation and positive growth in the economy. China provides a model that puts im-

STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS



importance on state led development in partnership with the markets and not letting market dynamics determine the economic success and failures of the economy on their own.

Development in rural areas as a method for integration. China's initiatives to reduce poverty have elevated hundreds of millions from destitution through investments in rural infrastructure, agriculture and small-town industries.

The ANC Manifesto and the NGC document both highlight South Africa's involvement in BRICS (now broadened to BRICS+), the manifesto pledges to boost exports to international and regional markets using the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), BRICS Plus, and various bilateral partnerships. The NGC document states that BRICS provides the movement a platform to maintain state stability and gives the ANC time to reorganize.

BRICS offers a platform for collaborative technical efforts, technology exchange, and collective industrial approaches. The New Development Bank provides an alternative funding

for infrastructure indicatives that can generate employment.

The government needs to re-order the priorities when it comes to macroeconomic policy, the NGC document acknowledges that upholding the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) status concerning the mandate and its independence should be reconciled with developmental aims. Monetary policy must take into account employment and growth along with inflation, fiscal policy needs to transition from austerity to investment, the NDP's goal of 10% of GDP for public infrastructure must be achieved. The ANC's "step-aside" and Integrity Commission are positive advancements, dishonest officials should be prosecuted and procurement processes need to be reformed to guarantee value for money. The BRICS structure provides South Africa with access to technology, financing, and markets, while AfCFTA creates a continental marketplace for goods and services from South Africa, the ANC should actively leverage these platforms to promote industrialization.

A 2K IN THE ANC

MY REFLECTIONS ON DEMOCRACY, RENEWAL AND MY GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



This month marks 50 years since the Soweto youth uprising.

Fifty years since young children took to the streets and demanded the right to determine their own future. 50 years since students, many younger than I am today, refused to accept the world as it was and chose instead to organise, resist and challenge it.

As we approach this milestone, I have found myself reflecting on what it means to be a young black female born into the democratic South Africa that their sacrifices helped make



Cde L Motsage

possible.

I was born in the 2000's, I am what they call a 2K.

I have never known apartheid. I have never known a South Africa where I could not vote, where I could not speak freely or where my opportunities were determined by the colour of my skin. I have never known a country where my aspirations as a young black woman were limited by law and before I even get into the politics of it all, I must say that I am genuinely grateful to have been born in the generation I was born in.

Yes, South Africa still faces enormous challenges. There is still poverty. There is still inequality. There is still unemployment. There is still a great deal of work to be done. But there have also been undeniable democratic gains.

As a young black woman today, there has never really been anything I have looked at and thought “I cannot do that because I am a black woman.” That limitation was never planted in my mind. I move through the world believing that I am capable of occupying any space politically, academically, economically and intellectually. I have grown up believing that my voice matters. I have grown up believing that there are no rooms, none whatsoever that I cannot enter.

Sometimes, we take these things for granted because they have become normal to us. We assume that freedom has always existed because it is all we have ever known. But it has not.

Like many young people in the ANC today, I wrestle with contradictions.

There are moments when I do not always see myself reflected in the organisation. There are moments when I wonder whether the voices of young people are taken seriously enough.

There are issues on which I do not always agree. There are times when I have felt frustrated and navigating these tensions as a young person in the ANC can be difficult.

Some of the most difficult moments I have experienced politically have not been inside meeting rooms or conferences. They have been during door-to-door campaigns and community engagements, I have had the opportunity to engage with many young people, particularly here in the Western Cape.

And one question comes up repeatedly is, “What has this ANC government done for me?”

I will be honest. That question hurts, not because I do not have an answer. It hurts because I know where the question is coming from. It is often asked by a young person who has done everything society asked of them. Someone who went to school. Someone who obtained a qualification. Someone who has submitted countless job applications. Someone who wakes up every day searching for opportunities that never seem to come. Someone whose experience of democracy is increasingly shaped by disappointment.

And in those moments, it is not enough to simply list achievements and policies because what they are really asking is not whether democracy has improved their lives. What they are really asking is whether there is still a place for them in South Africa’s future.

Those conversations stay with me; they force me to confront realities that cannot be ignored.

But they have also taught me something important, I do not believe that many



young people are rejecting the ANC as much as they are becoming disconnected from the democratic process itself. Increasingly, I encounter young people who do not believe their vote matters.

Young people who feel politics has nothing to offer them. Young people who have stopped believing that participation can lead to change and that is what worries me. They do not see a connection between civic engagement and the issues affecting their daily lives.



Actually, one of our greatest challenges is convincing young people that exercising that right still matter. There have been moments where I have struggled to persuade young people not to vote for our party but simply to vote at all. To register. To participate. To believe that their voice matters. Because once young people lose faith in democracy itself, we all lose something.

That is why, as we approach these local government elections, I want to make a plea to ama2k.

Please Register, participate and Vote. Not because any political organisation is entitled to your support. But because your future is too important to leave in the hands of others. The decisions made in our local governments affect our daily lives in profound ways. They shape the communities we live in, the services we receive

and the opportunities available to us. If we abandon the democratic process, we surrender our ability to influence those decisions and that is a price we cannot afford to pay.

As a young black woman, one of the most meaningful parts of my journey in the movement has been the women who have carried me, continue to encourage me and guide me. The purpose of leadership is not to make the road harder for those coming behind you because your own journey was difficult, the purpose of leadership is to ensure that those who follow can travel even further.

When I think about renewal, I do not only think about organisational processes, conferences or policy documents.

I think about the motive forces of the NDR, whether young people still believe they can shape the future of this movement and whether we are doing enough to ensure that the next generation sees the ANC as something worth inheriting because the values that inspired generations before us cannot end with them.

The spirit of mama Gertrude Shope, of mama Ellen Khuzwayo and of mama Lillian Ngoyi must not end with her. Their spirits lives on whenever young people choose service over self-interest. Fifty years after the youth of 1976 showed us what courage looks like, I believe our generation is being called upon to show a different kind of courage.

The courage to participate, to build and to stay involved when it would be easier to walk away. And perhaps that is what being a young person in the ANC means to me today.

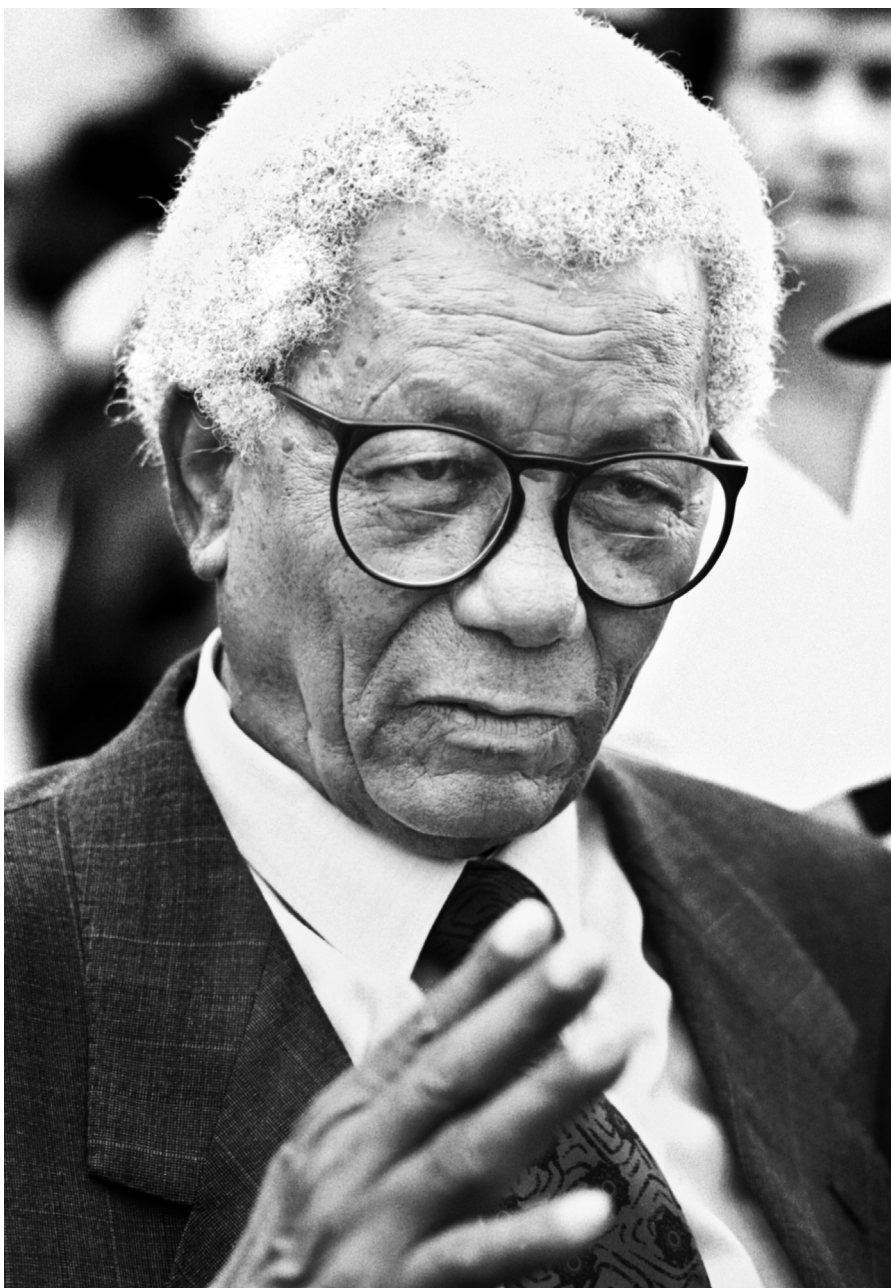
It means carrying gratitude and frustration at the same time, believing in democracy while recognising its shortcomings and embracing the responsibility of renewal rather than waiting for someone else to do it.

And believing, despite everything, that South Africa's story is still being written and that our generation has a role to play in shaping its next chapter.

STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

WALTER SISULU

THE REVOLUTIONARY WHO CHOSE THE PEOPLE OVER HIMSELF



Cde A Lekabe

There are men in history who occupy positions and there are men who become the moral foundation upon which generations stand. Walter Sisulu belongs to the latter. His life was not defined by comfort, wealth or recognition, but by sacrifice, discipline and an unwavering commitment to the liberation of the African people.



As we commemorate the birth of Comrade Walter Sisulu on 18 May 1912, we are reminded that the African National Congress was built by leaders who carried the pain of the people as their own burden. Sisulu emerged from the dusty villages of the Eastern Cape with very little materially, yet he possessed something far greater: political clarity, courage and a deep understanding that freedom would never come through words alone, but through organised struggle and sacrifice.

At a time when apartheid sought to reduce black people to permanent subjects in the land of their birth, Walter Sisulu dedicated his entire existence to building a movement capable of confronting one of the most brutal systems of oppression known to humanity. He became the organisational heartbeat of the ANC. He recruited, guided, disciplined and inspired generations of revolutionaries, among them Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, however; not for personal glory, but because he understood that liberation required collective leadership rooted in the people.

What made Sisulu extraordinary was not merely his political role, but the values he embodied. He represented a genera-

tion of cadres who understood that leadership is service. They did not enter the movement to enrich themselves or seek validation. They entered it prepared to lose jobs, families, freedom and even life itself so that future generations could inherit dignity.

Even after decades of imprisonment on Robben Island, Sisulu emerged without bitterness. His resilience carried the moral strength of a man who knew that the struggle for justice is larger than individual suffering.

In many ways, he represented the conscience of the liberation movement: calm yet firm, humble yet resolute, disciplined yet deeply compassionate toward the oppressed.

Today, South Africa faces a different battlefield. The enemies of our people are poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, hopelessness and social fragmentation. Yet the lessons of Walter Sisulu remain as urgent now as they were during apartheid. His life demands introspection from all of us, particularly those entrusted with leadership. It challenges us to ask whether we still embody the values upon which this movement was built. Whether we still place the peo-

ple before ourselves. Whether we still understand that revolutionary discipline and ethical leadership are inseparable.

To remember Walter Sisulu is not simply to honour a historical figure. It is to confront ourselves. It is to recognise that the survival of the ANC as a true liberation movement depends on whether a new generation is willing to reclaim the spirit of sacrifice, integrity and service that leaders like Sisulu carried with such dignity.

Comrade Walter Sisulu belongs not only to the history of the ANC, but to the soul of South Africa. His life remains a reminder that nations are transformed by ordinary people who choose courage over fear and principle over personal comfort.

May we continue to walk in the footsteps of this giant of our liberation struggle. May his discipline guide the movement. May his humility shape our leadership. And may his unwavering devotion to the people forever remain the moral compass of the African National Congress.

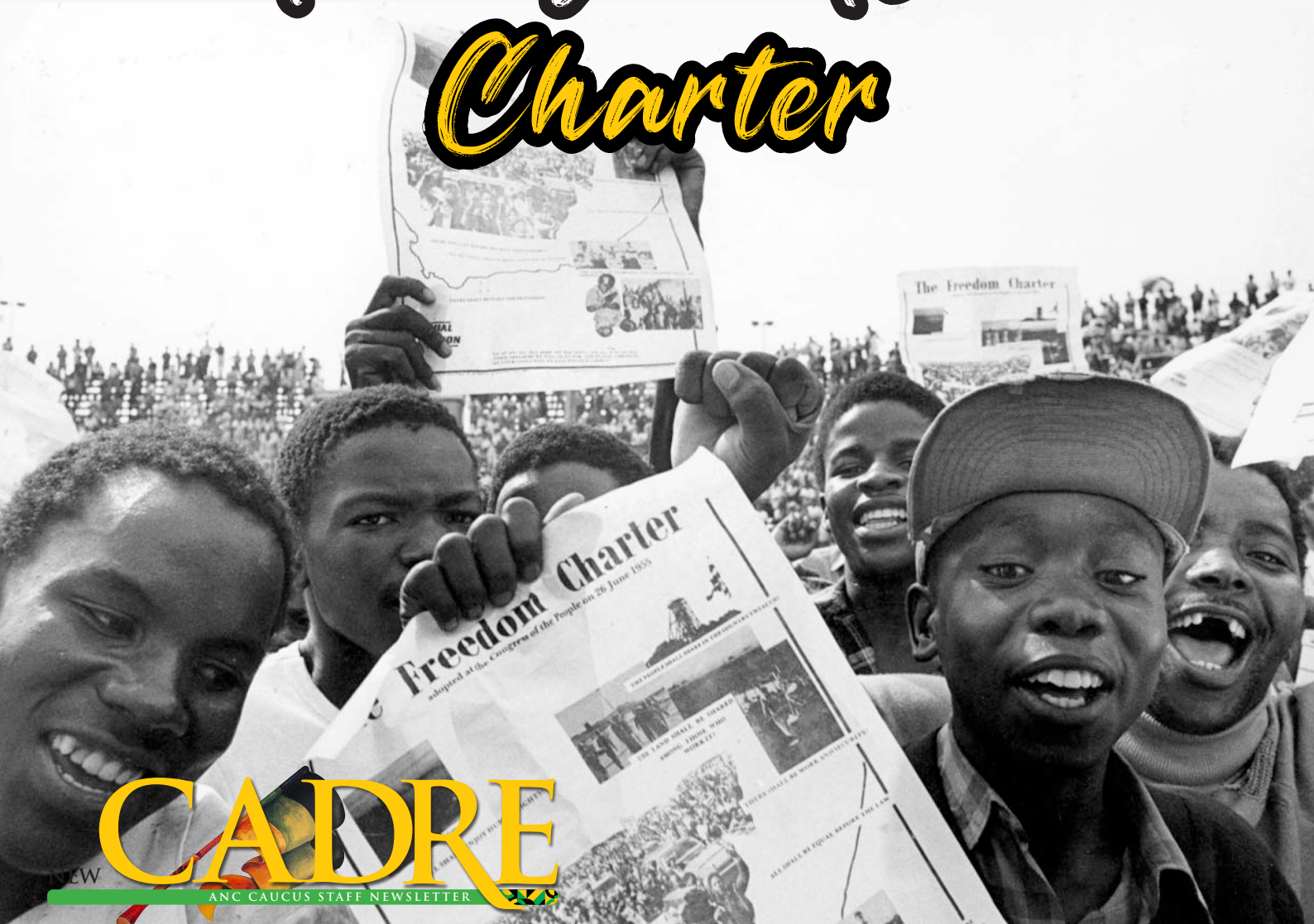
Amandla!

26 JUNE 2026



COMMEMORATING 71ST ANNIVERSARY

OF
*The Freedom
Charter*



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ANC CAUCUS STAFF NEWSLETTER