

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 January 2025

### ANC STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST ORDINARY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The African National Congress (ANC) successfully convened its first ordinary National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting from January 18 to 19, 2025, at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre. This meeting followed the ANC's successful 113th Anniversary celebrations and the delivery of the January 8th Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Cape Town. These celebrations reaffirmed the ANC's centrality in the lives of the South African people and set a decisive tone for 2025, emphasizing critical priorities to strengthen the organisation.

The NEC meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of unity and mutual respect and underscored the ANC's commitment to remaining a cohesive and effective instrument for advancing the interests of the people of South Africa.

#### On Ithala Bank

The ANC expresses deep concern over the challenges facing Ithala Bank, a critical institution enabling access to banking services for rural communities, stokvels, churches, and small businesses in KwaZulu-Natal. The recent application by the South African Reserve Bank's Prudential Authority to liquidate Ithala SOC Limited due to insolvency threatens over 400 jobs and disrupts financial services for marginalized communities.

The ANC reaffirms its commitment to financial inclusion and economic justice as articulated in the 2024 Election Manifesto. The NEC tasked the Economic Transformation Subcommittee with devising strategies to safeguard Ithala Bank, protect workers, and ensure service continuity. The ANC further acknowledged the need for a transformative regulatory regime that accounts for historical economic marginalization, calling for accelerated implementation of policies outlined in the 2017 and 2022 National Policy Conferences to diversify the banking sector and empower public financial institutions. The ANC further calls on government to help expedite the resolution of the VBS matter so that the institution is revitalized and continue to benefit our people.

**The Year of United Action to Defend our Freedom and Advance a Better Life For All: Forward to a Decisive Victory!**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> CM Ramaphosa	<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT</b> PS Mashatile	<b>NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON</b> GS Mantashe	<b>SECRETARY GENERAL</b> FA Mbalula	<b>DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL</b> NP Mokonyane	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL</b> M Ramokgopa	<b>TREASURER GENERAL</b> GM Ramokgopa
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### **Back-to-School Campaign**

The ANC welcomes the continued improvement in the matric pass rate and we congratulate the class of 2024, achieving 87,3% pass rate, the highest in the country's history. We commend the resilience of our learners, educators, SGBs, parents and other stakeholders, including the role of successive ANC led administrations.

We commended the smooth reopening of schools across the country, aligning with the recently enacted BELA Act, which reflects our focus on advancing access to quality education as emphasized in the 2024 Manifesto. The ANC calls on parents and communities to prioritize education and acknowledged the proactive role of our public representatives in overseeing school readiness. Comprehensive reports from these oversight activities will guide further interventions.

### **On the Right to Learn Campaign in the Tertiary Education**

In light of South Africa's historic matric pass rate in 2024, the ANC emphasizes its policy commitment to leaving no student behind. The ANC calls on bodies such as NSFAS to expedite funding processes to ensure deserving students gain access to tertiary education. We reiterate our call to the private sector to contribute meaningfully to skills development and education, emphasizing the Manifesto's pledge to partner with various stakeholders in building a capable, skilled workforce.

### **Developments in Palestine**

The ANC welcomed the ceasefire in Palestine as a crucial step towards peace in the region, reiterating its long-standing solidarity with Palestine. While acknowledging the significance of this temporary pause, the ANC reaffirms its continued support for the Palestinian struggle and the South Africa's case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), seeking accountability for genocide and atrocities during the conflict. This reflects the ANC's consistent stance, grounded in its historical commitment to human rights and international solidarity.

### **NEC Resolutions on Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal**

The NEC welcomed the report of the National Working Committee presented to the NEC by the Secretary-General, dealing with the challenges the ANC is facing in Gauteng and KZN particularly in relation to the electoral losses suffered in the two provinces. The report was thorough, analytical and supported.

Following the report, the NEC had a rich, extensive and reflective discussion focusing on the task of renewal and rebuilding of the ANC in those two provinces as well as strengthening the leadership.



1. It was agreed that unity of the ANC should be the overriding objective and to achieve this we must ensure that the leaders of the ANC at all levels work together in renewing and building organisation.
2. The NEC agreed that the state of organisation in all provinces required urgent action following the poor electoral outcome. However, the decline suffered in the two key provinces required immediate action as the two provinces were not only the most populous but economic hubs of the country and account significantly for the national vote share.
3. After extensive discussions on the issue of the two options presented to the NEC on how best to strengthen the organisation, the NEC agreed that not taking action was not an option.
4. The NEC agreed that the overriding objective is how the ANC can be strengthened and rebuilt in the two provinces.

In strengthening the ANC, the NEC agreed that whatever action that would be taken should be based on key principles:

- Fostering the unity of the organisation
- Focusing on rebuilding the structures of the organisation
- Ensuring that the renewal process continues
- Focusing on political education
- Ensuring that the leaders work together
- Ensuring NEC members are deployed to assist in the rebuilding of our branches in all provinces
- Utilising the capabilities of past leaders both nationally and provincially in the rebuilding process
- Reconfiguring the leadership in both provinces in terms of the framework of our constitution.
- The National Officials will submit a proposal on the reconfiguration of the leadership of KZN and Gauteng to the NWC within a one-week period.
- Whatever action is taken should not interfere with the work of Government

### Upcoming National Lekgotla

The ANC will hold its National Lekgotla from January 26 to 28, 2025, focusing on the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) of the 7th administration. This forum will review the progress of the 2024 Manifesto and strategize on implementing the January 8th tasks outlined by President Ramaphosa. The resolutions from this NEC meeting reaffirm the ANC's dedication to renewal, organisational unity, and the pursuit of its transformative agenda for South Africa.

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