We are serialising this ANC booklet which indicates the broad parameters within which every ANC member should exercise their right to shape the leadership of the movement.



These are the **PRINCIPLES**

that inform the

ORGANISATIONAL DEMOCRACY

of the ANC:

Part 1: Principles of ANC democracy

THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE

Choosing the best cadres to lead transformation

ELECTED LEADERSHIP Leaders of the ANC are elected at conferences or, at branch meetings.

Individual members of the ANC, directly at branch level or through their delegates at other levels, **DECIDE ON THE COMPOSITION** of the leadership structures.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Individual leaders are elected into collectives which should **WORK AS A UNIT,** fulfilling their mandate as **dictated by the ANC Constitution.** No single person is a leader unto themselves, but a member of a collective which should give considered, canvassed guidance to the membership and society as a whole.

BRANCHES AS BASIC UNITS

The branch is the basic and **most important unit of the ANC,** where **MEMBERS GIVE LEADERSHIP** to communities, bring programmes to life and consider and make proposals on policies.

CONSULTATIONS
AND MANDATES

Regular meetings of branches, regions, provinces and national conferences give members the **PLATFORM TO ASSUME COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP** of the movement's fate. They set out the mandate that **guides the leadership**, and are important fora for **report-back** and **consultation**

CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM

It is to be expected that leaders and members may make mistakes from time to time. It is most important that they **review their** work honestly and **CORRECT ANY WEAKNESSES.**

DEMOCRACY AS MAJORITY RULE

Individual members and leaders will have **differing opinions.**The strength of a revolutionary organisation lies among others in the ability to **synthesise** these and **emerge** with the **WISEST POSSIBLE APPROACH.** A decision taken on the basis of the majority's views, **binds everyone,** including those with contrary views.

STATUS OF HIGHER AND LOWER STRUCTURES

Lower structures have the right to **INFLUENCE DECISIONS** of higher structures. The **higher structures** have a responsibility to **TAKE DECISIONS**, which once taken bind all the relevant lower structures, and have to be supported and implemented.

Next week: Constitutional guidelines for elections

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Build • Renew • Unite