



## Inputs to the SONA President!

**Date:** 01/02/2019

**Mr President**

### INTRODUCTION

Mr President, as the African National Congress Professionals' League (ANCPL) we would like to take this opportunity and greet you in the name of our revolutionary movement, the ANC.

We wish you well in the task ahead, of delivering the last **state of the nation address** of this 5<sup>th</sup> administration and transition us as the ANC to a decisive victory this year.

We find our expression, Mr President, within the internal thinking and discussions in our glorious movement, more especially in our discussion documents towards the 2017 National Elective Conference on organisational renewal and organisational design.

1



Acting President (ANCPL)-  
Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -

Dr Bandile Hadebe  
Mr Thulani Ngubane

A quotation by Karl Marx clearly locates our vision to transform the effective machinery of the ANC.

*“Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past”.*

It is within this structural background and having considered the fundamental political questions on the ground that we have given birth to the most critical structure of our times, the Professionals’ League.

Our organization, the African National Congress, acknowledges that: “we must review the structural reach of the ANC such that we reach the broader forces.”

Yes, it is our belief as well, that the organisation must re-orientate itself, readjust and completely re-organise itself and its organisational machinery to be inclusive and representative in all its decision-making.

In achieving that, our glorious movement at all its levels will be better placed to respond to the new demands of the current trajectory characterised by highly cultured and techno-savvy youth. This is the constituency, whose needs and aspirations have necessitated the formation of this League of the ANC. Often these are urban professionals who are media-literate and influenced by the captive markets and voter polls.

## **What informs the need for Organisational Renewal and Organisational Design and the need for this new structure, the ANCPL?**

In the process of re-orientation and modernisation of the ANC, we have started mobilizing professionals, as a key stratum, in the advancement of our national democratic revolution.

We have identified the **Triangular Objectives of the ANCPL**, as follows:

**Objective 1:** The Implement Objective

**Objective 2:** The Serve and Defend Objective

**Objective 3:** Positioning the cosmopolitan outlook.

This again is in response to our internal discussions inside the ANC. As you know, Mr President, our movement acknowledges that “the core processes of Organisational Renewal entail consolidating the organisational architecture of the ANC, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, relentless communication and the battle of ideas, political education and ideological training, constant engagement with the centres of power, flawless engagement with the motive forces, bolstering organising and campaigns, and mass mobilization as it relates to membership growth and election development”.

It remains our strong conviction that the mobilization of the advanced detachment, the working class professionals, will consolidate the architecture of the ANC in the direction of the new era of change and renewal.

**Acting President (ANCPL)-  
Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -**

**Dr Bandile Hadebe  
Mr Thulani Ngubane**

On that score, it still remains our pressing matter for the Interim leadership of the **ANCPL** to meet up with you Mr President. Through numerous communications with your office, we hope that one of them will find your favourable eye and grant us a platform to engage on the groundwork that we have laid on behalf of our movement.

## **THE ANCPL SONA SUBMISSION**

As part of the ANCPL commitment to putting all hands on the deck, and grow South Africa, together, we have a few proposals to contribute towards the **State of The Nation Address**, to be delivered by yourself this week. Our views respond to a number of challenges faced by our constituency and general South Africans.

As you know, Mr President, as part of our endeavour to be an official league of the ruling party, we currently have no seat at the party *Lekgotla* where most structures make their inputs. We have taken this approach as a way of registering our contributions in the project of growing South Africa. We know that these matters may not entirely be new, but we feel the need to reiterate and advise.

Mr President, as a country, South Africa has a lot to celebrate. A lot has been achieved since the fall of apartheid. Our democratic government has driven the agenda of a non-racist, non-sexist and democratic society. Our movement successfully ended apartheid, and in the process, built strong democratic institutions for our people.

However, we still have more to do in transforming our country, into an industrial economy that creates jobs, and to stimulate economic growth – one that positively impacts all levels of our society, based on shared values.

**Acting President (ANCPL)-**  
**Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -**

**Dr Bandile Hadebe**  
**Mr Thulani Ngubane**

We must work hard to reduce our **Gini Coefficient**, which rates our country amongst the highest in the world; this you would agree will help spread the wealth to the entire population, especially the needy.

## **Building a Capable State**

We acknowledge that this is an ongoing project that is reflected in the NDP, but we feel this project is losing steam.

We are here reiterating the resuscitation of a professional state or a developmental state that is efficient and responsive to the modern demands, while being able to deliver to its citizens.

It is our view that once a modern state is fully developed, it will then be a capable state that delivers — whatever it takes. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), must re-focus and drive this project. To develop our state we must embark on non-compromising recruitment of professionals with relevant skills to deliver on the mandate of the state. The current purging of professionals like Directors-General, must come to an end. We must separate the state from the political office. These are key tenets of building a capable state and observing our Constitution.

We have done extensive examination of the functioning of the South African government bureaucracy and have some recommendations in this regard. In particular, we find that the bureaucratic structure is archaic, inhibits innovation, encourages red-tape, and creates complacency. We need to modernize and restructure the government's bureaucratic structure, the government workplace and develop more efficient business processes with **DPSA**, particularly in terms of digital workflows.

The office of the **Public Service Commission** must be strengthened to deal with the cancer of corruption. A corruption-free state will enable our government to provide the necessary strong leadership to the South African society as a whole. In this way, we will have a state that is able to make strong interventions within the economy: through regulations, planning and execution. It is our contention that a corruption-free state is needed to deliver to the people, and to eradicate poverty.

The state must remain the main catalyst to drive growth in our country, hence we must make sure that our state is capable, and able to deliver to effectively meet the needs of our people.

PSC should be at the forefront of protecting and strengthening our democratic institutions, and to be effective it must operate without political or media interference. We would like you to pay special attention to the NPA, HAWKS, IPID, SIU, SAPS and our Chapter-9 Institutions, and appoint relevant, politically-conscious and qualified professionals, who can bring back the glory to these institutions. These institutions are crucial in the fight against corruption.

The act of corruption always involves two parties, and to deal with public sector corruption, we must find appropriate mechanisms.

Firm action must be taken by our government to blacklist, and do no further business with, companies that are involved in corruption. The State must be firm in its act of eradicating corruption.

Our hopes are that you'll prepare our government for the fast-changing world and come out clear with a **country strategy on the 4th Industrial Revolution**. A capable state is a strategic enabler that leverages on technology to deliver to its citizens. A skilled and future-ready public service work force will be key in the delivery of the services of the future. We must prepare our nation for the high-tech future ahead, so they do not face the inevitability of unemployment. We should be looking at a basic income project such as was experimented with in Finland and the ideas such as the Venus Project, which looks at removing the issue of having to 'earn' a living or a right to live, when robots are doing the work.

**Connectivity.** We must provide connectivity to all schools using whatever technology is feasible in the area. The retraction of the funding from the **Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS)** for the **SA Connect** project was unfortunate. It is our proposal that the President must relook at funding this sector appropriately.

**Spectrum:** Our government must provide business with access to spectrum. Our 4IR strategic success, is heavily dependent on this national asset. It is the Spectrum that can reduce cost to communicate, open up space for DTT or internet video streaming, and most importantly provide access to new black telecoms to participate in this lucrative industry, controlled at present by only a few oligopolies.

**Satellite:** Our country needs to urgently launch South Africa's satellite into orbit. It is our understanding that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has granted our government the necessary license to realise this. A progressive private/public partnership will realise this greater goal of connecting all our people. Government must always take ownership and

Acting President (ANCPL)-  
Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -

Dr Bandile Hadebe  
Mr Thulani Ngubane

control of the infrastructure, so that Business can compete equally on access to services.

On this score, we further call for our government to encourage entrepreneurs in high-density communities and rural areas to create local area networks, such as in the case of Mankosi in the Eastern Cape. This will stimulate economic growth and leapfrog delivering connectivity to our disadvantaged communities.

**Postal Services.** In the era of 4IR, there is no reason why local and rural manufacturing cannot flourish through online sales. However, this requires two key enablers: rural and township connectivity (free), and, a more reliable and faster postal service.

In the wake of our national financial challenges, it is a fact that our national fiscus limits us from delivering at the pace we would want.

We therefore recommend that our government must thrive on working out strategic partnerships between the private and public sector that will deliver to the masses.

## **Education**

We thank our democratic government for granting our people free education. By doing this we continue to realise the dreams and aspirations of our people expressed in the Freedom Charter. This is a major achievement, not only for the ANC government, but the nation as a whole.

That said, our current education system remains expensive and unaffordable to many lower middle-classes and poor families.



Though **Free Education** has been provided, government must intervene in the regulation of tuition fees in our schooling systems, as the cost of both basic education and tertiary education continues to skyrocket beyond the reach of the masses.

Our government must involve corporate South Africa in the process of focusing a national tertiary curriculum to address the needs of the economy. Private sector remains a key employer of our graduates, and by default must have a say in what product is delivered by the tertiary education sector.

This, we believe, will decisively deal with the phenomenon of skills mismatch, Mr President. It is a big worry for us that our economy still fails to arrest the tide of the rising number of unemployable graduates with irrelevant qualifications.

Our **rallying call** is that we must prepare our learners with the *Skills of the Future*. We can only achieve this through healthy and functional partnerships between the Private Sector, SA Tertiary Education Sector and Government at the level of packaging diplomas, degrees and certificates that respond to our economic needs. This critical task must not only rest with Professors at University faculties and University Senates.

A thorough review of our curriculum is very urgent, to consider critical issues on SMME development, and scrap many qualifications that are outdated.

## Basic Education

Our Basic Education is taking strain. This layer of education is becoming more expensive every year. There is a sharp rise of unaffordable private education in our country and large numbers of private schools funded by private funds, which could otherwise uplift public schools.

The rise of private education, creates two divisive systems in our country, the children of the rich who receive the most expensive, quality education and the children of the poor who receive poor quality education.

This cannot be appropriate in the development of our non-racial and prosperous nation; hence we call for immediate government intervention and regulation within this sector.

Our government's immediate approach must be to streamline our basic education curriculum and have one national matric examination, rather than recognizing foreign systems and their use. **We must have a South African Education System and not a system for the haves- and have-nots.** Our mission and task as the ANC is to unite our people.

We must fix our government schooling system, in regards to access, relevance, infrastructure and quality of education provided. Our people must gain confidence in our public schooling system. As matters stand, many middle class citizens or professionals in the cities are under financial strain, owing to the exorbitant fees charged by private schools in search for better education for their children. This must be addressed urgently, as it causes unnecessary pressure on many lower middle-class families.

Most of our government schools continue to have problems of overcrowding and very low education standards.

Unfortunately, our government has not been able to supply enough classroom space for our children. We must set realistic targets, to have a universal education system, so that we can produce learners of similar training and quality regardless of which school they attend.

In the era of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, it is now urgent that government must set a target of abolishing all mud schools in our villages. This matter cannot be postponed any further. Our people must have standardised access to quality teaching equipment and educational provision.

We can only achieve this if we have the right professionals on the job. This brings us to setting a target that by end of 2022, our education system will only hire professionally trained educators, and relevant specialists. We must therefore urgently re-open our teacher training colleges. Education is at the centre of developing our nation, economically and politically.

## **The RSA Gini Coefficient**

Mr President, the measure of income inequality (Gini Coefficient), ranks South Africa as one of the world's most unequal societies.

It is still unclear what our government is doing to address this ticking time bomb, in our country. As much as all leaders across the political divide acknowledge this fact, it still remains unclear how our government intends to address this indicting scourge.

Privatizing key services, like power generation and handing them into the hands of private profit-making individuals, corporations and multinationals will deepen inequality in our country. Yet it does seem as if we as an organization are alive to the reality of an unequal society that we have found ourselves in. The burden to connect communities that are still waiting for electricity still sits with our government. Privatizing energy production will crush the hopes and the dreams of lighting up our villages. Electricity will be costly, and the costs will be at the mercy of the electricity provider; and as such, will be out of reach to most of our poor communities.

SAA and ACSA to form one company. We would request that you consider this proposal very closely, Mr President. Having the state owned companies operating separately does not make financial sense, and we call for the rationalization of the two entities. We reiterate the point that it is in the interest of all South Africans to protect strategic assets of the state from private business. It is a revolutionary act to do so.

We need to hear more from our government on measures to ensure proper implementation and monitoring of government policies, especially on issues like the transformation of the Private Sector. This country will not transform to serve its citizens fairly and effectively by only focusing on state intervention.

We are unfortunately regressing where private sector sits today, as all reports from Stats SA, point to lesser numbers of Black Executives and women at the top of Corporate SA. Corporate SA continues to undermine our transformation agenda and disrespecting our people and the democratic government. It is our government's failure to monitor policy implementation that continues to deepen extreme wealth and poverty

**Acting President (ANCPL)-**

**Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -**

**Dr Bandile Hadebe**

**Mr Thulani Ngubane**

inequality levels. Unfortunately, poverty continues to be associated with the colour black in this country. Our government needs to answer this question, on how we can quickly close the gap between the poor and the rich.

## **Health**

We must first and foremost appreciate the consultative approach that you took in 2018, Mr President, when you convened the Presidential Health Summit. This type of sector-specific consultative approach, is what we pride ourselves in as the ANCPL. We argue that professionals of different sectors engage in healthy dialogues to bring about ideas and solutions to the sector challenges. Though we welcome this approach, it is unfortunate that time is not on our side to fix our health sector. Our health system, does not seem to demonstrate any signs of being in good health. We call for an urgent intervention, to rebuild and fix our health sector. We call for an appointment of a young innovative Minister in this sector. Our problems are many, and our people continue to lose confidence in the public health system. Many professionals take up expensive medical aids, because like our education system, our private health sector is becoming more and more costly to maintain its quality. Private health sector is costly, unrealistic and unaffordable to most.

## **National Health Insurance (NHI)**

The NHI is a medical aid scheme that pays for services rendered. It allows for free access at the point of service and covers the costs behind the scenes. It does little, however, to address several structural challenges that exist within our healthcare system, which, if they remain unfixed, our targets for

quality healthcare as articulated within the National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals, will never be achieved.

In essence, **Universal Health Coverage** has three interlinked dimensions to which we must pay equal attention:

- **Availability** – which demands that there must be adequate infrastructure, sufficient medicines and equipment, and appropriate distribution of clinical staff relative to patients.
- **Quality** – which deals with several components, including, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Safety, Patient-centeredness, Equity, Timeliness.
- **Affordability** – this not only means inexpensive, but also focuses on billing appropriately for outcomes.

The unintended, yet exaggerated focus on the National Health Insurance alone, as if it is the panacea for all our health problems, has put us at risk of not paying attention to other very critical building blocks of a functional healthcare system. Simply put, the NHI, only deals with one dimension of Universal Health Coverage, which is **affordability**, and leaves the other two – **availability** and **quality** – largely unattended.

We would like to reinforce the outcomes of the 2018 Presidential Health Summit, which provided an honest and robust engagement with diverse stakeholders and the outcomes of the summit highlighted the state of crisis in our health system. These outcomes, inter alia, inform the ANC manifesto and provide a basis for conducting comprehensive work to fix our healthcare system, defined by:

Acting President (ANCPL)-  
Acting Secretary General (ANCPL) -

Dr Bandile Hadebe  
Mr Thulani Ngubane

1. Building a unitary and functional healthcare system, with public and private sectors, including independent general practitioners, arranged as a single, and seamless service delivery platform to attend to every patient in the system;
2. Structure: the unitary healthcare system on the basis of value-based healthcare is organized into Integrated Practice Units; measures outcomes and costs per patient; offers bundled payments for care cycles; provides integrated care delivery across separate facilities; expands excellent services across geography; and adopts a robust workflow digitalization programme and process standardization.
3. Position the District Health tier as the defining backbone for our healthcare system, around which, all other tiers will be arranged, in order to create an appropriate and well-defined entry point to the healthcare system and optimize our referral system;
4. Inculcate an organisational culture of outreach and community-based healthcare to improve prevention of diseases and avoid delayed presentation of conditions in aggravated state;
5. Adopt an aggressive digitalization programme and healthcare information system to enable the integration envisaged in 1 above, improve the management and integrity of patient health records, provide credible monitoring and evaluation, and support evidence-based decision-making by clinicians and administrators;
6. Pursue a human capital development strategy that is geared towards producing more healthcare professionals, especially doctors, improves the scope and capabilities assigned to nurses, maximizes the production capacity of the current medical schools, strengthens the regulation of private nursing colleges, and builds

at least two new medical schools to train all healthcare professionals. This strategy must also introduce mandatory public service hours for all doctors as a license condition to practice in South Africa in order to counter the doctor-to-patient ratio distortions created by the private sector.

## **Medical Tourism**

We view medical tourism as an untapped economic booster that needs attention by our government. Our attempt at curbing medical tourism (people from outside the country seeking medical attention in SA) has been largely futile, instead of curbing medical tourism, government must regulate it in the form of government-to-government MOU.

We further recommend improvement of our E-government processes in the health sector and integration of systems with the Departments of Home Affairs, SAPS, etc., introduce biometrics to state hospitals that are linked to Departments of Home Affairs to assist if

- a. The person is not in a condition to ID themselves
- b. The person is wanted by the police
- c. Medical tourism by unregistered immigrants.

Government must legislate preventative medicine into all systems because most of the healthcare burden comes from lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension etc., e.g. compulsory physical education period up to University, physical education half hour in the workplace. This is in line



with the President's healthy lifestyle, encouraging South Africans to walk and live an active lifestyle.

To further decrease the financial burden in the healthcare cost, emergency services and reduction of mortality rates in our communities, government must introduce first aid training programmes for communities.

Our government must investigate the gatekeeping that happens in specialist training within the medical/health profession.

We make a clarion call for the decolonization of the medical curriculum and make the curriculum Afrocentric.

Government must urgently consider public-private partnerships for interns and community service officers who do not have posts after graduation. This will help our government to be able to place interns in both public and private facilities. It is unacceptable for a country like ours to have medical practitioners, who are not in posts, and are sitting at home.

**Gender Based Violence:** It is our call that our government reviews legislation, to make gender-based violence a Schedule 6 offence. Our institutions like the Gender Commission, need to be more visible and service our communities. Public education and awareness remains the only weapon our government can use to empower our people. The Gender Commission must rise to the challenge.

It remains our commitment as the **ANCPL** to see our democratic government prosper and succeed in achieving total liberation of our people.

It is our commitment to the struggle of our people as the professional stratum in our society, that we reduce the inequality between the rich and the poor, and most importantly, deliver a capable state that delivers to our people. We surrender our skills, time and resources to the disposal of our movement, the ANC, and our government.

We wish you well Mr President, in your task of building South Africa that is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous.

**END/**

**For More Information**

**Mr Thulani Ngubane 076 983 9840**

**or**

**Dr Bandile Hadebe 071 300 5102**

**EMAIL- [ancpl@ancpl.org.za](mailto:ancpl@ancpl.org.za)**

**WEBSITE: [www.ancpl.org.za](http://www.ancpl.org.za)**