



# **Communique to Current and Prospective Members of the ANCPL**

**16 September 2019**

## **Re: MEDIA STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE ANC SPOKESPERSON, PULE MABE, DISTANCING THE ANC FROM THE PROFESSIONALS' LEAGUE**

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the ANC Professionals' League (ANCPL) has, in the last two weeks, been inundated by inquiries arising out of the statement that was issued by the ANC National Spokesperson, comrade Pule Mabe, on the 23rd of August 2019 about the non-recognition of the ANCPL.

From the outset, as the NWC of the ANCPL, we were reluctant to respond to the statement coming from Luthuli House despite our misgivings about this emerging outlandish and strange method of communicating with and about fellow comrades, through public statements which must be decoded through the sometimes distorted lenses of the media. We view such antics as foreign to the African National Congress and not consistent with disciplined cadreship and organisational behaviour. It is in this regard we have opted not to engage Cde Pule Mabe via the media but will respond directly to him and seek audience with him to find common ground.

Ordinarily, if such a decision not to recognise the ANCPL was to be made within the confines of organisational integrity, one would have expected an in-depth discussion by structures of the ANC, and certainly by the NEC of the ANC, as the highest decision making-body between Conferences, considering the fact when we began coordinating the establishment of the ANCPL, we started with approaching the ANC leadership formally and submitted several documents to the - the Secretary General Office (SGO) and the President's Office.



**The submitted documents included:**

- A letter to the SGO providing a brief appraisal on our intention and methodology to organise and co-ordinate professionals under the banner of the ANC in line with the resolutions reflected in the Strategy and Tactics document as adopted in Nasrec in December 2017.
- A foundational document entitled, TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANC PROFESSIONALS' LEAGUE. This document outlines the Triangular Objectives of the ANCPL (Implement, Serve & Defend, and Recruit), articulates the context within which such a structure is proposed, and navigates the nuances that have necessitated the discussion on sectoral structures within the ANC. A document that begins with "TOWARDS" is a proposal and as such requires interrogation to test its relevance as a future state. You do not just send media statements to engage a proposal.
- A draft constitution.
- STATEMENT OF INTENT – which further unpacked the strategic thrust of the ANCPL

**The ANCPL has identified and defined its Triangular Objectives as follows:**

1. Consolidate a highly educated skills base and intelligentsia to advance the agenda of the African National Congress, through providing scientific and evidence-based mechanisms to implement the organisation's aims and objectives across the whole of society.
2. Address labour-related needs and challenges facing professionals, and deal with the slow pace of "qualitative transformation" within corporate South Africa.
3. Position the cosmopolitan outlook of professionals as leverage for recruiting all racial groups to the ANC and advancing the vision of a truly non- racial South Africa.

All our coordination work has always been in the open whilst lobbying far and wide within the ANC structures for formalisation of this discussion through an established internal process. Central to our engagement is an acknowledgement that leagues in ANC are, and must be, approved by a National Conference, but coupled with that organisational tradition, we also understand that no league has ever been a resolution of Conference



before it started organising and operating. Leagues exist first, and convince Conference through their work, that they must be approved constitutionally. To miss this point is evidence of not understanding ANC traditions. The ANCWL existed for 25 years as Bantu Women's League before it was constitutional recognised. The ANCYL existed as the Congress Youth League while it lobbied the leadership for formal recognition. No league was first a resolution of Conference before it was formed. We must close that debate and focus on other fundamental issues.

It is in this regard, that the NWC of the ANCPL has set 2022 as the first Conference at which the ANCPL will seek constitutional approval. We emphasise "first" because we are not oblivious to the fact that that Conference might not readily adopt the PL as a formal structure of the ANC. If an obvious structure such as the Women's League can take 25 years to approve, how much hard and longer will it take to convince comrades of the necessity to approve a league of professionals? So we are here for the long haul because we remain convinced, as confirmed by the Strategy and Tactics, that professionals are a critical and strategic stratum of society, and that the ANC must interrogate all avenues to accommodate them and leverage their skills and network for the betterment of the movement and society.

The disdain with which the statement treated professionals who have opted to organise themselves under the ANCPL, was extremely condescending and somewhat clueless about several on-going challenges and programmes that professionals, under the banner of the ANCPL, have addressed and implemented, respectively, over the past 12 months. It is also myopic and insensitive to the potential threat and damage that we may suffer at the next Local Government elections.



Amongst some of the programmes that have been initiated across the country, we include:

### **National Programmes**

- A proposal framework to leverage ANC Professionals to provide offer Support Services for the OR Tambo School of Leadership focusing on Curriculum Development, Policy Round Table, Strategy Facilitation and Fundraising.
- Addressing the Challenges of Healthcare Professionals Relating to Medical Schemes, Job Security, Safety at Work, and the National Health Insurance.
- Consultation with All Healthcare Associations and Forums held in Luthuli House to Develop a Shared Vision on Programmes of Common interest.
- Transforming the Financial Services Sector.
- 30 Day Payment of SMEs to compel corporate South Africa and Government to pay SMEs on time.
- Unemployed Graduates and Youth Programme.
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation programme.
- Engagements with labour on collaboration and leveraging the skills of professionals for servicing workers better and reaching out to a certain layer of highly educated members.

### **Provincial Programmes**

#### **a. Gauteng**

- Inaugural Launch with Dr Bandile Masuku, Prof Chris Malikane and Prof Metcalfe
- 30 Day Invoice Payment Programme.

#### **b. Kwazulu-Natal**

- Future of Work, which assists professionals in the workplace to reskill themselves in preparation for the changes inherent within 4IR
- Coding for Township Youth
- Turn-around Strategy for 4 under-performing schools in Umlazi
- Healthcare Outreach for the elderly
- Workplace Readiness to prepare youth and graduates for the work environment and identifying opportunities for employment and business



- Collaboration with Business on Strategies to Grow the Economy and Curb Unemployment
- Increasing the participation of Blacks in Agriculture
- c. **Mpumalanga**
  - Official Meeting with the ANC PEC
  - Inaugural Launch hosted with ANC PEC
  - Participating at the ANC Provincial Lekgotla
  - Support Services for Councilors Preparing for Meetings
  - Developing a PPP for SMEs
  - Recently held Strategic Planning Sessions to formulate a solid road map
- d. **Western Cape, North West & Eastern Cape**
  - Newly formed working committees.

Having engaged senior leadership, it is emerging as a matter of fact that the statement issued by the National Spokesperson was self-initiated and not supported by a formal discussion of any formal structure of the ANC. It is precisely such gate-keeping and factional tendencies that we intend to fight, by bringing back the culture of robust debating and intellectualism. The New Dawn cannot be built on factions. Nothing less that the best from all of us will take the ANC to the next centenary. Not factions.

Further, the statement seeks to draw us into conflict with other progressive structures associated with the ANC, and we will not participate in such. We support every effort that seeks to build the ANC. By initiating the formation of the ANC Professionals' League, we are by no means duplicating any of the existing structures of the ANC as the statement was insinuating. We presented to the leadership the analysis we made, arising out of what has been the evolution of the middle class, its impact on the ANC and dwindling electoral support. It is necessary to interrogate a revised organogram of the ANC that enables us to service all sections of society. Our inability to reimagine a better ANC will put us at risk of slipping into irrelevance. We cannot wish away the thousands of professionals who have gained a revived hope in the ANC because of the prospects and work of the ANCPL.



The ANCPL and the detailed proposals thereto provides a structure that is agile and accommodative to the realities of professionals whilst participating in the life of the ANC.

We will continue to engage leadership to facilitate a formal discussion across structures of the ANC, leading up to ANC Conference 2022, where we will seek constitutional approval. Our work of servicing our communities and coordinating professionals under the banner of the ANC continues as it was before the comrade Pule Mabe's statement. Comrades who have raised their concerns must rest assured that our commitment is undiminished towards this end.

*Asiyindawo! ANC is our only home as professionals!*

Regards,

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ANC Professionals' League**

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