

Political Overview by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the Meeting of the National Executive Committee

6 December 2020

Comrades, this is the last scheduled meeting of the NEC for 2020.

It is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made over the last year in the implementation of our programme of fundamental social and economic transformation.

This year will forever be defined by the **devastating coronavirus pandemic**. It has caused untold damage to the lives of billions of people around the world.

It has taken a huge toll on human health and cost the lives of more than 1.5 million people. But it has also severely affected the livelihoods of far more people as economies have contracted, companies have closed, jobs have been lost and social support measures have been disrupted.

As a country, the pandemic has further deepened the economic and fiscal crisis we were facing at the beginning of the year.

The economy has experienced its greatest contraction in many decades and our unemployment rate is at its highest level ever.

The reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over.

Globally, new infections continue to rise, alongside hospital admissions and deaths.

As Cde Zweli Mkhize reported last night, we are in the midst of a resurgence in parts of the Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

As a result of these developments, Nelson Mandela Bay has been declared a coronavirus hotspot and we have had to impose additional restrictions on movement, gatherings and alcohol consumption there.

We are now looking at the situation in the Sarah Baartman and Garden Route districts, and will need to make a decision in the coming week on whether to declare them as hotspots.

The view of the experts, which is borne out by our experience since mid-August, is that the limited restrictions in place under Alert Level 1 alongside personal adherence to basic health protocols should be enough to avert a second wave of infections.

However, we are finding that people are not observing the regulations and not adhering to the basic practices such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

Briefing on the virtual ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held on **6–8 December 2020**.

The National Executive Committee sat in an ordinary virtual session on 6-8 December 2020. The Political Overview by President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the NWC Report by Secretary General Ace Magashule, formed the main basis of the discussions. The NEC also received inputs on the COVID-19 pandemic, on implementation of the Economic Transformation and Recovery Plan, on International matters, on the Guidelines for Selection of Local Government Candidates and the ANC Electoral Committee and on preparations for January 8, 2021.

This is what explains the resurgence in parts of the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, and it is what is likely to drive a resurgence in other parts of the country.

We are now facing one of the greatest threats of this pandemic – that the activities that people engage in over the festive season will cause a second wave.

There is also a danger that, like many other countries, South Africa will experience a second peak that is greater than the first peak and will lead to more deaths.

If we do have a second wave, it will not only cost lives and potentially overwhelm our health system, it will also undermine our economic and social recovery efforts.

We need to look at what we need to do – as an organisation and as government – to avoid this.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, there is now a prospect that it will come to an end thanks to the promising results from a number of vaccine trials.

Some countries have approved vaccines as safe and effective, and will start rolling them out.

South Africa is in the process of finalising its involvement in the COVAX facility, which is a resource sharing initiative which will give countries equitable access to several possible vaccines.

It is anticipated that we could have access to a suitable vaccine by the second quarter of 2021 and will initially receive quantities for at least 10% of the population.

While this gives us hope, the reality is that it will take some time before we can vaccinate enough South Africans to be assured of little to no transmission of the virus, and it will be a costly undertaking.

We need to prepare for this, and be ready to make the difficult decisions about where to find the money and when to deploy it.

Comrades,

Even though the COVID pandemic was an unforeseen and extreme crisis that severely disrupted our programme as the ANC and presented wholly new challenges, we should nevertheless measure our progress against the tasks we set for the movement in the January 8th Statement 2020.

In the January 8th Statement, we identified seven tasks for the movement. We said:

- One, we will mobilise all social partners to grow and transform the economy.
- Two, we will renew the ANC as the most effective force for social change.
- Three, we will build a movement united in action.
- Four, we will strengthen governance and tackle corruption.
- Five, we will work to end gender-based violence and femicide.
- Six, we will work for peace, integration and development in Africa.
- Seven, we will prepare for a decisive local government mandate.

It is important that we have these tasks in mind when we discuss the framework for the 2021 January 8th Statement.

On the first task, to **mobilise all social partners to grow and transform the economy**, we can say that – in the face of the disruption and devastation of COVID – we were able to work with our partners, particularly in business and labour, to counter the effects of the pandemic on jobs and livelihoods.

With the support of our social partners, we undertook a historic R500 billion social and economic relief package to give vital assistance to companies, workers and poor households to survive the economic impact of the pandemic.

This action saved countless firms from closure, saved many jobs and kept millions of South Africans above the poverty line.

Now, even as we continue to fight the pandemic, we have begun the process of economic reconstruction and recovery, which is based on the deliberations that we have had in the NEC and followed consultations with both our Alliance partners and broader social partners.

While we will go into more detail on the progress in the implementation of our recovery plan later in this meeting, it is necessary to underline the need for an undivided focus on implementation and urgency.

With very little available in the fiscus to stimulate economic activity, we are placing even greater reliance on the finalisation of key economic reforms, on our ability to mobilise funding from the private sector and other sources for infrastructure development and on restoring investor confidence.

We held our third South Africa Investment Conference last month, which was much reduced due to the pandemic.

It nevertheless demonstrated that there is a great deal of resilience in our economy, and still much enthusiasm for the opportunities that the economy presents to investors across a broad range of sectors.

While we hadn't thought it possible to raise many new investment commitments this year, we managed to secure commitments of some R110 billion, taking our cumulative total over the last three years to R774

billion. This represents 64 percent of our five-year target of R1.2 trillion.

Even under these extremely difficult conditions, our economy has great potential – and we have the responsibility to ensure that this potential is realised.

We also have a responsibility to ensure that our response is inclusive and transformational.

We need to use our response to this crisis to transform the structure of our economy, to focus on local production and beneficiation, to make our economy more competitive, to create greater opportunities for SMMEs and the informal sector, and to involve women, young people and persons with disabilities in our recovery plan.

We cannot be satisfied with recovering the jobs that we lost in the pandemic – we need to create far more through exploring new areas of growth.

As we ready ourselves for 2021, this task – the growth and transformation of our economy – must take centre stage. More than ever before, the lives, livelihoods and well-being of 58 million people depend on the progress we make in rebuilding and transforming our economy.

The **second task** we set for ourselves for 2020, was to **renew the ANC as the most effective force for social change**.

The COVID pandemic severely disrupted organisational activity this year, and we had to postpone many important meetings and conferences, and, of course, the National General Council.

It is only in the last few months that it has been possible for branches to meet, and even now there is a risk to holding gatherings of any size. While we may have been able to operate virtually at national and pro-

vincial levels, many lower structures do not have the resources to use communications technology.

In these conditions, it is therefore impressive that many of our structures, especially at a branch level, played an important role in mobilising community responses to COVID.

There were many local programmes, led by ANC structures, to raise awareness around prevention measures, to promote adherence to the restrictions and to provide social support to poor and vulnerable households.

It is these examples that we need to draw on as we build our branches as centres for community development. We must ensure that the energies of our branches are dedicated towards the challenges that communities face in the wake of the pandemic rather than being taken up by internal battles.

We must also commend the work of the OR Tambo School of Leadership, which has used the opportunities provided by communications technology to maintain a programme of cadre development and political debate even during the pandemic.

Our great challenge now is to strengthen processes of induction and political education at branch level to ensure that we have members who are able to take up the task of driving social change.

The **third task** we set for 2020, was to **build a movement united in action**.

Despite numerous resolutions and repeated pronouncements, unity within our movement remains elusive. As has been the case for a long time, the divisions within our movement are most pronounced at a leadership level.

The period following the 54th National Conference was character-

ised by greater cohesion and unity of purpose within the organisation, but now divisions are becoming more apparent and factions are emerging once again.

These divisions are manifesting themselves not just in our structures, but in public demonstrations of dissent and discord.

In recent times, we have witnessed statements and actions that are alien to the practices, culture and values of our movement.

We increasingly appear like an organisation at war with itself.

We need to ask ourselves whether we are still committed to the mandate we were given by the conference to unite and renew the movement.

While COVID has disrupted our work to rebuild structures, leagues and other formations, as identified in our January 8th Statement, there are deeper organisational and political challenges that need to be addressed.

Unity of the ANC is paramount.

Unity is essential if we are to be effective in leading the radical transformation of our society and our economy.

It requires a revolutionary unity that is underpinned by the principles and values of the movement. We must unite around our historic mission and around the society that we are committed to build.

Unity is not about closing ranks; it is not about accommodating or condoning corruption, wrongdoing or ill-discipline.

Unity cannot be used as an excuse to turn a blind eye when some among us undermine and denigrate the revolutionary ideals of our struggle.

Many of the challenges we now face are due to the lack of a common

and coherent approach to the measures we must take to address allegations of corruption and other serious crimes against leaders and cadres of our movement.

We have a direct instruction from the 54th National Conference to renew our organisation and clear resolutions on rebuilding the integrity and credibility of our movement.

At the NEC meeting of 28-30 August, we took firm and unequivocal decisions on the fight against corruption within our structures and across society.

These decisions were drawn directly from the decisions of the 54th National Conference.

We described our stance as ‘a line in the sand’, representing our collective determination not to give any ground in our fight against corruption.

Now, just 3 months later, there is growing concern within society and among our membership that this leadership is not committed to the decisions taken by the NEC and by our National Conference.

The challenge we face is not only about the implementation of Conference resolutions and NEC decisions.

There is a far deeper problem of revolutionary discipline and consciousness.

In the documentation for this NEC, we are provided with no fewer than five legal opinions on the implementation of our so-called ‘stepping aside’ resolution.

I am certain that there are none among of us who ever would have thought that the deliberations of the National Executive Committee would have come to this.

As members of a voluntary organisation, we are all bound by our Constitution, by the resolutions of our

Conferences and by the decisions of our structures.

In addition, as revolutionaries, we are also bound by a political consciousness that is founded on our commitment to the cause of freedom for all the people of South Africa.

It is this consciousness that calls on us to be selfless, to make sacrifices in the service of our people, to always act with integrity and honesty, and to place the interests of the collective above narrow personal interests.

It is this consciousness that causes us to abide by the rules of our movement and to respect the decisions of its structures. As leaders, it should be what drives our actions and informs our decisions.

We have sought these legal opinions and they may assist us in clarifying what is not certain to some among us.

But if we are to reflect on the proud and glorious history of our movement over more than a century – on the great leaders who have guided it through the most difficult and perilous times – it is difficult not to see these five legal opinions as an indictment of the movement we have become.

Yet it need not be that way.

We are the leadership of the African National Congress.

We carry not only a clear and emphatic mandate of the membership of this movement to undertake a process of fundamental renewal and rebuilding, but we are also bound by a historic mission to liberate our people from all forms of oppression.

This leadership has the means and the responsibility to restore this movement to one of integrity and credibility; a movement that is united in action, and which places the needs and the interest of the people

above anything else.

Unity in the ANC needs to be rooted in our historic mission to unite society.

There is little value in having a united ANC if we do not unite society, and if we do not place the goal of a united South Africa at the centre of our efforts.

To do this, the ANC needs to be united *with* society. We need to narrow the distance between the masses of the people and our movement. We need to be rooted among our people and we need to derive our political legitimacy from their support for our movement. We can start to do that by respecting our own decisions and exercising our revolutionary political consciousness.

The **fourth task** we set for the movement for 2020 was to **strengthen governance and tackle corruption**.

We have made important progress in rebuilding our public institutions and ensuring that the people who lead these institutions are competent, capable and act with integrity. These include government departments, agencies, SOEs and law enforcement entities.

We have done much to stabilise, strengthen and resource law enforcement agencies as part of the effort to prevent and detect corruption, to ensure that the law takes its course where corruption is alleged to have taken place, and that funds lost to corruption and wrongdoing are recovered.

We have had to respond decisively and with urgency to COVID-related corruption. This experience has provided important lessons on improving collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the value of partnerships with broader society.

It has also led to greater transparency in procurement. The National

Treasury has published details of all COVID-related contract across all public entities on its website, and is now looking at mechanisms to do this for all procurement going forward.

The Zondo Commission is nearing the end of its work, and should be presenting its report in the first half of next year.

Even as the 54th National Conference resolved to support the establishment of the Commission, we knew that it would cast a spotlight on the ANC, its government and its cadres.

We knew that it was likely to be a painful process and could lead to tensions within the movement and society, but Conference considered it to be a necessary part of ending state capture and taking a clear stand against corruption.

We have always said that the Commission must be able to do its work, that it must do so without fear or favour, and that we have a responsibility – as ANC members and as citizens – to do whatever we can to assist the Commission in fulfilling its mandate.

In August, this NEC took a firm stand on corruption within the ranks of the movement and in public institutions and the private sector. It is now necessary to follow through on these decisions both to advance the renewal effort and to retain support and trust of society.

The **fifth task** we identified in January 2020 was to **end gender-based violence and femicide**.

Government has adopted the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which was a joint undertaking between government and civil society. We now need to establish and resource the structures to give effect to the NSP, which will be jointly driven by government

entities and representatives of broad-society.

We must applaud the women of our country, and the ANC Women's League for having led the charge and having raised awareness on this matter.

We have acted on many of the undertakings made last year to tackle GBVF, such as the introduction of important legislative amendments to Parliament, the resourcing of police stations and training of law enforcement personnel, and improving care and support to survivors of gender-based violence.

While there is much more that government can do and needs to do, social mobilisation remains the most important and effective measure against GBVF. In effect, we need to change our society, end patriarchal attitudes and practices, and adopt a zero-tolerance towards GBV in communities and social institutions.

The ANC needs to play a leading role in this effort, firstly by intensifying its efforts to achieve gender equality within our ranks, and secondly by developing and implementing a mass campaign to end all forms of discrimination, oppression and violence against women.

We also need to pay attention to the economic empowerment of women – as a fundamental part of the achievement of gender equality, as a way of reducing the vulnerability of women to abuse and violence, and of ensuring that our economy and society benefits from the full realisation of its human potential.

The **sixth task** in the January 8th Statement was to **work for peace, integration and development in Africa**.

During the course of our chairship of the African Union, South Africa has played an important role in leading Africa's response to the pandemic.

We have worked with fellow Member States to develop and implement coordinated continental and regional responses, have successfully lobbied for debt relief and resources for African countries to combat, and recover from, the pandemic, and have established innovative mechanisms like the Africa Medical Supplies Platform to ensure that African countries can access vital supplies at an affordable price.

We have also represented Africa in international initiatives, like the World Health Organization's Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, which has mobilised resources to ensure equitable access to diagnostic, therapeutics and ultimately an effective vaccine.

The collaboration and unity of purpose that we have seen in Africa's response to COVID-19 provides important lessons and opportunities for the future.

In the *Year of the Silencing of the Guns in Africa*, we have contributed to progress in promoting peace and stability, in countries like Libya, Sudan and South Sudan and with respect to tension of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

But, as we acknowledged during the AU Summit on Silencing the Guns, which was held on a virtual platform earlier today, the guns are not yet silent.

Several conflicts continue and new challenges have emerged. These include ongoing conflict in the Sahel region, the eastern DRC, the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and the activities of insurgents in Mozambique.

Yesterday, African leaders met – again virtually – in an Extraordinary Summit on the African Continental Free Trade Area. They finalised the legal instruments that will enable the operationalisation of the AfCFTA from the 1st of January 2021.

This is a historic achievement, which is possibly the most significant development in African integration and unity since the formation of the OAU itself.

South Africa played an important role in the detailed and complex work required to reach this point, and needs to continue to do everything it must to ensure the success of the Af-CFTA and that as a country we make full use of the opportunities it presents.

During our term as AU chair, we have placed the issue of women's economic empowerment firmly on the African agenda, although we need to acknowledge that the COVID pandemic slowed the pace of this work. We need to continue to use our position on the continent to maintain the momentum of this effort beyond our AU chairship.

This month marks the end of South Africa's two year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We have used our term on the Security Council to strengthen the relationship between the UN and the AU, and specifically between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

We have used every available international platform – including in BRICS and the G20 – to promote multilateralism, to advance the democratic reform of international bodies, to argue for greater support to African countries at this time of crisis, for the lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe and Sudan, and for support for the struggles of the people of Palestine and Western Sahara.

The **seventh task** we set for the

movement in 2020 was to **prepare for a decisive local government mandate**.

One of the effects of the COVID pandemic was that several by-elections were postponed during the year and as a result several were held together on 11 November. Another set will be held on 9 December.

Generally, the ANC did well in these by-elections, gaining ground in several areas. This demonstrates the continued support for the ANC at local level and our continued capacity to campaign and organise.

We need to analyse more closely the reasons for our advances (including where there were setbacks) and take these lessons into next year's campaigns.

As we prepare for next year's local government elections, we need to develop a strategy and a message that demonstrates ANC's commitment and ability to deal with weaknesses in local government.

Much will depend on the **selection of our candidates**, and we must therefore welcome the work that has been done to ensure that we emerge with candidates that are capable, ethical and enjoy the support of communities.

We need to ensure that, in contrast to some previous elections, the process of candidate selection strengthens the ANC and doesn't deepen divisions or foster voter disillusionment.

In **conclusion**, the country has faced an extremely difficult year.

Our people have endured great hardship and had to sacrifice much in the fight against this pandemic. That

struggle is not yet over, and we will need to intensify our efforts to ensure that we do not experience another – even more damaging – wave of infections and deaths.

Just as the pandemic has disrupted every aspect of public life, the ANC's programmes and activities have been affected, with the result that we have not made sufficient progress on most of the tasks that we set out in the January 8th Statement at the start of the year.

Beyond the pandemic, we have to acknowledge that we have not dealt decisively with the challenge of disunity and discord within our ranks.

There have been occasions when, as this NEC, we have risen to the challenge and provided leadership on critical issues, most notably the response to the pandemic and the economic recovery.

However, there are areas where we will admit that we have fallen short, including in giving effect to our decisions on corruption, in combating factionalism, and in restoring our credibility and standing in society.

As we approach a new year, we must acknowledge that the challenges before us are even greater and more difficult than those we faced at the beginning of 2020.

This will demand much of all of us.

As the leadership of this great movement, let us act as the membership of our movement expects us to.

Let us earn the confidence that they placed in us when they elected us at the 54th National Conference.

I thank you.

Decisions of the NEC meeting held on 6-8 December 2020

The National Executive Committee sat in an ordinary virtual session on 6-8 December 2020. The Political Overview by President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the NWC Report by Secretary General Ace Magashule, formed the main basis of the discussions. The NEC also received inputs on the COVID-19 pandemic, on implementation of the Economic Transformation and Recovery Plan, on International matters, on the Guidelines for SeLECTION of Local Government Candidates and the ANC Electoral Committee and on preparations for January 8, 2021.

The NEC welcomed the Political Overview and NWC Report, which together provided an overview on progress on key tasks set out in our January 8, 2020 statement, on the state of organisation and on the implementation of decisions of the NEC.

Both inputs reaffirmed the mandate of 54th National Conference to the National Executive Committee as organisational renewal and unity, to restore the relationship between the ANC and the people, its integrity and role as agent for change and leader in society and the objective of radical socio-economic transformation.

The NEC held robust discussions over the three days on these matters, and resolved as follows:

On the Scourge of Gender based Violence and Femicide and Violence against Children, the NEC:

1. Appreciated the campaigning by ANC structures, the ANC Women's

League and various sectors of our society to raise awareness, champion the cause of victims of GBV and femicide, outrage at violence against children, and addressed the underlying causes of gender-based violence during this year.

2. Acknowledged the specific focus on the role of men and boys in combatting gender-based violence, in fighting against the patriarchal and sexist attitudes and practices that justify and create the environment for gender-based violence and violence and abuse of children to flourish. The NEC welcomed the dialogues and engagements with and amongst men and boys on these issues.

3. Noted that all the efforts and activities throughout the year culminated in the 16 Days of Activism, with its heightened awareness raising on what needs to be done, and that indeed we shall continue with the battle against gender-based violence and for the safety of all children, for each of the 365 days of the coming year and beyond.

4. Noted work in government towards implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, and the establishment and resourcing of structures to implement this Action plan.

5. Appreciated the steps during the South African Chairship of the African Union to ensure that women's empowerment is on the agenda of our continental union,

and welcomed the decision of the just-concluded Special Extraordinary AU Summit, that a high level event on Gender-based Violence would be held before the next Ordinary Summit of the AU in February 2021;

6. Recommended the ANC to continue the struggle to build a non-sexist society, including addressing violence against women in our ranks where it rears its ugly head; the financial and economic inclusion and empowerment of women; vetting of ANC public representatives on their records on GBV, and implementation of the Gender budgeting framework by the Women's Ministries across government and in all spheres.

On the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Preventing a deadly Second Wave

7. The NEC noted the briefing by the President, the Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize and the Minister of COGTA Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on the work done by government through the National Coronavirus Command Council and Cabinet on the Coronavirus Pandemic, based on our multi-pronged approach.

8. Expressed grave concern about the increase in infections and deaths over the last few weeks, in particular in the hotspots areas of Eastern Cape and Western Cape, and welcomed the measures announced by the President in his last address to the nation, in order to arrest this situation.

9. Appreciated the work done by ANC branches, public representatives, by community-based organisations and civil society to raise awareness, and mobilise community solidarity during the difficult situation caused by the pandemic.
 10. Noted with concern that many countries across the world are experiencing a second wave of the pandemic, with deadly and devastating effects on their populations and economies, and that we need to do all in our power to prevent a second wave in South Africa.
 11. The NEC called on all South Africans to heed the call by the President, to “change our behaviour now to prevent a resurgence of the virus and manage outbreaks where they occur,” so that we balance saving lives and saving livelihoods.
 12. Further call on the structures of the ANC to continue to take the lead in providing information to communities about the pandemic, using local and community radio stations, print media and social media to appeal to each community at ward level to adhere to Covid-19 regulations during the festive season. In particular, to avoid parties and large crowds, and to restrict family gatherings, to wear a mask at all times, wash hands and keep social distance, and to protect the elderly and very young from frequent contact.
 13. Acknowledged the ongoing social and economic impacts of the pandemic, and vow to continue to build national and local social compacting around the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, the provision of basic services, job creation and infrastructure development, as well as social relief to combat hunger and poverty.
 14. Noted the united stance of the African continent in the fight against COVID-19, through the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, working with the World Health Organisation, and supports the call by the AU Chairperson, President Ramaphosa, that Africa must build her capacity for research, innovation and local manufacturing, so that never again, whether with regards to essential medicines and medical equipment, or a vaccine, it is so dependent on others, that it fails her citizens.
 15. Noted the initiatives by government to participate in the African vaccine trials initiative, to acquire vaccine stock for South Africans, and confirmed the need to have further discussions on the issue of access to and distribution of a Covi-19 vaccine, for when it becomes available. The NEC called for expediting of Conference resolution on the establishment of a state-owned pharmaceutical company, as part of the Africa-wide drive to ensure greater self-reliance of its citizens to access critical medical supplies.
 16. The NEC further takes note of the global inequities in a profit driven pharmaceutical sector, that there are a range of initiatives to develop and produce therapeutic agents and vaccines, including by allies such as Cuba and fellow BRICS members and to work with all on a non-ideological basis to ensure South Africans have access to effective and affordable therapeutic agents and vaccines.
- On ANC Credibility and Integrity, dealing with Corruption,** the NEC
17. Recommitted to the implementation of the resolutions of the 54th National Conference, acknowledging that corruption, factionalism, social distance and dishonesty, contradict our mission and damage our capacity to serve the people and use the country’s resources to achieve development and transformation. These are decisions of the supreme decision-making structure of the ANC and reflect the will of branches of the ANC; the NEC is therefore charged with considering how best to achieve the implementation of all resolutions, in the context of concrete conditions prevailing at the time.
 18. Reaffirmed the position taken at its meeting of 31 July to 2 August 2020 that the ANC needs to draw a clear line in the sand between the organisation, and those who steal and commit other crimes against the people. Also reaffirmed the decisions on the steps towards implementation of Conference resolution, as agreed at its meeting on 28 – 30 August 2020 and communicated by the Officials through the NEC Statement after this meeting. The NEC stressed that there can be no retreat from the positions taken and these decisions be implemented for all members.
 19. Further recalled the NGC of 2015 resolution, strengthened by the 54th National Conference, that “the ANC should strengthen consequence management system against comrades who participate or are found guilty of corruption”; and that the ANC should take decisive action against all members involved in corruption, including those who use money to

influence conference outcomes and those who try to subvert the membership system.

20. The NEC noted legal opinions solicited by Officials. While technical legal opinions are important as background information; as a voluntary organisation the ANC follows its Constitution, Rules, Conference resolutions and NEC decisions, and operates within the Constitution and laws of the land.
21. Urged the Officials to consider the political imperatives and intentions of Conference, as well as the legal opinions, and in the interests of consistency and uniformity, finalise the Step-aside Guidelines for the organisation as a whole, for consideration and adoption by the NEC at the beginning of 2021.
22. The NEC stressed, in dealing with matters of integrity and the fight against corruption, that remedial action should be applied in an even-handed manner to members at every level of the organisation. It noted that inconsistent application of Rules and the Constitution of the ANC, undermines the unity of the movement. The ANC should uphold the rights of all members and protect the integrity of the movement, without fear or favour.
23. Urged the SGO and Treasurer General to continue to work with the Integrity Commission to ensure that it, including the Chairperson, is provided with the necessary resources to carry out their responsibilities.
24. The NEC further noted the report of Officials on the charges against the ANC Secretary General, and welcomed the SG's decision to voluntarily present

himself to the Integrity Commission on 12 December 2020. The Officials will process the outcomes of this engagement and the determination of the Integrity Commission, and report to the NWC and NEC.

25. Condemned in the strongest terms the actions by some members and leaders, who were seen burning ANC regalia outside the court where the SG appeared in Mangaung, as well as making inflammatory and divisive statements. The NEC called on leaders and members to exercise maximum discipline and to refrain from actions and utterances that detract from the spirit of renewal and unity.
26. Recalled the Conference support for a Commission on State Capture, appreciated the work of the Zondo Commission under very difficult circumstances, often painful to the ANC, and reaffirm the call to all members to cooperate with the Commission. It called on everybody to refrain from unnecessary attacks on the person of the Deputy Chief Justice, and the work he has been tasked to perform by the nation.
27. Notes the request from cde Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to get the report from the Integrity Commission on her presentation to the Commission, and for an opportunity for her to meet with Officials regarding the matter.

ON THE STATE OF ORGANISATION

The NEC appreciated the comprehensive report on the State of Organisation, including detailed provincial and League reports which were distributed. The NEC therefore:

On BBGM's, Regional and Pro-

vincial Conferences

28. Adopted the recommendations from the NWC that Branch Biennale General Meetings, Regional Conferences and Provincial Conferences due, be held not later than 30 April 2021, ratified the cut-off date for members to renew as 15 December 2020 and welcomed the social media campaign to encourage members to register on the system, to check their status and renew their membership.
29. Emphasised the NEC decision that no structures should be disbanded. This decision has been communicated to all secretaries and coordinators.
30. BBGMs should be prioritized, so that they do not coincide with the local government candidates selections processes.
31. All branches, regions and provinces whose conferences are already due or whose mandates come to an end in 2021, must be allowed to have their Provincial and Regional Conferences by the due date of 30 April 2021, in compliance with the Constitution. Provinces and Regions whose term expires beyond May 2021 should not be disbanded during the local government election campaign, rather their term should be extended.
32. Ensure that Branches and regions are assisted to develop roadmaps towards their BBGMs and Regional Conferences and to activate dispute resolutions committees at all levels, as per the Constitution's provisions, to ensure problems are resolved expeditiously. The SGO and Organising to monitor and assist in the process at all levels.
33. Implement special efforts to strengthen ANC metro organ-

isation, ahead of elections, through Organising and Elections structures.

On the North West

34. Urge the NWC and Deployees to process reports, and to return to Northwest to engage branches and regions, on the matters raised during the previous engagements, as per the NWC Report. This includes supporting and strengthening the IPC, in line with its mandate and powers as set by the NEC.
35. The SGO together with the IPC, Organising and L&G committee to engage the ANC caucuses in Madibeng and JB Marks regarding the motions of no-confidence moved by the DA.
36. The recommendations of a team led by the SGO, including the Minister of CoGTA, the Chair of the L&G Sub-committee, NEC Deployees, after engaging the IPC and deployees in municipalities, must be implemented.

On NEC Deployees to Provinces

37. NEC deployees to various provinces will be reinforced, including to the North West.
38. The NEC in the strongest terms condemned the threats against Cde M. Kubayi-Ngubane, against other deployees and members of the ANC.

On the Rebuilding of the ANC Youth League

39. The NEC welcomed the report from the National Youth Task Team, and the engagements by Officials and NWC with the NYTT on progress to rebuild the ANC Youth League.
40. The NEC affirmed the need for

a radical and militant ANCYL, led by young people, able to advance the twin tasks of the League: (1) to unite and lead young people in confronting and dealing with problems facing the youth; and (2) to ensure that the youth make a full and rich contribution to the work of the ANC and the life of the nation.

41. The NEC therefore:

- a) Requested the NWC to consider the detailed report and Roadmap towards the National Congress of the ANC Youth League, to be held by no later than end of March 2021;
- b) Tasked the Officials and NWC to strengthen the NYTT as necessary, with emphasis on YL members under 35 years of age.

On the call for ANC Members to Check their Membership Status and Renew

42. The NEC appreciated progress with the implementation of a modernised, online Membership system, and the current status of ANC members in the system, numbering over 1.4 million members.
43. Noted that there are still a large number of members who need to renew their membership by the cut-off date of 15 December 2020, and call on all members to register on the system, to check their status and to renew their membership by the cut-off date, in order to participate in critical organizational processes in 2021.

On Local Government and Basic Services, and Elections next year

44. Notes the report on work done in preparations for Local Government Elections, and for the

by-elections.

45. Congratulates ANC structures for the work done under difficult circumstances due to the pandemic, to ensure branches and communities select candidates for the by-elections and to mobilise and get out the vote on voting days.

On the Alliance

46. The NEC welcomed the regular engagements and meetings of the Alliance Secretariat and Political Council (APC), which are critical towards ensuring common approaches to the transformation project and a common Alliance programme of action.
47. It further noted the specific issues raised by Alliance structures, including the common approach to the Covid 19 pandemic, the crisis facing SOEs, proposals for non-trading days, Energy security, the formation of an Alliance Economics task team, local government candidate selection process and other matters in the report of the NWC to the NEC. It urged Officials to be seized with these matters at the level of the APC, including the engagements on the Reconfiguration of the Alliance as one of the NGC discussion papers, and implementation of the non-trading days resolution of the APC.
48. Agreed that the ANC must be involved in discussions on the public sector wage bill and agreement, in the context of the fiscal and economic challenges.

On the MDM and Civil Society

49. The NEC expressed its supports for the work in progress and the approach taken by the SGO, working with Alliance partners,

to build unity of COSAS and SANCO.

50. Congratulates SASCO and the Progressive Youth Alliance on progress in organizing and mobilizing students at higher education institutions, and in winning a number of SRC elections this year.
51. Welcomes the engagements with lawyers and academics and organized agriculture regarding rural safety and the development and transformation of the agricultural sector.
52. Urged the Task Team led by the Deputy President to meet with Contralesa on matters of common concern.
53. Supported work to engage with the LGBTQI+ community, the struggle to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, and to promote the involvement, visibility and participation of the sector in the movement and in society.

On Outstanding TRC matters

54. The NEC noted the engagement by the team led by the DSG with the Foundation for Human Rights and Families of Victims on the outstanding apartheid era crimes from the TRC process and ratifies the formation of a joint team to pursue these matters.
55. Reaffirms the ANC's firm support for the outstanding TRC matters of investigations, prosecutions, as well as reparations to be given urgent attention in pursuance of transitional justice, in order to give closure and justice to families of victims of apartheid era crimes, including crimes against humanity as part of the process of national healing.

56. Requests the team in para 54, to urgently brief the NWC on the matters of repatriation and reparations, and progress on the outstanding TRC matters.

On Discipline

57. The NEC once again condemns the public spats and public pronouncements by ANC leaders, in violation of its Communications Protocol. It calls on all NEC members to desist from such actions, as they fuel divisions, undermine the brand of the ANC and the capacity of the NEC to give leadership to structures and to society, as a coherent and cohesive force.
58. Officials should continue to call out such comrades to make them aware of their wrong behaviour, and if they persist, to consider disciplinary measures in line with the Constitution.

On celebration of January 8, 2021

59. The NEC notes the recommendation on January 8 celebration, presented by head of Organising, cde Nomvula Mokonyane and resolved that it be held in Limpopo province as per the practice of rotation.
60. It appreciates the recommendations on the format of the celebrations, to reach out to the people across the country on this day, in a manner that is in line with the Covid 19 disaster regulations.
61. The NEC also discussed and contributed to the framework for the January 8 statement, as presented by the Chair of the Policy Committee, cde Jeff Radebe.

MK veterans unity process

62. The NEC notes progress and challenges with regards to the unity process, and urge National Officials to urgently engage the Peace & Stability Sub-committee and to hold joint meetings with MKMVA and MK Council, in order to break the current deadlock towards the holding of a unified conference of MK veterans early in 2021.
63. The NEC will on 16 December 2020, reflect on the role of MK, as we celebrate Day of Reconciliation, and ahead of the 60th anniversary of the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe in 2021.

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY & TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The National Executive Committee received the report on progress with regards to the implementation of the Economic Transformation and Recovery Plan from cde Enoch Gdongwane on behalf of the Economic Transformation Committee and:

64. Reaffirms the focus of the Economic Recovery Plan, namely
 - (a) An Infrastructure Development led recovery plan with new investments in energy; water and sanitation; roads and bridges; human settlements, health and education; digital infrastructure and public transport; achieving significant job creation multipliers, with emphasis on localisation, including maximising the use of South African materials and construction companies and labour-intensive methods; and mass employment opportunities through public employ-

ment programmes.

- (b) As a second pillar, investments in key productive sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism and other services; and decisive progress in telecommunications reform to reduce data costs for households and firms. Similarly, the growth and job creation potential of energy-related investments, including green industries to be fully harnessed, through local production linked to the country's energy investment programme, as required in the Integrated Resource Plan.
65. The NEC observes persistent challenges as we implement the Recovery plan, in particular constraints in the tourism and real-estate sectors; shortages of raw materials and equipment; and the threat of a second round of lockdown measures globally that could further inhibit domestic recovery.
66. The NEC noted with concern the deteriorating fiscal situation faced by the country, with debt payments absorbing a growing share of limited public resources, increasingly crowding out spending on social and economic investment. Debt-service costs now stands at 4.8 per cent of GDP, up from 3.3 per cent in 2016/17. It also notes the deteriorating government balance sheet, including state-owned companies and municipalities struggling to pay salaries, pay for maintenance, basic services and other operational costs.
67. Welcomes progress with implementation of key interventions as part of the Economic Recovery plan, including work to restore Energy Security through the Integrated Resource Plan;

the Mass Employment Programme; Industrialisation and growing the productive economy; mobilizing Infrastructure investment; Telecoms sector reforms; Green Economy Interventions and other key interventions; as well as social compacting on the Plan and other sectoral initiatives with all stakeholders.

68. The NEC in its discussions emphasized the importance of the economic empowerment of women, and attention to local economic development in the context of the district development model.
69. The NEC also took note of the Quarter 3 GDP statistics released on 8 December 2020 by Statistics South African, welcoming the nascent signs of recovery, and therefore the need to stay the course and speed up implementation of the Recovery and Transformation plan.
70. Therefore decided that the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan, and all initiatives that form part of the plan, shall be discussed in detail at the NEC Lekgotla in January 2021.

ON CANDIDATE SELECTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ANC ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

71. The NEC welcomed the report from Dr. David Maseko, with cde Beatie Hofmeyr on the Guidelines for Local Government Candidate Selection and the ANC Electoral Committee, and particularly appreciated consultations with various structures on these guidelines.
72. Notes the concerns raised by various structures, including

the importance of ensuring that the processes remain true to our principle of gender equality.

73. Adopts the report, Candidate Selection Guidelines and recommendations on the Role and Composition of the Electoral Committee, and urges the Officials to engage Alliance partners on their inputs, before finalisation.

ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

74. The NEC welcomed the comprehensive report by Cde Naledi Pandor and Lindiwe Zulu on the key global trends which impact on South Africa's foreign policy, the anticipated changes in South African missions abroad, and the updates and progress reports on the following matters:
 - The impact of South Africa's Chairship of the African Union during 2020.
 - Outcomes of the AU Executive Council, in particular South African candidacy for the AU Commission, the adoption of the 2021 AU Budget, support for the DRC Chairship of the AU in 2021, the AU theme for 2021, the resourcing of the AU Peace Fund and operationalization of the African Standby Force.
 - The Midyear AU Bureau meeting with the RECs and the Extraordinary AU Summit on the implementation of the African Free Trade Area which will begin trading in January 2021.
 - The issue of the Taipei Liaison office and its location.
 - Conference resolution and action on the SA Embassy in Israel.

- Negotiations between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan on the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, convened by the AU Chairperson
- Silencing the Guns and Promote Peace, Stability and Development with reference to DRC, Mozambique insurgency, and Zambia Sovereign debt default.

75. The NEC urged the International Committee to remain seized with these matter, and for the committee to prepare a report to the January Lekgotla on the issues of party to party relations, solidarity campaigns, including the creation of a liberation movement political school.

On the SABC

76. The NEC appreciated the report by the Communications committee on an approach to ensure that the SABC as a public broadcaster is strengthened, in an entirely new environment, and defer the decision on the draft resolution to be tabled at the NEC Lekgotla in January 2021.

OTHER MATTERS

77. The NWC is requested to consider resuming physical meetings of the NEC and holding the NGC on hybrid basis in May 2021.

78. The NEC recommits to continue to work for greater unity at national, provincial and local levels, and to continue our focus on the comprehensive implementation of all National Conference resolutions and of the 2019 Election Manifesto.

Closing Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the Meeting of the National Executive Committee

8 December 2020

Comrades,

Allow me to begin by recognising and appreciating the presence in our NEC meeting of former ANC Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma.

This has been a productive NEC meeting that has enabled us to reflect on our work this year and to identify some of our key priorities as we go into 2021.

We have had to discuss some difficult issues that had the potential to deepen division and exacerbate tensions.

I wish to commend all members of the NEC for the comradely manner in which these discussions have taken place.

Comrades have been frank and direct and have sought to persuade each other through the strength of their arguments.

The discussions have been underpinned by the desire to find a solution to the challenges that face us.

Once again, we have proven many commentators and other public voices wrong.

We have not torn ourselves apart or descended into bitter recrimination.

We have not sharpened divisions; in fact, through our discussions we have narrowed the differences that exist.

We need to be alive to the reality that there are some outside our movement who are keen to influence our discussion and our decisions.

Some do so out of a genuine concern for the organisation and for the direction that the country will take. Some do so out of narrow self-interest.

We must also acknowledge that there are some among us who, wittingly or unwittingly, contribute to a public discourse that is damaging to the unity and cohesion of the NEC and the movement.

As we have said before, we need to desist from public statements that are at variance with the decisions of the structures of ANC and which are likely to fuel division.

This NEC agreed that our central task at this time is to rebuild our economy following the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Africa's economy rebounded more strongly than expected in Quarter 3 of 2020, with output rising by 66.1% quarter-on-quarter on an annualised, seasonally adjusted basis, 11 percentage points more than our and consensus expectations. In seasonally adjusted level terms, this brings real GDP to 94.2% of the end-2019 level, compared with 83% in Quarter 2.

This NEC reaffirmed the three-pronged focus of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan,

namely:

- An infrastructure development led recovery plan with new investments in energy; water and sanitation; roads and bridges; human settlements, health and education; digital infrastructure and public transport;
- Achieving significant job creation multipliers, with emphasis on localisation, including maximising the use of South African materials and construction companies and labour-intensive methods; and
- Mass employment opportunities through public employment programmes.

We welcome progress with implementation of key interventions, including work to restore energy security through the integrated resource plan; the mass employment programme; industrialisation and growing the productive economy; mobilising infrastructure investment; telecoms sector reforms; green economy interventions and other key interventions; as well as work on compacting on the plan and other sectoral initiatives with social partners

We have also noted with concern the deteriorating fiscal situation in the country, with debt payments absorbing a growing share of limited public resources, and increasingly crowding out spending on social and economic investment.

We are therefore committed to responsible fiscal management.

We have emphasised the importance of the economic empowerment of women, and attention to local economic development in the context of the district development model.

On the COVID-19 pandemic, the NEC has expressed grave concern about the increase in infections and deaths over the last few weeks, in particular in the hotspots in Eastern Cape and Western Cape, and has welcomed the measures that have been put in place to contain these outbreaks.

We appreciate the work done by ANC branches and public representatives, by community based organisations and civil society to raise awareness, and mobilise community solidarity during the difficult situation caused by the pandemic.

We recognise that what we do as a society over the next month will be crucial to our efforts to prevent a second wave of infections.

The NEC is calling on all South Africans to change our behaviour now to prevent a resurgence of the virus.

We are further calling on the structures of the ANC to use all available platforms – including local and community radio stations, print media and social media – to appeal to each community to adhere to Covid 19 regulations during the festive season.

We call on people to avoid parties and large crowds, to restrict family gatherings, to wear a mask at all times, wash and keep social distance, and to protect the elderly from possible exposure to the virus.

The meeting acknowledged an important point about the need for the African continent, as a matter of

priority, to build its capacity for research, innovation and local manufacturing, so that it is not so dependent on other countries with regards to essential medicines, medical equipment or a vaccine.

In the course of its response to the pandemic, Africa has demonstrated that if we dedicate sufficient effort and resources, we have the means to meet this challenge.

This NEC has taken a firm stance on gender-based violence in society.

In support of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide – which brings together all sections of society – the ANC will continue to mobilise within communities to fight this scourge, to end all forms of patriarchy and to address the factors that fuel the violence perpetrated by men against women.

We welcome the specific focus on the role of men and boys in combating gender-based violence and in fighting against the patriarchal attitudes and practices that create the environment in which gender-based violence flourishes.

We must welcome the dialogues and engagements with and among men and boys on these issues.

As the ANC, we must have a zero-tolerance approach to violence and intimidation against women within the organisation.

The acts of violence and the threats of violence that have been made against several women within the organisation is deeply distressing.

It is a sign both of the persistence of patriarchy in the movement, and of the general levels of intolerance within the organisation.

We must act decisively to rid our movement of both these tendencies.

As part of our programme for 2021, we should develop and implement workshops at every level of the organisation – from the NEC down to the branches – and in each of the leagues on patriarchy, gender equality and gender sensitivity.

Further than that, we must take firm disciplinary action against anyone found to be perpetrating such despicable behaviour.

This meeting has had an extensive discussion on the implementation of the resolutions of Conference and the decisions of the NEC on corruption and other forms of wrongdoing.

We have reaffirmed several important principles:

- We confirm the firm stance we have taken on corruption and wrongdoing within our ranks and within society. There will be no dilution of the position we have taken.
- We will fully implement the mandate of the 54th National Conference and the decisions taken by the NEC, understanding that these are fundamental to the renewal of the organisation and to the restoration of the credibility of the movement among South Africans.

In particular, the NEC reaffirmed the position taken at its meeting of 31 July to 2 August 2020 that the ANC needs to draw a clear line in the sand between the organisation and those who steal and commit other crimes against the people. We also reaffirmed the decisions on the steps towards implementation of the Conference resolution as agreed at our meeting on 28-30 August 2020 and communicated by the Officials through the NEC Statement after this meeting. The NEC stressed there can be no retreat from this position.

We will be consistent and even-handed in the application of these decisions and will ensure that fair and due process is followed.

We have agreed that, in order to give effect to these decisions, the Officials will finalise the guidelines that will be applied in instances where members of the organisation are formally charged with, convicted of or reported to be involved in corruption or other serious crimes.

The NEC noted legal opinions solicited by the Officials. While technical legal opinions are important as background information, as a voluntary organisation the ANC follows its Constitution, Rules, Conference resolutions and NEC decisions, just as it operates within the Constitution and laws of the land.

It is in this context that the meeting welcomed the Secretary General's decision to present himself to the Integrity Commission on 12 December 2020.

The Officials shall process the outcomes of this engagement and the determination by the Integrity Commission, and report to the NWC and NEC.

The NEC has been correct in its condemnation in the strongest terms of the actions of some members and leaders who were seen burning ANC regalia and making inflammatory and divisive statements outside the court in Mangaung where the Secretary General appeared.

The NEC called on leaders and members to exercise maximum discipline and to refrain from actions and utterances that detract from the spirit of renewal and unity.

The NEC has agreed that we must confirm our appreciation for the work of the Zondo Commission under very difficult circumstances.

We reaffirm our call to all members to cooperate with the Commission, and to refrain from unnecessary attacks on the Deputy Chief Justice and the work he has been tasked by the nation to perform.

After the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this NEC has taken several important decisions on organisational processes that need to take place over the next few months.

We should applaud the progress that has been made in the implementation of a modernised, online membership system. While there are over 1.4 million members on the system, there are still a large number of members who need to renew their membership by the cut-off date of 15 December 2020.

We must put out a call to all members to register on the system, to check their status and to renew their membership by the cut-off date.

We have agreed that all branches, regions and provinces whose conferences are already due or whose mandates come to an end in 2021, must be allowed to have their Provincial and Regional Conferences before 31 May 2021, in compliance with the Constitution.

Provinces and regions whose terms expire after May 2021 should have their term extended until after the local government elections.

We will also make preparations for the National Congress of the ANC Youth League, which we have agreed should be held before the end of March 2021.

In organising these conferences, we will adhere to the restrictions on gatherings and the health protocols in place to prevent transmission of the coronavirus. In doing so, we must ensure that no-one is excluded from the process.

This NEC has reflected on the engagements of the Alliance Secretariat and the Alliance Political Council.

We agreed that there are several issues on which we need to continue engagement, including a common approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis facing SOEs, the declaration of certain public holidays as non-trading days, energy security, the formation of an Alliance economics task team and the local government candidate selection process.

In just over a week's time, the country will be celebrating Reconciliation Day.

Among the important issues that we need to raise in this context is the outstanding matters of investigations, prosecutions and reparations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We need to give these urgent attention in pursuance of transitional justice, and to give closure and justice to families of victims of apartheid era crimes.

This has been an extremely difficult year for our country and for the South African people. As we prepare for a new year, there are many challenges that lie ahead.

Notwithstanding the challenges we are encouraged by the rebound of the economy more strongly than expected in the third quarter of 2020.

This will give added impetus to the growth we expect from the implementation of the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

We are determined to overcome the coronavirus pandemic, to rebuild our economy, to create jobs and to improve the conditions of the poor and vulnerable.

We are determined as this leadership

of the African National Congress to harness our every energy, our every capability and our every resource to respond to these challenges.

We can only do this if we are united and if we enjoy the confidence and support of the South African people.

As we conclude, we can say with confidence that this meeting has established a firm foundation for us to do the work that we must.

We should always remember that unity of the ANC is paramount.

Unity is essential if we are to be effective in leading the radical transformation of our society and our economy.

This requires a revolutionary unity that is underpinned by the principles and values of the movement.

We must unite around our historic mission and around the society that we are committed to build

I thank you.

THE CORONAVIRUS IS REAL

**ANC LEADERS AND MEMBERS MUST BE IN THE
FOREFRONT IN THE WAR AGAINST COVID-19.**

**STAY SAFE. WEAR YOUR MASK.
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCE.
AVOID CROWDED PLACES.**



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P.O. Box 61884, Marshalltown, 2107.

Tel: 011 376 1000