

Brief Outline on Volunteer Corps Movement

By ANC Provincial Secretary, Sihle Zikalala

Arising from the April 2009 overwhelming elections victory, the ANC is faced by two strategic tasks, namely; using the state power to fast track service delivery. Secondly to sustain its mass support and the confidence the people have invested in it, as their trusted liberator. This is propelled by an understanding that the ANC essentially exists to serve the people.

Its mass character remains a critical pillar that provides for the role of the masses within its structures and in driving its campaigns, which is underpinned by an understanding that the people of South Africa remain their own liberators, with the ANC being a vehicle for the advancement of such struggle.

Thus, the ANC's character and programme strategically locates it within the people. But this is not new- in fact throughout the period of its existence - the ANC evolved into a force for mass mobilisation, the glue that held our people together and a trusted leader of forces that share the vision of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The adoption of the 1948 programme of action and the 1952 Defiance Campaign did not only revolutionise the ANC but also helped to affirm a practical expression of the central role of the people in struggle. This was further deepened by a high level of volunteerism, a spirit of service and sacrifice where dedicated cadres of the movement became part of the volunteer corp movement that waged the defiance campaign against the regime and its unjust laws.

To achieve its strategic tasks mentioned at the beginning, the ANC still needs an army of volunteers who will serve the people with loyalty and selflessness. Whose role will be to deepen mass mobilisation and co-ordinate the participation of the people on the development programme our government is spearheading.

It is against the background that the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is re-launching the Volunteer Corp Movement in line with the 1952 Volunteers of Inkosi Albert Luthuli the then President of the ANC. The Volunteer Corp Movement was launched last month in the North Coast region.

The Volunteer Corp Movement will ensure that the ANC remains located within the people. This means that all the basic units of the VCM will be at a voting district level. The VCM will operate as a movement of volunteers functioning within the mandate of the BEC but will have no powers to take organisational or political decisions.

The Volunteer Corp Movement will ensure that the ANC remains located within the people and will be composed of at 10 dedicated volunteers per voting district who will be structured into the VCM unit, and therefore keep the principle of one VD one unit one branch one ward. Each unit will be convened by a BEC member who will then be responsible of linking the VCM unit with the BEC.

The VCM will operate as a movement of volunteers functioning within the mandate of the BEC and will have no powers to take organisational or political decisions. All Volunteers will be ANC members, they should be subjected to the traditions and values of the ANC and abide by the constitution and the code of conduct of the ANC.

Volunteers must always demonstrate a high level of discipline, humility, respect and activism.

Ours is the task of building a caring and prosperous society free from poverty, underdevelopment and centred on unity and values of respect and humility.