

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEKGOTLA

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



VENUE: FERNHILL HOTEL, HOWICK
DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2010

**STATEMENT
BY THE PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS DR ZWELI MKHIZE**

Members of the National Executive Committee of the ANC
The deputy Chairperson;
Officials and members of the Provincial Executive Committee of the ANC and
the ANC Women's League;
ANC Youth League and ANC Veterans League;
MKMVA;
Leaders of the Alliance;
SACP;
COSATU & SANCO;
The YCL;

We want to welcome all the comrades to this session. This is the session where we are all expected to share our views. I just need to emphasize that every view counts.

2010 is a special year to all of us as the world descends on South Africa for the 2010 Fifa World Cup. It's a tremendous achievement on behalf of Africa.

The tournament has given this country space to showcase itself to the world. Linked to this is the opportunity to invest massively to speed up the infrastructure development and ensure economic growth.

Comrades, we are humbled that the people's movement – the African National Congress is in charge of the government that is presiding over this world soccer showpiece. The legacy is already visibly.

KZN, a province known for its beauty and warmth is readying itself to ensure that we host a memorable world cup. It came as no surprise when we were chosen to host an international event marking 100 days before the World Cup.

I am thrilled that many of you are wearing Bafana Bafana jersey and this is indicative of your support for the national team and of course the world cup.

COMRADES CAMPAIGNED FOR THE RESOUNDING VICTORY

Comrades, we are meeting here nine and a half months after the ANC registered a massive victory in the national general elections.

In that election the ANC won an overwhelming majority in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This represented the first ever victory of this magnitude in the province by our movement.

We proclaimed that Mafukuzela Dube, Pixley ka-Isaka Seme and Madlanduna; the former Presidents of this ANC, will, at last, rest in peace now that the province of their birth has been returned to the hands of the African National Congress.

We may have had occasions to thank comrades for the wonderful work they did in campaigning for the victory of the ANC but it is still appropriate for me to thank you all comrades for the role that you all played for the ANC to win the elections.

We cannot forget that this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the release of President Nelson Mandela. Next week the President's State of Nation address will be dedicated to this historic day.

We congratulate Tata Madiba and thank him for being the beacon of light to guide South Africans – a role he will continue to play for many years after he has departed this world because of the special place he occupies in our hearts.

NO TIME TO BLAME APARTHEID

Our country celebrates the downfall of apartheid and the dawn of the new democratic dispensation. President Zuma reminded the NEC in the last NEC Lekgotla that we will soon be completing twenty years of ANC in government, a time in which it will not be acceptable to blame apartheid for the ills of our society.

This is the time for us as the leadership to take responsibility for the failures and successes of government. We need to accept that the ANC must be ready to take blame and accept the praises in equal measure.

In the last election, we observed that the unprecedented support we received is a show of the confidence that our people have in the ruling party and leader of the Revolutionary Alliance, the ANC.

Similarly, we were acutely aware that the same massive support is equally an expression of high expectations that can just as easily turn into frustration if not matched with delivery of services to our people.

VICTORY SIGN OF UNITY AND COHESION

We also noted that the victory is also testimony to the level of unity and cohesion within the ANC as the party contesting elections as well as in the Tripartite Alliance. This unity made it possible for all components of the Alliance to cooperate in the election campaign.

I need to emphasise that the level of cooperation from time of the election campaign to the deployment and formation of the new provincial government was a product of the ANC the Leagues and the Alliance that cooperated and worked together to deliver the results that we are so proud of.

We highlighted the priority areas that had been clearly defined for us in the Polokwane conference. These priorities were as a result of extensive research and consultative processes within and outside our structures.

When our manifesto was published detailing our priorities, it was difficult for any opposition party to attack our position. Clearly the priorities are a response to our people's assessment of the first fifteen years of the ANC in office.

We identified the following priorities:

- Agrarian and land reform, food security and rural development;
- Fighting Crime and corruption;
- Health;
- Education and
- Creating decent work and building a strong economy.

ANC LED GOVERNMENT DEALS WITH RECESSION AND OVER-EXPENDITURE

We further observed that we were building a government in a rather challenging environment where the jaws of the recession had begun to inflict a serious crunch in the economy of our country and caused the fiscus to shrink and budgets to be revised downwards.

This was aggravated by the spiraling over-expenditure in our provincial government.

This is not an environment that allows adequate allocation of resources to satisfy the high expectations that brought the ANC into office with such a high majority.

This then called for a number of strategic interventions on the part of the ruling party.

Firstly the need to create an image of a responsible, clean and caring government, that is accountable, committed to clean governance and responds to the needs of the people.

Secondly the need to prioritise conservation of resources and shift budgets to ensure delivery of services.

Thirdly there was a strong need to integrate services and maximize on the available resources and remove the silo mentality in the civil service. This also meant that an effort had to be made to eliminate wastage in the government system. That way government would effect savings that will be channeled to areas of need.

At the same time the ANC decided to provide a Program of Action for the branches that was closely aligned to the service delivery programmes on the ground as planned by the government.

This was to ensure that our structures remain in touch with issues of service delivery and mobilize the masses to continue to participate in the process of transformation.

We must in the same vein analyse the capacity of the branches and the extent to which they have embraced the program.

EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Today we are here to evaluate the extent of our success in the creation of the government capable of responding to the tasks set by our people and our movement.

You are hereby invited to critically analyse the progress of this government and assist the ruling party to refine the strategies that will define the future of our people and the deliver a better life for all.

We must evaluate the extent to which we have attended to the matter of agrarian and land reform, rural development and ensuring food security.

The concept of *ONE HOME ONE GARDEN* has taken root but how do we spread it to ensure food security, build self-sufficiency in agricultural production and creation of access to local and international market. We need to look at the approaches by the relevant department and advise in the 'massification' projects.

The process of setting up the *Rural Development* aspect has largely remained behind pending the national processes.

This Lekgotla is expected to identify gaps and challenges faced by farm dwellers and deliberate on how we can bring development to remote areas of our land and create sustainable rural settlements.

The matter of agrarian reform should address the issues of new landowners who face a threat of losing their newly acquired land due to poor management and operational capacity.

We need to discuss the task identified in the January 8 of 2009, of making *education a 'societal issue'* through mass mobilization for quality education.

The Lekgotla must discuss challenges of industrial action due to unresolved labour issues and the impact on the education of the children. We must reach a point where we all agree that education of our children is sacrosanct and thus nothing should be allowed to get between the child and education.

The *crime at school, alcohol abuse* and the causes of dysfunctional schools need to be reversed as we all mobilize for the agreed set of basic non-negotiables: teacher in school in class on time teaching and the learner to be in class on time learning and respecting the teacher. This is the year to build partnerships.

We have committed ourselves to the program of mass mobilization to promote the prevention of *HIV & AIDS by promoting behavioural* changes in society, promoting access to medication and sound nutrition.

There is a need to reverse the mortality trends for mothers and babies and put South Africa on the path towards meeting the MDG goals. Our structures have to be in the forefront on this matter and work hand in hand with the health professionals.

Male circumcision has been added as an additional effort to defeat HIV & AIDS. This has been welcomed as research has indicated its advantage. Efforts must be accelerated so that the program starts before the end of winter season. The drastic steps announced by the President Zuma on World Aids Day need to be turned into strong plans to save lives.

A climate that is unfriendly to criminals has been established in the country in response to the priority of fighting crime. We must commend the police and support all the initiatives to revamp the technology of the criminal - justice system. Community safety forums and street committees must be established.

We need to mount a massive community program to fight crime, drug trafficking and make our country safe especially with the FIFA World Cup starting in a few months.

POLITICAL STRUCTURES SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR PERSONAL GAIN

Corruption in government and in civil society is another evil we need to exorcise from our midst. The fact that electoral results place the ANC at the helm of governance structures that preside over large resources creates a tempting environment in which corruption may thrive.

The ANC must act very swiftly and decisively in cases of proven corruption. If not handled properly corruption will result in the denting of the image of the ANC.

Corruption and unethical business interests may be a strong factor in some of the divisions that the ANC is experiencing. There are legal guidelines of how to manage business interests and avoid conflict of interests; failure to follow this guide creates tensions.

Quite rarely do we find divisions based on the different interpretation of the Election Manifesto or The Freedom Charter.

Several municipalities are examples of this trend. It is people already earning high salaries that seek to augment their income and finance a lifestyle that they cannot afford. This is when trouble starts.

Thereafter they seek the support of political structures to achieve what in effect is personal gain. If we do not attend to this matter directly, we will entrench a culture of wasteful expenditure and disrespect for the taxpayers and ratepayers which is the beginning of the decline and ultimate collapse of any ruling party.

We need to send a message that we are not elected to positions of authority to enrich ourselves and our friends or associates. This is part of our resolutions from Polokwane.

WE NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We need to also thoroughly discuss the situation of our local government and devise strategies to ensure that the ANC wins in the next elections in 2011. These elections are different in that they are about the daily interaction of our councilors with community.

We have seen marches which purported to be about service delivery. They caused us concerns as they seemed to suggest that comrades may also be positioning themselves for 2011. We need to be vigilant to respond to our people but also carefully analyse these protests to address them properly.

We have convened a *municipal summit* to look at the state of municipalities. Many of them are facing serious challenges. It is important to acknowledge that while many municipalities under the control of the IFP face crises, there are many under the control of the ANC that have serious challenges.

Some challenges are self-inflicted in the manner that elected representatives conduct themselves. Many of them seem to have forgotten that they are there to serve communities and not for self interest. We need to discuss strategies to assist them to turn their situation for the better.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM AND INTERGRATED APPROACH TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

The Presidency has designed a monitoring system which will ensure that all ministers are monitored and that all departments meet the targets set them. I have found this approach to be most exciting as there are national targets set for every department or sector for which every province has its allocated contribution.

This approach will merge well with our integrated approach wherein departments combine to contribute in the achievement of a common objective instead of competing and being obstructive to one another.

This approach also requires participation of structures and community at grass root level. We need a lot of support as this approach will keep elected leaders in close contact with the people and will solve the challenge of social distance which has often been the source of community discontent and riots.

We are concerned that participation of our structures is inadequate and this may work against us in areas where other local representatives decide to comply with the government programs.

The Program of Action of the ANC was so designed that when the structures embark on it, this would simultaneously build and strengthen the ANC and help the ANC-led government deliver the services which also deepens the faith of our people in the ANC.

The recession resulted in huge job losses in the country especially in our province. However the massive investments in infrastructure have allowed more jobs to be created in the province as a result of the major projects: the King Shaka airport and Dube Tradeport, Moses Mabhida stadium, the Ngula Power station etc.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION RATIONALIZED

The Jobs and Economic Recovery Summit convened by the provincial government created a platform to save and create jobs. The EPWP has been effectively utilized by our government to generate more jobs. Skills development programmes are being escalated to fulfill the criteria of creation of decent work and growing the economy.

We took a decision as the ANC to take seriously the financial constraints caused by the over expenditure. The government was instructed to do everything to reign in the expenditure to ensure that resources are available for service delivery. Similarly communication was rationalised to maximize savings. The idea was not to stop communicating but to be cost-effective.

This meant that we reduce the sizes of izimbizo. They have not been cancelled completely. Leaders are expected to use halls instead of expensive marquees. Government is moving on the ground and continues to be in contact with our people. It is not correct to suggest that service delivery has been halted.

This matter has been subject to huge miscommunication and negative commentary in some cases. Efforts have been made to reach out to many influential sectors of our society, traditional leaders, religious fraternity, business, women and youth sectors, workers and minority communities to seek their support and partnership with laudable success.

A strong effort to build Contralesa has yielded good results and the provincial structure was launched representing more than 100 traditional leaders in KwaZulu-Natal. The co operation with Amakhosi has been highly strengthened - hence there are Contralesa delegates in this Lekgotla.

We will also continue to strengthen relations with the people from our neighbouring countries as our recent visit to Angola has demonstrated. Our bonds of comradeship run deep and are united in the blood of our heroes that fell on their soil.

We will be visiting Zambia this month to receive the remains of Comrade Johnny Makhathini our Secretary for External Affairs who fell and lies buried in Lusaka. He will be reburied next to Comrade Moses Mabhida.

What is quite notable is that Johnny was fluent in more than 20 languages and this made it possible for the ANC to set up structures across the world. To date the democratic government has got more representatives and embassies across the world compared to the apartheid government.

Also, a delegation will go to Mozambique for the commemoration of Matola Massacre. This event undoubtedly will unite us with the people of Mozambique.

DEBATE IS WELCOMED - NATIONALISATION

I wish to reflect briefly on the issue of the nationalization of mines.

The ANC Youth League as a youth wing is allowed to raise matters for debate - and is expected to do this with passion.

ANCYL has put on table the matter of nationalization of mines. They will brief the Lekgotla on the matter.

Also, the ANCYL has raised the succession debate in 2012 conference of the ANC. The NEC of the ANC has discouraged public debate on the succession. We hope the ANCYL will heed this advice.

We must choose platforms to debate matters and avoid creating impression of serious internal conflicts.

POLITICAL RADAR SCREEN

Looking at the political radar screen - there are no external risks.

I have not said much about the opposition political parties because no opposition party poses a threat to the ANC. It is the issue of resolving internal conflicts that must be the focus of the ANC. We must work collectively to ensure that we deal with internal issues of unity and cohesion.

COPE is not a threat to the ANC.

It hardly exists in KwaZulu-Natal, and in the whole country it is disintegrating. However, the lessons from Cope are that it was a result of inability to manage certain tensions inside the ANC.

The lesson is, if care is not exercised, the ANC may experience the same problem. The ANC must be alert not to ignite similar exodus and instability which we are witnessing within Cope. The formation of COPE has lessons for ANC not its internal conflicts.

The **DA** will remain an opposition which will capitalize on mistakes and weaknesses of the ANC. The more mistakes ANC commits, the stronger the DA.

The DA has hurt the ANC in the Western Cape but its not the strength of the DA that made it win. It's the divisions in the ANC that made us lose. More importantly, it's the mending of divisions that will make ANC win.

It will still take a long time to create confidence in the ANC in the Western Cape and I am sure you'd all remember that it took ANC in KZN 15 years to win decisively.

The **IFP** is no longer a threat to the ANC but is just engaged in the process of destruction. Our challenge is not how members of the IFP will join the ANC because many members and voters of the IFP have voted for the ANC. Large numbers of IFP members have left leaders in the IFP and joined the ANC.

I think that the real challenge for all of us is the tension and simmering conflict within the IFP that may break into violence. If not managed well, the implosion of IFP may create instability which we must be alert about as the ANC.

When we recruit, we need to keep to principles that members join as individuals; no promises or expectations will be entertained.

The temptation to be drawn into internal IFP issues must be avoided. Our focus must be to ensure service delivery to all our people. That is how more members join the ANC. We must remain alert.

BUILDING UNITY AND COHESION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ANC

In all these matters that I have raised Comrades, the most fundamental thing is that we must work hard on building unity and cohesion within our branch, regional and provincial structures as well as within the Alliance.

Our call for the creation of the volunteer corps movement is about entrenching the hegemony of the ANC, uniting our people and strengthening our structures.

This work must continue.

The veterans and the ANC Veterans League have offered to assist our structures in infusing the spirit of congress movement and political development.

Recent events may have created the impression that there is an imminent split in the Alliance. It is important to say that the prediction has in the past been proven wrong. We have to continue to work to disappoint our detractors.

The relationship in the Alliance structures in this province remains exemplary. I wish to express my appreciation to the leaders of the Alliance and the Leagues for their contribution.

The regional leadership has assisted the PEC in maintaining a solid organization which commands respect across the country I wish to thank them for that.

The branches and the volunteers are the backbone of our people's movement. Keep up the good work.

I wish comrades successful deliberations to mark our way forward.

AMANDLA!!