

February 21, 1992

PRESS STATEMENT
re:
REGIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 22-26

The ANC Western Cape is holding its Regional General Council (RGC) at the Aroma Inn, Brakenfell on the 22 and 23 of February. This will be the first such Council held in the Western Cape in terms of the Constitution adopted by the ANC at its Coonference in June last year.

The RGC is designed as a forum to ensure that ANC branches come together regularly between annual conferences to discuss political developments and other issues. Delegates are able to give mandates to leadership on issues such as how to proceed on negotiations and other matters. A huge amount of effort has gone into ensuring that this RGC will be successful and fruitful.

The RGC will be attended by some 200 delegates representing over 100 branches with about 40 observers from interim branches. Many of these delegates will travel through the night from as far afield as Namaqualand, Britstown and Plettenberg Bay.

Two burning issues will be top of the agenda: the violence currently sweeping the Western Cape, particularly in Khayelitsha and Langa and the CODESA negotiations. Both are issues which will require up to the minute briefing in the light of recent events.

Negotiations

The RGC will review the significant progress that has been made in the negotiations process and examine ways to ensure that the process can be advanced with the utmost speed.

Our Region's response to the referendum announced by Mr De Klerk will also feature high on the agenda.

Central to the negotiations issue is the development of a programme of action that will enable us to achieve our aim of a constituent assembly as soon as possible. Already the National Party has conceded that this body should be elected, but we need to look at further ways to mobilise support for these demands.

Arising out of this, of course, is the question of elections. Planning is essential. We have demanded elections by the end of this year or early next year and we need to look seriously at ways of developing the machinery that will ensure an overwhelming ANC success at the polls.

The Violence

The RGC will also discuss in depth the wave of violence that has been unleashed against the democratic movement in the Western Cape over the past weeks. New ways of using the Peace Accord structures to help monitor and control attacks on communities must be urgently investigated.

In particular, the ANC will need to look at ways of exposing and ending the ongoing involvement of elements in the security forces and community council structures. It is increasingly clear that there can be no end to the violence unless proper control can be established over these forces.

Equally, of course, the process of building the ANC and preparing for elections will be affected by the difficulty of organising branches living in constant terror of violent attacks.

Details for the Press

There will be a press conference at approximately 5 pm on Sunday 23. The venue is the Cape Rendezvous Hotel (formerly the Aroma Inn) in Brackenfell. (Take Exit Number 10 off the N1, turn right at the first traffic lights then turn left into Brackenfell Boulevard at the Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket intersection).

A press alert finalising the time will be issued on Sunday. To contact us on Saturday and Sunday, please phone 981-2171 and ask for the ANC Regional Council office.

Issued by Mzwonke Jacobs

For further information, contact Rose Campbell 448-6551