JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE AND THE ANC SECRETARY GENERAL, CYRIL RAMAPHOSA 22 April, 1993

The ANC Secretary General, Cyril Ramaphosa, and representatives of the ANC Youth League, led by its Secretary General Rapu Molekane, issued a joint statement following a meeting earlier today between the two organisations.

The meeting was held to discuss the implications of a chant, led by Peter Mokaba, President of the ANC Youth League, that has featured prominently in recent media reports. Both organisations agreed that the chant did not represent official ANC policy.

Both the ANC Youth League and Mr Ramaphosa reaffirmed the ANC policy of non-racialism. They said that non-racialism had always been the rallying call of the ANC, and what we had always fought for.

Mr Ramaphosa said the ANC's policy on violence was both clear and well-known. The ANC had suspended armed struggle, and did not advocate the killing of anyone, black or white.

Both the ANC Youth League and Mr Ramaphosa said the chant that had been led by Mr Mokaba - "Kill the boer, kill the farmer" - arose out of the history of the ANC which had included an armed struggle. Such a chant had served a mobilising purpose during that stage, and its use should be viewed within that context.

However, Mr Ramaphosa said, it would not be correct to say that the slogan, even at that time, was specifically intended to identify either white South Africans or farmers per se as targets for military action by MK cadres. The actions of Umkhonto we Sizwe had been directed at symbols of white power and the apartheid military machine and personnel, not civilians.

The meeting agreed that the chant had become inappropriate in the present changed circumstances, and that its usage in public meetings was being reassessed.

Both organisations made an urgent appeal to all South Africa's youth, black and white, to not allow themselves to be used by dubious forces attempting to drive the country into a race war.

Issued by: M.C. Ramaphosa R. Molekane Secretary General Secretary General African National Congress ANC Youth League