

ANC POLICY GUIDELINES CONFERENCE - THE WAY FORWARD

This National Policy Conference of the ANC held from 28 to 31 May 1992 at Nasrec resolves as follows:

I. Popularising the Policy Guidelines Document

Recognising the importance of the document for members of the ANC, the broad democratic movement and all South Africans, we resolve that:

- a. It be translated into all languages and be accompanied by other forms of media to make it accessible to all;
- b. Regions undertake to set up policy teams whose task it will be to hold seminars, workshops and meetings, especially at branch level, to distribute and discuss the document and deepen understanding of ANC policies.

II. Urgent Tasks

Noting that the discussion at the Conference revealed that certain urgent tasks were to be undertaken by the ANC, we resolve that:

- a. A broad-based conference be organised with the view to evolving a comprehensive policy on regions, their structures, powers, delimitation and development within the context of a united South Africa;
- b. A special conference be organised to discuss the formulation of a programme of socio-economic development in the rural areas;
- c. The issue of abortion be discussed at all levels in the ANC, and especially at branch level, in a sensitive manner which respects all points of view and bears in mind all the implications, with a view to working out a consensus position on the subject;
- d. A programme of sensitising the membership of the ANC to the importance of the environment be undertaken;
- e. Mechanisms be established to ensure that in general terms the means of communication of ANC policy be enriched with a view to making the policy better understood on the ground through the length and breadth of the country.

III. Establishing a Preparing for Governance Unit

Believing:

1. That our vision for a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa must be supported by rigorously developed and implementable policies affecting all aspects of social and political life;
2. That policy development is an ongoing process which must involve the fullest participation of our broad constituency;
3. That the reconstruction of our country will require us to have well developed strategies and plans to transform the financial, legislative and institutional framework which informs the current socio-economic and political system, and that this applies most importantly to the immediate period of transition.

Noting:

1. That the policy guidelines we have adopted do provide a small but important start towards our longer term policy development goals;
2. That the commendable levels of participation of our constituency in developing these guidelines needs to be expanded and deepened;
3. That a clear strategy for the transition will impact heavily on our ability to meaningfully address the socio-economic problems affecting the majority of our people;

We hereby resolve:

1. To develop a programme that will continue to involve our constituency in developing policy for a democratic future by making policy options more accessible and taking these to the branches and regions for debate and discussion;
2. To call upon the NWC to establish a 'Preparing for Governance Unit' within the ANC that will be entrusted with the task of translating these broad policy guidelines into detailed strategies to transform the institutional, financial and legislative arrangements within various sectors of society to achieve our policy objectives;
3. To continue with the longer term policy work already underway within policy departments of the ANC;

We further resolve to call upon the NWC to convene a workshop within the next three months, that involves the leadership and key policy workers within the ANC, to translate the broad resolutions above into a concrete plan of action.

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UNILATERAL RESTRUCTURING**A** ECONOMY**A1** *Noting that,*

In recent years the state has embarked on a systematic campaign of unilaterally restructuring the economy through:

A1.1 The privatisation of public-sector companies;

A1.2 The privatisation of state land and the dissolution of the South African Development Trust;

A1.3 Attempts to borrow abroad; and

A1.4 Other measures to give a minority control over large parts of the public sector, for instance through the process of commercialisation leading up to privatisation.

A2 *Noting further that,*

These measures by the state have two aims:

A2.1 First, to compel poor communities to pay more for basic services, and

A2.2 Second, to entrench minority control over national resources in order to prevent a future democratic government from redressing the inequalities and poverty created by apartheid.

A3 *And that,*

The state has established these policies in secret, with virtually no attempt at democratic debate and participation.

A4 *Resolves that,*

A4.1 The ANC condemns the secret and undemocratic restructuring of the South African economy and the disposal of public assets, and calls for a moratorium on such actions. We further demand that the state fully disclose all planned and current actions of this type;

A4.2 The ANC reserves the right to renationalise any enterprise, land, service or other assets privatised by the state;

A4.3 The ANC reserves the right to renegotiate any new foreign debts acquired by the regime, its agencies or parastatals, if those debts will impose excessively onerous conditions on a democratic government; and

A4.4 The ANC will examine and, where necessary, re-organise the policymaking and management structures of the public sector in order to ensure democratic control.

B LAND

B1 *Noting* the regime has embarked on a process of disposal and transfer of state-owned land

B2 *Resolves* that such action on the part of the regime be stopped forthwith, and that all such land disposals be reviewed.

C HEALTH (1)

C1 *Noting* the present government's unilateral restructuring of the health services, including the privatization of public health services and the introduction of private practice into academic complexes;

C2 *Calls* for a moratorium and an immediate end to all forms of unilateral restructuring;

C3 *Resolves*

C3.1 To intensify the campaigns against these measures; and

C3.2 To reserve the right to re-incorporate back into the public sector those services that have been privatised.

D HEALTH (2)

- D1 **Noting** that the violence perpetrated by decades of minority rule has left in its wake a brutalized society including
- D1.1 Victims of imprisonment and detention;
 - D1.2 Victims of enforced relocation;
 - D1.3 Ex-combatants; and
 - D1.4 Victims of violence;
- D2 **And believing** that the challenges of reconstruction demand the participation of all our people;
- D3 **Resolves** to urgently develop support mechanisms for all the above categories of persons.

E SOCIAL WELFARE

- E1 **Noting** the present crisis in the present welfare system and the inequalities inherent in it;
- E2 **Resolves**
- E2.1 That a moratorium be observed by the government on any future legislation until a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic government is in place;
 - E2.2 That the present government refrain from taking initiatives to develop a new welfare system, and that a National Welfare Forum of all relevant formations, to formulate a new welfare system be established; and
 - E2.3 That an enquiry be instituted into the objectives and administration of the Food-aid programme in order to ensure just distribution of resources free of political bias.

F FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE INTERIM PHASE

- F1 **Noting** that in a democratic South Africa, the ANC will welcome foreign investment that contributes to the growth and socio-economic development of our economy, and that such foreign investment can provide an important complement to domestic resources;
- F2 **Further noting**
- F2.1 That the current apartheid laws that govern investment do not adequately promote growth and socio-economic development; and
 - F2.2 That the basic ILO conventions do not apply in that discriminatory practices are widespread and that measures to protect the environment are weak.
- F3 **And believing** that foreign investment that takes place in such a context will not automatically contribute to growth, development or the eradication of apartheid;
- F4 **Therefore resolves** to campaign for the following principles to govern any investment in the interim phase:
- F4.1 Labour practices should accord with all basic ILO Conventions;
 - F4.2 Investment should enhance employment creation;
 - F4.3 Employment practices must actively counter discrimination in the workplace;
 - F4.4 Investment must enhance the productive capacities of South Africans, and should, in particular, incorporate affirmative action programmes; and
 - F4.5 Investment must incorporate environmentally sound and clean practices and technology.

G LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- G1 **Whereas** local government in South Africa is characterised by unrepresentative, unviable and racist structures;
- G2 **Noting** the government's cynical attempts to promote the unilateral, undemocratic and pre-emptive restructuring of local government;
- G3 **And believing** in the need for a system of strong and effective non-racial, non-sexist and democratic local government;
- G4 **This Conference hereby resolves**
- G4.1 To call on all progressive forces to resist any attempts by local and provincial authorities to unilaterally restructure local government;
- G4.2 To emphatically reject any local negotiations involving the use of the Interim Measures for the Local Government Act;
- G4.3 To reject the unilateral and pre-emptive attempts to create joint administrations as outlined by Minister Wessels on 27 March 1992; and
- G4.4 To demand that the regime immediately suspends and withdraws the Interim Measures Act, and immediately enter into meaningful negotiations to establish a set of national guidelines and peremptory legislation to guide negotiations and the restructuring of interim local government.

H ENVIRONMENT

- H1 **Conference resolves** that immediate attention be given to the need to initiate a programme aimed at sensitising the ANC structures, local, regional and national - including its different sectors and allies - on understanding the importance of the Environment and its use.

I RESOLUTION ON DEFENCE AMENDMENT BILL FROM THE COMMISSION ON POLICE AND ARMY.

- I1 **Conference notes** with concern that the Defence Amendment entrenches the racist nature of the SADF, based on whites-only conscription, and provides for compulsory prison sentences for those who refuse to be conscripted and are not classified as "conscientious objectors";
- I2 **Conference condemns and totally rejects** the Bill, and demands that it be withdrawn immediately; and
- I3 **It further demands** that the regime put an immediate end to all racially-based practices in the SADF.

J EX-COMBATANTS: IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE GIVEN AND SACRIFICES MADE BY COMBATANTS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID

- J1 **Recalling** and honouring the service given and sacrifices made by compatriots in the struggle in the national interest against apartheid and for a non-racial and non-sexist democratic South Africa;
- J2 **Conference resolves**
- J2.1 That the acknowledgments, entitlements and benefits accorded to ex-combatants of the SADF, the police and prison services, be accorded to ex-combatants of MK;
- J2.2 That existing and past legislation covering the rights of ex-service men and women be extended to cover ex-combatants of MK with immediate effect and paying special attention to War Graves, Memorials, gratuities, disability and pension rights, resettlement, housing and education grants;
- J2.3 That the same principles be extended to cover ex-political prisoners and their families, the families of those who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid, and persons who were victimised in the course of participating in the struggle against apartheid, especially victims of torture and state violence; and
- J2.4 That these principles apply on a non-sectarian basis to all ex-combatants in the struggle against apartheid.