

# ANC 5th NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Political Report by President Jacob Zuma to the 53rd National Conference of the ANC  
16 December 2012

## ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Today we reflect on the road travelled since 2007, in both organisational work and that of the ANC in government.

The Polokwane conference was unique in its own way. It reaffirmed the ANC as a strategic centre of power to provide leadership to the state and society as a whole.

In this context one of the most tangible achievements was the reaffirmation that power lies with branches, thus emphasising as well the need to capacitate the branches with resources so that they can function optimally.

Polokwane also reaffirmed the Freedom Charter as a strategic document, and charted the way forward for us to change the ANC and its government for the better. The road to Polokwane was full of divisions and turbulence. It was necessary therefore that we begin healing the organisation and working for unity immediately after the conference.

We condemn the use of violence, and strongly condemn the killings of ANC leaders including the ANC Dr Kenneth Kaunda regional secretary in North West, Comrade Obuti Chika. We condemn the killing of other comrades in other provinces as well, earlier in the year.

Comrades, we must also frown upon other alien practices such as the use of money to buy the support of ANC members. We should not allow a situation where those who have money turn members of the ANC into commodities.

Historically, both the Youth League and the Women's League have played an important role in the life of the African National Congress. Their role remains relevant and crucial, as we move into the second phase in which we will focus on achieving meaningful socio-economic freedom.

Comrades, President Oliver Tambo reminded us eloquently of the need for the unity of the ANC-led Alliance a few years ago. He emphasised that it was "a living organism that has grown out of struggle".

We worked together to bring about freedom, justice and human rights

during the struggle for liberation and currently as we fight poverty, inequality and unemployment together.

We bring various strengths into the relationship. The SACP brings specific ideological input as the vanguard of the working class. The relationship amongst components of the Alliance needs to be handled with the greatest of care because if we don't do so, we can polarise the Alliance.

Our disagreements need to be handled with the understanding that we are allies and not opponents, and that neither COSATU nor the SACP are in opposition to the ANC.

Comrades and friends, The ANC-led Alliance needs to revisit its understanding of the balance of forces currently in light of occurrences such as the tragedy in Marikana, where 40 people died violently.

The Marikana Judicial Commission of Inquiry led by Judge Jan Faarlum will assist us to establish the circumstances around the painful incident.

We once again extend our deepest condolences to the families of all who died in Marikana.

At a political level, the Marikana tragedy exposed the organisational challenges we face both at the workplace and in the community.

Strong shop floor organisation and strong ANC and SACP plus SANCO in and around Marikana, would have anticipated the challenges facing the workers and acted accordingly.

We need to avoid the danger of distance between leaders and members, both at the workplace and in the communities.

Marikana also exposed the seemingly deep rooted culture of violence and intimidation that still exists in our society.

The Marikana tragedy served as a springboard for more wild cat strikes and protests, which were also marred by violence.

These labour strikes were illegal, violent and appeared designed to undermine collective bargaining in general and the National Union of Mineworkers in particular.

At a governance level, we need to reflect on the implementation of the Mining Charter, as mining companies should meet their obligations regarding the social and labour plans.

We need to also reflect on the protests generally that have taken place in the country last year, and the unacceptable violent nature thereof.

It is important for the ANC to maintain ongoing contact with the masses at all times. We should explain to people when services are coming to them, and if there is going to be a delay, they also need to be told.

We should engage our people more, even on the question of unacceptable violence that accompanies some of the strikes and protests, which we condemn in the strongest terms.

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Women's League members show their support for Zuma

Picture: Ramatamo wa Matamo



ANC Chaplain Yekile Mkhans and Kgalema Motlatse

Picture: Ramatamo wa Matamo



ANC TOP 6

Picture: Ramatamo wa Matamo



Kgalema delivers his farewell speech

Picture: Ramatamo wa Matamo



Nkosazana Zuma & Maite Nkomo Mashabane



ANC supporters not shy to show who they wanted elected



Madikizela Mandela nominated in NEC



ANC flags were flying high



Zuma and Gwede's shirts being burnt in support for Zuma and Gwede to be re-elected