

**POLITICAL INPUT DELIVERED BY PROVINCIAL
TREASURER
CDE NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE**



LOWER SOUTH COAST REGIONAL LEKGOTLA

VENUE: PORT SHEPSTONE CIVIC CENTRE

DATE: 04 – 05 DECEMBER 2020

**POLITICAL INPUT DELIVERED
BY PROVINCIAL TREASURER OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN
KWAZULU-NATAL, CDE NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LOWER SOUTH COAST REGIONAL LEKGOTLA
HELD AT PORT SHEPSTONE CIVIC CENTRE**

Comrade Programme Director Cde Xolani Luthuli;
PEC members deployed to this region – Cde Zinhle Cele and other PEC members;
Entire RTT leadership according to their deployment;
RTT Convenor - Cde Phumlile Mthiyane;
RTT Coordinator - Cde Xolani Luthuli;
RTT Deputy Coordinator Cde Kotini Nene and
Fundraiser - Cde Mondli Chiliza;
Leaders of the Tripartite Alliance: SACP, COSATU and SANCO
ANC Veterans League;
ANC Women's League;
ANC Youth League;
MKMVA;
Rank and File of the ANC from all branches;
Religious and Traditional Leaders;
Business leaders;
Members of the media;

Viva ANC Viva !!!!

Amandla !!!

Allow me to express our warmest greetings to everyone present this morning on behalf of the provincial leadership of the African National Congress.

Comrade Programme Director, from the outset, allow me to congratulate the RTT for convening this Lekgotla.

I am impressed by the positive mood and comradeship prevailing since I arrived here this morning.

I wish to inform all delegates to this Lekgotla that cadres of the movement and members of society from across the province and the country, are encouraged by the fact that the RTT is setting a good example by convening this Lekgotla.

Judging by the positive messages I have received, I have no doubt that the excellent co-ordination of this gathering and the topics for discussion will inspire other comrades across the province to replicate your exemplary leadership.

Focus of Lekgotla – issues for discussion

Programme Director, based on your reflection on the purpose and objectives I wish to add important tasks that I believe we need to execute.

Local Government election victory

I am tempted to point out that as the leadership and delegates from branches in this region, perhaps you may need to use this gathering to sharpen our strategies to ensure a resounding victory for the African National Congress in the next local government elections next year.

Maqabane, we need to humble the enemy of the revolution by ensuring that the ANC obtains a majority support in the local government elections. This region is critical in order to achieve that.

Implementation of NASREC Resolutions

Comrades, another task for you as delegates to this Lekgotla, is to do an honest assessment of whether NASREC resolutions are implemented by the ANC-led municipalities in this region.

Having done that assessment, you must shift your focus and assess the provincial government departments in this region. Are they accessible? Are they making an impact in terms of advancing driving rural and township development?

Critically, you must refine and interrogate the implementation of the ANC programme of action as announced in January 8th statement and in the election manifesto.

During this Lekgotla you need to brainstorm on what the ANC-led municipalities and provincial government needs to do to deliver a better life for the people of this region.

There is no other opportunity to do execute those tasks other than during this Lekgotla.

The Alliance must remain stronger in Lower South Coast Region and KZN

Comrade Programme Director, another critical task for all of your as delegates is to channel your energies towards discussions on how to rebuild and strengthen the alliance in this region.

This is the similar task that must be carried out across all regions in this province. But I believe that the Lower South Coast must be a case study for all other regions.

Having been part of this organization of Inkosi Albert Mvumbi Luthuli over the years, I believe that in order to have a stronger ANC in this region, you need to ensure that the Alliance has regular meetings in a structured manner.

This Lekgotla must therefore discuss how to ensure that the following meetings are convened religiously:

- the Regional Alliance Secretariat;
- the Regional Alliance Political Council and then
- the Regional Alliance Summit.

Comrades, we are highlighting these meetings as the PEC because we all have a task of rebuilding the Alliance. Regions have an important role to play.

I have no doubt that if this region adopts this approach - we will ultimately strengthen the ANC as a leader of society.

I must hasten to point out that the regularity of these meetings will assist in improving communication and understanding of challenges faced by the ANC in the region – in the province and in the whole country.

You will also be able to discuss, share successes and communicate these with the public. This will help change the perception because the media has succeeded to paint a state of paralysis within the ANC and the alliance. Maybe the media is correct because we are very silent. We are not vocal about our successes and we also keep quiet about challenges we are facing instead of being honest.

Programme Director, in my interaction with many comrades, I have picked up too many concerns that the Alliance meetings are infrequent and ad hoc. Many comrades have said, this has contributed to unsatisfactory management of Alliance issues.

There is no denying the fact that - this is the challenge faced by the ANC in this region, in the province and nationally.

The effect thereof is that there is poor processing of issues resulting in embarrassing public spats and disagreements where the whole country watches as the Alliance members tear each other apart in full glare of the public. This is also prevalent in WhatsApp Groups and on Facebook

Comrades, attacking each other publicly and on social media tends to undermine our revolution and creates an impression of a weak ANC and an Alliance that is on its death bed.

Maqabane, let us hold hands and address these challenges so that we are not judged harshly by history. We should not be remembered as having presided over the collapse of the ANC and the Alliance.

We need a strong ANC – a united and vibrant Alliance that debates issues and examine all issues internally, without fear and self-censorship by cadres of this Revolutionary Alliance.

Our responsibility is to emerge from this Legotla with an even stronger ANC that will assist the Alliance at provincial and national level to be stronger and more united. This is extremely important as we head towards the local government elections.

Alliance was formed out of necessity – Critical Phase of the Revolution

Comrades, when the alliance was formed, it was not about social convenience but it was based on the strategic objective of achieving fundamental transformation of our society for the better.

Critically, as delegates to this Lekgotla, you need to internalize the fact that we have entered another phase of the revolution.

We have a responsibility to ensure that in this province, the alliance assists the ANC to play a visible role towards the attainment of economic freedom.

We need to see people from previously disadvantaged communities swelling all sectors of the economy as entrepreneurs – owners and creators of wealth for generations to come.

We must not be apologetic about our focus on rural and township economic development. The ANC-led municipalities and provincial government departments must deploy resources to unshackle millions of people from the bondages of economic oppression.

COVID-19 translating political freedom into economic freedom

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, we need to double our efforts to translate the political freedom we enjoy into economic freedom for millions of people in this region and the province as a whole.

As a result of COVID-19, our provincial GDP growth rate fell by a devastating 51.6% during the same quarter of 2020. Our projections indicate that economic

growth in the Province will contract by at least 9.1% this year, before moderating to 1.5% next year.

The largest negative contributors to the provincial economic growth in the second quarter of 2020 were mining and quarrying, which contracted by 75.5%; constructions by 75.3%; manufacturing by 75.1% and wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants by 68.9%.

We have seen many sectors of our economy being affected with workers in the manufacturing sector being asked to work short-times.

This means that this government is required to be more innovative to ensure that we fight poverty, create decent employment while we deliver basic services and fight the spread of COVID-19 on the other hand.

Comrades, I have stated in various platforms that the ANC-led government and all municipalities remains the only hope for the people of this province.

Whenever there are differences amongst you comrades, you must remember that the ANC is the only organization that is expected to assist those who live below the poverty line.

We must never allow your political differences to stand between the people of this region and prosperity.

You must spend time debating how best you can ensure that you assist entrepreneurs in the informal economy who remain vulnerable.

You must pay attention to the implementation of the ANC government-led Economic Reconstruction and Transformation Plan.

As ANC members and members of the alliance in this region, must ensure that deployed cadres of the ANC across all spheres of government work with municipalities in this region to ensure an effective implementation of this plan.

In this regard, this Lekgotla must debate key strategic focus areas such as :-

- enhancing industrial development through investment into the key productive sectors of reviving the manufacturing, tourism agriculture, transport, oceans economy, digital economy, informal economy – township and rural economies;
- Expansion of government-led job creation programmes, promoting SMMEs and Cooperatives and entrepreneurial development and promoting innovation and localisation.

Comrades, it is only a stronger ANC that will be able to ensure an effective implementation of these strategies focus areas for the benefits of those who voted this party into office.

Importantly, only the Alliance can strengthen the ANC and ensure that it deploys cadres who have the ability and understanding of how to advance the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution.

Each member of the ANC, the leagues and alliance partners is important

Our message to you comrades, as we open this Legotla is that, each member of the alliance, the leagues and the ANC is important.

We are all here to participate in the deliberations as equals.

After this Legotla, we will also remain comrades who must participate in the ANC programme, as equals.

At all times, we must appreciate and remember that this is a unique alliance in which each component has a distinct role and character. But, together we can complement one another rather than compete with one another.

While there is an overlap in membership with the leader of the Alliance being the ANC, it is essential that the roles of the components are understood as they define the strength of the Tripartite Alliance.

Comrades – the South African Communist Party in this region is important to ensure that we achieve a socialist state guided by the scientific theory of Marxism–Leninism. The socialist nature, must be reflected in the manner in which ANC municipalities and all government departments in this region

The Congress of South African Trade Unions is the progressive voice of the workers fighting for the improvement of working conditions whilst participating as an integral part of the liberation forces.

Much later in the history of our revolution, another component was added in the name of the South African National Civic Organization, to unite civic bodies and take up their struggles and unite their effort in furtherance of our democracy.

The African National Congress is a multi-class organization that has its mission being the achievement of the unity of all South Africans, black people in general and Africans in particular.

We must never be apologetic about the important role of each member of the alliance. And we must make this alliance stronger each day because the enemy of the revolution, will never rest until this alliance is broken up into pieces.

A weaker alliance represents continuing economic oppression of the majority of indigenous people by those who benefitted from the apartheid regime.

Road to the National General Council

Comrades, whilst at this this stage we do not have the date of the National General Council in 2021, we must however begin to engage on critical policy positions we want to advance as KZN.

The ANC has worked too hard to improve the lives of South Africa already, and has far too much still undone. The ANC remains most capable to do more for a much longer period. But certain things must be confronted fearlessly and consistently.

The economy should be the priority in the NGC

The outbreak of COVID-19 in addition to the existence of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality explains why all efforts must be focused on how the economy of the country will be turned around for the better.

In previous records of government performance presented before the NGC, all reports of progress in service delivery were punctuated by the remark that inequality is rising in the country. Of late it has been recorded that, judged by the rising Gini coefficient, South Africa is rapidly becoming the most unequal society in the world. The challenge with inequality is that it is a comparative index, and as such creates a sense of grievance between various classes and strata in society.

High unemployment inherited from the apartheid past has not be significantly dented in the past 20 years of local government and 26 years of ANC in government.

It is of concern that in some cases youth unemployment reaches up to 70% in our country where 70% of the population is youth below 35 years. With COVID-19, the situation has reached catastrophic levels

The issue of economic empowerment of the wider majority of South African people has always been fundamental in the struggle for freedom, tied as it was with the issue of land dispossession and racial and gender oppression.

Branches of the ANC in this region and across the province must prepare for the NGC and discuss all these issues in order to develop a position to be advanced by KZN.

The NGC in 2021 has an obligation to come out with a bold and firm statement with regard to the economic policies adopted by the delegates.

The work starts now and therefore comrades must spend time going through the following NGC documents:-

- Balance of Forces
- International Relations
- Economic Transformation and a Prosperous SA. Is the NDR still on Track
- Social cohesion, and the National and Gender Question
- Building a Non-Sexist Society and the Struggle against Patriarchy
- Young People Today: Mission, Challenges and Tasks
- Culture and Heritage: Strengthening of ANC Policy and the Strategic Repositioning in the Post Apartheid ERA
- Review of Through the Eye of the Needle
- Organisational Renewal and Unity
- Developing our Human Capabilities
- SA's Electoral System
- Towards a Reconfigured Alliance

Sober debates of documents needed

Maqabane, we certainly need sober debates and no emotional fights and personality contests. The NGC next year must again change the future of South Africa, redefining it for the next century and the ANC must take its rightful role as that catalyst for change.

Gender Based Violence and Involvement of ANC men

Comrades, on the question of Building a Non-Sexist Society and the Struggle against Patriarchy, it is the time for males in the ANC to take charge of the future and lead all efforts aimed ending gender based violence.

In terms of Gender Based Violence and rape in particular, statistics show that three KZN towns are in the top 5 - with Inanda being the rape capital for the second year in a row. Here in Umtwalume we witnessed brutal incidents of rape and murder of women

Cde Programme Directors, this Lekgotla must examine the role of men in the ANC towards the participation in GBV programmes.

This Lekgotla must make a call that community leaders especially men, must double their efforts and build strong family structures.

ANC members must ensure that family structures are the first lines of protection and the source for defensive justice. This role is invaluable.

ANC members must ensure that relatives and neighbours do not collude with perpetrators of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and other crimes committed indoors for fear of disgracing families.

An abuser will never stop his actions if not confronted. Instead he will enter into an enabling environment if the behaviour goes unpunished. Sooner or later they will turn on those who witnessed their crime and never took decisive action.

ANC men must lead educational programmes and marches in our streets in villages and townships.

ANC men must demonstrate that they will never remain silent in the face of a growing trend of the abuse and violation of the human rights of the most vulnerable members of our society.

The recent phenomenon of the abduction and murder of young girls is particularly galling. We continue to learn with shocks through various media platforms including the social media of the murder of young girls. ANC must stand up and defend us.

Conclusion

As I conclude *Programme Director*, I wish to remind delegates that on the 3rd August 2016, the people of this region and the province spoke through the ballot box.

We are informed by the IEC that the number of voters who participated in the local government elections in 2016 were the highest yet recorded in local government elections.

We must always bear in mind that by voting the ANC into office, the electorate laid their trust in the ANC to advance their aspirations.

They placed a great burden on our shoulders and banked on us to help get them out of poverty. We need not betray that trust placed upon us through the ANC.

We must work together, as guided by the pathfinders of our democracy, to create a prosperous future they envisioned.

As ANC cadres, at all levels, we must strengthen the support base amongst all communities. We must make the organization of Rev John Langalibalele Dube the party of choice and home for all.

We must work hard to resuscitate the old ANC culture that made no one feel alienated by any member of the ANC for whatever reason.

We must work hard to ensure that the ANC remains an organization that accepts all individuals in terms of the contribution they make in the fulfillment of the dreams of our people.

We must work hard to ensure that the ANC treats all its members with the same respect, be they long-serving or newly-recruited, whether they serve in elected or appointed structures of government or outside government service.

We must work hard to ensure that the ANC remains a home for all.

We must work hard to ensure that the ANC remains an organisation of equals!

Viva ANC Viva !!!!!

Amandla !!!

Matla !!!!!