

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

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### CLOSING REMARKS BY ANC PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA TO THE ANC NEC LEKGOTLA

National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe,  
Deputy President Paul Mashatile,  
Officials of the African National Congress,  
Former President Thabo Mbeki,  
Members of the National Executive Committee,  
Leadership of the ANCWL, ANCYL and ANCVL,  
Leadership of the SACP and COSATU,  
Leadership of the MK Liberation War Veterans,  
Leadership of CONTRALESA,  
Leadership of SASCO and COSAS,  
Ministers and Deputy Ministers,  
Metro Mayors and leaders of SALGA,  
Comrades deployed in various institutions Comrades and Friends,

As we conclude this Lekgotla, we wish to express our gratitude for all those who have found the time to attend. We have reached the end of a productive and focused lekgotla. Through our deliberations over the last two days, we have given effect to the instruction from our 55<sup>th</sup> National Conference to act with urgency and purpose to meet the needs of our people. We have looked at the actions we must take now and over the next few months to resolve the electricity crisis, to grow the economy, create employment, to deal with criminality, to tackle poverty and hunger. Underpinning all these actions are the practical steps we must take to renew and rebuild the ANC and to ensure the ANC is united. We have said that this renewal must be driven by a programme of action that is rooted in communities and attends to their needs.

We have resolved that an intensive programme of branch training must be undertaken in the next few months to ensure that our branches undertake campaigns to improve the lives of the people as they work with various structures of our government at all levels. This lekgotla has provided clear direction on what needs to be done to end the energy crisis as a matter of extreme urgency, and to establish a firm foundation for energy security and sustainability into the future. We must welcome the contribution from Mr Anil Sardana on the Indian experience, which enriched our discussions and provided an international perspective on how our own challenges can best be addressed. The contribution by Cde Tintswali Makhubele on the impact of load shedding on communities, small business and cooperatives and the farming sector ensured that our approach takes proper account of the devastating consequences on the economy and on the livelihoods of our people.

We should welcome the perspective from commissions that ending the energy crisis must be a government-wide and society-wide effort. As the ANC, we have undertaken to playing an active role in mobilising all sections of society behind an urgent Energy Action Plan.

There is clear direction from the lekgotla that we must resolve the immediate task of load shedding within a much shorter timeframe than what has been projected, and has set out the actions to achieve that. There was talk about a National State of Disaster, like what we did when we faced COVID-19, and there is broad agreement that we should proceed in that direction.

The Year of Decisive Action to Advance the People's Interests and Renew our Movement

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT</b>	<b>NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>SECRETARY GENERAL</b>	<b>DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL</b>	<b>TREASURER GENERAL</b>
CM Ramaphosa	PS Mashatile	GS Mantashe	FA Mbalula	NP Mokonyane	M Ramokgopa	GM Ramokgopa



Work is already underway within government to establish whether the legal requirements for the declaration of a national state of disaster are met and what specific actions we would be empowered to undertake to urgently resolve load shedding within the framework of a National State of Disaster. This matter will receive attention, including at the Cabinet Lekgotla, and must be resolved without delay.

This proposal has been articulated in a number of consultations we have held with various stakeholders. This matter is being addressed with the urgency it requires. This lekgotla has agreed that the coordination of our response also needs to be escalated to the most senior levels of government and that we need to communicate more clearly and the message should be a singular message so that there is no confusion among our people. The Lekgotla said the President must coordinate all these processes to ensure the electricity crisis is addressed like we did with COVID-19.

The lekgotla has emphasised that the mobilisation of social partners is essential to mobilise the massive investment required to create jobs and transform the economy. The lekgotla has agreed that we need to give new impetus and urgency to this task, and that we must respond constructively to the proposals from the other role-players, such as business, labour and community organisations. We have agreed that the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan remains at the centre of our work to rebuild the economy, and that our task now is to intensify implementation of that plan and attend to areas where there has been insufficient progress. A particular area of emphasis was in relation to localisation and the re-industrialisation of our economy.

We should deepen a developmental mindset in all that we do, and show deliberate leadership through articulating a clear programme for economic development through the ERRP. We have had critical discussions about the obstacles to greater infrastructure investment and improved maintenance of the infrastructure we have. Central to these challenges is the capacity of the state to drive infrastructure investment. As a consequence, the lekgotla has agreed on several actions to improve the capacity of the state across all spheres of government and to mobilise private sector capabilities and resources more effectively. We have agreed that we need to prioritise infrastructure that affects people most directly, specifically electricity, water and road infrastructure.

As part of the urgent work required to improve delivery of basic services, this lekgotla has recommended that a Delivery Command Centre be established in the organisation. This should package and monitor key deliverables on basic services such as water and sanitation, human settlements, roads and infrastructure maintenance. Every ANC branch needs to submit a report on the state of the delivery of basic services and the maintenance of infrastructure in each ward. We have recognised that the effective delivery of basic services depends on having capable and skilled people in all spheres and entities of government. We have agreed that a skills audit should be undertaken to ascertain requisite skills and qualifications of those who are placed in various centres.

Importantly, we need to ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated through our budgetary process to give effect to this priority and that mechanisms for providing this funding to municipalities achieve the desired outcomes. We also reflected on the phenomenon of the underspending of budgets and agreed that this must come to an end. If there is money it must be spent to good effect, funding the services that people need. In strengthening the fight against crime and corruption, this lekgotla has emphasised the need to mobilise all of society – starting at a community level – to fight this scourge. We have said that ANC branches should reclaim the space and play an active role in addressing community concerns in this regard.

We have resolved on action to improve relations between the police and the community through the existing structures such as Community Policing Forums. There are specific steps that can be taken to improve community safety and discourage vigilantism, such as enabling satellite police stations to operate 24 hours a day. We also discussed the pandemic of gender-based violence and agreed the council that was agreed at the first GBV Summit and repeated at second GBV summit should be appointed and the legislation should be finalised without delay. We have agreed on specific timeframes to review the country's anti-corruption architecture as part of considering the establishment of a vibrant and independent anti-corruption agency. We have also agreed to urgently capacitate the Witness Protection Unit and finalise the review of measures to protect whistleblowers. Whistleblowers continue to face huge challenges in our country and they need to be protected because those who blow the whistle on corruption and fraud are doing a great service to our country.



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To Advance the People's Interests  
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The lekgotla has agreed on the importance of reconstructing the intelligence services to better protect the country and its people, and to guard against any counter-revolutionary activities. The lekgotla has said that government must introduce a single piece of legislation to deal with citizenship, immigration and refugee protection. This will contribute to more effective management of migration and better secure the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This lekgotla has also discussed in some detail the work the ANC and government must undertake to make Africa and the world a better place.

As the ANC, we have said that we must identify strategic partners across the globe. These partnerships must be built on shared interest and a developmental agenda. They must be mutually beneficial and inclusive. We have said that the ANC and government must strengthen economic diplomacy by making the African Continental Free Trade Area work more effectively. South Africa also needs to resuscitate its role as the African Union's African Champion on Infrastructure. The Peer Review Mechanism that South Africa has been making have been noted positively, and that work needs to be continued. The lekgotla has given important guidance to South Africa's chairship of the BRICS group of countries this year. It has said that BRICS must conclude on the expansion of the alliance with clear criteria to guide the processes, and that we need to use this platform to address the global energy challenges and a whole number of issues that have to do with the geopolitics of the world. We have resolved that the New Development Bank needs strengthening and political support from BRICS countries to respond better to the needs of the nations it serves.

Today marks 42 years since the murderous raid of the South African Defence Force in Matola in Mozambique, in which several of our cadres and Mozambican citizens were killed. As we remember those who lost their lives to apartheid aggression, let us dedicate ourselves to the cause for which they lost their lives. Today we must also pass our condolences to the families of our fellow citizens who were slaughtered in Port Elizabeth and to the family of Thulani Maseko, a lawyer who was assassinated in Eswatini. We pledge our solidarity with the people of Eswatini as they continue to struggle to address the challenges in their country.

Let us dedicate ourselves to the liberation of the South African people from poverty, hunger and unemployment, and we need to build a free, democratic and equal society for all. These are the highlights of the extensive discussions we have held. There will be a press conference where the SGO will outline the decisions in detail, because these will guide not only what we do in the ANC and what we do in government.

Let us leave these lekgotla determined to put into action the critical tasks that we have discussed here.

We know what we need to do.

The decisions we have taken here will strengthen our resolve, and will inform our Cabinet Lekgotla and State of the Nation Address.

I thank you.

END

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