

Social Transformation into the Second Decade of Freedom

Discussion Document

A. Introduction

1. As we move towards the centenary celebrations of the ANCYL it becomes relevant to reflect on the checks and balances of the social discourse and the achievements realised and the path towards ensuring that the total social emancipation of our people against the yardstick of the Freedom Charter.
2. Since the formation of the ANC 100 years ago, the organisation has thrived in a society characterised by harsh socio-political and economic environment with the mass support of the people of the Congress movement. The unity demonstrated by the people towards a common enemy ultimately defeated the apartheid regime and achieved political freedom.
3. It is a misnomer to speak of a non racial society in South Africa in the absence of its historic racial bias; as we advance towards the second hundred years of the gigantic ANC it is essential that the de-racialisation of society is impossible without the implementation of corrective measures aimed at redressing the very perpetrator of such. Thus, the objectives of achieving a society free of class and race contradictions remains pivotal in the road we walk with Blacks in General and Africans in particular.
4. Political freedom can never translate to full emancipation of our people, if the social and economic environment continues to polarise the masses of our people away from the ideals of the social, economic and political obligations of the Freedom Charter.
5. In 2014 we will celebrate three decades of Democracy. It becomes the obligation of the ANC to account for the social and economic commitments made to our people since its formation and the adoption of the Freedom Charter. The reciprocal commitment demonstrated by the masses at the polls for the African National Congress is equally a reminder of their expectations.

6. It is the compulsory duty of the African National Congress to accelerate the improvement of the quality of lives of our people, by prioritising the people centered and people driven democracy and providing a society of prosperity, unity, democracy, non racism and non sexism as a reaffirmation of governance by the people.
7. The vast deficit of our social achievements lies in our failure to emancipate our people economically. In light of the social reparations, the urgency for social transformation premised on reversing unemployment and poverty, eliminating the scourge of drugs and alcohol abuse, accelerating the full participation and success of the nation in sport, arts and culture, correcting human settlement patterns, building the nation and ensuring social cohesion, development of rural areas, securing food and ensuring the security of our people; the twin tasks of the Youth League of the ANC is impregnated with mammoth responsibilities.
8. This requires the energy, innovation and robustness of the young lions in fulfilling the demands of the masses of our people in the day to day functioning of the ANC.

The imminent risks to the National Democratic Revolution

B. Unemployment and Poverty

9. The road to Polokwane was characterised by underdevelopment and Poverty, and the strides made have since been marred with the dilemma of escalating unemployment which currently obscures the developmental agenda of the ANC (with figures reaching half the population of employable age), the projections damn the development of young people beyond the 70% mark of the total unemployed in South Africa which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and requires immediate intervention.
10. Despite having traversed two decades into democracy the aspirations of the Freedom Charter to the *right and duty to work* remain unfulfilled as unemployment it continues to scar society ripping many of the right to decent work and full employment.

11. This obvious consequence of slow application of the Freedom Charter has resulted in tensions between our people and our government as programmes have not exceeded their boundaries beyond information gathering and analysis into coherent employment creation.
12. The deprivation of young people's access to employment continues to stagnate national development. *The abolishment of contract labour*, remains a battle yet to be won outrightly; if not the deficit of the vast unemployment and relative poverty of young people will distance the political obligations of the National Democratic Revolution from the masses.

a) Black Youth in General and African Youth in Particular remain unemployed

13. *South Africa belongs to all who live in it Black and White* remains a mantra facing the reality that the effects of racial apartheid have not been diluted. The commitment to Africans in particular and Blacks in general in the Strategy and Tactics document of the ANC should continue unabated in its priority towards the achievement of prosperity of the masses. Unemployment remains an African problem with direct consequences in meeting the strategic objectives of the National Democratic Revolution. Young people continue remain at the helm of those prejudiced as three quarters of the youth are unemployed.

Race	Age Group				
	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65
African	76.68	51.49	34.45	28.91	20.48
Coloured	53.91	24.38	19.94	19.19	17.15

Indian	42.37	18.82	14.4	13.32	11.41
White	21.57	6.64	6.61	5.33	6.67
Total	69.94	43.76	28.95	24.10	17.33
Source:	<i>Stats SA released the Labour Market Dynamics South Africa: 2009</i>				

- ▶ In 2010, Stats SA released the Labour Market Dynamics South Africa: 2009 report made the observation that Africans were under represented among the employed and over represented among both the unemployed and not economically active.

b) Young women remain unemployed

14. Having appreciated the strides made towards ensuring that our society is gender balanced and non sexist the majority of the unemployed remain Black women in general and African women in particular, this is indicated by the Stats SA report which shows that between 2004 and 2009, unemployment was consistently higher for females compared to men and the national unemployment rate:

Unemployment Rates By Gender And Year

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	21.2	20.0	18.6	18.8	20.0	22.2
Female	28.7	28.2	27.2	26.4	26.3	26.1
RSA	24.7	23.8	22.6	22.3	22.9	24.0
Source:	<i>Labour Dynamics in South Africa: 2009; Stats SA, 2010</i>					

15. Our analysis of the collective effort within the character of the National Democratic Revolution draws our attention to the sustained effects of Colonisation of a Special Type's identification of the three interrelated antagonistic contradictions, class, race and patriarchal relations of power. These antagonisms continue to find expression as a direct consequence of national oppression based on race class super exploitation

directed against Black workers on the basis of race; the triple oppression of the mass of women based on the race, their class and their gender.

16. Our commitment towards ensuring the abolishment of social conflict relies on the fulfillment of the National Democratic tasks which include the restoration of dignity by improving the lives of the people by providing equal rights and opportunities to all citizens.
17. Two decades into democracy the realities remain stark. This principally means that much more needs to be done in the process of transformation of State institutions but also the optimal and effective utilization of the means of the State to ensure that there is expansion in the number of agencies and improved co-ordination of State Owned Enterprises to hasten development in rural areas.
18. The sharpening of efficiency and delivery of the National Youth Development Agency in order to ensure integration and co-ordination of programmes directed towards the development of young people are implemented at all levels of the state, by all organs of the state, including Not for Profit Organisations, and the private sector, and its critical role in programming that will ensure gainful experience towards full and decent employment.
19. Employment creation and skills development and training should be supported by dear interventions channeled by funding agencies (Khula, IDC, NEF and SEDA), for the purposes of creating entrepreneurial and job opportunities and demand for private sector contribution towards job creation and skills development and training.
20. This also reflects that the need to address class and race antagonisms must include issues of women as direct casualties of massive unemployment and hence consequential poverty and should therefore continue to prioritise them into entrepreneurial and decent jobs framework.

C. Drugs, alcohol and substance abuse

21. In order to achieve social cohesion the fight against the scourge of drugs and substance abuse must be won. The ANCYL has won majority support for the banning of the advertisement of alcohol as it continues to restrict the full potential of society. Efforts made towards the reduction of supply of drugs into the country remain insufficient. It is thus there must be a hasty acceleration of programmes towards uniting communities and society to reject the presence of drugs in communities will go a long way towards the harmonisation of society and healthy lifestyles.
22. The ANCYL welcomes the commitment by the Department of Social Development towards dealing with the abuse of alcohol and drugs and heed to the demands of the Youth League towards a healthy nation especially targeted at youth as the risks to the health and life span of all further continue to be limited through the abuse of alcohol and drugs.
23. It should therefore be reinforced that the role of the police should be to ensure that the entry of drugs through our ports and airports is eliminated and the country remains a no go zone for drugs and an approach of zero tolerance of perpetrators of supply of drugs is taken by the community and criminal justice system.
24. That the advertising of alcohol is banned and that the monitoring of the sale of alcohol is intensified with regard to age and the location of taverns selling alcohol is limited and does not infringe on the full prosperity of the nation especially its young people.

D. Arts and Culture

25. *The Government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life, all the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contacts with other lands, the aim of education should be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.*
26. Critical to the resolutions taken in the prior congresses of the ANCYL is the true realization of arts and culture in the shape and form of the political discourse in South

Africa. Notwithstanding the achievements made 17 years into democracy, the social landscape remains resistant towards our political past, its impression on contemporary society and its implications of socio-cultural retardation.

27. The recent events of legal action calling for the banning of the revolutionary song *Dubula Ibhuna*, by Afri Forum has raised the alarm rejecting the tools applied towards the achievement of political freedom and the history that remains a contemporary reality demonstrated through the vast social and economic inequalities between the African masses and the White minority. Such efforts to dilute the commemoration of our fallen martyrs and the solidarity of our people through song and sentiment in the name of the Constitution of the Republic undermine the democracy delivered by the African National Congress.
28. The contribution of the art in the development of societies social and political consciousness with our understanding of a united and prosperous nation must look into the enhancement of cultural diversity by expanding research into role of indigenous games in strengthening cohesion within society.
29. Much more needs to be done to strengthen the contribution to promote local content in the music industry to encourage more participation and growth for the industry and hence the popularization of local music in order to enhance culture and heritage.
30. The integration of arts and culture into society must be done with a comprehensive framework that would guide its influence towards strengthening diversity and a political culture in order to advance social transformation through the development of infrastructure through cultural institutions.

E. Sports

31. The ANCYL welcomes the strides made towards the transformation of Sport in South Africa and continues to call for the establishment of recreational facilities that will encourage all to participate competitively, professionally and for the intention of strengthening relations of all young people in South Africa especially African in

particular and Black in general at all levels of the sport and management. This will be reinforced through the establishment of a sports desk to coordinate issues of sports development and transformation.

32. The need for education around the participation in sport should form part of the broader campaigning of the ANC to encourage society to live healthy lifestyles and impress upon the Department of Education the urgent need for making participation in Sport regularly as part of the curriculum so as to contribute towards a healthy society.
33. Having appreciated the success of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, there must be the continued monitoring and evaluation of the legacy programmes and its contribution towards accelerated integration in sport and the impact made on social cohesion, nation building, peace, tourism and development.
34. The hasty establishment of sports facilities through the diversion of funding from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the Department of Human Settlements to the Department of Sports and Recreation.

F. Human Settlement

35. *All people should have a right to live where they choose, be decently housed and bring up their families in comfort and security, unused housing space must be made available to the people, rent and prices shall be lowered food plentiful and no one shall go hungry... slums shall be demolished and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centers...rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all, fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished.*
36. The restoration of the birthright of all South Africans regarding the access to land and other resources still remains an inadequately addressed issue in South Africa. The apartheid spatial pattern continues to relentlessly undermine the growth and development of our people to the extents of prosperity anticipated nor the Freedom Charter vision on human settlement and land.

37. The urgency for land reform will close the gap that polarizes society from the scourge of informal settlements and the consequence of a growing population is social friction in the absence of housing, notwithstanding the availability of land to the state which remains in the hands of White Minority Capital.
38. It is therefore essential to address issues of class, property and race within the context of Section 25 of the Constitution and the Expropriation Bill. There is hence no greater urgency than now to ensure that the expropriation of land for public purpose and interest are prioritized through the amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution and enacting the Expropriation Bill.
39. Backlogs in housing must be addressed. Despite the construction of 3 million houses since 1994 it remains insufficient as informal settlements rise to 2700. Rental and accommodation alternatives and interim provisions must be made in the absence of housing within a central planning framework to develop a qualitative and holistic approach to human settlement.
40. The speedy roll out and expansion of the R1 billion fund for those who do not have access to bank financing as a guarantee to assist prospective homeowners earning between R3500 and R9000, must prioritise young people as beneficiaries of the fund and the National Housing Finance Corporation must be transformed to benefit the most vulnerable.
41. The imposition of apartheid and its institutionalized consequences especially on issue of land and housing and thus require the imposition of penalties on those who perpetuate the restriction of access for public use and the acquisition of property for the most vulnerable and to further investigate the beneficiaries of the auctioneering industry as shelter cannot be the domain of the private sector.

G. National Identity and Social Cohesion

42. Human Solidarity demonstrated during the struggle against colonization expressed through human compassion and sustained through spirituality that strengthened social

cohesion with an ambition to change the material conditions. Social and economic inequalities increase the tensions if the material conditions have not substantially changed for the majority in society.

43. The united struggle against apartheid demonstrated the common human solidarity. Since the ANC has enjoyed the overwhelming confidence of the majority of South Africans at the polls. It becomes the responsibility of the ANC to at all times measure the advances made towards the ideal of all in society sharing the vision of the nation, appreciating the symbols and heritage of the past and preparing a future national identity that celebrates the lives of the martyrs of our democracy.
44. Commitment to the realization of social cohesion therefore implies the immediate implementation of the Freedom Charter to reverse the underlying social distortions that respond to the variety of economic impediments and the 'polarized legacy of racially embedded inequality'¹ and its contribution towards chronic and persistent inter-generational poverty.
45. The critical role of the ANC is to foster inter-racial social cohesion within South Africa's historical framework of unequal access based on race in order to influence civic participation of young people towards nation building acknowledging the bias of the historical fault lines. This involves the compulsion of all towards a common national vision and commitment towards ensuring that redress of the inequalities of the past are part of the process of diversity and building a nation.
46. Such fostering of national identity and social cohesion must extend through a full scale programme of ensuring the hoisting of the South African flag in all schools and the establishment of youth camps in order to strengthen diversity and social cohesion. This can be further advanced by optimising National Youth Service towards the achievement of the ideals of Social Cohesion with the inclusion of the Military Skill Development

¹ **Source:** Adato, Michelle , Carter, Michael R. and May, Julian(2006) '*Exploring poverty traps and social exclusion in South Africa using qualitative and quantitative data*', Journal of Development Studies, 42: 2, 226 – 247

Programme as programmes towards the insulation of community solidarity through mandatory or voluntary options.

H. Rural development

47. The weak economic and social conditions in rural areas are associated with apartheid settlement patterns. South Africa is a predominantly rural society despite urbanisation which concludes concerns of underdevelopment.

48. As a consequence development remains without integration, capacity and support. It is therefore essential that as we progress towards the speedy land reform programme, the establishment of youth hubs and their capacitation; that the framework for rural development should be coordinated through the Rural Development Agency and aim towards retaining industries and markets within the rural community and ensure that assistance, guidance and support must be given to those who own land and are unable to utilise it.

49. It is critical in the development of rural communities that there must be a clear policy on communal land tenure in order to protect farm dwellers and workers who endure unwarranted evictions. The call for the banning of labour brokers must continue in order to propel the full financial independence of farm workers and further encourage them to lead sustainable lives.

50. The threat to agriculture and the provision of food is becoming an imminent threat. Due to droughts in some parts of the country and the major challenge of poverty the need to secure food is urgent. The Department of Rural Development has a clear objective to increase production in order to guarantee food security. This still requires land and the shortage of land for the purposes of expanding the food basket and creating employment in rural areas remains a challenge as do the systems and patterns of

ownership and control of land, livestock, cropping and community is crucial in fighting the war of poverty that plague our society.

51. This must involve the support and promotion of small scale farmers into commercial farmers. This will allow for the creation of employment in the agricultural sector and ensuring the expansion in the provision of food to our people and the need for the development of a sustainable food policy strategy in order to respond in times of disaster and assist the vulnerable.

I. Crime

52. Poverty and unemployment continue to compound societies problems resulting in crime becoming a consequence and thus there is a need deal with the symptoms of social crime.

53. In order to create a harmonious environment there is a need to eliminate the material conditions that perpetuate conflict in order to deal with the crime driven by need. Crime and corruption should be rooted out of society with a zero tolerance approach as the compromise the prosperity and unity of society.

54. Evidence suggests that criminals are younger males. The task is to ensure a society that is safe and secure and free from patriarchal power relations. The distancing of many from society due to the compelling need to survive has made the most vulnerable even more so.

Gender	Sentenced		Unsentenced	
	N	%	N	%
Male	110,817	97.78	47,981	97.98
Female	2,516	2.22	987	2.02
Total	113,333	100.00	48,968	100.00

Source: *National Offender Population Profile In The Department Of Correctional*

55. Rooting criminal elements and criminals out of society is a task of all within society through street committees and the strengthening of Community Policing Forums and the improvement of security interventions within communities and society.

56. In lieu of the juvenile nature of the criminal the task to ensure that social cohesion and understanding also means that those with potential to enter the criminal environment are diverted. This should also include the full cycle of care to the potential and criminal young person.

57. Environment and climate change

58. The environment continues to come under threat as demand for consumption increases, this is compounded by the effects of the change in the climate. Drought continues to threaten the livelihood of the rain fed agriculture of Africa could be reduced by 50% in the next 20 years and between 75 and 250 million people experiencing water stress by 2020.

59. Developed countries remain the culprit responsible for 80% of the emissions that damage the atmosphere. Ours is to ensure that through relevant national legislative and policy frameworks we are able to reduce emissions in South Africa by 34% in 2014 and 42% in 2025.

60. Within the contextual understanding of preserving our environment for future generations it is also an imperative to appreciate that climate change remains a problem perpetuated by the West and hence the levels of their contribution towards depleting their carbon footprint should largely outweigh the emerging industrial economies.

61. All committed to saving the planet against the harsh effects of global warming must be committed to tackling poverty and the real causes of climate change. The upcoming Climate Change Conference in South Africa must look into the disaggregated contributions made by the heavily industrialized world and the approach in dealing with

emerging economies carbon efficiency not restricting the opportunities for development.

62. The Green Industrial wave is an opportunity for the development of a policy framework that will ensure the management of resources and investments, establishment of research institutions and the development of skills, the creation of green jobs and becoming active participants in the green economy, energy and the built environment, sustainable waste management options, resource efficiency and green cities and towns.

63. The imposition of higher taxes and levies on industries and the incentivisation of households and ensuring that awareness are taken into the classroom through the installation of solar panels at schools and recreational facilities.

64. Conclusion

65. The task to respond to the challenges facing our people is to transform society through the daily issues affecting the lives of our people. Our task is not menial one, it requires the decisiveness to position young cadres at the front to secure the future that we must occupy through fervent commitment to implement the Freedom Charter.