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NEC BULLETIN

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Youth League National Executive
Committee Lekgotla,
23 – 25 February 2007

“NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”

WHY THE ANCYL NEC LEKGOTLA?

The ANC Youth League National Executive Committee held its Annual Lekgotla from the 23-25 February 2007 at Ekurhuleni. Guided by the Challenges identified by the ANC January 8 Statement and the resolutions of the ANC Lekgotla, the ANCYL NEC Lekgotla discussed and made resolutions on a number of challenges facing our people in general and our youth in particular. The National Executive Committee received a comprehensive presentation on the ANC draft policy discussion documents, and on the draft Strategy and Tactics as part of a political process in preparation of the ANC upcoming policy conference.

Further, the National Executive Committee assessed and discussed the implementation of the various resolutions adopted by the last National Congress of the ANC YL held in 2004. The NEC was unanimous about the need to further consolidate and strengthen our structures to implement the resolutions.

Accordingly, the NEC satisfied itself in terms of success in the implementation of the resolutions of the last National Congress, but more work still needs to be done. Consequently, the National Executive Committee Lekgotla developed and adopted an action plan to further enhance the implementation and realisation of our objectives.

In its discussion about the agenda of youth development challenges facing the youth, the NEC made the following conclusive observations:

- Since 1994, we established institutions of youth development, even though there have been

concerns about their capacities to meet the huge challenges facing the youth of our country.

- However, we do not have a policy driven institutional mechanism, an institution whose work would be gauged against a comprehensive programme at meeting the youth development challenges in our country.
- The government's fragmented and parochial approach to youth development is therefore a reflection of the absence of a comprehensive Integrated Youth Development Strategy.
- The NEC noted the unacceptable high levels of unemployment among young people, and lack of requisite skills.
- Lack of commitment and willingness by various layers of government and departments to implement youth development.
- Lack of will and commitment by the private sector in particular, to invest in the skills development and employment of our youth.
- A need to engage the government on the massive implementation of a comprehensive National Youth Service
- The NEC resolved to urge young people to participate in combating crime, and that branches and regions of the Youth League must ensure the youth in their numbers participate in Community Policing Forums / Community Safety Forums. The NEC is calling for the review of our crime combating strategy with an emphasis on partnerships within which various sectors of our population including our youth may participate.
- The NEC adopted campaigns amongst which were the following:
- Campaign to popularise FET's amongst youth



- To heighten the jobs for Youth campaign and integrate it with the Decent work / decent life campaign adopted by the World Social Forum held recently in Nairobi.
- Having noted the none commitment around implementing the Integrated Youth Development strategy and National Youth Service, the NEC resolved to embark on a rolling mass action between the month of May and June this year around these issues.

Subsequently, the NEC adopted a process that would enable the organisation to further implement Congress Resolutions and agreed to prioritise the following:

- To declare that the greatest enemy of this generation is poverty, under-development and that therefore concerted efforts at eradicating poverty must constitute main thrust of our programmes as discussed and resolved in the various targeted commissions charged with finding solutions on programmes to be implemented throughout the year.
- Amongst the programmes that the YL will continue to intensify are those of the Jobs for Youth Campaign, incorporating the agenda of the UN Millennium Development Goals as well as the Decent Work / Decent Life Campaign as adopted by the World Social Forum recently in Nairobi. The Jobs for youth campaign will focus amongst others on the following areas:
 - Massification of the National Youth Service Programme.
 - Youth entrepreneurships
 - Education and skills development for all
- The NEC noted that we have policies geared towards poverty eradication as a country but are found wanting in speeding up change, and that therefore as the ANCYL, we will work to expedite our work on comprehensive and sustainable poverty eradication, that combines speedy resolution of challenges faced by our people through social security but also sustainable livelihood through decent employment.

On the issue of the upcoming ANC Policy Conference, the NEC resolved to convene a Youth League Policy Conference in April to prepare Youth League input into the process and amongst others cover the following issues:

- Continue to lobby for the adoption of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy by ANC Policy Conference, having noted that the

ANC NGC adopted the IYDS subject to a review, which review has since been done.

- Ensure that the IYDS becomes the policy that would replace the current Youth Policy Framework that is coming to an end at end March 2007.
- We will re-affirm our position that we are opposed to the two tier labour system in that it exposes our people in general and our youth in particular, to exploitation as casual and unprotected workers.
- We will make thorough investigation on the issue of Basic Income Grant with the context of whether or not it would be a sustainable and practical solution to the problems of unemployment and poverty.
- We will continue to assert our rejection of the scenario we characterised previously as "two centres of power" as this is untenable for our democracy and revolution.
- We will continue to support the work towards the FIFA 2010 World Cup, with a view of ensuring that this becomes a resounding success but also that our youth in particular accrue whatever maximum benefit there may be arising out of us hosting this mammoth event. The implementation of the None Negotiable Fundamentals must not undermine our government's agenda on employment creation and gender equality.
- The hosting of the FIFA 2010 World Cup must be an opportunity to further consolidate our efforts to conscientise our youth around the issue of patriotism.
- On our support for the ANC Deputy President, the National Executive Committee re-affirmed its unambiguous and principled support for the ANC Deputy President, for the position of ANC President later this year, and that of the country in the fourth coming National General Elections in 2009,

On the international scenario, the NEC made resolutions on the following:

- That the YL must continue to support both the International Union of Socialist Youth and the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and encourage cooperation between the two organisations.
- To continue to lend solidarity to the struggling people of Swaziland, Western Sahara, Palestine and Burma.
- To continue providing political support for the strengthening of political youth movements in Africa, towards the realisation of the objectives of NEPAD and AU.
- To condemn the involvement of former colonialists in the domestic affairs of countries with fundamental domestic differences such as Cote D'Ivoire.



- To continue to partner social movements struggling for international justice and equality, particularly under the auspices of the World Social Forum and Global Youth Dialogue, through our participation in IUSY and WFDY.
- We will continue to work with the youth of Israel and Palestine around the challenges facing their people and territories / countries.

The NEC adopted a programme of action that will inform its work throughout the year, leading to the National Congress in March 2008.

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