ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

23rd National Congress Report

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National Executive Commitee

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SECRETARY-GENERAL	Vuyiswa Tulelo
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL	Steven Ngobeni
TREASURER-GENERAL	Pule Mabe

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

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2. Young Nokuthula Yolenda
3. Gunuza Lindiwe
4. Notsi Palesa
5. Mokoena Betty
6. Ndabeni Stella Tembisa
7. Makhubela Shelley
8. Sunduza Thandile
9. Makeleni Pholisa
10. Mohale Kenalemang
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12. Motsepe Clifford
13. Shivambu Floyd
14. Tingwe Millicent
15. Letsatsi Paseka
16. Galane Stanley
17. Malale Ishmael
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19. Magwandana Sindiswa
20. Modise Ntibi
21. Mataboge Kabelo
22. Manana Mduduzi
23. Williams Tinah Priscilla
24. Mhlongo Vusi
25. Khukula Thandisizwe
26. Ntuli Maropeni
27. Mhlakaza Vuyo
28. Mokgapela Kgotso
29. Mosenogi Kenetswe
30. Musase Abner

National Executive Commitee

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Alvin Botes, Chairperson - Northern Cape
- Vuyo Roji, Secretary - Northern Cape
- Lehlogonolo Masoga, Chairperson - Limpopo
- Goodman Mitileni, Secretary - Limpopo
- Mxolisi Kaunda, Chairperson - KwaZulu-Natal
- Bheki Mtolo, Secretary - KwaZulu-Natal
- Jacob Khawe, Chairperson - Gauteng
- Thabo Kupa, Secretary - Gauteng
- Thabo Meeko, Chairperson - Free State
- Doreen Mahamotse, Secretary - Free State
- Mlibo Qoboshiyane, Chairperson - Eastern Cape
- Ayanda Matiti, Secretary - Eastern Cape
- Khoza Pelele, Chairperson - North-West
- Victor Kheswa, Secretary - North-West
- Thabeleng Maabane, Chairperson - Mpumalanga
- Isaac Mahlagu, Secretary - Mpumalanga
- Siyazi Tyatyambo, Chairperson - Western Cape
- Thandi Mahambehlala, Secretary - Western Cape

Declaration

DECLARATION OF THE 23RD NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE

WE, THE DELEGATES to the 23rd National Congress of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), convening at the Johannesburg Expo Centre from 27–30 June 2008, discussed and resolved on organisational, policy and leadership issues, guided by our historic mission to champion the interests of our youth and to mobilise them behind the vision of the ANC for change.

As we convened in this National Congress, we saluted one of the founding members of the ANC Youth League, a stalwart of our movement and the first President of a democratically elected South African government, the one and only former President Nelson Mandela (Madiba) who celebrates a milestone 90th birthday. We also took note of the fact that this towering icon of our struggle, celebrates his birthday in tribute to the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS, a scourge that has undermined the development of our youth in our country and across the world.

Therefore, as we celebrate Madiba's milestone 90th birthday, we salute him and on behalf of his departed fellow 1944 Youth League generation of young lions who set an indelible mark for our youth to emulate across all generations. We therefore vow to continue with their legacy as a militant revolutionary youth organisation. And to this end, we wish to reiterate that the Youth League is a disciplined militant youth organisation of the ANC. In tribute to Madiba, as well as the various generations of youth who were inspired into struggle by his exemplary generation, we declare that the coarse of youth development must be accelerated, and that both business and the government must be at the centre of providing leadership for decent and quality jobs for our youth in particular and our people in general.

As we convene this national congress, we also note and re-affirm the various resolutions of the Freedom Charter, those stating that:

"The people shall govern,

All National Groups Shall have Equal Rights!

The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!

The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!

All Shall be Equal Before the Law!

All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!

There Shall be Work and Security!

The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!

There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!

There Shall be Peace and Friendship!"

On the international front, we declare that an equitable just world is possible, that the rules that govern trade must be changed and that fair trade is an answer to global inequalities.

Commencing this 23rd National Congress in Johannesburg, Gauteng, we noted that this was a continuation of the 23rd National Congress that we adjourned in Mangaung, Free State. Accordingly, we considered it our utmost priority as we reconvened, to deal with the issues that caused us to adjourn the National Congress in Mangaung.

Having received and discussed the report from the ANC, as presented by the ANC Secretary General, Comrade Gwede Mantashe, we took it as our first resolution in order to pave a way forward and therefore resolve the challenges we were faced with in Mangaung, to adopt the recommendations of the ANC, without alterations.

As an organisation, we re-emphasise it for the whole world to know, that we remain the Youth League of the ANC, constitution-

ally obliged to further its policies and to defend its political integrity. We were therefore humbled by the ANC intervention. It is our contention that the future of our country and world is complex and melancholy. We hold it dear to our hearts that the future and hope of our people is with the African National Congress whose unity and integrity we must defend as a matter of principle and by extension a defence of the National Democratic Revolution

We therefore express our unconditional gratitude for the able leadership of the ANC to provide guidance when faced with those serious challenges. As delegates, we took it as our decision to rise above whatever challenges, in order to serve the greater interests of our organisation and the youth of our country.

For this reason, we took various resolutions aimed at ensuring that we build cadreship amongst our membership that will be imbued with the character of behaviour befitting membership to this glorious movement of our people. Amongst these, we will endeavour to implement the ANC resolutions on convening political schools, in order to build a cadreship that will enable us as an organisation to provide leadership within and outside our movement into the future.

Amongst the resolutions we took, we noted the work towards the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy and the initiatives to create the National Youth Development Agency, and further resolved that the ANC Youth League must be seized with this issue and provide leadership on the unfolding implementation.

We re-iterate that the Integrated Youth Development Strategy provides us with a comprehensive strategic intervention that speaks to the manifold challenges facing our youth in a systematic, seamless and integrated manner, hence its implementation must not be delayed. As we said during our 22nd National Congress in 2004, the sum total of initiatives on youth development have not been comprehensive enough which explains why despite all interventions we have made thus far, we still have youth constituting 70% of the unemployed in a country where unemployment is already unacceptably high.

As we approach the 2009 National General Elections, and later the Local Government Elections, we will once more mobilise the youth of our country behind the vision of the ANC for change. In doing so, we will highlight the achievements made by our government despite the various constraints that we continue to face, but also highlight the strategic interventions that our movement seeks to make to expedite their own development.

Key to our message is the emphasis on the role of the developmental State, one that must pro-actively intervene in favour of local development as opposed to reliance on world market forces to favour our development, a reality that has proved elusive.

Meeting in this 23rd National Congress, we noted the various global developments, some in line with our vision for change, while some contradicting our revolutionary values as a movement. We therefore re-iterate our movement's stance on multilateral engagement on every challenge facing our region and world, as opposed to unilateral action by the dominant forces of the world.

On the situation in Zimbabwe we re-iterate the assertion of the Freedom Charter that stipulated that "no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people". Therefore our solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe is based on our own values of freedom of expression, right to freely vote and freedom of association. We re-iterate our position that the problems in Zimbabwe can best be solved by the people of Zimbabwe, and that we must be in solidarity with them as they attempt to do so. However, we unreservedly condemn the reported violence that makes democracy untenable in that country. Our public message to ZANU PF and the ZANU PF Youth formation is that no revolutionary

movement worth its salt can ever seek to devour the same people whose cause it claims to champion. We therefore urge both main parties to the conflicts in Zimbabwe to seek peace while working for justice and democracy.

We also note the need for multilateral engagement on the challenges facing Western Sahara, Swaziland, Burma, Palestine and other areas. We also note the disasters that continue to befall the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, because of the unilateral invasions led by the imperialist forces of the USA. For us this is evidence that unilateralism spells disaster and must be opposed at all times because democracy cannot be imposed on a people.

We call on our government to speed up interventions that will cushion the poor against the escalating food prices. We noted that in our instance, the energy crisis facing the world is further exacerbated by the electricity crisis with much of the greatest pain suffered by the poorest of the poor in our communities. We call on government to continue with initiatives to speedily remedy the situation and commend it for the work already begun.

We also noted that as a movement, we have been faced with serious challenges in recent times, particularly towards the ANC 52nd National Conference in Polokwane. We noted the culture of striving for political interests at the expense of our democratic and organisational values as a movement that are creeping into our organisation from the lowest to the highest levels of our structures. Again, we re-iterate our commitment in building strong structures of our movement as a whole, in order to make it an efficient machinery to mobilise our people behind our historic vision for change. This includes ensuring we build capable cadreship through thorough political education.

We also noted the continued violation of the rights of the ANC President, comrade Jacob Zuma, wherein State institutions, and seemingly to some extent members of the judiciary, unethically meddling in the execution of justice, to the extent that it has become clear that any further prosecution on the President will never result in any justice. The delays as well as what Judge Msimang referred to as moving from one disaster to another not only point to a deliberate political vendetta whose footprints are self evident, but also to a gross and serious miscarriage of justice. We will mobilise the youth of our country against this naked injustice.

As delegates to this 23rd National Congress, we again commit ourselves to working together and to promote unity amongst our membership and structures, and to further destroy the historic racial, gender and geographic disparities. We will endeavour to strengthen our branches so that they provide leadership in our communities to confront challenges of youth development, the prevalence of crime, the abuse of women and children, the lack of youth recreational facilities and to ensure that communities are part of solving their own problems.

We therefore commit ourselves to greater disciplined and revolutionary conduct, so that the ANCYL and our movement at large can forever be relevant to the challenges faced by our youth in particular and our people in general.

Resolutions

1. SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT OF THE ANC PRESIDENT, COMRADE JACOB ZUMA

NOTING:

1. That publicly available evidence shows that:
   a. Jacob Zuma is being subjected to a selective prosecution in violation of his rights under Section 09 of the Constitution of South Africa; through selective prosecution and trial by proxy during Schabir Schaik trial, while his reputation was damaged in the court of public opinion.
   b. For more than seven years, the National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) publicly refrained from filing charges against Zuma, but continued a flurry of rhetoric and media agitation of allegations against Zuma in a manner showing clear abuse of the legal process.
   c. The principle of justice delayed is justice denied has been conveniently ignored, while Zuma was subjected to the torture of public condemnation and after he suffered irreparable harm due to the prosecution's misuse of its discretionary power to file criminal charges. Section 35(3) (d) of the Constitution of South Africa stipulates that every person has the right "to have their trial begin and conclude without unreasonable delay".
   d. In a flagrant display of the violation of the principle of fairness and equality of treatment, the Contract of the Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi was extended after he was criminally charged, yet Jacob Zuma was released on the basis of an assumption that he had a case to answer.
   e. In a vindictive way, the NPA had added thirteen charges in the resurrected case against Jacob Zuma, and in violation of due process.
   f. Judge Msimang did find, on merit, that the Scorpions had no case henceforth. He struck the case off the roll. On their seventh year of desperate attempts, they still failed to secure a court date because yet again they had no case to present. The Scorpions invited themselves to pronounce the new date on the media a day before elections at the 52nd National Conference of the ANC but delegates were not to be fooled.
   g. The Public Protector declared that the pronouncement by the ex-Director of Public Prosecutions concerning the case against Jacob Zuma was a violation of dignity and the presumption of innocence, but parliament conveniently forgot to act on these findings.

BELIEVING:

1. That the combination of the above clearly indicates that the case against Jacob Zuma is a political trial aimed at frustrating him and the will of members of the ANC.
2. That it is evident that the NPA, the executive branch of government, mainly the Presidency, and the judiciary have all sanctioned a judicial execution process, and in doing so, they have not only violated Jacob Zuma's rights, but have acted contrary to South African Constitution and International Jurisprudence.
3. That the violations and the doctrine of abuse of process and office are sufficient for the calling for the dismissal of the case.
4. That the Court has power to intervene and safeguard the accused from oppression and to prevent prosecution when it would be unjust.
5. An attack on the President of the ANC is an attack on the revolution and seeks to portray the African National Congress as a directionless movement.
6. The President of the ANC will be President of the country after the 2009 General elections, and that the Youth League will do everything in its power to ensure that such is a reality.
7. The few individuals within and outside the ANC who have access to recourses and state machinery who attempt to stop Cde Jacob Zuma from becoming President of the Republic must consult counselling and

be rescued from their illusions, for all their tendencies will be stopped and eliminated by young people armed with political consciousness and facts.

8. The 1994 breakthrough made us realize, among other things, the Act 108 of 1996(Constitution of the Republic) which unequivocally stated that every citizen of the Republic has a right to bodily dignity; right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty; right to receive a fair and speedily trial.
9. All these constitutional rights have been transgressed in the political trial against Comrade Jacob Zuma and if young people are to be quiet and allow to be intimidated into fear or silence, these progressive rights will only remain in paper and our people will continue to be victimized and treated unfairly. Therefore the defence of Cde Jacob Zuma is in the medium and long term, a defence of democracy and youth.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT:

1. The case against Jacob Zuma should be permanently dismissed.
2. We will provide Jacob Zuma with our unqualified support during the challenging period, and proclaim our readiness to do anything in our power to ensure that his rights are protected.
3. The NPA and the executive branch of our government should desist from the vindictive prosecution and persecution of the President of the ANC.
4. We will spare no effort in undermining those efforts aimed at frustrating and reversing the gains made in the 52nd National Conference of the ANC.
5. We will mobilise the community in general and young people across the country and make it our mission that they are conscious and aware of injustice and undermining of the constitution.
6. We will further finalize establishment of an adhoc legal team to adequately advise us and subsequently the state on processes and legalities on how we have to process the permanent stay of this politically inspired case.
7. Once this process is finalized in the near future, as young people we will be armed enough to root out and cleanse the republic of all state machinery abuse, undermining of constitution, disregard of law, attempts to circumvent will of people etc. We will take to the streets, camp in courts and petition the courts up until all evil tendencies are rooted out by popular demand.

2. ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

NOTING:

1. The 22nd National Congress resolutions of the African National Congress Youth League on the transformation of our economy
2. The 52nd National Conference resolutions of the African National Congress on Economic Transformation.
3. That society is still characterised by massive inequalities, high levels of poverty and unemployment.
4. That our economy is still largely dominated by Monopolies and that there is still no real competition, and that this in itself undermines our efforts at comprehensive transformation and distribution of wealth.
5. The economic recession in the World has had a negative effect on the South African economy.
6. That the South African economy has in the past assumed the posture of placing growth above development
7. The recent pronouncement by the judiciary to classify the South African Chinese populace as black, and thereby them also being regarded as prime beneficiaries of Black Economic Empowerment

BELIEVING:

1. That the Freedom Charter continues to be our guiding vision in all discussions and programmes of economic transformation.
2. In the construction of a Developmental State, there should be strong sense of common and shared ownership and control of the strategic sectors of the South African economy.
3. That there has been progress made in resolving the problems of extreme poverty since 1994, although with massive challenges, particularly facing youth.
4. That there is need for comprehensive Industrial Strategy, which will address the massive challenge of low labour-absorption capacity of the South African economy.
5. That poverty and unemployment remain the major challenge for South Africa, and the region.
6. That youth continue to be the most marginal beneficiaries of our democratic system, being the most affected by high levels of unemployment, under-employment, casualisation, social and economic exclusion and poverty.
7. That GEAR, should assume the responsibility of the South African economy not being developmental in orientation, thereby requiring some attention in shaping a new-look economic posture leaning more heavily towards development than on narrow economic growth;
8. That the African National Congress has resolved politically to affirm the movement's definition of who constitute the Black majority, and thus the key beneficiaries of economic programmes

THEREFORE RESOLVE:

1. All economic transformation programmes and practices pursued by the African National Congress led government should be aimed at bettering the lives of people, and attainment of the Freedom Charter objectives and aspirations.
2. With balance of forces shifting in favour of forces of change, the ANC should re-assert itself in the programme to realise Freedom Charter aspirations.
3. The ANC Youth League's assessment of all Economic Transformation programmes and activities will be measured in relation to the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Freedom Charter.
4. That should work towards the implementation of the 52nd National Conference of the ANC that are geared towards building an economy that is growing and developmental.
5. That between now and 2012, we shall ensure that Government places at the centre of its agenda issues of Youth Development
6. That the ANC Government should work towards the realisation of development, redistribution and economic growth, ensuring at all times the development and redistribution drive economic growth, and conversely.
7. That whilst intensifying programmes such as the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), the State should explore other labour absorptive and developmental activities such as Early Childhood Development and Home Based

Care as means of providing sustainable employment in our communities.

8. That GEAR must be reviewed, so as to respond the new economic challenges facing our country as a whole,
9. To affirm the fact that in terms of the ANC's resolve, Blacks should be limited to the African majority, Coloureds and Indians. Thereby Chinese South Africans should be very specifically excluded in our definition as Black.
10. Further resolved on the following key challenges:

On Monopoly Capital

11. That we must continue to change patterns of ownership of the means of production in South Africa, and this should be informed by our vision as outlined in the Freedom Charter that people shall share in the country's wealth.
12. The means to regulate monopoly capital and monopolistic behaviour by huge corporations should include nationalisation, strengthening of competition law enforcement, and expropriation without compensation. The expropriation without compensation should particularly apply to monopolies and cartels that fix prices at the expense of poor people.
13. That we must continue to view and approach Monopoly Capital as the strategic enemy of the National Democratic Revolution.

On The Developmental State

14. The ANCYL agrees with the gist of the ANC 52nd National Conference resolutions in the construction of a developmental state, but emphasises the following:

a. It should build capacity to be able to perform its own functions and tasks, and limit by all means possible, the tendering and contracting of State programmes and activities.

b. It should be democratic, but in control of the strategic sectors of the South African economy for developmental purposes.

c. It should protect the labour laws of all South African and migrants.

Capital Ownership

15. The State should control and be in ownership of strategic sectors of the South African economy, including the extraction, production and trade of petroleum and mineral resources, metals, iron ore, steel, coal, water, marine resources and land.
16. The State should control and be in ownership of major transport logistics such as airports and harbours and energy production and all strategic infrastructures for developmental purposes.
17. The State should be custodian of the people in its ownership, extraction, production and trade of mineral wealth beneath the soil, monopoly industries and banks.
18. The BEE Charters in all industries should prescribe black and youth ownership and management of not less than 50%.
19. That Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE) should ring in relation to our BEE approach

On Banking And Access to Capital

20. That we must continue to ensure that the banking industry and financial sector is transformed.
21. The state should regulate this industry and ensure that our people in particular have access to banking.
22. The financing of majority of Black Economic Empowerment deals should be directed on new labour absorptive industrial process and economic activities.
23. The State should establish a State Bank, which will deal with financing of developmental programmes such as housing, transport, infrastructure, and new industries.
24. That all Charters should have as a basic proponent Youth as a key beneficiary
25. That the necessity of collateral 10 percent be put aside for aspiring entrepreneurship, attempting to access financing;
26. That the NEC of the ANCYL review the Lambede Investment arm, in relation to it's role in the production of capital and access to finance for our membership

On Industrial Strategy

27. That the industrial strategy must encapsulate the general thrust of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy, particularly with regard to skills development and employment creation, but also with the view to break the legacy of inherited poverty due o the legacy of the racial and gender discrimination.

28. The industrial strategy should lead to equitable spatial development. This should guide public infrastructure investment to cover all areas and develop new centres of economic potential and development, rather than focusing on few selected territories.
29. That competition laws and practices, and fines are not the only way of dealing with monopoly capital and practices. The State should utilise various other interventions, including nationalization, entering the market at huge scale and increased taxation of monopolies over a long period, nationalisation and expropriation without compensation.
30. BEE financing by the State should mainly focus on financing new industrial developments.
31. The State should subsidize both import-substituting and export orientated industrial development, with the former given priority.
32. Adoption of legislation on procurement policies to support local production, broad based employment and small business development.
33. In the face of food prices hike and possible food shortages, the production of bio-fuels should be stopped as it has potential to consume the land and water meant for the production of food.
34. The State should improve its presence in the production of basic food stuffs to protect the vulnerable from global food and commodity shifts.
35. There should be increased support for Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) and Co-operatives.

On Migration and the Economy

36. All forms of economic planning and allocation of resources in South Africa should consider the reality of socio-economic migration, both legal and illegal migration.
37. The labour of immigrants should be protected within the labour laws of the country.
38. The regulation and monitoring of labour practices of private corporations, particularly Mines, farms, construction industry, private security and retail sector should be strengthened.
39. Overall, the South African society under the leadership of government should develop a concrete and comprehensive response plan and programme on the reality of socio-economic migration.

On Procurement

40. That we must ensure that procurement policies of Government are inclusive of Youth and Young women by more than 40%

On Infrastructure Investment

41. That more resources must be dedicated for infrastructure development.

On Monopoly Capital and Market Abuse

42. That government should seize the assets of any company found guilty and have in place a minimum penalty fine of 70% of the total profits recorded during the criminality period;
43. Government must regulate the prices of all industries;
44. policy of penalties, and that government should ensure that the directors be criminal prosecuted;

On Monetary Policy and Balance of Payments

45. That the inflation targeting band should be reviewed from the existing 3-6% to 9%;
46. That government should introduce state subsidies for specific labour intensive productive sectors. This would enable the South African economy to export more goods and to reduce the current account trade deficit the.

3. YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE

NOTING THAT:

1. The 52nd National Congress of the ANC has challenged the mandate of the Youth League in our plight to rally young people behind the ANC whilst championing their interests.
2. In performing this task, the Youth League should address the challenges of our past by providing and ensuring provision of a better life for all in all spheres of government, i.e. Local, Provincial and National Governance.

BELIEVING THAT:

1. The Resolutions of the 22nd National Congress of the ANC Youth League on this matter remains relevant.
2. Continuous and effective implementation of those resolutions is an urgent priority.

THEREFORE RESOLVES THAT:

1. Implementation of all resolutions on Youth and Governance adopted at the 22nd Congress must be finalised and clear time-frames drawn, with adequate evaluation and monitoring mechanisms.
2. Additional to the resolutions of the 22nd National Congress of the ANC YL, the 23rd National Congress take resolutions on the following:

On Parliament

3. Communicate and popularise internal parliamentary institutions and their work e.g. Portfolio Committees, Parliamentary Standing committees, etc. and provide branches with a rooster of parliamentary business for periodic inputs by Youth League members.
4. The youth league must mobilise the youth of South Africa to effectively form part of the public consultative meetings on specific issues related to approval of legislative bills as led by parliament.
5. The Youth League should ensure that participation by young people in parliamentary and legislation processes is enhanced and harnessed to strengthen the voice of youth in governance and legislation.

On The Executive

6. More attention should be given to local government where Youth league structures should actively participate in ward committees and engage executive mayors and mayoral committees on issues of youth development.
7. There should be constant skills audit by ANCYL branches and regional structures, so as to ensure swift deployments where skills are needed.
8. Reemphasis on SALGA resolution on youth units is reaffirmed and that proper monitoring needs to be done, so as to ensure that all local municipalities are represented.
9. ANCYL structures should partake in council caucuses, so as to ensure delivery on the ground.

On the Judiciary

10. The ANCYL should seek to influence the composition of institutions like the Law Commission, Law Societies and the National Democratic Lawyers Association (NADEL) through progressive individuals to influence the transformation of the Judiciary.
11. Undertake information campaigns, educational and training programmes aimed at sensitising youth to the procedures of all judicial matters.

On Chapter 9 Institutions

12. Engage in a process of ensuring that we keep all of these institutions accountable through entering in Memorandums of Understanding on Youth Development targets and account on these.
13. Reject the youth development recommendations made in the Kadar Asmal Report on the Review of Chapter Institutions.

On Public Participation

14. Constituency offices should be situated and adequately utilised as centres for youth input to legislative processes;
15. Enhance capacity of ANCYL structures to participate and influence the legislative processes through public hearings.
16. Build relations with public participation committees of national assembly, provincial legislatures and local government;

On the Role of Structures

17. The ANC Youth League Induction Programme to all members and structures should include an Introduction to Governance and Legislative Affairs;
18. To lobby all government departments for the implementation of the National Youth Service programme.
19. NEC must formulate time frames for Provinces to ensure that they finalise the process of launching local Youth Development Structures that must be composite of the National Youth Development Agency, while the national office must lead in the overall creation of the NYDA, as per the ANC 52nd National Conference resolution.

On the Voting Age

20. The Youth League generally support the lowering of the voting age from 18 years to 16 years and that in the same manner the ANCYL should emphasise the importance of political education, especially Voter Education and Democratic Participation.
21. The number of years for people eligible to receive an Identity Document should be reduced to 14 years, and the relevant Stakeholders in the State should ensure that this is a reality.

On Floor Crossing

22. The ANCYL supports the ANC resolution on abolishment of floor crossing, and that public representatives of other political parties should be encouraged to join the ANC, regardless of whether or not they retain their seats.

On the Public Service

23. ANCYL reaffirms confidence in the leadership of the ANC in the process of unification of the administration in the three spheres of government into a single public service.

On Ethics and Integrity

24. ANC YL must play an active role in the MORAL REGENERATION MOVEMENT programmes in government and in society at large.
25. The ANCYL should advocate on the advertisement regulation of alcohol and focus also on its sponsorship of national sporting activities such as soccer, rugby and cricket.
26. Youth League Members should continue to actively promote ethical and democratic values and lead by example.
27. The ANCYL should champion the challenges of crime and corruption by extensive campaigns.
28. The Youth League should be on the forefront of building patriotism amongst youth of all races.

On the Cooling-off Period

29. The ANCYL Support ANC decision in developing a clear framework to guide the flow of government employees between public and private sector particularly when political deployees retire, partly with the view to combat corruption and nepotism in the private sector due to their prior positions of authority.

On the Women's Ministry

30. The ANCYL supports the creation of the Women's Ministry, whilst noting the differences expressed concerning the matter.

On The Merger of Youth Develoment Structures

31. ANCYL welcomes the resolution of the ANC in Limpopo for the formation of the National Youth Development Agency in the course of 2008.
32. ANCYL should form part of the processes as led by government towards the establishment of National Youth Development Agency and the general adoption by government of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) as an overarching policy programme on youth development.

On Land Reform

33. That we must implement the Land Agrarian revolutionary approach as outlined n the 2008 ANC January 8th Statement.

On Entrepreneurship

34. That we must build a culture of entrepreneurship,
35. That we must ensure that Government puts in place polices that are youth friendly towards building an entrepreneur spirit.

4. EDUCATION AND HEALTH

On Education

THE COMMISSION NOTES AND APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The discussions and resolutions of the 52nd National Conference on Health and Education as key driving pillars of social transformation, which are:
   1) The overarching vision that informs ANC education policy is "People's Education for People's Power".
   2) Career guidance should be a compulsory subject from grade 8 upwards.
   3) We must progressively expand the school nutrition programme to include high school learners in poorer communities.
   4) National norms and standards to be developed to determine the roles, functions and responsibilities of district offices.
   5) Norms and standards should be developed to classify schools, given the variation of school types in provinces.
   6) A policy on affirmative measures for HDIs with specific emphasis on infrastructure, access and staff provisioning
   7) The duality of public servants elected as councillors undermines both or either of the two with regards to efficiency and this must be reviewed.
   8) To affirm that all principals should undertake a leadership, management and governance course
   9) To review Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) so as to ensure that it better responds to the skills demand.
   10) The establishment of a national education evaluation and development unit for purposes of monitoring, evaluation and support.
   11) The no fee schools should be expanded to 60% by 2009.
   12) Progressively introduce free education for the poor until end of undergraduate level.
   13) The ANC to focus rigorously on the quality of education.
   14) Education must be prioritized as one of the most important programmes for the next five years.
   15) Mathematics, science and IT must be promoted and supported, including through Saturday tutorial programmes and bursaries should be offered to teachers in these areas.
   16) New curriculum must be accompanied with skills development of teachers.
   17) Building of schools to replace mud schools must be included in the Expanded Public Works (EPW) programme.
   18) We should recruit from foreign countries on scare skills such as mathematics and science.
   19) The NEC should critically consider the outcomes of the recently held education summit with a view to implementing the proposals that emerged.

BELIEVING;

1. Not to focus on theory since we understand the problems we are facing on health and education.
2. Our universities still remain untransformed.
3. The curriculum is largely unresponsive to developmental, societal and economical needs of our country.
4. Supports the call for free education and see to its implementation.
5. Gradually ban school fees in all our schools.
6. Enforce that all children who are at school going age be at school
7. Teaching and learning should happen, as non-negotiable.
8. Involvement of SADTU and COSAS in establishing Education and Health Desks at all levels of the organisation.

We therefore adopt all campaigns and programmes in the discussion document for implementation by all organisational structures with the following additions mainly on timeframes:

1. By 2012, minimum of 60% of students in Higher Education Institutions should be on free quality education.
2. By 2009 all mud schools should be eradicated.
3. Increase the quantitative capacity of Institutions of Higher Learning by 30% by 2012, particularly those historically disadvantaged, to absorb more students.

FURTHER RESOLVE ON THE FOLLOWING LIST OF IDENTIFIED CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES:

1. Launch an Intensive Learning and Teaching campaign.
2. Launch National Life Skills and Career Guidance program.
3. Launch National Mentorship Program.
4. Initiate a Protect Your School Campaign.
5. Initiate a drive for the formation of Alumni Associations in all our township and rural schools.
6. Re-launching of schools sports in all our township and rural schools.
7. Campaign for the building of school halls, libraries and sports grounds in all our township and rural schools.
8. Campaign on civil education
9. Intensify the free education campaign
10. Call for capping of fee increments.
11. Spearhead the Right to Learn Campaign.
12. Campaign for alternative student services to offer affordable services like second hand bookshops in all universities.
13. Lobby the department of education for more subsidies for our universities in particular historically disadvantaged institutions and campuses.
14. Lobby for the introduction of the National Admission Office, where all student and prospective students will send applications for admission into Institutions of Higher Learning.

FURTHER RESOLVE THAT:

1. Government should establish early childhood centres in all our township and rural areas.
2. Re-establish/Reopen Colleges of education to produce more teachers with an emphasis on Mathematics, Science & IT and OBE.
3. Spearhead a campaign with SADTU, for better remuneration for teachers as part of the retention strategy.
4. Support and participate in development of the National Oath, which should be recited in all schools and wherever young people gather.
5. Campaign for and ensure stronger regulation of Liquor Trade in the proximity of teaching and learning institutions.
6. Review NSFAS policies consider it to be a central agency to distribute all government bursaries.
7. Advocate for deployment ANCYL members to the NSFAS board.
8. Utilise NSFAS to progressively introduce free education.
9. Encourage the production of African Academics.
10. To encourage young offenders to further their studies.

On Health

NOTING:

1. The 22nd National Congress resolutions on health and HIV/AIDS, particularly the following:
   1) Develop and implement a comprehensive HIV and AIDS programme aimed at achieving “zero” infections amongst the youth by 2014;
   2) Branches must ensure that they form partnerships with community based organisations (CBOs), (NAPWA), establish support groups, participate in Home and Community Based Care, treatment as part of the process of implementing the programme; including ensuring that both male and female condoms are permanently available in localities.
   3) Support the Professionalisation of Community Development Health Workers and Youth Development Workers,
   4) Have an on-going programme targeting young men on gender equality, and build the confidence of young women to be able to negotiate and decide on their reproductive rights.

FURTHER NOTING:

1. The resolutions of the ANC 52nd National Conference, particularly the following:
   1) Reaffirm the implementation of the National Health Insurance System by further strengthening the public health care system and ensuring adequate provision of funding.
   2) To develop a reliable single health information system.
   3) Government should intervene in the high cost of health provision.
   4) There should be health cover for Veterans of the struggle.
   5) We should develop a recruitment and Human Resource Development strategy for health professionals.
   6) Develop a MoU with foreign countries on the exodus of health

professionals.

7) The ANC should further consider the matter of making HIV and AIDS notifiable. In this regard a distinction should be made between the two, as these are two conditions. In doing this, the ANC should also consider the negative implications of this recommendation, such as stigma.
8) We accelerate the rollout of the comprehensive health care programme, such as through the provision of ARV at all health facilities. At the same time we should strengthen capacity to monitor the side effects of ARV.
9) We accelerate programmes for hospital revitalisation including through innovative solutions that accommodate partnerships.
10) We intensify our efforts to create an environment that promotes positive individual behaviour in our communities, especially amongst young people.
11) There will be no need to adopt a special HIV and AIDS grant, as this will be catered for by the comprehensive social security system.
12) The ANC should explore the possibility of a state-owned pharmaceutical company that will respond to and intervene in the curbing of medicine prices.
13) More resources be allocated to programmes on sexual awareness. ANC branches must be actively involved in these programmes.
14) Introduce a policy on African traditional medicine.
15) Caution should be exercised when deciding on PPPs as a solution for the delivery of health services.
16) Diseases such as TB and cancer should be given special attention.

BELIEVING THAT:

1. The statistics on the rate of HIV/AIDS infection still remain critically high thou stable.
2. HIV/AIDS is a major challenge, we face. We are either infected or affected.
3. Target young people on discouraging sexual activities.
4. That condoms use would saves lives and reduces infection rates.
5. Condoms distribution should be readily available
6. We can attain 0% infection rate by 2014.
7. Encouraging VCT amongst young people would contribute towards destigmatisation of HIV/AIDS.
8. Those infected and with low CD4 must access ARV's and ARV's should be widely distributed
9. Destigmatise HIV/AIDS.
10. Looking at implications of making HIV/AIDS a notifiable disease.
11. Making clinics friendly and accessible for all young people.
12. Contraception should be encouraged in the face of high levels of teenage pregnancies.
13. Illegal abortions should be discouraged and efforts at combating these must be intensified.
14. Alcohols abuse is a problem in our communities and efforts at combating alcohol abuse and excessive drinking must be spearheaded.
15. Promote Healthy lifestyles and healthy living campaign.

We therefore resolve to adopt all campaigns and programmes as proposed in the discussion document:

1. Intensify HIV/AIDS Awareness campaign, with one Round one Condom Campaign, which should include Femidom (female condom) as its focal campaign.
2. Initiate and/or support existing home based care for the bed ridden and terminal ill patients with HIV/AIDS.
3. Initiate and /or support existing support groups.
4. Jointly with CBOs support a campaign to highlight the plight of children led households and also assist them to access all the basic services like social grants, psychological support, health and education.
5. Campaign for ARVs to be made available to all those who need them.
6. Intensify the struggle to de-stigmatize HIV/AIDS by encouraging young people to undergo VCT, to have visible VCT centres in all our gatherings.
7. Campaign against substance abuse.
8. Campaign to Name/Shame those who are involved in drug trafficking and those who are selling drugs.
9. Encourage youth representation on hospital and clinic boards, to enable young people to raise their issues as it relates to health services to young people in that particularly clinic or hospital.

10. Initiate a National Campaign on Contraception
11. Popularise the free government service for Termination of Pregnancy (Abortion) and they should be accessible and friendly.
12. Campaign and raise awareness about health lifestyles as holistic approach.

FURTHER RESOLVE TO:

1. Spearhead a campaign with NEHAWU/DENOSA/SAMA/SADNU, for better remuneration for health professionals as part of the retention strategy.
2. Encourage young people to follow careers in the health sector.
3. Support a Service Reprisal System in all our public clinics/hospitals.
4. Advocate for youth representation in AIDS Advisory Councils at all levels.
5. Circumcision be encouraged but not be allowed to disrupt education.
6. Review the grant system for those infected with HIV/AIDS.

5. YOUTH AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

NOTING THAT:

1. Young people constitute majority of the population of South and the most afflicted by social ills and developmental challenges, including high levels of unemployment, poverty, underdevelopment, crime and various other challenges.
2. The levels, extent and degree of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment
3. Comprehensive social transformation entails changing the material conditions of all South Africans, especially the youth for the better; but also ensure that that they forge a nation inspired by values of human solidarity.
4. The twin tasks of the ANCYL remain that of championing the interests of the youth and rally them behind the vision of the ANC.
5. The second decade of freedom further presents to the youth to access and seize the opportunities of democracy but also to ensure the acceleration of the social services to improve the social wellbeing of all young people.
6. The 52nd National Conference resolution of the African National Congress, which prioritised key aspects of social transformation.

FURTHER NOTING THAT:

1. Whilst many young people have accessed various social development services such as education, health care, and other poverty eradication programmes, yet many young people find themselves trapped in poverty, lack skills and have limited access to work and entrepreneurial opportunities. This contributes to their vulnerability and social alienation. The limited access to social development services to young people gives rise to a range of socially deviant behaviours.
2. South African society is still characterised by vestiges of social intolerances, such as tribalism, racism, sexism and xenophobia.

BELIEVING THAT:

1. The task of the ANCYL is to continuously mobilise and raise the political consciousness among the youth in order to improve the material conditions of all South Africans especially the youth.
2. The Social Transformation resolutions of the ANC 52nd National Conference provide a firm and correct basis on which the ANCYL approaches social transformation.
3. The Freedom Charter remains our strategic vision in the course of social transformation.
4. The African National Congress led government should intensify social transformation programmes and speed up service delivery to improve the living conditions of people, particularly youth.

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT ON:

Youth Unemployment and Poverty

1. The ANCYL should advocate for an industrial strategy, which in the main promotes labour-absorptive industrialization and productive entre-preneurship amongst the youth, which should be spatially representative.
2. ANCYL resolves to lobby all sections of the State, particularly government to function at full employment capacity, and this should be underpinned by a qualitative and quantitative increase of public servants in health, education, social services, safety and security, justice and various other sections of the State.
3. Explore and investigate the possibility of extending social assistance coverage to the youth especially the establishment of a Youth Income Guaranteed Scheme in order to eradicate poverty and unemployment among the youth.
4. The ANCYL calls for a speedy conclusion on the development of a common national poverty line, which will assist in determining poverty levels and assessment of the extent at which developmental programmes eradicate poverty.
5. The ANCYL must ensure the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Programme of Action for Youth for 2000 and beyond.
6. The ANCYL should intensify the campaign for the provision of free basic services for the poor, such as education, healthcare, electricity, water, housing, etc.
7. Youth should participate in agricultural programmes as basis of developing the economy and employment. For this task, the ANCYL should engage the Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs to have a concrete programme on young people and agriculture.

8. The issue of inexperience as the basis of unemployment should be looked into, and mechanisms of absolving particularly youth into permanent and sustainable employment effected. This should consider regulation of labour and employment in all spheres of society, which will proscribe employers seeking certain levels of experience for youth to be employed.
9. The ANCYL should lobby and campaign the illegalization of labour-brokers and agencies that unethically exploit young people.
10. The National Youth Service Programme should be expanded and implemented in all provinces and municipalities as a way of increasing youth involvement in productive labour and programmes.

Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse

11. The ANCYL should advocate and mobilise for legislative interventions on the trade and usage of alcohol which must consider banning the sale and trade/sale of alcohol beyond certain hours and certain days. We should in this context call for the stoppage of all alcohol outlets by 12H00 midnight in all days.
12. The ANCYL must develop a mass campaign aimed at monitoring compliance to regulations by liquor outlets located within or close to institutions of learning.
13. Members of the ANCYL, particularly the leadership should lead by examples in their usage of alcohol.
14. The ANCYL should advocate for the establishment of more State Rehabilitation Facilities in order to rehabilitate and integrate affected youth back to society.
15. The ANCYL should support and be part of campaigns aimed at educate the youth about the dangers of substance abuse. This includes supporting the Department of Social Development Ke Moja Campaign by ensuring that it filters down to all levels of society and reaches wider audience.
16. The ANCYL lead a campaign to advocate for and ensure the complete banning of alcohol advertising in all media channels, including billboards, broadcast, print and electronic media.
17. The ANCYL should establish programmatic relations with Non-governmental organisations, Community-Based organisations, Trade Unions and religious formations in the campaign against drugs, alcohol and substance abuse.
18. The ANCYL should advocate for and ensure the adoption of a single national legislation on the regulation of alcohol trade, distribution, and consumption in communities.
19. The ANCYL should mobilise communities to report people who sell drugs, illegally sell alcohol and sell alcohol to young people below the accepted age limit.
20. The ANCYL NEC should explore the possibilities of increasing the number of years of people eligible to purchase alcohol, with a consideration of increasing the number from 18 to 21.
21. The campaign against alcohol abuse and for healthy lifestyles should be a mass campaign and filtered to all structures.
22. To dissuade irresponsible consumption of alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, we should call for intensification the development of sporting, arts and recreational activities and programmes, and encourage the involvement of young people in these activities.

Social Security

23. The ANCYL should campaign for speedy implementation of the extension of the Child Support Grant to 18 years.
24. The ANCYL should conduct a study on the link between increased levels of teenage pregnancy and provision of social grants.
25. The ANCYL should engage with Social Development Department to consider introducing conditionalities, such as school attendance for caregivers who are of school-going age.

Sports, Arts and Recreation and 2010 Soccer World Cup

26. The government especially the Departments of Sports, Arts and Culture should be lobbied to increase resources on sports and creative industries in order to assist keep youth occupied with recreational and creative activities.
27. The ANCYL should call for increased investment on facilities for Sports, Arts and Recreation in all communities in South Africa.
28. The ANCYL should establish programmatic and sustainable relations with all Sports Federations in pursuit of increased and diversified sports participation in communities.
29. The ANCYL should call for maximum participation of young people in Sports, Arts and Recreational activities, and this should include a concerted focus on the

development of sporting and recreational facilities in all communities. This should be within a programme to diversify sports in our communities.

30. The ANCYL should continue with the campaign for the transformation of sports.
31. Young people should be beneficiaries and benefactors of the 2010 Soccer World Cup in South Africa through engagement in the tournament activities.
32. The involvement of youth in the 2010 Soccer World Cup should include youth from non-hosting cities across the country.
33. Youth should participate in indigenous games during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and beyond.
34. Youth should learn foreign languages in preparations for the Soccer World Cup in 2010.
35. The Departments of Sports at national and provincial level should establish Fans Parks across local municipalities to involve wider participation of young people who cannot go to Stadiums, in the 2010 Soccer tournament.
36. Youth and the ANCYL should promote and ensure the viability of Bed & Breakfast establishments, mainly in townships to guarantee their sustainability towards the 2010 World Cup Tournament,
37. The ANCYL should mobilise its members to be part of the Marshals, Volunteers and Stewards to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.
38. The ANCYL should promote OR Tambo Games, as a means of increasing youth participation in sporting activities. The ANCYL should be at the forefront of youth participation in Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture.
39. The ANCYL should call on government to establish sporting facilities, such as sporting grounds, multi-purpose centres, and community halls and ensure that youth utilise these facilities for free. This should include coaching programmes to develop the talent of young people.
40. The ANCYL should advocate for the inclusion of Arts and Culture in the curriculum.
41. The ANCYL should ensure that Africa Day celebrations are utilised to involve young people in arts and culture activities and programmes.
42. The ANCYL should develop working relations with the South African Students; Sports Union (SASSU), and ensure that branches in Institutions of Higher Learning swell its ranks and strengthen its programmes and activities.

Youth and Crime

43. As a more focused and sustainable way of fighting crime, the ANCYL should locate crime-fighting programmes within a context of fighting poverty, unemployment, starvation and underdevelopment.
44. The ANCYL should mobilize young people in large number to join the South African Police Services Reserve Force, and engage the Minister of Safety and Security and the respective MEC on the programme to mobilize youth brigades against crime.
45. There should be increased motivational programmes for young people to dissuade them from abuse of drugs, substances and alcohol and crime.
46. The ANCYL should engage in campaigns for increased participation of young people and communities in sports, recreation, arts and culture as a way of fighting crime.
47. The ANCYL should advocate for the increase of safety and security personnel, particularly the police on permanent basis to increase police visibility across communities.
48. The ANCYL should call for increased remuneration for police officers to dissuade them from committing socio-economic criminal activities, such as bribery, fraud and theft.
49. Should ensure that branches of the ANCYL participate in Community Police Forums and Community Safety Forums and in joint social crime prevention programmes.
50. The ANCYL should call for a more corrective and rehabilitative correctional services for young offenders, which will include aligning the criminal record status with the sentence of convicts.
51. ANCYL Branches, with the coordination of the organisation's Regions should form street committees, whose main aim should be combating crime in communities.
52. The ANCYL should engage in a Say No to Crime Campaign, which will ensure that our communities are free of crime and illegal activities.
53. The ANCYL should mobilise the youth of South Africa to support the decision to dissolve the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO), as a means to strengthen the State capacity to fight crime.
54. Young women should be encouraged to report abuse in their relationships.

55. The ANCYL should form partnerships with SADTU and COSAS for a moral regeneration campaign and a criminal justice system campaign, which will raise awareness on crime in schools.
56. Engage in a campaign to discourage youth and the broader society to stop buying stolen goods.

Literacy Programme

57. Mobilise and encourage youth to be involved in the rollout of Kharigude Mass literacy campaign.
58. The ANCYL branches in Institutions of Higher learning should drive literacy and mentorship programmes in communities, which should include mass human rights, health, information technology, basic finance management, numeracy mass campaigns.
59. Branches of the ANCYL should establish Study groups and book clubs for constant engagement on relevant literacy, political, and ideological programmes.
60. The ANCYL should advocate for the establishment of Institutions of Higher Learning in Mpumalanga and Northern Cape, before 2010.

Youth and Housing

61. The ANC Youth League supports the effective implementation of Integrated Human Settlement Strategy, which should be underpinned by a conscious strategy to deracialise communities.
62. The ANCYL should advocate for a complete departure of apartheid spatial planning, and halt separation of low income housing from other communities, since low income housing programmes developed since the democratic breakthrough are often neglected with regards to provision of basic amenities.
63. The ANCYL should engage in a campaign for regulation of mortgage rates in order to encourage youth to invest in property and houses at an early age.
64. The ANCYL should campaign for the subsidization of all first time and youth house buyers from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.
65. The ANCYL should explore the possibilities of putting a moratorium on the sale of land to white people.
66. The ANCYL reaffirms the ANC 52nd resolution to strongly regulate the sale of land to non-South African nationals, and consider a similar resolution for developers.

HIV& AIDS:

67. Re-affirm the 22nd National Congress Resolution on the 0% infection rate by 2014 amongst the youth.
68. Members of the ANCYL, particularly leaders should be encouraged to do HIV Tests, and mobilise all youth to undergo the same process.
69. The ANCYL should call for increased condoms distribution in communities, including in schools, linked with the intensification of a comprehensive lifestyles programmes.
70. The ANC should engage in a mass campaign to discourage multi sexual relationship amongst youth and ensuring that promiscuity is not a fashionable, but deplorable phenomenon amongst youth.

National Youth Service Programme

71. The ANCYL should advocate and lobby for the massification of the NYS to be implemented in all sectors of government, as a means of strengthening service delivery, promotion of nation-building, fostering social cohesion and assisting youth to gain occupational skills.
72. The implementation of the NYSP should observe fair labour practices.
73. The ANCYL calls for a widespread minimum stipend of R1500 for all young people involved in NYSP.
74. Explore possibility to revive the Youth Pioneer Movement in order to promote patriotism amongst the youth.
75. The National Youth Development Agency should be at the centre of ensuring effective and sustainable implementation of the National Youth Service Programme.

National Youth Development Agency

76. The ANCYL should spearhead and strengthen youth development initiatives and structures and reinforce its role of being the primary champion for youth development.
77. In line with the ANC 52nd National Congress resolution, the ANCYL should ensure that the National Youth Development Agency is established through the merger of the National Youth Commission and Umsobomvu Youth Fund before the end of 2008.
78. Congress resolves that the National Youth Development Agency should be established through an Act of Parliament as a unitary, relatively autonomous structure

within the State, with administrative, functional and financial independence. The implementation of the NYDA should include:

a. Prompt establishment by the ANCYL National Executive Committee of a Political Task Team, which will give political oversight over the Government established task team on the establishment of the NYDA.
b. Ensuring that the process to adopt the National Youth Development Act is completed as per the ANC 52nd Conference resolution.
c. Ensuring that Provincial Legislations repeal the Provincial Youth Commissions Acts to allow space for the NYDA, which will only be established by an Act of Parliament, adopted only by National Parliament to ensure seamless integration.
d. Ensuring that the NYDA, not Provincial government and legislations, establish concurrent NYDA structures at Provincial level.
e. The NYDA establishment should give due consideration to the issues raised in the Congress discussion document with regards to the National Youth Policy and Integrated Youth Development Strategy.

79. The ANCYL understands youth development as provision of space, opportunities, support and capacity for young people to maximize the collective and individual creative energies to eradicate social ills that afflict society—poverty, hunger, unemployment, homelessness, ignorance, ignorance, oppression and super-exploitation.

South African Youth Council

80. The South African Youth Council should continue its role as a civil society organisation that mobilizes all young people.
81. The NEC should set a process to revive SAYC and ensure that it convenes its National Congress before the end of November 2008. The failure to convene Congress will lead to the NEC in conjunction with Progressive Youth Alliance structures, to recall the Comrades deployed in SAYC, and set a new process to revive this civil society youth organisation.

Building Social Cohesion

82. The ANCYL should deal and stand against all forms of societal intolerances such as racism, sexism, tribalism, xenophobia and homophobia.
83. The ANCYL should lead a conscious campaign and programmes in building social cohesion amongst youth of all races, giving consideration of initiating programmes that will include white, coloured and Indian youth.
84. The ANCYL calls for a complete illegalization of single race and segmented residences in all South African Institutions of Higher Learning residences by January 2009.
85. Congress resolves to support the pledge for all learners and youth as a way of building common nation-hood amongst youth and patriotism.
86. The ANC Youth league should engage in a campaign to teach youth of their responsibilities and rights as citizens of South Africa.
87. The ANCYL should have campaigns and programmes to fight against all forms of xenophobia amongst youth.
88. The National Executive Committee and Provinces should develop programmes and activities, which will seek to raise consciousness against societal intolerances, stereotypes and misperceptions in the fight against xenophobia and tribalism.

Organisational Oversight of Social Transformation

89. All structures of the ANCYL, including the National Executive Committee, Provincial Executive Committees, Regional Executive Committees and Branches should establish Social Transformation Commissions or Sub-Committees to oversee effective implementation and monitoring of social transformation programmes of the ANCYL and society at large.
90. The National Executive Committee and all downstream structures should ensure the ANCYL has maximum and effective participation in all sub-committees and commissions of the ANC to advocate for and ensure successful implementation of the organisation's social transformation programmes.
91. Branches should be at the centre of implementing the programmes as proposed in the resolutions.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND THE BATTLE OF IDEAS

Resolutions on The Battle of Ideas in the Media and Society:

1. The ANC Youth League should continue to position itself as a critical player in the battle of ideas, notwithstanding the dominance of the liberal ideology in the media.
2. Members of the ANCYL, at all levels of the organisation, should be encouraged to participate in media programmes, especially talk shows, which are critical in shaping the outlook of society.
3. The ANC Youth League should continue to advance the course of the unity of the ANC and the broader democratic movement, as a requirement to build capacity against the neo-liberal onslaught.
4. However, it must be stated that the battle of ideas cannot be limited to the engagement with the mainstream media alone; there is value in engaging directly with society, especially with the youth of South Africa.
5. Since information is key, the Youth League should establish a dedicated research and development unit to ensure effective participation in the battle of ideas.

On Policy Development and Co-ordination (External):

1. The incoming NEC must speedily work towards shaping a new media and communications landscape to re-affirm the ANC as the strategic centre of power.
2. The ANC Youth League should request the ANC to convene a 2nd Jabulani Freedom of the Airwaves Conference to review the country's communications policy. It is important to review progress made since the Jabulani Freedom of the Airwaves Conference hosted by Radio Freedom in 1991 in the Netherlands.
3. This Congress must further endorse the ANC 52ND National Conference decision to explore avenues to strengthen the print media's compliance with the country's constitutional culture, which requires an effective balance between the rights of the media and those of society.
4. In particular, this congress endorses the decision of the ANC congress to establish a Media Appeal Tribunal to complement the inherent weaknesses in the current Print Media self regulation mechanism, represented by the Press Ombudsman and the Press Council.
5. Congress mandates the incoming NEC to canvass our government to properly regulate the strategic print media resources to desist a simple change of black ownership from one black empowerment company to the other, without the transformation of the media culture in the country.
6. In line with the resolutions of the ANC Policy and Elective Conferences in 2007, dedicated broad based empowerment in media ownership and control should be enhanced.
7. The ANC Youth League calls for the strengthening of community media and the public broadcaster to discharge their mandates
8. Accordingly, the Media Development and Diversity Agency should be capacitated to increase the number of community radio stations across the country, taking into consideration the decision of the ANC Congress to establish a community radio station in each district as a basic right of communities.
9. With regard to public broadcasting, the ANC Youth League should welcome the current efforts to implement new digital technologies which will allow for an increase in the services of the SABC.
10. One of the potentially new TV channels in the SABC should be dedicated to youth programming.
11. Acknowledging the re-launch of CKI FM to Tru fm as a platform positioned for young people to express themselves, its current radius and licensing conditions are not adequate to meet our resolution.
12. The ANCYL resolves that SABC Radio 2000 should be transformed into a national youth radio station catering for both urban and rural youth, and that this should be implemented before 2010.
13. The ANC Youth League endorses the decision of the ANC to increase public funding of the SABC.
14. The Youth League is of the view that any public funding for the SABC should be targeted at the following programming needs:
    a. African language programming
    b. Youth programming
    c. Children programming

d. Women programming
e. Democracy education, social cohesion and nation building programming
f. And related social and economic development programming

15. As part of the efforts to build a local owned media industry, the ANC Youth League should continue to support the current foreign media ownership limitation of 30 % in broadcasting, both radio and television.
16. The Policy Institute of the ANC should prioritise media, communications and the battle of ideas, as one of the key focus areas.

On Internal Communications

1. While congress acknowledges the significant role played by Hlomelang, as a journal of the ANC Youth League, the ANC Youth League urges the incoming NEC to further explore possibilities of implementing the 22nd National Congress resolution, regarding the revival of Horizon, as a hardcopy interactive Journal of the ANCYL.
2. A revived Horizon should be a full spectrum publication catering for a wide variety of news and information needs, including social issues.
3. Increase the uptake of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, at all levels of the organisations.
4. All provincial and regional offices of the League must have sufficient communications resources within a year from this conference.
5. The Youth League should encourage technological applications such as online membership renewals, without discouraging members from using branch and regional offices to join the League.
6. Develop a comprehensive archive system to preserve the history and legacy of the ANC Youth League.
7. Prioritise the establishment of the Department of Information and Publicity at all levels of the organisation.
8. Cadres of the movement involved in government communications should be encouraged to volunteer as training facilitators for regional media and communications training. The NEC should in this instance establish a database of cadres who will participate in this endeavour.
9. A dedicated training curriculum should be developed to capacitate cadres involved in media relations, public relations and other communications interventions.
10. Organisations like the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (IAJ) and academic institutions should be engaged to develop an ANC Youth League specific training programme.
11. The implementation of all the resolutions on Media and the Battle of Ideas should be based on COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AND PLANS at all levels of the organisation.
12. Within six (6) months after this congress, the NEC should convene a national communication strategy workshop of all cadres involved in communications
13. The ANC Youth League should implement its communications programmes in partnership with the ANC, to ensure optimal resource utilisation and sharing.
14. The ANC Youth League should mobilise the necessary financial resources to ensure a comprehensive approach to communications.
15. The ANC Youth League should also work with other structures in the Progressive Youth Alliance, particularly the student movement and the YCL, which continues to play an important role in the NDR.
16. The ANCYL should put in place mechanisms and systems to ensure that all South African languages are equitably promoted to advance the objectives of the NDR.
17. Youth should be at the forefront of Universal Access, in terms of ICT Infrastructure rollout in order to enhance access to information.
18. The Revolutionary theory document as adopted by the Gauteng Congress must be circulated to all provinces for discussion purposes towards adoption at the ANCYL Mid-Term General Council.
19. The ANCYL calls for development of mass media education programmes that foster understanding of Africa and the Diaspora.

7. INTERNATIONAL WORK

NOTING THAT:

1. Our understanding about the world today is that, the system of capitalism holds sway across the world; and it is underpinned by unique dominance of hyper-power. This situation of unipolarity also has secondary multi-polar features and reflects geopolitical blocs amongst developed and developing countries, and historical resurgence of China, India, Brazil and Russia as centres of growth and development.
2. That these multi-polar features require continuing research and engagement.
3. That globalization continues to be shaped by the agenda of the capitalist ideology. Against this background it should still be realised that the liberation movement in Africa was greatly supported by the Eastern bloc in the cold war era.

THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The resolutions of the 22nd National Congress of the ANC Youth League and 52nd National Conference of the ANC are still relevant to guide our actions and response to international work

On the Africa Front

2. That the implementation of NEPAD as a response to the twin challenges of poverty and unemployment in Africa remains relevant.
3. We must further engage on the Union versus United States of Africa, as to what is the appropriate political institutional mechanism for the continent with the specific view to consolidate current measures through the AU and the other regional blocks.
4. We need to be continually seized with questions around the integration of governance while recognizing that the establishment of the United State of Africa with one army, one bank, one currency, one parliament may be too early for the continent.
5. In this same vain the ANCYL should continuously call for the constant transformation of the AU as a multi lateral structure, to assist it to achieve, amongst other things, the millennium development goals.
6. That the people of Zimbabwe should find solutions to their current problems while we note the declaration of the March 2008 Elections in Zimbabwe by African observers as free and fair.
7. The ANCYL should increase its relations with Progressive Youth Formations in the continent, and partake in the revival of the continental youth structures.

On Xenophobia & Human Trafficking

8. The National Executive Committee and Provinces should develop programmes and activities, which will seek to raise consciousness against societal intolerances, stereotypes and misperceptions in the fight against xenophobia and tribalism.
9. The YL should take it as its task to combat internationally organised crime including the trafficking of women and children.

On South-to-South Relations

10. Countries of the south are continuously engaged in a struggle to ensure that issues of common interests are addressed, be it the international indebtedness or the subsidy of agricultural goods. The structurally defined interactions of the countries of the South will have to be consolidated and revised.
11. The ANC Youth League should interact with youth and progressive formations in Latin American countries to understand and properly contextualise the resurgence of the Left and Socialist forces in that part of the world.

On International Youth Organisations

12. Our participation in the international youth organisation such as International Union of Socialist Youth, World Federation of Democratic Youth and Pan African Youth Union remain important in contributing towards building a better world and Africa.
13. That complementary role of both IUSY and WFDY still remain a challenge
14. That the congress reaffirms the resolutions of the 22nd National Congress on the strengthening of IUSY and WFDY.
15. That the ANC Youth League should continue to agitate for the progressive agenda within the international youth organisations.

16. That the ANCYL must play a leadership role in taking forward the campaigns agreed at the level of IUSY and WFDY and PAYU.
17. The leadership role of the ANCYL in taking forward the campaigns agreed at the level of IUSY, WFDY and PAYU.

On Solidarity Campaigns

18. Strengthen the implementation of our international solidarity campaigns with the people Western Sahara, Palestine, Cuba, Swaziland, Burma and Zimbabwe. In this regard as the ANC Youth League we will engage in people to people relation and party-to-party relations as integral part of our campaign instruments.
19. Need to strengthen our bilateral engagements with various organisations such as those of Cuba, China, Venezuela, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

On Building ANCYL Internal Capacity to Coordinate International Work and Campaigns

20. The Youth League should investigate the possibility of establishing International Office in the ANCYL headed by a dedicated fulltime NWC member.
21. The international office in the ANCYL should do the following:
    a) In conjunction with DFA to provide support to South African young people abroad;
    b) Facilitate the implementation of exchange programs, evaluate and develop a database on existing exchange programmes;
    c) Coordination of all our international campaign including
    d) Solidarity campaigns

On International Youth Organisations

1. The ANCYL will need to re evaluate and reinforce its participation in International Youth Organisations, such as IUSY, WFDY, PAYU and SAYF
2. The ANCYL will continue to provide political direction to International Youth organisations, and will contribute in various ways to ensure that our agenda is realised within these organisations.
3. The leadership of the YL should at all times ensure that resolutions taken in the International Youth organisations reach the broad spectrum of its branches and membership.
4. The YL should continue, to pledge solidarity in action with the people of Palestine, Western Sahara, Swaziland, Burma, Cuba and Zimbabwe
5. Building party-to-party relations, with the countries mentioned above amongst others.

On International Environment

6. The green house gasses phenomenon which present the world with irregular climate change and further more the constant move towards the depletion of Ozone layer, in what is known to be global warming. The ANCYL carries the responsibility of forging links with global partners organised for the greening of the world and the quest to force for the reduction of emissions, which is captured well in the Kyoto protocol. Non-Signatories to this treaty should be pressurised and urged to consent to the treaty.

8. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NOTING:

1. The 23rd National Congress took place immediately after the watershed 52nd National Conference which defined the tasks of the movement for the next five (5) years. This presents the ANCYL with a golden opportunity to assimilate ANC resolutions into a programmatic programme of action leading to the centenary of the ANC.
2. The resolutions on Organizational Development are crafted and shaped by discussions that have ensued on the Political and Organizational Reports presented to the 23rd National Congress.

On Branches

NOTING:

1. That the process of realignment of organizational structures according to municipality boundaries is complete.'
2. The centrality of the ANCYL branches as a core organizational pillar of in advancing the National Democratic Revolution.
3. The challenges arising from the realignment processes largely to integration of minority areas under the places predominantly white.

THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 23rd National Congress reaffirmed the centrality of branches in determining the policies of the ANCYL.
2. The 23rd National Congress reaffirms the resolutions of the 22nd National Congress on tasks and role of branches.
3. The NEC must develop organisational design protocol or guidelines to amongst others define the powers and composition of Zonal and Sub-Regional Structures.

On the Membership System

NOTING:

1. The 23rd National Congress the challenges arising from the new membership system introduced in year 2006.
2. The need to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the current membership system and identify weaknesses.
3. That the lack or efficiency in production of membership cards has negative impact on the recruitment of new members.

THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 23rd National Congress mandates the incoming National Executive Committee look at different mechanisms to improve the membership system.
2. The NEC should address the technical and administrative problems which undermine the effectiveness of the system.
3. 100% of membership subscription must be allocated to branches and the NEC must explore other means to finance the production of membership cards.
4. To maintain the current member fee (R10).
5. The membership system must be decentralised to Provinces from National.
6. The NEC must develop an integrated strategy with monitoring and evaluation to ensure that members comply with the ANCYL constitution.
7. The NEC must consider delegating the function of auditing branches to Provinces then the NEC audit Provinces. Only on exceptional cases will the NEC audit branches.

On Political Education

NOTING:

1. The need to intensify political education so as to imbue ANCYL members into the culture and traditions of the congress movement.
2. The need for the establishment of an institutionalised political school in line with the ANC 52nd National Conference resolution on political education.

THEREFORE RESOLVE:

1. To reaffirm the resolutions of the 22nd National Congress and mandate the National Executive Committee to urgently implement them.
2. To establish and institutionalise the political education school within the period of a year.
3. A branch should undergo an Induction workshop a within 30 days after its AGM otherwise its status must not be confirmed.
4. Deployment of NEC and PEC members to conduct consistent political inductions workshops for branches of the ANCYL.
5. Establish synergy between the ANCYL and

ANC political education programmes.

6. Cadre development programme must revive political education classes targeted at all ANCYL members especially young women
7. Build the capacity of PEC's and REC's to conduct continuous political education workshops.
8. Branches of the ANC YL should organise at least a minimum of one political discussion gathering per month as a way of sustaining the essence of the organisation.

On Youth Mobilisation

NOTING:

1. The weakness of branches to carry out strategic and mass campaigns in championing the interests of young people.
2. The need of pursuing youth development programmes that target the youth in minority areas.
3. The need to strengthen the capacity of branches to pursue campaigns in various aspects in relation to the interest of young people.

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT:

1. Reaffirm the 22nd National Congress resolutions on strategic and focused areas of campaigns, including:
   a. Moral regeneration
   b. HIV/AIDS
   c. Jobs for youth
   d. Alcohol and drug abuse
   e. Fight against crime
2. The 23rd National Congress further endorsed and reaffirmed ANC 52nd National Conference in relation to priority campaigns such,
   a. Campaign of quality education
   b. Campaign of quality health care services
   c. Mobilization of youth to form a vanguard against crime (Street Committees)

On Policy Formulation and Evaluation

NOTING:

1. The weakness of some ANCYL branches to engage on policy formulation processes.
2. The need to strengthen HQ and Provincial Offices with the requisite human resource capable of policy development.

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT:

1. The ANCYL should convene a Policy Conference prior National Congresses to deal with policy discussion and policy evaluation.
2. Adopts the resolution from the ANC 52nd National Conference in relation to the establishment of the Policy Institute.
3. Further resolved for the ANCYL to have sufficient representation on the ANC Policy Institutes so that it can enhance its ability to inform policy development from the ANCYL perspective.
4. The ANCYL supports the establishment of the Young Women's Assembly as one of the mechanism to support and facilitate the mobilisation and empowerment of young women.

On the Strategy Towards 2012

NOTING:

1. The 52nd National Conference of the ANC defined the strategic tasks towards the centenary of the ANC.

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT:

1. The structures of the ANCYL should play a leading and strategic role in implementation of the ANC Conference resolutions.
2. Building strong branches of the ANCYL with the capacity to take a lead in revitalizing structures of the ANC.
3. A minimum of 500 000 young people must be recruited into the ANC by 2012.

On the Progressive Youth Alliance

NOTING:

1. The weakness of the Progress Youth Alliance (PYA) in coordinating youth programmes

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT:

1. The 23rd National Congress reaffirmed the resolutions of the 22nd National Congress.
2. The 23rd National Congress further mandated the NEC to develop protocol or guidelines on how ANCYL branches in Institutions higher learning including those in General Education interface with PYA components in pursuit of organizational programme and SRC elections.
3. The ANCYL must be launch branches in General Education institutions.

Closing Address

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE, COMRADE JULIUS MALEMA ON THE OCCASSION OF THE 23RD NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE ANCYL

NASREC EXPO CENTRE, 29 JUNE 2008

PRESIDENT of the African National Congress, Cde Jacob Zuma, Members of the ANC National Executive Committee National Executive Committee of the ANC Youth League, Delegates to the 23rd National Congress of the ANCYL Comrades and compatriots.

Today marks the conclusion of the 23rd National Congress of the ANC Youth League that commenced its business in Mangaung on the 2nd of April 2008. We have now reached the logical conclusion of this important congress, having executed our task to chart a way forward for the next three years and to elect the totality of the National Executive Committee. True to the longstanding culture and tradition of the ANCYL, as delegates you conducted yourselves in an exemplary manner and demonstrated that you are truly deserving heirs of the custody and future of both the African National Congress and of South Africa.

The scavengers that circle above us looking for dead bodies will truly be disappointed. The doomsday prophets that predicted that the roof will come down have nothing to say.

The resolutions passed by this Congress are a compass to guide the new leadership in the undertaking of its mandate. The robustness that characterised the debates in the commissions give us the confidence that the ANC Youth League remains a militant organ of the ANC and a champion for the aspirations of South Africa's youth. While we may be walking in the footsteps of giants like Anton Lembede, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, history requires of us to make our own footprints and make our own contribution to advancing the vision of the ANC. Ours is therefore not to clone these great revolutionaries, but to take forward their legacy by writing our own chapter in the Youth League's history the best way we know how.

The unbecoming conduct we witnessed by some delegates at Mangaung was unprecedented and represents a culture, which has no place in the ANC Youth League. Thugs and hooligans who believe they can hold the organisation to ransom through their despicable behaviour will be dealt with in the harshest possible manner. The code of conduct contained in the ANCYL constitution is unambiguous about the kind of conduct that is acceptable of a cadre of the Youth League, and this does not include exposing bare bums and hurling chairs at leadership and fellow delegates. Anybody who believes otherwise clearly does not belong to the ANCYL and is not worthy of carrying its membership card.

When the former ANCYL President, Cde Mbalula apologised unreservedly to our mother body, the ANC and to South Africa at large, he was echoing our collective sentiment. We therefore reiterate his apology, to the ANC and to South Africa at large, these delegates gathered here offer their unreserved apology and pledge that organisational discipline will remain uppermost on our organisation-building agenda.

As we conclude the business of this 23rd National Congress, we must not be detracted from the task at hand to place youth development at the centre of our national development agenda. It is our expectation that as we return to our respective Provinces and localities, we will focus our energies and attention at the issues at hand and breathe life to these resolutions in order to take our youth movement forward.

The last week has seen our media taking the notion of trivia to new heights never seen before. The hullaballoo surrounding our statement at Thaba-Nchu where we proclaimed our unstinting commitment to defending the ANC President, Cde Jacob Zuma, with everything at our disposal, was nothing more than a desperate ploy to paint the Youth League as a bunch of irresponsible hooligans.

We must proclaim loud and clear, that for as long as the ANC remains a ruling party, the President of the ANC will be the President of the Republic. Cde Jacob Zuma will not only be the face of the ANC Election Campaign in 2009,

but will become South Africa's next President. We will defeat the political campaign that seeks to stop his ascendancy to the Union Buildings. We have assembled a team of legal brains to mount a robust legal challenge on the validity of the NPA case against our President. The sham of the investigation against him which has lasted 7 years has been so badly tainted that the prospects of a fair trial is nothing but an illusion. In 2003 the Public Protector found that the ANC President's rights had been violated by the NPA's conduct, with particular reference to his right to dignity.

It is our considered view that the NPA conduct in this investigation constituted abuse of the country's judiciary and effectively obliterated chances of Cde Zuma getting a fair trial. We will therefore challenge the courts to dismiss this case on these grounds. Interestingly, the Human Rights Commission, an important organ of state charged with defending our Constitution allowed itself to become party to this circus that does nothing for our democracy.

Statements attributed to some of its senior executives send a worrying signal about the calibre of leadership at the helm of such important institutions. It is our expectation of the HRC to rise above petty politics and execute its mandate diligently without fear or favour, and this includes ensuring that the rights of the ANC President, Cde Jacob Zuma are protected. When the Public Protector pronounced that Zuma's rights had been violated in the process of the ongoing investigation by the NPA, where was the HRC? When some members of the police continue to brutalise our people and abuse their rights, where is the HRC?

When white racists continue to mete out racist practices with impunity and express disdain at our constitutional provisions of non-racism, where is the HRC? When farm workers continue to be treated as second-class citizens, where is the HRC? We dare say the resources and energy placed by the HRC at the remarks we made at the June 16 rally, which clearly we re not intended to incite hatred and violence demonstrate how those given the responsibility to lead this institution have become out of touch with the needs and aspirations of our people. They demand a society where the values of equality enshrined in the constitution are a reality and their rights are protected against those who continue to show contempt for such values.

Perhaps it is time we paid attention to the calibre of the leadership to important organs of state charged with upholding and advancing the values of our constitution. Hard questions must be asked about whether they truly understand the magnitude of the obligations they carry and the urgency to advance the creation of a non-racist, non sexist society where all its citizens are truly equal before the law. There can be no doubt about the value these institutions add to the creation of a nation-state that is truly responsive to the ideals embodied in our constitution. Those that are given the responsibility to lead these institutions must be patriots who clearly understand these imperatives and are not driven by partisan political agendas.

This sentiment extends to all important public institutions which includes the SABC. The executive management of the SABC has clearly failed our youth not only through their despicable conduct, but also their failure to ensure that programming is responsive to the aspirations of our youth. The conduct of the SABC in the build-up to Polokwane where it allowed itself to be used in partisan political battles remains very fresh in our minds. The fiasco currently playing itself out resulting in the suspension of both the Group CEO and the Group Executive for News and Current Affairs is a natural consequence of the meddling in politics when it should have been focusing on its mandate as a public broadcaster. Both the executive management team and the Board of the SABC have failed the nation and are not deserving of our sympathy.

Similarly, the past week represented a trying moment for the people of Zimbabwe. What was meant to be a Presidential run-off election deteriorated into a joke of the worst order. The conditions on the ground in Zimbabwe were never conducive to a free and fair election, and the credibility of this election is seriously wanting. To recognise its outcome would be betrayal of not only of our own values, but also of the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe.

The moment has come for all of us to spring into action and salvage what is left of what used to be a great democracy, a patriotic frontline state that played a key role in the struggle against apartheid. The meltdown resulting from the political and economic implosion of Zimbabwe is impacting negatively on our socio-economic and socio-political life and is fast becoming an albatross on the neck of South Africa's economy. Indeed, ZANU-PF has lost its moral campus and has eschewed its value system as a liberation movement that delivered liberation to the people of Zimbabwe from colonial rule.

It is not our place to assume the role of armchair

critics and holy cows, yet we must decry the subversion of the rule of law and tyranny disguised as a genuine struggle against re-colonisation of Zimbabwe. The outcome of the so-called Presidential run-off election must be set aside and both ZANU-PF and MDC, alongside organs of civil society must find each other in order to find a lasting solution to Zimbabwe's political and economic challenges. We are truly disappointed that ZANU-PF has failed to seize the moment and exercise its moral authority and prevail on its government to do the right thing. The people of Zimbabwe deserve better than the raw deal that is being presented to them as a fait accompli.

The cul-de-sac Zimbabwe has reached in its political life means the time has come for a fresh start under the guidance and leadership of a unity government whose mandate must be to rebuild Zimbabwe's political and economic institutions and place Zimbabwe back on a developmental path that seeks to empower all her peoples. We are under no illusion that the land redistribution programme must remain at the centre of such political and economic rehabilitation. This is a fundamental principle which we do not expect the people of Zimbabwe to compromise on, but the approach must be one that builds, rather than divide the nation. Britain must be held accountable for the Lancaster House agreement and must never be allowed to scheme its way out of the commitments they made at Lancaster House.

Indeed, alongside the challenges confronting the peoples of Zimbabwe, Congress has applied itself to a variety of challenges on the international front. We remain committed to the liberation of the Palestinian people from their subjugation at the hands of Israel. It is time that the creation of the State of Palestine, peacefully co-existing alongside Israel becomes a reality. The world must bring its influence to bear to bring an end to the Israel tyranny and persecution of the people of Palestine. We must heighten our solidarity campaigns with the peoples of Swaziland, Western Sahara, Cuba and Burma. The lifting of diplomatic sanctions by the EU against Cuba is a welcome development. Much more still needs to be done to make this a meaningful gesture.

The scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to be a source of major concern. Congress re-affirmed its previous resolutions to this effect and further made a commitment to ensure that young people are at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS. We firmly support the government's approach in the fight against this pandemic and commit ourselves to the ABC approach as an underlying message in all our engagements with young people, which advocates abstinence, faithfulness and condom use.

Congress applied itself on the implementation of the 2004 Congress resolution calling for the merger of Umsobomvu Youth Fund, the National Youth Commission and all Provincial Youth Commissions. Indeed, much work has been done in this regard and the ANC's 52nd National Conference in Polokwane resolved that the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy on which the creation of the envisaged National Youth Development Agency, which will emerge out of the merger of Umsobomvu and the Youth Commissions, must see the light of the day by the end of this year. It must never elude us that this remains an ANCYL political agenda and our role remains central in its realisation. Congress resolution that the incoming NEC must establish a task team to exercise political oversight on the implementation of this important Polokwane resolution will be implemented with the urgency it deserves. It is important to highlight that our decision to change our approach to youth dev elopment is not an acknowledgement of failure on the part of the Youth Commissions and Umsobomvu Youth Fund, but rather an acknowledgement of the shortcomings in the youth development model we have adopted post-1994. Through the benefit of hindsight and experience, we have been able to finetune that model and realise that the mainstreaming of youth development is the key.

An integral of integrating young people into the economic mainstream is ensuring that decent jobs are available for young people. The intensification of our Jobs For Youth Campaign will place emphasis on this aspect of economic participation. Young people cannot be spectators or hired hand in the country's economic development, but rather full participants and decision makers. Interventions through initiatives such as ASGISA must place youth development and empowerment at the centre of their agendas in order to make a meaningful impact.

The 2010 FIFA World CupTM which is coming to our shores in 2010 must make a meaningful contribution to the development of our youth, not only through volunteer programmes, but also economic opportunities and legacy projects. The World Cup must also be used as an opportunity to build a sporting nation capable and able to produce world class football players. We call upon host cities, provinces and key departments of state involved with the World

Cup to take youth empowerment seriously.

We leave Congress with a firm mandate to end our association with Lembede Investment Holdings, which has been our fundraising vehicle for many years. We are a political organisation and our direct participation in economic activity is bound to raise conflict of interest issues. The incoming NEC will investigate alternative ways to raise funds, while we continue to pay our undivided attention to our mandate of championing youth development at a political front.

Questions relating to the realisation of free and compulsory education remain central to the ANC Youth League. Building on important resolutions of Polokwane, Congress has applied itself on this matter and has made far reaching resolutions which will guide the NEC in its engagements with various stakeholders.
The mandate given to us by this Congress require of us to roll up our sleeves and get down to work and ensure that each of its resolutions is implemented diligently. Youth mobilisation and political education will remain at the centre of our work to ensure that we build a youth league cadre that is truly responsive to our national developmental agenda. The need to establish a political and research institute for the ANC Youth League has never been greater, and the incoming NEC will have to apply itself diligently on the matter.

We are truly humbled by the confidence in us demonstrated by the delegates at Congress and the membership of the ANC Youth League at large on whose mandate these delegates were acting. We are under no illusion about the magnitude of the task at hand and the expectations we have to live up to. As we take the baton, we commit ourselves to preserving the legacy of great leaders before us and building the ANC Youth League into an effective political preparatory school for the ANC and a political home for South Africa's youth. Much work has been done by those before us and we will build on their successes and learn from their shortcomings. A profound word of appreciation to the outgone NEC whose commitment to the founding ideals of the ANC Youth League laid down solid foundations for us to craft our own path. A particular word of appreciation goes to an outstanding cadre, a true revolutionary and a leader who taught us all what it means to lead from the front. Throughout the history of the ANC Youth League, he is the only other comrade to have ascended from Secretary-General to its President alongside Nelson Mandela. Comrade Fikile Mbalula truly personified the timeless slogan of the Youth League, "impatient for change" and led under trying circumstances. Your wise words of counsel to us when we bid you farewell will serve as a beacon to guide us in our work. On that occasion you said, "Preserve this legacy, persevere in the face of the daunting challenges. Great leaders emerge out of trying circumstances. You will be baptised by fire like those who came before you, but you must never sacrifice the cohesion and unity of our revolutionary movement, the ANC." We salute you comrade Mbaks, your leadership skills you demonstrated during your tenure will come handy in your new role as head of Organisation Building in the ANC.

In closing, this Congress takes place against the backdrop of the 90th birthday of one of the greatest icons of our movement Tata Nelson Mandela. I believe I speak for all the delegates gathered here when I say Madiba remains the embodiment of the values of the ANC and a symbol of our resilience as a people. We are grateful that he remains in our midst as a wise elder of our movement, an Isithwalandwe-Seaparankoe who became the face and symbol of our liberation struggle. Long live Madiba, Long live!!

Vladimir Lenin once said, "The old will not die and vanish without a push and the new will not be born and rise without a struggle."

This Congress not only marks the end of an era for the first leadership generation post apartheid, but also the emergence of a new generation poised to craft its own path and make its own footprints on the sands of time. This is a generation that will set its own agenda and take the ANC Youth League to new heights so that generations to come may count us among the great revolutionaries of our youth movement , alongside Anton Lembede, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Peter Mokaba and Fikile Mbalula who made an indelible mark on the advancement of youth struggles in our beautiful land.

Amandla!! Matla!!

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