



— 07TH

REGIONAL CONGRESS

ADVANCING THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION
TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC FREEDOM
NOW AND NOT LATER

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

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**07th EKURHULENI ANCYL REGIONAL CONGRESS
GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DISCUSSION DOCUMENT.**



THE CASE FOR DISCUSSING GOVERNANCE AND ENHANCING THE GOVERNANCE CAPACITY OF THE ANC

The Regional Congress is the biggest political school of the year. Political schools present an opportunity to reflect on where an organisation is relative to its agenda. An opportunity to reflect on where the members that constitute that organization stand in relation to understanding and pursuing the organization's tasks for the revolution. One of the political tasks and duties of all members of the ANCYL is the understanding of the phenomenon of governance. This is because the ANCYL is an integral institution that is inside and is a component of the ANC which contests elections, seeks a popular mandate and governs on behalf of the people. It thus manifests its agenda within an existing political mission of a national liberation movement, thus its not independent but is autonomous to the ANC.

This thus places a burden on the ANCYL to anchor its programmes and agenda on the premise of the national liberation struggle. The ANCYL has to then assimilate its agenda with that of the ANC and thus the ANCYL has to concern itself with issues of governance even though it does not contest elections and govern on behalf of the people as an entity. The Youth League must reflect the more imaginative core of the body politics of the country, the YL must provide imagination to the ANC. This is because the Youth are inherently imaginative by virtue of their social position as people not in power generally, they are always imagining how power should look like and be exercised when the youth finally takes over at some stage of their lives. It is this reality that gives the youth the necessary capacity to be innovative about the future, including the future of governance.

The ANC has defined itself as the strategic centre of power, this places an obligation therefore to always ensure capacity to discharge strategic leadership to all centres of society. This places a responsibility on each and every member of the organization to

have some semblance and basic knowledge of governance. This document therefore proceeds from the proposition that governance should be one of the core areas of our movement's political education and training curriculum. Moreover, that beyond this, the ANC should have in-built structures that focus on planning, monitoring and evaluation on all matters related to governance in order not to be overtaken by events on policy imperatives that guide our leadership in governance. These structures should have the capacity for risk foresight and subsequent innovation to engage proactively in efficient, transformational and effective governance and must start at branch level.

Apart from poverty and underdevelopment, weaknesses and failures of governance probably constitute the single most important threat to the security of both citizens and states. Former liberation movements because of their historic positions provide a nation building binding effect, however, there is a danger of nepotism and corruption especially where checks and balances are weak. In some areas Executive and, particularly oversight often remains weak in practice and corruption, nepotism and informality remain rife. Our country and region have not escaped this unfortunate reality. With the loss of power from the 2021 Local Government Elections came poor municipal financial management, including poor audit outcomes, revenue, and expenditure management. Since the ANC government has reclaimed the control of strategic positions in the municipality, it has engaged itself with the process of recovery from a near-collapse state of service delivery and financial management from the two previous administrations since the 2021 LGE.

For the longest time, large sections of society have acknowledged and applauded the ANC for having the most solid policies for the challenges faced by the people of South Africa but recent electoral losses including here in Ekurhuleni are a demonstration of dwindling trust by the people on the ANC to deliver on its promise of a better life for all. The movement's track record in municipalities where it governs

has been in decline and this is evidenced by various AG reports. Several municipalities are currently under administration by higher authorities partly because they've been collapsed by corruption-induced mismanagement.

The dynamic of the lumpen proletariat on the subversion of good governance principles

The concept of a lumpen proletariat¹ emerged in the analysis of the emergent capitalist system in Europe. It was in reference to the — declassed, detached elements of the proletariat who resorted to lowly, anti-social, and criminal activities for their livelihoods. It is captured succinctly thus: Alongside decayed roués with dubious means of subsistence and of dubious origin, alongside ruined and adventurous offshoots of the bourgeoisie, were vagabonds, discharged soldiers, discharged jailbirds, escaped galley slaves, swindlers, mountebanks, lazzaroni, pickpockets, tricksters, gamblers, maquereaus, brothel keepers, porters, literati, organ grinders, rag pickers, knife grinders, tinkers, beggars – in short, the whole indefinite, disintegrated mass, thrown hither and thither, which the French call *la bohème*'. (Karl Marx: The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte. 1852)

These are hustlers who pursue narrow material self-interests and offer their services to the highest bidder. They are what Karl Marx referred to as the — refuse of all classes, easy to manipulate to support the capitalist system¹¹. Arising from this, it stands to reason that, with high levels of unemployment and dynamic shifts in the social structure, South Africa would have such a social group in abundance. However, groups that lack principle, and that show a lack of social consciousness are not only located among the unemployed. Significant swathes of the parasitic bourgeoisie and middle strata constitute a veritable community of lumpen elements, and they operate in various spheres of human endeavour – in the grey area between legality and illegality or in fully-fledged criminal networks. Susceptible to mobilisation

against the revolution, the lumpen tendency also find expression in the middle and upper strata in a complex process of post-colonial class formation in today's South Africa.

Broadly, they can be found among: the parasitic bureaucratic bourgeoisie, some of whom seek to capture state institutions and repurpose them for their own accumulation. They are also found in sections of the political elite and bureaucracy who use their positions in state institutions for venal self-enrichment. They are also organised as groups that demand empowerment cuts', outside of the law, in projects being carried out in various localities. Moreover, some masquerade as leaders of local protest movements who in reality use distressed communities' grievances to worm their way into political, bureaucratic or procurement opportunities.

Political leaders who give in to and give impetus to these elements are enablers of a counter-revolution and ought to be dispensed immediately because ultimately, all the above actions have had the consequence of undermining the image of the ANC as the governing party under whose watch some of these lumpen tendencies have occurred. This then places a responsibility on the youth to take the gauntlet and demand that competence, commitment and integrity be at the centre of recruitment and deployment of the most qualified people to lead in government and ensure the effective delivery of basic services to the people, especially at local government level, being conscious of the fact that this is a highly regulated and contested sphere of government, closest to the everyday lives of the people, thus the need for highly skilled cadres and bureaucrats to manage it.

It further calls on the youth to reject poor performance, maladministration and incompetence everywhere it rears its ugly head. Cadres of the movement who fail to perform should be immediately removed and recalled from deployment and officials who fail to discharge their duties also ought to be removed, having been processed

against their performance agreements. The ANC-led government has since 1994 put in place measures to entrench and strengthen good governance; however there is an emergence of tendencies that are acting contrary to this objective. — What seems to be new, with major implications for state legitimacy is the deeply entrenched corrupt practices driven by a few state employees, public representatives and the private sector...which has directly affected service delivery. The youth League ought to call for strict implementation of consequence management across all areas of government where there is evidence poor performance that is impacting the lives of the people of Ekurhuleni.

It is for this reason that in light of the recent passing of a council motion to make H.O.Ds and Divisional Heads permanent in the city that the ANCYL ought to call for a performance review of all these senior managers before their contracts are converted into permanent contracts, understanding that a failure to undertake this process may lead to the perpetuity of incompetence, maladministration and poor governance in some departments as people who have failed to discharge their responsibilities may find themselves being unduly rewarded with permanent contracts.

Furthermore, as the ANC grapples with organizational renewal and preservation of its core values, it must be recorded that this will be a futile exercise if these values are not transferred to government where the ANC is meant to exercise strategic power. This means that the organization must be unrelenting on demanding the full implementation of Batho Pele principles at all service centres and there must be swift consequence management against all public officials who mistreat our people and fail to adhere to these principles as their behavior impacts negatively on the image of the governing ANC.

The values of integrity, transparency, accountability, hard work, sacrifice and ethics must take centre stage among civil servants in the city without fail and consequence

management must be fearlessly applied to those who deviate, dehumanize, and give poor services to our people on a daily basis as their actions are akin to a counterrevolution within the state and are derailing the pursuance of the National Democratic Revolution. The state cannot harbour in its ranks active saboteurs of the National Democratic Revolution, they must be swiftly dispatched and replaced with capable, qualified and eager youth.

The Freedom Charter imposes a duty on the ANC to always govern alongside the people, however recently, efforts of enhancing the governing of our city alongside its residents such as Izimbizo and IDPs are seen as talk-shops that do not yield positive impact in the lives of our people. The ANC is an institution that reflects the aspirations of the people, a representation and reflection of the masses. The ANC is not a separate entity from the people, it is not an entity that stands on the outside and looks people from a distance. Our relationship with the people is not that of a servant and a server. The ANC is constituted of the people and is a reflection of what the people are, it is by design a parliament of the people and a collective property of the masses. This understanding must transcend into government, led by ANC deployees in government.

This calls for urgent need for the ANC to embed itself in society through other means of engagement and understand that our relationship and social contract with the people of South Africa ought to go beyond the usual obsession with service delivery. The ANC as a liberation movement in government must imagine and understand its tasks to be beyond that of service delivery as a box-ticking exercise because an understanding of that nature depoliticizes a political relationship between the ANC and those it claims to represent, the masses. The people want houses but they also want to be empowered and engaged through an organic process that decides on service delivery and it is this process that ultimately determines how the people relate to the services government provides for them.

It is for this reason that the ANCYL in Ekurhuleni ought to intensify the call for an activist government that has constructive, proactive and structured partnerships with all sectors of the society it serves. Practically this places a duty for all public servants to engage more directly with citizens on a daily basis and leave their air-conditioned offices more often. In order to support them, the state ought to reduce unnecessary paperwork and allow them sufficient time to be on the ground with our people engaging on every upcoming, ongoing and completed development. Our people cannot continue receiving services on the basis of the feelings of public servants on a day-to-day basis.

There are clear Batho Pele standards and these must be adhered to by public servants without exception on a daily basis and government must open channels for citizens to lay complaints and these must be taken seriously by senior management and consequence management imposed on all those who fail to serve with the highest standards. The tempo of the ANC in government and the society it leads must always be in sync and this must be seen in the governing of the state affairs in the city, the delivery of services must reflect the necessary urgency that our people yearn for. It is only when the above are done that the ANC-led government in the region will deliver on our promise of —a better life for all that has anchored all our election manifestos since 1994.

ADDRESSING APARTHEID PLANNING THROUGH THE AEROTROPOLIS

Re-organizing government to be reflective of public sector transformation and policy

The transformation and reorganization of the South African government and public sector have been driven by the imperative to redress historical injustices and address prevailing multi-faceted challenges facing the nation. One of the greatest challenges

South Africa faces is changing the apartheid spatial reality which resulted in black South Africans being forcibly removed to places far from economic and other social opportunities. The need for spatial justice lies at the heart of the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) processes. The implementation of DDM must ensure that all three spheres of government are focused on integrating and synchronizing their plans and implementation programmes to address spatial inequality.

The Aerotropolis project is one of the flagship projects of the City of Ekurhuleni, which is poised to become the first Aerotropolis in Africa. It is a response to the need for reversal of the apartheid spatial planning that placed the majority of Africans away from economic opportunities. The Aerotropolis Project Office's framework is as follows:

- Development of the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis Master Plan.
- Co-ordination and streamlining of spatial planning and land use management instruments – such as the Municipal Spatial Development Framework and Regional Spatial Development Framework.
- Alignment of all other related master plans (i.e. those of other state entities such as Sanral, ACSA, IRPTN, CIPR, Aerotropolis).
- Mobilization and co-ordination of air and bulk cargo movements.

UNDERSTANDING THE AEROTROPOLIS PROJECT AS AN ANCHOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POSITIONING THE YOUTH OF EKURHULENI TO BE BENEFICIARIES OF THE AEROTROPOLIS ECONOMY

Successfully delivered in June 2015, the Aerotropolis Master Plan profoundly changes and positively enhances the way Ekurhuleni, and also Gauteng province, face the realities of future economic growth and positions them within the global economy. —Under circumstances of economic distress and the need for new

sources of local job creation Ekurhuleni is undertaking planning for tourism development through leveraging and alignment to aerotropolis planning (Rogerson, 2018). An Aerotropolis is a city that is built around an airport offering its businesses speedy connectivity to their suppliers, customers and enterprise partners both nationally and internationally. It is a new urban format currently developing around many large airports. Some authors have defined it simply as a city centred around the airport, it is a system that connects, suppliers, distributors, manufacturers and businesses with the customers, the market place and end users.

With decline in the economic fortunes of many countries since the 2008 economic crisis, many countries and cities around the world have looked towards tourism to boost economic growth and job creation. With global economic restructuring and de-industrialization, tourism is a critical policy focus for city redevelopment strategies. Law (1992, 1993, 1996). For Banai (2017, p. 357) the aerotropolis is nothing less than —hte twenty-first century's new urban development paradigmll at the heart of which is —ametropolitan region with cities that capitalize on proximity to a globally networked economy's airport.

The aerotropolis consists of an airport city and an extensive outlying area of corridor developments up to 20 kilometres of aviation-oriented enterprises and associated residential developments (Kasarda 2006). Overall, for Kasarda (2008, 2013) the aerotropolis, as an airport-centric urban economic region, essentially — coaelscesll the development processes which are moulding new 21st century urban-economic geographical landscapes. Indeed, the aerotropolis is where the global meets the local' and represents the physical manifestation of globalization made concrete in the form of — vaiation-oriented, airport-centric urban developmentll in which many local businesses are more dependent on distant suppliers and customers than on those in their own region (Kasarda 2013, p. 55).

The core competitiveness of an aerotropolis is anchored upon aviation connectivity and its ability to move people and products rapidly around the world (Appold 2013; Hubbard 2017). For benchmarking purposes, Congress is urged to study the leading international examples of aerotropolises which are evolving either by design or spontaneously; these being Amsterdam-Schiphol, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Hong Kong, Incheon, Memphis, Paris Charles de Gaulle and Washington Dulles airports. These serve as a benchmark from which we can look upon to understand the concept of the aerotropolis and how it evolves to create economic growth. In the South African context, the aerotropolis has been proposed in both Cape Town and Durban but currently the most advanced planning for an aerotropolis is taking place around South Africa's major international airport, the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which places our region at a very advantageous position from which as citizens and youth should benefit.

Historically gold mining was the economic base of the urban settlements of East Rand and Far East Rand (Centre for Development and Enterprise 1997). The decline of gold mining was accompanied, however, by a structural change in the economy and the rapid growth of industrial activities, such that the Ekurhuleni region became fashioned as South Africa's industrial workshop (Misago 2016; Rogerson & Rogerson 1997). The city is also the transportation and logistics hub for the region of Southern Africa because of its wide and modern network of roads, rail lines, telecommunications and the national airport. During the 1990s and early 2000s there were further job losses with factory closures and a shakeout of the manufacturing economy occurred (Centre for Development and Enterprise 1997; Rogerson 2005).

Although the manufacturing sector remains at the core of Ekurhuleni's economy alongside the sector of finance and business services, with an estimated 36.1 percent rate of unemployment, there was an urgent need for new sources of economic diversification and job growth through the aerotropolis (Misago 2016). By the 2010s, when aerotropolis planning was launched, the manufacturing economy

was again under strain and there was a vital need to diversify the local economy as part of wider local economic development programming in Ekurhuleni. The local economy is unable to absorb the volume of potential work seekers. Maximizing opportunities in the tourism sector was identified as one component of urban economic restructuring for new job creation.

Charles et al. (2007) argue that this century will be dominated by air transport – both the domestic and international carriage of passengers and cargo. Further, they maintain that the airport as a driver of local growth is expected to become more than merely a regional gateway and instead will function as a city in itself in terms of residential spaces for workers and their families, manufacturing plants reliant on airborne inputs as well as service industries located proximate to the airport, and with major road and rail infrastructure connected to it (Charles et al. 2007, p. 1009). This then demonstrates to us the strategic advantage occupied by the Ekurhuleni Region as hosts to Africa's busiest airport and should have endless developmental and economic opportunities if executed correctly. In several countries, the land around airports is increasingly emerging and planned as a magnet for a range of economic activities that thrive on long-distance connectivity, including time-critical manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, tourism, entertainment and corporate offices (Antipova and Ozdenerol 2013; Appold & Flores-Fillol et al. 2016; Hadinugroho et al. 2017; Kasarda 2013; Yeo et al. 2013; Yun 2015).

The Aerotropolis City Region will house clusters of industry-related enterprises including local SMMEs as well as multinational companies which will gain a competitive advantage by utilising the synergistic capabilities of the location. In today's world, major airports are no longer merely transport terminals but are increasingly integrated with the surrounding community in an aerotropolis scheme to become major drivers of urban form, economic activity and city competitiveness. The

Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis project seeks to take advantage of all the economic opportunities OR Tambo International Airport offers.

The early conceptual thinking behind the Master Plan for the Ekurhuleni metropolis was released in 2013 at the Airport Cities World Conference and Exhibition which was hosted in Ekurhuleni, with the concept of the Aerotropolis in Ekurhuleni dating as far back as 2011. Since then, Local Economic Development planning in the city has correctly centred around the concept of the Aerotropolis although this toned down after the 2021 Local Government Elections when the ANC was dislodged from the corridors of political power. Since the ANC has retaken control of the city through a coalition, we have seen a re-emergence of discourse around the Aerotropolis as the centre of the city's developmental agenda as seen at the recent Investment Conference that sought to attract investors to come invest in our city and create opportunities for the residents whilst at it.

In November 2015, the details of the approved Master Plan were released at an investor forum at which 21 catalytic projects were put forward for delivery within the next 25 years to drive city and regional economic growth and expansion (Haynes 2015). The Master plan identified a suite of projects in terms of a set of key economic clusters to be targeted. As stated by Liedtke (2017, p. 2) these included —advanced manufacturing, cargo logistics and e-commerce hubs, retail, aviation, cold storage, training colleges, research and development hubs, information and communication technology, a medical city and tourism. Importantly, the implementation of aerotropolis planning intends to seek to counter-balance the existing uneven distribution of economic activities between Ekurhuleni's former white commercial and residential areas and the city's disadvantaged black townships. As Misago (2016, p. 14) states, in addressing the legacies of apartheid, planning the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis —is about taking advantage of all the economic opportunities an airport offers and use them for a city-wide equitable socio-economic development through

new infrastructure, alternative retail, employment and commercial land use that stretch far beyond the airport precinct. In terms of absolute numbers of trips and total tourism spend, it is evident that Ekurhuleni is the fifth most important destination in South Africa.

Ekurhuleni emerges most strongly as a destination for international travel in part because of the location of the O.R. Tambo Airport in the metropolitan area. The analysis of trip data by purpose provides further insight into the contemporary nature of Ekurhuleni's tourism economy (Table 1). In respect of purpose of travel, it is apparent that the largest number of trips are for visiting friends and relatives (VFR), which represents more than two-thirds of total trips to Ekurhuleni. Research in the city's predominantly black township areas confirms the overwhelming dominance of VFR travel which is mainly domestic in origin (Rogerson & Mthombeni 2015). For business tourism, Ekurhuleni's performance is boosted both by hosting conferences and events at a number of airport hotels. It is against this backdrop of the character of the urban tourism economy of Ekurhuleni that the planning interventions around the aerotropolis must be understood. The development and promotion of tourism in Ekurhuleni has been one constant theme in the unfolding planning for the aerotropolis.

According to Rogerson (2018), A scoping exercise reveals that the city has a number of tourism assets in terms of casino and entertainment facilities, good conference facilities, struggle heritage linkages with Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo, shopping centres that attract cross border travelers, some archaeological sites and historical buildings, most notably one of the world's largest clusters of Art Deco buildings. The strategy concedes that there are several challenges that need to be dealt with in attaining its vision and maximizing the city's tourism assets. It is recognized variously that, for leisure travelers, Ekurhuleni has underdeveloped tourism attractions, facilities and infrastructure, most of which are in a dilapidated condition and therefore

do not appeal to international and domestic visitors. Overall, for leisure travellers, Ekurhuleni carries a perception of an industrial, tired, and dirty city. It needs to transcend perceptions of the minimal leisure tourism base and lack of iconic attractions (Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality 2016).

This Congress is advised to discuss the potential for infrastructure upgrading initiatives in the townships as they will be critical for attaining the city's aspirations for a more inclusive tourism' which spreads the benefits of urban tourism within Ekurhuleni into poorer, disadvantaged communities. It is therefore incumbent upon this Congress to discuss in detail how the poor in particular become beneficiaries of the aerotropolis project, understanding that the aerotropolis has become the core of long term development planning in Ekurhuleni which confronts major challenges for diversifying the local economy away from the traditional economic base of mining and industry. This does not however mean that re-industrialization occupies less importance, but it is about diversification of economic opportunities within our city. The aerotropolis project offers opportunities for expanding the role of Ekurhuleni as a focus for conference tourism, shopping tourism and township tourism, which holds the potential for achieving a greater spread of tourism benefits into poorer areas of the city.

Intertwined with the aerotropolis is the building of the Ekurhuleni University of Applied Sciences, Technology and Innovation. This Congress ought to call for the speedy implementation of the long-standing commitment by National Government to build the University of Ekurhuleni. We remain the only metro without a university. The Ekurhuleni University of Applied Sciences, Innovation and Technology is crucial to skilling youth to be beneficiaries of the aerotropolis project. This is because the university of Ekurhuleni will focus in the study fields of applied Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology, and that has the prospect to unlock the economic

potential of the City as these are subjects of the present and the future that cannot be ignored if the city is serious about development.

The building of this university is perfectly timed to work hand in glove with the project of the Aerotropolis which places Ekurhuleni at the centre of providing vital services to the economy of the entire continent. The city aims to consolidate Ekurhuleni's position as Africa's largest Aerotropolis and a major hub for manufacturing, transport, and logistics in the SADC region. Other sectors of the City's economy include rail and bus manufacturing; defence and aerospace; food, beverages and agro processing. The university will thus be crucial to producing graduates with skills in the above fields and its building can no longer be delayed. The establishment of Ekurhuleni's first university is not just a win for education but also for the local economy. The influx of students, staff, and faculty members is anticipated to drive economic growth, create job opportunities, and stimulate local businesses. This development aligns with the government's broader goals of enhancing educational infrastructure and expanding access to higher education in underserved areas.

FURTHER GOVERNANCE ISSUES FOR INTERROGATION

Governing for economic development

- Re-industrialize Ekurhuleni and invest massively on re-industrialization, support local industries, and protect them from big external industries (i.e. protection from cheaper exports).
- We must also think of how we ensure that our local industries have access to elusive credit for working capital, what are our interventions for a conducive environment?

- This investment must be in the form of re-equipping industries and equipping with new machines in line with technological innovations to attain competitive edge or compete with the best globally. Moreover, ensuring energy availability to industries so they can produce and sustain themselves in the city.
- Of course these technologies must be ones that emit less carbon and are in line with our carbon emissions targets, minimise discharge of solid waste and improve wastewater management.
- The development of a local industrialization venture capital fund to fund re-industrialization of CoE. This to ensure rehabilitation and expansion of key infrastructure.
- Engage NGOs via a summit which must become annual to promote social cohesion and deal with the socio-economic crisis we are faced with.
- Seek to benefit from the AfCFTA agreement by promoting local products to the rest of the continent.
- We must continue to invest in the human capital potential of the CoE, and therefore deliberately invest in skilling and upskilling our citizens in line with our developmental goals.
- The acceleration of the uptake of technology excites demand for network equipment and end-user devices. The ANC-led coalition government should encourage a localization of assembly and manufacturing of critical network

components and end-user devices. The Original Equipment Manufacturers should be encouraged to localize their production of products or equipment that are consumed on mass scale by the ICT sector or the government. For example, the manufacture of low-cost handsets that are used by learners to access education may be standardized and produced in South Africa, in the Ekurhuleni region to be precise. This will drive the skilling of the youth and ultimately job opportunities in the city.

- Child headed households including street (homeless) children must be prioritised in social protection policy, in EPWP/EPEP opportunities.
- Strict by-law implementation on the issue of regulation of the location of taverns and liquor retailers to be away from schools as these play a role in the easy access drugs and alcohol, exacerbating the challenge of substance abuse by youth.
- Transformatory urban planning and management that changes apartheid spatial residential patterns must be focused on, with a move away from dense single-use residential areas to those with appropriate recreational and sports facilities, other socio-economic amenities and the necessary public transport systems.
- The creation of new cities and towns, planning should promote deracialisation of society and development consolidation of peri-urban areas.

- This must include accelerated implementation and consolidation of human settlements development legislation to utilise suitably positioned land for housing, and the enforcement of existing law and by-laws.
- Land invasions must be curbed through appropriate by-laws. In addition to this, on the land question, strategic land parcels must be set aside for youth who demonstrate innovation and capacity to utilize it to the benefit of our communities through job absorbing business ideas. This Congress must agree on a percentage set aside of strategic land parcels for youth and also discuss monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of this process.
- Stricter implementation of by-laws to deal with illegal spaza shops that are killing children in our communities. In this regard, the ANCYL RTT made a call for the immediate closure of all non-compliant spaza shops but also for the preparation and support through financial and other means of all youth interested in entering the multi-billion-rand spaza shop industry. This congress ought to reaffirm the above calls by the ANCYL RTT and add onto the ideas of how to reclaim the spaza shop industry from undocumented foreign nationals and back to locals, particularly the youth who suffer the brunt of unemployment and hopelessness. The transferring of these spaza shops to local youth has potential to stimulate the local economy, ensure circulation of money in our township and lead to safer environments overall for our local residents through consumption of safe foods and curb the ongoing scourge of children dying from unregulated and unsafe food substances.
- Community libraries, parks and socioeconomic amenities should reflect on the planning of new communities from the initial planning stages.

Institutionalise and mainstream Programmes aimed at youth development such as a Parks Youth Brigade in order to protect their sustainability.

- Our municipality must commission viability studies for building of small dams to ensure water security in light of the forecasted water struggles currently engulfing our province.
- The absorption of women and youth into strategic positions in government has been painstakingly slow. This is a serious cause for concern and ought to be one of the government's transformational priorities. In the whole city, there are less than 5 Divisional Heads who are youth, demonstrating the city's lack of trust in young people to lead government.
- This Congress must discuss in depth solutions for the challenges faced by youth-owned smmes who are finding it very difficult to break into the business opportunities available within the city. Over the past financial year, just about 4% of tenders advertised had the requirement that the business awarded the tender ought to have persons who are youth. This is a serious cause for concern as it implies that there is no proactive effort in government to be deliberate about empowering youth-owned businesses. Congress ought to come up with innovative ways to foster awarding of business to youth by the city.
- Call for strengthening of the relationship between the NYDA and the Ekurhuleni Youth Directorate to the benefit of youth in the city.
- The World Youth Report propounds that one of the biggest obstacles to achieving the objectives of stand-alone and mainstreamed youth policies is

the lack of adequate financing. The political commitment to youth development can most often be measured by budgetary allocations to youth policies and programmes. The city of Ekurhuleni has not escaped this reality of lack budget for youth programmes and this has been evidenced by an underfunded Youth Directorate which is expected to lead and coordinate the mainstreaming of youth development in the city. Even the most ambitious and well-designed youth policies stand little chance of succeeding when little or no budgetary support is available. This Congress ought to therefore discuss creative ways to fund youth development within the city as this is urgent for building a strong youth directorate but also for mainstreaming youth development generally. In this regard, we ought to explore various options, including but not limited to sovereign wealth funds, tax incentives for private sector that fund youth development, NGO donations, foreign direct investment, and philanthropic giving etc.

- Traditional education systems and training programmes have done little to resolve the often significant mismatch between the skills new entrants possess and those required by employers in today's rapidly evolving global economy. Skills training programmes provided by governmental, non-governmental and international organizations can be an important means of bridging skills gaps and providing youth with opportunities to acquire job-relevant knowledge. These include targeted vocational training programmes and, increasingly, training programmes aimed at providing youth with life skills centred around effective communication and negotiation, decision making and problem solving, leadership, personal finance management, and critical thinking. The effectiveness of such programmes depends largely on the quality and duration of the training and the programme's ability to target specific market demands. In this regard, the best programmes are developed in coordination with private sector employers,

as this approach ensures alignment with market needs and makes employers aware of the training (World Youth Report 2030 Agenda).

- This calls on our municipality, through the Youth Directorate to have programmes that engage youth with the above skills, working with the private sector as we saw with the recent Hackathon organised and championed by the Youth Directorate and the private sector who contributed significant funding and job absorption opportunities for youth in our region.
- Recognizing that the 2022 census reports that more females aged between 20 and 24 were likely to attend higher educational institutions compared to their male counterparts, **thus a need to encourage all learners to pursue tertiary education after matric** and desist from engaging in deviant behaviour.
- Evidence of the 2022 census pointing out that the **coloured and black population groups had a lower percentage of bachelor's degree holders compared to other population groups** and negligible graduates in senior degrees, providing a need to zoom into schools where these population groups are found.
- Recognizing that Security and intelligence services, public management and services, health professions, engineering, education, business, economics, and management sciences were predominantly fields of education held by black Africans whereas physical sciences, life sciences, languages, arts, architecture, and built environment were predominantly

fields of education held by whites (Census, 2022). **(The City's bursary can be an equalizer in this regard).**

- Observing worryingly that the throughput for both genders to complete a bachelor's degree after completing grade 12 has decreased over time. Meaning the proportion of persons who go on to complete a bachelor's degree after completing Grade 12/Matric has declined over the years and this is concerning for the development trajectory of the country. (Census 2022).
- Throughput for achieving grade 12 after completing grade 9 was consistently the highest for the white population groups, followed by Asian/Indians. Throughput for achieving grade 12 after completing grade 9 was lower for both black Africans and coloureds. This suggests a gradual improvement in educational attainment among black Africans and coloureds over time, although they still lag behind whites and Asian/Indians in terms of completing grade 12 after completing grade 9, **so many are lost in the system thus a need to strengthen interventions like the Back-to-School programme of the City of Ekurhuleni to encourage learners to stay in school and finish matric and study beyond it.**
- Technological innovation and automation are rapidly changing the nature and context of work for the young people of the world. Advances in ICT have greatly increased the productivity of workers and enabled the creation of new jobs and industries. Congress thus ought to discuss possible programmes that prepare youth to take advantage of our city's broadband infrastructure rollout such as connection of wifi in townships. For example, how do we train youth to make money from social media platforms such as

TikTok, Facebook, Twitter (now called X), Instagram etc? This is on the back of the reality that these platforms have become a new industry on their own, with endless economic opportunities where our youth can sell their talents globally from the comfort of their homes whilst making serious economic gains.

- The crisis of youth underemployment: Underemployment is a broad classification covering a range of labour-related incongruities. Among the underemployed are those who are earning below-market wages for their skill set, those who are highly skilled but working in low-skill jobs, and part-time workers who would prefer full-time work but are unable to find it. As with unemployment, any assessment of underemployment tries to capture those who are economically excluded from the work opportunities for which they trained and prepared themselves during their schooling. As new entrants to the labour force, young people are more susceptible to underemployment than are their more established adult counterparts (UN World Youth Report, 2018). Congress ought to critically engage with the challenge of youth being found in unsecure, low paying informal jobs and being in and out of internships with no security of the future and be the source of innovative strategies to arrest this crisis.
- Congress ought to also discuss the youth and the green economy and beneficiation from this relatively new industry that is filled with opportunities.
- What ought to be done with the abandoned mines and the zama-zama crisis? and is the training of artisanal miners by TVET colleges and rehabilitation of these mines for use by communities a solution?

- Congress ought to discuss what becomes the role of the ANCYL in getting youth to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects that will be relevant to the needs of the economy?
- Children with disabilities have a lower probability of entering and staying in education than do those without disabilities. Among youth living with disabilities, dropout and illiteracy rates are disproportionately high, and relatively few progresses to upper secondary and tertiary education. Children and youth with mental and intellectual impairments are especially disadvantaged. In many countries, instead of attending school, children and youth with mental and intellectual disabilities are institutionalized in facilities that do not offer education. How does the ANCYL advocate for opportunities for youth with disabilities to prosper and benefit from the city's economy as their counterparts without disabilities?
- Call for the re-instatement of the Godfrey Pitje Tertiary Assistance Fund and call for the expansion of the bursary to fund post-Graduates as the city has a very low number of youth with Postgraduate qualifications and this is partly due to lack of funding.
- On governance and budgeting, innovative ways to engage the youth ought to be sort as the youth is often absent in these processes. In this context, this document recommends Participatory budgeting, which engages citizens in decision-making on government financial allocations, as another way to involve youth directly in financial planning processes, particularly at the local level. This must transcend into schools through partnerships between the municipality with the department of education, wherein youth in schools can be meaningfully engaged to deposit their ideas into the budget

of the city. This teaches them to be active in governance processes at an early age and learn the importance of shaping governance where they reside. The same must be done for youth out of school, through deliberate programmes targeting youth in all corners to participate in governance, the ANCYL can then play a mobilizing role but also gather budget petitions from youth of all wards and submit these to the municipality in order to infuse the ideas of youth in budgeting and general governance processes.

- There is a proposal that the EPEP programme goes beyond 6 months and with inherent NQF outcomes within so that youth can exit with a qualification after the programme. This would be a big step towards solving the skills crisis.
- The ANCYL social media pages must be actively used to inform youth of bursaries, skills and job opportunities as and when they are available as a form of providing access to information as many youth often lack access to information about business, job and skilling opportunities. Furthermore, the ANCYL ought to lead the charge in advancing programmes to help youth in business with compliance so they can take advantage of available opportunities but also engage the municipality and its HR department to help youth draft updated CVs that enhance their opportunities for employment and the Supply Chain department to regularly have youth targeted programmes to help youth with business compliance.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. What are the proposals and policies to be considered to ensure national, provincial and municipal alignment, implementation and enforcement of national development priorities?

2. Some of our water resources are plagued by pollution while distribution of water to some communities is hamstrung by corruption at local government level. The vandalism of water infrastructure further poses a challenge in the reliability of water to several communities. The use of the tankering system, which is supposed to be an emergency intervention, becomes the fodder for corrupt practices in some municipalities. Are there policy gaps that need to be looked at to ensure that our people have access to clean and reliable drinking water and that there is no corruption in the provision of this basic resource?
3. How can basic service delivery be improved?
4. How can we ensure that funded budgets are in place which promotes maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure?
5. One major challenge is that the current funding model for municipalities is premised on the notion of self-funding municipalities which is not the case for a majority of municipalities particularly in the less economically developed areas. How and what do we do to improve funding for our municipality? What strategies could be employed to increase funding to municipalities as well as to ensure increased service delivery?
6. How do we improve the functioning of the Ekurhuleni Youth Directorate, including its fundamental challenges like the lack of funding it faces?

07th EKURHULENI ANCYL REGIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISATIONAL RENEWAL AND REDESIGN DISCUSSION DOCUMENT.

1. This document frames its discussion on renewal on the premise that it is the ANCYL leadership responsibility to build a strong contemporary ANC Youth League to mobilise the youth for politics of transformation and socioeconomic development. In 2000 at the ANC National General Council, the movement drafted a discussion document named, Tasks of the NDR and the Mobilisation of the Motive Forces. This discussion document tries to locate the youth as the motive force that is necessary to be mobilised for creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society. However, here the youth is identified as the social stratum.
2. Furthermore, sees the youth as the reflection of the women and men stratification of society we live; and they engage in the struggle for concrete social ideals. Of course, the contemporary youth are a great reflection of our society and premised in the motive forces that seek social transformation.
3. Overall, mobilising the youth for social transformation and development will require an ANC Youth League that is both politically and ideologically astute. The ANC Youth League must re- evaluate its ideological stance to effectively lead the youth toward achieving a national democratic society. In other words, the various ideologies influencing youth struggles—such as decolonisation theory, colonialism, Marxism, and post-modernity, most of them presented as "woke politics"—need to be assessed and critically engaged by the ANC Youth League in the current context.

4. Building a strong ANC Youth League will ignite youth activism in our country. There is an undeniable decline in political activism among the youth. This can be attributed to objective conditions: the post-1994 generation, along with those born in the 1990s and 2000s, did not directly experience the colonial and apartheid struggles. However, the challenges they face have evolved under the current social conditions, including unemployment, climate crisis, gender-based violence, the surge in human trafficking, and persistent inequality. These are the pressing issues that today's youth must confront and address.
5. Moreover, the subjective conditions that have contributed to the current dormant state of the ANC Youth League in Ekurhuleni stem from the mass sectoral formation of youth, making it difficult for them to adapt to their role in the new circumstances. The ANC's 1997 Strategy and Tactics articulated that: Sectoral formations among the motive forces of transformation pursue the same goal as the ANC, in the measure that they strive for the true interests of these sectors.
6. Among them are be found student and professional organisations, structures of the religious, community, the youth, Women ,traditional leaders, Business association structures in the rural areas, civic associations (NGOs)and others. Its therefore important for the ANC and the ANCYL to work amongst them and join them both in sectoral and inter-sectoral campaigns to realise the aims of the NDR.
7. The ANC Youth League must reinvent itself as an organisation that represents young people across all sectors. This means acknowledging that

young people today may still be influenced by ideas rooted in the 20th century. However, this does not imply that the ANC Youth League should alter its strategic objectives, which are grounded in the national democratic revolution and the ANC's series of Strategy and Tactics documents. These serve as essential guiding tools for those committed to the struggle for social emancipation.

8. Just as religious values hold a church together, a common program unites political followers. For example, the bishops or leaders of Catholic and Protestant churches have structured their approaches to include differing viewpoints, ensuring they can be integrated or co-opted within their doctrines.
9. Similarly, the ANC Youth League must find a way to make heterodox ideas the new orthodoxy, dissenting voices, and critical thinking should prevail in the organisation—not chaos or tendencies focused solely on mobilising numbers to win congresses without contributing meaningful strategies or engaging in debates that capture the interest of the youth.
10. The objective and subjective conditions mentioned above, combined with the devastating impact of high youth unemployment, have significantly contributed to widespread youth apathy toward politics and the marginalisation of young people. In 2019, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) reported that the majority of youth did not register to vote in the national elections.
11. Only 16% of 18 and 19 year-olds and 54% of those aged 20 to 29 registered. This highlighted the concerning extent of political disengagement among the South African youth and their continued

detachment from the politics of the ANC and the absence of the ANCYL over the past decade has not done any favours, it has in-fact solidified the notion that —The political space is for old people and the ANC is the organisation of the old.

12. Reviving the ANC Youth League requires a commitment to collective action on critical issues. A new trend has emerged within the youth affiliated with the ANC: individuals who are not formally part of the ANC or ANC Youth League structures are attempting to lead the Youth League without legitimate authority. This trend is exemplified by the rise of groups such as the #Disband ANCYL movement and the ANC Youth League Crisis Committee.
13. These groups seek recognition and power without participating in proper elective processes. Drawing from the analysis of Italian Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci in his Prison Notebooks, these tendencies can be seen as indicative of a modern crisis, which Gramsci might have termed a wave of materialism.
14. For the ANC Youth League, having more young people join means greater diversity but also a higher risk of internal divisions. Any movement that seeks mass mobilisation inevitably faces challenges in maintaining internal unity and solidarity as it grows.
15. The ANC Youth League is currently grappling with this challenge. To expand its membership, the ANC Youth League must leverage digital platforms to recruit young people, recognising that the youth are an increasingly large segment of South Africa's population. The organisation

should prioritise recruiting young workers and environmental activists who share its dissatisfaction with class oppression and the climate crisis.

16. The ANC Youth League must also address its internal and external challenges, including strengthening the Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) in Ekurhuleni. This includes bolstering relationships with the South African Students Congress (SASCO) in colleges to inspire the students community to participate in the national democratic revolution.
17. The success of the national democratic society depends, in part, on transforming and decolonizing the education system. As highlighted in the 2000 ANC Discussion Documents, the apartheid state used education as a tool to entrench its political and ideological system.
18. Students, who are also part of the youth, play a vital role in challenging the colonial curriculum and advancing the national democratic revolution. The ANC Youth League in Ekurhuleni must strengthen its relationship with SASCO to support student struggles in universities and colleges.
19. The student movement, which includes the PYA, ANC Youth League, and Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA), has historically played a significant role in challenging South Africa's education system.
20. The PYA is a strategic structure for developing future ANC leaders. Therefore, the ANC must consolidate the ANC Youth League and other youth formations to promote the interests of young people within the party and society. This will ensure that the youth are prepared to take on leadership roles in the ANC. Additionally, the ANC-led government must

formalise regional programs that address youth challenges and integrate these issues into the provincial agenda.

21. Addressing the issues that affect young people is essential for attracting youth to join the ANC. This includes fostering a non-racial and non-sexist society, promoting moral regeneration, advocating for human rights, and nurturing patriotism. Supporting youth in the creative industries will help express the organisational and socio-cultural identity of the youth. The ANC must actively promote the development of national consciousness among young people.
22. The African National Congress (ANC) and its Youth League (ANCYL) are at a critical juncture, requiring a concerted effort to revitalise and reposition themselves as a formidable force for transformation. This necessitates a thorough organisational renewal and redesign, enabling the movement to effectively mobilise the youth and harness their energy for transformative politics.
23. In line with the ANC's Strategy and Tactics, our organisational design must be informed by the imperatives of our mission to build a better life for all South Africans. This entails a structured approach to organising and mobilising the motive forces of our struggle, including the youth, women, workers, and other progressive sectors of society.
24. To achieve this, we must undertake a comprehensive review of our organisational structures, processes, and systems, with a view to enhancing their relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency. This includes streamlining our decision-making processes, improving communication and

coordination across different levels and sectors of the organisation, and building a more inclusive and representative leadership.

25. Ultimately, our goal is to create a vibrant, dynamic, and responsive organisation that is capable of mobilising the youth and other sectors of society to drive transformative change. By doing so, we can ensure that the ANC and ANCYL remain relevant, effective, and true to their historic mission of building a more just, equitable, and prosperous society for all.

26. Organisational renewal and redesign of the ANC and ANCYL require a multifaceted approach. To mobilise the youth for politics of transformation, the ANCYL must adopt innovative strategies to revitalise its leadership and membership. Previous Policy Considerations.

27. Previous policy considerations can inform the development of new strategies for organisational renewal. For instance, the ANCYL's past experiences with leadership development programs, youth empowerment initiatives, and community engagement projects can provide valuable lessons for future interventions.

28. The "Through the Eye of the Needle" policy can be a useful framework for renewing the leadership of the ANCYL. This policy approach emphasises the need for leaders to undergo a process of self-reflection, critiquing their own values, beliefs, and practices to ensure alignment with the organisation's mission and vision.

29. By applying this policy, the ANCYL can identify and develop leaders who embody the values of the organisation and are committed to driving transformative change. This approach can also help to address issues of

leadership accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the needs of the youth and marginalised communities.

30. To achieve organisational renewal and redesign, the ANCYL can consider the following strategies:

- Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development: Develop and Implement programs that empower young people to take leadership roles within the organisation and in their communities.
- Community Engagement and Outreach: Foster stronger relationships with marginalised communities and develop initiatives that address their specific needs and concerns.
- Policy Reform and Review: Conduct a comprehensive review of the organisation's policies and programs to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing the challenges faced by young people and marginalised communities.
- Organisational Restructuring: Consider restructuring the organisation to make it more responsive to the needs of its members and the communities it serves. Renewing and restructuring an organisation in the digital age requires a multifaceted approach. To position the ANCYL
- Embrace Digital Transformation: Leverage technology to streamline processes, enhance communication, and improve overall efficiency. This can include adopting digital tools for membership management, communication, and outreach.

- Revamp Organisational Structure: Consider a more agile and adaptable structure that can respond quickly to changing circumstances. This might involve decentralising decision-making, empowering local chapters, or creating task forces focused on specific issues.
- Develop a Strong Online Presence: Create engaging digital content, utilise social media platforms, and develop a user-friendly website to attract new members and showcase the organisation's mission and values.
- Foster a Culture of Innovation: Encourage experimentation, learning, and innovation within the organisation. This can involve providing training and resources for members to develop new skills and stay up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies.
- Enhance Membership Engagement: Develop strategies to increase member participation, such as online forums, social media groups, or regular meet-ups. This can help build a sense of community and foster a deeper connection between members and the organisation.
- Leverage Data-Driven Insights: Utilise data analytics to better understand the organisation's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. This can inform decision-making, optimise resources, and drive more effective outreach and engagement strategies.
- Foster Partnerships and Collaborations: Develop strategic partnerships with other organisations, businesses, or community groups to amplify the organisation's impact, expand its reach, and attract new members.

Attracting new voters it should consider using the following strategies:

- **Develop a Comprehensive Communication Strategy:** Create a clear and consistent messaging framework that resonates with diverse audiences, including new voters. This can involve crafting compelling narratives, developing targeted outreach campaigns, and leveraging social media influencers or ambassadors.

Vladimir Lenin (1913) best describes the process of renewal as a culmination of the struggle between the chauvinistic, conservatives who stand against the revolutionary progressive forces. The battle is between the old and the new social order, and its results become the determining factor on what society perceives as new and therefore relevant elements for renewal. He said that:

— Champions of reforms and improvements will always be fooled by the defenders of the old order until they realise that every old institution, however barbarous and rotten it may appear to be, is kept going by the forces of certain ruling classes. And there is only one way of smashing the resistance of those classes, and that is to find, in the very society which surrounds us, the forces which can and, owing to their social position, must constitute the power capable of sweeping away the old and creating the new, and to enlighten and organise those forces for the struggle.

Understanding that an organization is a living organism, deriving its birthmark from a particular womb. The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) was born in 1944 as a culmination of on-going struggles between the old and the new. It was born out of a political and ideological necessity, meant to radicalize the African National Congress (ANC) and shape the new trajectory towards the liberation of the oppressed masses. The birth of the League signifies the embryo of the great

contribution played by young people in the African revolution. This means that, like other living organisms, the League exists for a purpose, defined as the twin tasks, which are interrelated- to mobilise all young people towards the banner of the African National Congress (ANC) and to always champion their interest.

Like other living organisms, the League must always understand its surrounding environment in order to be able to resort on the necessary means for special adaptation. This means that there is an ongoing struggle for the organization to always strive to keep its identity and protect its integrity while simultaneously growing. This is not possible, without the process of adequate organizational renewal which speaks to the ability to derive tactic that is conducive to the objectives which make up the necessary special adaptation methods, required in a particular epoch. In other words, the organization needs to always excel in the art of converting its building blocks, from quantity to quality.

The special adaption process does not happen through magic, it must be designed and implemented. In this way the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) becomes a catalyst towards the perceived society in the National Democratic Revolution (NDR). Therefore, organizational renewal is vital because, it provides the organization with necessary tools to equip itself.

Character of the ANCYL and its relationship to the ANC

The role of the ANCYL in the development, renewal and growth of the African National Congress (ANC) is significant. From its inception in 1944, the ANCYL was not only positioned to mobilise young people behind the vision of the ANC, and championing their interests, but the young lions in their character were positioned as a formation determined to give new impetus, radicalise and energise the ANC into a fighting force for people's liberation.

The ANCYL's relationship to the ANC is historically more of a political relationship than a paternal/maternal relationship, more often defined by clearly defined political programmes and tactics which sought to rejuvenate the great titan of African soldiers ANC. The League was never and should never be regarded as, a junior congress, but it must always reclaim its space as a political youth wing of the ANC, with profound influence on its direction and existence. Any attempts to render the young lions toothless, must be rejected with the amount of radical approach it deserves.

The historical trajectory assumed in our revolution points to the fact that, it was the ANC YL'S 1944 Manifesto and 1948 Programme of Action that led to the process to re-shape and revolutionise the political, organisational and ideological character of the ANC. It was not the other around! In fact, only after five years after its formation, the ANC YL was able to influence and change the ANC into a fighting liberation movement with clearly defined ideology, strategies and methods of engagement. It must be stated clearly that, this happened against massive opposition from the ANC leadership, which sometimes believed that the rise of youth militancy would compromise the earlier character of the ANC of peaceful resistance, deputations and petitions with the hope that the colonial masters will show goodwill and allow rights and freedoms to civilised black people.

Comrade Duma Nokwe (1927-1978) who served as the Secretary General of the League, in his paper Problems facing the youth movement mentioned that, The ANCYL played an important part in the adoption of that programme of action. The salient features of the programme were mass political actions, in the form of boycott, national days of protest, and civil disobedience. The programs became those of the ANC, which included amongst others; the formation of the armed struggle, Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK), the Defiance Campaign, the fruits of the Campaign led to the spread of the mass demonstrations, increased the membership of the ANC, led to the

formation of Coloured People's Congress and the Congress of (white) Democrats, and then a "Congress Alliance" which played a crucial role in promoting multi-racial resistance to apartheid in subsequent years.

The assertions made by others, that the ANC YL is nothing but just a preparatory school of the ANC where learning is one sided only comes from the elders of the ANC, and it is received by the young people in the League, make unscientific analysis. They assume that the young lions are not capable to learn and also teach their elders, they do not know that the process of learning happens dialectically. While the supposed teacher is offering lessons, they also learn from their learners, when they make observations and open engagements. Political and ideological training are not directly proportional to the person's age.

The problem with maintaining a paternal/maternal relationship between the ANC and the League is that the problems of the ANC are systematically assimilated to the League- meaning that the institutionalised factional battles in the ANC, find expression in the League.

In order to address the stated problems, the League needs to implement its own documents especially, Article F (2) of the ANC YL Constitution (as amended and adopted in the 25th National Congress at Gallaher Estate, Midrand) which reads:

—The ANCYL shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the ANC of which it shall be an integral part. It shall be based on the political and ideological objectives of the ANC. Which means that the defining character of the League, is that it is an autonomous body within the overall structure of the ANC. Take for instance the ANC as a living organism, for it to exist it needs all its integral parts to function properly, when one of the parts, are not functional. The entire body gets affected.

When the ANCYL is not autonomous, it will fail to provide, political and ideological solutions in the ANC, the Alliance and the broader society. This will prove the formation of the ANCYL futile, by reversing the historical role and impact that the leadership of 1944 and other generations before us achieved.

Renew, Re-engineer and Reposition the ANCYL Ekurhuleni

Political and Organizational Orientation

Organizational re-engineering speaks to the internal processes of the organization needed to achieve organizational renewal. The branches of the League remain the basic unit of the organization. The platform in which renewal is mostly needed is in branches, where young people are situated and will look into the League to provide solutions to their problems. The induction of both the newly elected Branch Executive Committee (BEC) and the entire branch membership must remain compulsory, with a detailed institutionalised branch induction model.

The model must consist of a syllabus, which will include online and hard copy material that everyone must read and engage, upon reading the material the BEC, and the branch membership will then receive assessments that will have sessions that can be done individually and as a collective. This will standardize and institutionalise political education, while it will also enhance collectivism thus playing a meaningful role in membership development.

Professionalising the work of Branches

The League needs to establish annual Leadership Seminars, with a long-term goal of initiating an ANC YL Leadership Academy. The seminars will go beyond political and ideological training but will also focus on building leadership capacity needed in government, business, academia, sports and other sectors. This will be a right step towards professionalising the League.

The branch secretaries of the ANC YL must write and submit compulsory monthly organizational reports to update upper structures on the work done in the branch.

There must be a creation of a template for the universalization of the work across the region.

Branch Programs

It must be made compulsory for all branches to have monthly programs, with different themes, such programs do not include political schools (the political schools are not programs). There's also a need for mass mobilization strategies; such includes declaring some days as YL Days, launching of YL Block initiatives; this means that on monthly basis all structures will choose a particular place in their jurisdictional locations declare them as YL Blocks through blitzing, door-to-door campaigns, community meetings, and offer any form of assistance the place needs.

The obligation of the YL

Blocks initiative is to bring back both the ANC and the ANC YL to the people, on the specific days of the YL Block initiative, councillors, Members of Mayoral Committees (MMCs), Members of the Executive Council (MECs), Ministers and even the President be invited to have engagements with communities.

The lobbying process of candidates

In order to curb the factionalism and buying of votes during the lobbying process the League must look into creating equal opportunities for candidates to lobby and compete, through open deliberations and debates between the candidates. This will offer equal opportunities and give both members of the League and the public an opportunity to know the candidates. It is also important that the League debates on the cut of age for contestation, the cut of age for membership of the League is 35 years old, due to the definition of youth in South Africa, but does this mean that a

34/35-year-old can contest for a position in the ANCYL? Should this question be looked at in consideration to the age groups that make up the majority of members and ultimately the broader young people in our land?

Membership Renewal and Recruitment

The membership of the ANC YL is open to young people between the ages of 14-35 and is renewed on an annual basis at the amount of R10.00. With the understanding of the growing global trends of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and living in an era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), at least five years ago, the ANC took a decision to move its membership online, this is a move that drives the organization towards a paperless system, easy access and remote access to systems. It is imperative for the ANC YL to have a discussion on moving its membership online, in line with the mother body and for ease of access for young people in various sectors.

Over the years, the ANC and its leagues has been seen to not be attracting the right calibre of membership. President Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) exposed some of these problems in the ANC, when he said that, "One of these negative features is the emergence of careerism within our ranks.

Many among our members see their membership of the ANC as a means to advance their personal ambitions to attain positions of power and access to resources for their own individual gratification. He further said that, "Accordingly, they work to manipulate the movement to create the conditions for their success.

The ANC YL is faced with the daunting task of vetting the people that join this organization, there must be a discussion on the membership affiliation period and price. The ANC YL must consider extending its affiliation to two years, this would allow new members to undergo a probation period of 3 months where they are thoroughly vetted against some of the concerns raised by President Mandela before they are allowed to be full members of the ANCYL. Increasing affiliation to R30.00 for

two years would assist in covering some of the costs associated with the movement of the membership online.

The dialectical relationship between organizational renewal and societal renewal

The previous documents on Organizational Renewal and Development have theorised the need for renewal inwardly, which means that they looked at the organization in isolation from broader society. This widens the gap between the organization and the society it seeks to serve, it also contributes in making the League irrelevant to societal challenges, meaning that the League is systematically placed upside down in society. Such contributes to making the League irrelevant in the pursuit of its fundamental twin tasks.

The inward-looking best manifests in organizational programs; in most cases they are attended only by members of the ANC YL, while many young people are not willing to show face. In many branches, this has led to the decline of membership. While in the absentia of revolutionary duties, chaos and anarchy prevail through institutionalised factionalism enhanced by gatekeeping, tribalism and organizational capture, which manifests through bought membership used to access positions and deployments.

However, the organizational decay also signifies the state of the South African societies in the era of capitalism, racism and gender stereotypes. The role of the capitalist market utility in diminishing collectivism in our societies, enhances institutionalised racism, commodifies the bodies of women, and signifies the birth of both the organizational and societal decay.

About 55.2% of young people aged of 15-24 and 34,2% of young people aged 25-34 years are unemployed, this means that one in every three young people in the labour

force did not have a job in the first quarter of 2024. It is important to mention that the unemployment rate among the youth is higher irrespective of their education levels.

The graduate unemployment rate was 31.0% for those aged 15–24 and 12.9% among those aged 25–34 years. Just over 30% of the youth have jobs and about half of them participate in the labour market. Within the youth, those aged 15–24 years are more vulnerable in the labour market with an unemployment rate of over 52%, an absorption rate of about 12,2% and a labour force participation rate of 25,6%. The program of the Youth League for Organizational renewal and development needs to place young people at the epicentre for operational basis.

It is important that the process to renew the League consists of the need to renew young people; this will lay the foundation for progressive means towards modernization and development of young people in their various societies is directly proportional to the development and renewal of the ANCYL. The League needs to keep up with ongoing battle of ideas in all societal spaces and provide superior logic. The inclusion of society in the process of organizational renewal and development is best described by the revolutionary Che Guevara (1965) in his article, Socialism and Man in Cuba when he said that, That is why it is very important to choose the right instrument for mobilizing the masses. Basically, this instrument must be moral in character, without neglecting, however, a correct use of the material incentive especially of a social character. As I have already said, in moments of great peril it is easy to muster a powerful response with moral incentives. Retaining their effectiveness, however, requires the development of a consciousness in which there is a new scale of values. Society as a whole must be converted into a gigantic school.

The League needs to foster social compact, by including the private sector, small corporations, civil society and other progressive formations of young people in its programs. In this way, the League will unite different stakeholders, and play a

significant role in establishing new mechanisms that will enhance transformation in our societies. Most of all this will also lead to multi-sectoral approach, because when the League is involved in various developmental programs, young people from different walks of life, will freely join the League.

Transformation also calls for the need to attract talented young people from skills and personnel into the League, these includes; sports and arts, academia and young professionals to mention but a few. This speaks to the need to redefine the Program of Action for the League in order to encompass progressive elements for a cultural revolution. This means that the League must engineer the socialisation process to be assumed by young people in our country. This includes the ability to define the struggle in the manner that will be understood by young people, creating new songs that will resonate with both the struggle and the interest of young, and lead always lead young people.

Organizational discipline

The Constitution of the League, states under obligations of all members that:

1. Pledge their unswerving loyalty to the ANCYL and place themselves under its overall discipline
2. Carry out decisions, duties and directives with diligence
3. Organise, participate and contribute positively to all ANCYL activities and to contribute to the strengthening of its organic unity
4. Rally all youth to support and unite behind the ANCYL and actively participate in the creation of a united, non-racial, and non-sexist democratic and prosperous South Africa
5. Protect the ANCYL and its property at all times by exercising maximum vigilance

6. Exercise discipline and exemplary behaviour at all times and maintain harmonious relations with all members of the ANCYL and the community in general;
7. Combat all forms of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, and other forms of discrimination based on race and sex as well as combating factionalism and malicious gossip within our ranks
8. Initiate and participate in activities aimed at promoting international solidarity, peace and social Justice
9. Every member of the ANC Youth League above the age of 18 shall be obliged to join the ANC

The League needs to engage on a comprehensive plan to deal with disciplinary mechanisms, which will nurture the calibre of comrades envisaged in the document, Through the Eye of the Needle. But most importantly organizational discipline requires the need to call for the need to realign both the League's and ANC constitution to the supreme law of the Republic-the South African Constitution in order to allow the judiciary to deal with serious offences undermining organizational discipline.

Conclusion

Organizational renewal must always be understood through social transformation, for the League does not exist parallel to prevailing subjective and objective material conditions, dictated by societies. The organization needs to be always understood as a living organism, which exists for a revolutionary purpose. The character of the League, cannot be narrowly explained as a mere preparatory school of the ANC, through paternal/maternal basis. But it must be understood as a dialectical relationship necessitated by political and ideological purposes and that the ANC YL, renews the ANC.

The ANC YL remains an autonomous progressive youth organization for radical transformation. Committed to mobilise young people towards the banner of the ANC, champion the interest of young people, radicalize the ANC, provide solutions to the current problems in the ANC and contribute towards the struggle to modernize the ANC and broader society.

UNPACKING THE MOCHAPALONG CONCEPT AND POSITIONING IT AS A VEHICLE TO CHAMPION YOUTH INTERESTS.

Introduction The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) has been a vital component of the African National Congress (ANC) since its inception in 1944. As the youth wing of the ANC, the ANCYL has played a crucial role in shaping the future of the party through its participation in strategic leadership positions in governance. This research document provides a historical context and analysis of the ANCYL's role in shaping the future of the ANC, with a focus on its participation in governance and its role in addressing the renewal process within the party.

Historical Context the ANCYL was formed in 1944 as the youth wing of the ANC. The league's primary objective was to mobilize young people to participate in the struggle against apartheid and to promote the ideals of the ANC. Throughout its history, the ANCYL has been at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid, with its members playing a key role in the 1976 Soweto Uprising and the subsequent formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the 1980s. **The ANCYL's Role in Governance** The ANCYL has played a significant role in shaping the future of the ANC through its participation in strategic leadership positions in governance. Many prominent ANC leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Oliver Tambo, emerged from the ANCYL.

Today, the league continues to be a breeding ground for future leaders of the ANC, with many of its members occupying key positions within the party and government. The ANCYL's Role in Addressing the Renewal Process within the ANC In recent years, the ANCYL has been at the forefront of efforts to promote organizational renewal within the ANC. The league has been vocal in its calls for the ANC to return to its founding values of service, selflessness, and sacrifice. The ANCYL has also been critical of corruption, factionalism, and the decline of the party's moral authority. To address these challenges, the ANCYL has proposed a range of strategies, including the establishment of a national leadership academy to provide training and capacity-building programs for ANC leaders, the development of a comprehensive policy framework to guide the party's decision-making processes, and the promotion of greater transparency and accountability within the party. Key Strategies for Organisational Renewal To ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the ANCYL, it is essential that the league remains true to its founding principles and continues to promote the ideals of the ANC. The following strategies are critical to achieving this objective: 1. Leadership Development: The ANCYL must prioritise leadership development, providing training and capacity- building programs for its members. This can include leadership development programs, mentorship initiatives, and skills development training. 2. Community Engagement: The league must engage with communities, listening to their concerns and aspirations, and developing programs and policies that respond to their needs. This can include community outreach programs, public meetings, and social media engagement. 3. Organisational Restructuring: The ANCYL must consider restructuring its organisation to make it more responsive to the needs of its members and the communities it serves. This can include the establishment of new branches, the development of more effective communication systems, and the promotion of greater transparency and accountability within the league. The ANCYL has played a vital role in shaping the future of the ANC through its participation in strategic leadership positions in governance. As the youth wing of the ANC, the ANCYL has a critical role

to play in promoting organisational renewal within the party, addressing challenges such as corruption, factionalism, and the decline of the party's moral authority. By prioritising leadership development, community engagement, and organisational restructuring, the ANCYL can ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness, and play a critical role in shaping the future of the ANC. The Mochapalong campaign, launched by the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), is a pivotal initiative aimed at promoting youth participation in local governance. Conceived in 2021, during the Local Government Elections (LGE), the campaign sought to influence the African National Congress (ANC) to adopt young people as ward councillors in their communities. The campaign's success in promoting youth representation in local government is undeniable; however, it also has its shortcomings, particularly in ensuring oversight and accountability of the elected councillors. One of the primary challenges faced by the Mochapalong campaign is the inability to follow up on the elected councillors and monitor their performance. This lack of oversight can lead to a disconnect between the councillors and the communities they serve, ultimately undermining the campaign's objectives. To address this challenge, the ANCYL can establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework that tracks the performance of the elected councillors. This framework can include regular progress reports, community feedback mechanisms, and consequence management for underperforming councillors. Another critical aspect of ensuring the success of the Mochapalong campaign is to guarantee that the elected councillors remain committed to the policy direction advocated by the ANCYL. This can be achieved by providing ongoing training and capacity-building programs for the councillors, focusing on policy development, governance, and community engagement. Furthermore, the ANCYL can establish a mentorship program that pairs experienced leaders with the newly elected councillors, providing guidance and support in their roles. In addition to these measures, the ANCYL can also leverage technology to enhance oversight and accountability. For instance, the league can develop a digital platform that enables communities to track the performance of their

councillors, provide feedback, and report any concerns or issues. This platform can also facilitate communication between the councillors and the communities they serve, promoting transparency and accountability. The importance of the Mochapalong campaign cannot be overstated. By promoting youth participation in local governance, the campaign has the potential to bring about transformative change in communities across South Africa. However, to ensure the campaign's long-term success, it is essential to address its shortcomings and establish robust mechanisms for oversight, accountability, and capacity-building. To achieve this, the ANCYL can engage in a comprehensive review of the campaign's strengths and weaknesses, identifying areas for improvement and developing strategies to address these challenges. This review can involve consultations with stakeholders, including community leaders, elected councillors, and civil society organizations. Moreover, the ANCYL can also draw lessons from similar initiatives elsewhere in Africa and the world. For instance, the league can study the experiences of countries like Rwanda, where youth participation in governance has been prioritized, and identify best practices that can be adapted to the South African context. In conclusion, the Mochapalong campaign is a vital initiative that has the potential to drive transformative change in South Africa. However, to ensure its long-term success, it is essential to address its shortcomings and establish robust mechanisms for oversight, accountability, and capacity-building. By doing so, the ANCYL can guarantee that the campaign remains true to its objectives and promotes meaningful youth participation in local governance.

07th EKURHULENI ANCYL REGIONAL CONGRESS SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION DISCUSSION DOCUMENT.

Social Transformation and Cohesion Commission Policy

BACKGROUND

Research reviews demonstrate that there is an increase in anxiety and depression in society as the socioeconomic inequality widens. Research reviews also establish that there is a close relationship between social status and how much a person values themselves generally. It's hard to disregard social status because it comes so close to defining our worth and how much we are valued. To do well for yourself or to be successful is almost synonymous with moving up the social ladder (Wilkinson and Pickett, 2009). It is against this background that we understand the depression, hopelessness and resorting to deviant behaviour of many youth in our region. These challenges manifest themselves in many ways. For example, Wilkinson and Pickett, (2009) in their seminal book "The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger" propose that surveys have found that when choosing prospective marriage partners, people in more unequal countries put less emphasis on romantic considerations and more on criteria such as financial prospects, status and ambition, than do people in less unequal societies. This then explains some of our social ills where young men and women fall prey to older, wealthier people, resulting in teenage pregnancies, alcohol abuse and low-self esteem challenges and unfulfilled lives ultimately.

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) recognises that the youth of South Africa are critical agents of change and development in our country. As such, the ANCYL is committed to the development and advancement of the youth, with a focus on social transformation and cohesion. This policy outlines the ANCYL's

position on social transformation and cohesion, with a focus on youth development and the pillars of the National Youth Development Policy.

The ANCYL believes that social transformation and cohesion are critical to the development and advancement of the youth in South Africa. To achieve this, the ANCYL supports the pillars of the National Youth Development Policy, which include economic participation and empowerment, education and skills development, health and well-being, and social cohesion and nation-building. The ANCYL recognises that these pillars are interconnected and that progress in one area is dependent on progress in others. Therefore, the ANCYL will work to advance these pillars in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

In terms of priority areas, the ANCYL identifies mental health and substance abuse, as well as education and skills development, as critical areas that require urgent attention. The ANCYL recognises that mental health and substance abuse are major challenges facing young people in South Africa, and that these challenges can have a devastating impact on their well-being and potential. To address these challenges, the ANCYL will work to:

- Increase access to mental health services and support for young people
- Promote healthy lifestyles and substance abuse prevention programs
- Support the development of youth-friendly mental health services and programs

The ANCYL also recognises that education and skills development are critical to the development of young people and continues to advocate to:

- Improve the quality of education and increase access to education and skills development programs

- Promote vocational and technical training, as well as entrepreneurship and job creation
- Support the development of youth-friendly education and skills development programs

In terms of economic participation and empowerment, the ANCYL believes that young people must have access to education, skills development, and economic opportunities in order to participate fully in the economy. The ANCYL will work to increase access to education and skills development programs, promote entrepreneurship and job creation, and support the development of youth-owned businesses. The ANCYL looks to also work to address the scourge of unemployment among young people, which is a major obstacle to their economic participation and empowerment.

The ANCYL recognises that education and skills development are critical to the development and advancement of the youth in South Africa. The ANCYL should be obsessed to improve the quality of education, increase access to education and skills development programs, and promote vocational and technical training. The ANCYL seeks to address the issue of youth illiteracy, which is a major obstacle to their education and skills development.

In terms of health and well-being, the ANCYL believes that young people must have access to healthcare services, healthy lifestyles, and safe environments in order to maintain their physical and mental health. The ANCYL should be unrelenting in its efforts to increase access to healthcare services, promote healthy lifestyles, and support the development of youth-friendly health services.

The ANCYL recognises that social cohesion and nation-building are critical to the development and advancement of the youth in South Africa. To achieve this, the ANCYL will work to promote social cohesion and nation-building through education, culture, and recreation. The ANCYL has also work to do in addressing the issue of youth violence, which is a major obstacle to social cohesion and nation-building.

In the Gauteng province, the ANCYL is in full support of the implementation of the Gauteng Youth Integrated Youth Development Plan, which aims to improve access to education and skills development, promote economic participation and empowerment, and enhance health and well-being for young people in Gauteng. The ANCYL will also work to support the development of youth-friendly services and programs in Gauteng.

In the City of Ekurhuleni, the ANCYL is unrelenting in its support of the implementation of the Youth Development Policy for the City of Ekurhuleni, which aims to improve access to education and skills development, promote economic participation and empowerment, and enhance health and well-being for young people in Ekurhuleni. The ANCYL will also work to support the development of youth-friendly services and programs in Ekurhuleni.

The ANCYL recognises that the youth of South Africa face numerous challenges, including unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, and crime and violence. To address these challenges, the ANCYL must look to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated programs and policies that address the root causes of these challenges. The ANCYL must also work to support the development of youth-friendly services and programs that provide young people with the support and resources they need to overcome these challenges.

Recommendations

To address the challenges facing young people in the Region, the ANCYL makes the following recommendations:

Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness

- a) Establish substance abuse prevention and awareness programs: The ANCYL recommends establishing programs that provide education and awareness on the dangers of substance abuse, as well as support and resources for young people struggling with addiction. Increase access to substance abuse treatment and support: The ANCYL recommends increasing access to substance abuse treatment and support services, including counselling, rehabilitation, and support groups.
- b) Promote healthy lifestyles: The ANCYL recommends promoting healthy lifestyles among young people, including regular exercise, healthy eating, and adequate sleep.
- c) An overall social ills campaign that is led by branches of the ANCYL targeting various deviant behaviour by youth, seeking to help them rehabilitate and live a purposeful life working with progressive social partners and stakeholders.

Mental Health Awareness

- a) Establish mental health awareness programs: The ANCYL recommends establishing programs that provide education and awareness on mental health, including stress management, anxiety, and depression.
- b) Increase access to mental health services: The ANCYL recommends increasing access to mental health services, including counselling, therapy, and support groups.
- c) Promote mental health support: The ANCYL recommends promoting mental health support among young people, including encouraging open conversations about mental health and reducing stigma around mental illness.

Mass Social Psychological Transition

- a) Promote critical thinking and media literacy: The ANCYL recommends promoting critical thinking and media literacy among young people, including education on how to evaluate information, identify bias, and recognise propaganda.
- b) Encourage active citizenship: The ANCYL recommends encouraging active citizenship among young people, including participation in community service, volunteerism, and activism.
- c) Foster a sense of social responsibility: The ANCYL recommends fostering a sense of social responsibility among young people, including education on the importance of contributing to society, protecting the environment, and promoting social justice.

Implementation

The ANCYL will work to implement these recommendations through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- a) Partnerships with government and civil society: The ANCYL will partner with government and civil society organisations to establish programs and services that support the development and advancement of young people.
- b) Community-based initiatives: The ANCYL will establish community-based initiatives that provide education, awareness, and support on mental health, substance abuse, and social responsibility.
- c) Advocacy and activism: The ANCYL will engage in advocacy and activism to promote the rights and interests of young people, including access to education, employment, and healthcare.

In conclusion, the ANCYL is committed to the development and advancement of the youth in South Africa. This policy outlines the ANCYL's position on social

transformation and cohesion, with a focus on youth development and the pillars of the National Youth Development Policy. The ANCYL will work to support the implementation of this policy in the Gauteng province and the City of Ekurhuleni, and to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated programs and policies that address the challenges faced by young people in South Africa.



07TH EKURHULENI ANCYL REGIONAL CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BALANCE OF FORCES DISCUSSION DOCUMENT.

The African National Congress Youth League's organizational outlook is rooted in its mission to unite African youth and advance the struggle for national freedom, the league aims to:

- Rally and Unite African Youth: Bring together young people under a shared banner of African Nationalism, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.
- Advance National Freedom: Support and reinforce the African National Congress (ANC) in its fight against oppression and domination.
- Promote Education and Cultural Advancement: Encourage educational, moral, and cultural development among African youth. - The league's policy is guided by several key principles:
 - African Nationalism: The belief that Africa belongs to its people, and that they have the right to self-determination and freedom from foreign domination
- Economic Democracy: The pursuit of economic justice and equality, including land reform and industrialization.
- True Democracy: The goal of achieving a democratic society where all nationalities and minorities have their rights guaranteed.
- To achieve these objectives, the league advocates for Free Compulsory Education: Access to quality education for all children.
- Mass Adult Education: Opportunities for adults to acquire new skills and knowledge.
- Cultural Development: Promotion of African art, literature, and culture.
- Non-Sexism: Ensuring that Womxn and LGBTIA+ are included in decision making bodies and are full members with no limitation to actively participate in organizational processes.

International Relations & Balance of Forces.

INTRODUCTION

The ANC in pursuing its international relations objectives is informed by the Freedom Charter that states that —There shall be Peace and Friendshipll, The African claims adopted in 1943, and successive National Congress Declarations that have reinforced the ANC's historical role in the global Progressive Movement Therefore International Relations is utilized by the ANC to form strategic friendships, cooperation and work towards peace in the continent and the world, whilst pursuing South Africa's National Interest.

The ANC Youth League International Relations is anchored on the above principle and endeavors to ensure that young people in Ekurhuleni are exposed to various opportunities available in the International Space.

Progressive internationalism is a radical perspective of international relations that the liberation movement developed out of the struggle for liberation. It is born out of its interaction with fellow liberation movements throughout the world and international solidarity movements. It is radical in that it entails opposition to the perpetuation of the legacy of global imperialism manifest in the global power asymmetry, the dominance of the global North over the South and the world, structural global inequality and poverty. Paradigms of violence and the global world manifest in militarization of international relations, global racism and patriarchy, neocolonialism and other ills that delay the development of both a new truly post-colonial world system and an inclusive globalized economy. It envisages a just, equitable, non-racial, non-patriarchal, diverse, democratic and equal world system. It requires the

building of alliances and solidarity with progressive forces in the South and North fighting for similar objectives in world affairs. The NGC discussion document of the ANC in 2015 correctly points out that the liberation struggle in which progressiveness is born began when the colonial/ imperial project expanded to the South in the 15th to the 19th century. In this period, the world witnessed the rise of a global system of imperialism as the basis of a modern world system that continued to perpetuate unequal power relations.

The colonization of South Africa since 1652, almost two hundred years after Vasco da Gama, had rounded the Cape, was intimate element of the global imperial process. Hence, the liberation struggle was about the national question and the international situation. The period between the calamitous conference of colonial empires in Berlin in 1884-5, which decided on the colonial scramble for Africa, and the achievement of independence from the 1960s saw the growing internationalization of anti-colonial struggles through alliances and solidarity campaigns. This internationalist outlook of the African struggles is epitomized by the Pan-African Conferences that took place between 1900 and reached their heights in the 1950s.

In the backdrop of the so-called Second World War as the Western world developed the Atlantic Charter as a set of principles to govern world affairs, the movement developed an alternative set of principles and rights contained in the African Claims. This envisaged a world shaped not just by the aspiration and interests of the Western world, but one also shaped by African demands. It thus made clear its opposition to the imperial idea of a world system designed without the consultation of peoples outside the West.

Progressive internationalism also draws from the experience of the movement as an active participant in the making of a global South solidarity challenging the North-dominated post-World War 2 world order that found its most prominent expression in the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955. The Bandung Conference sent a strong signal that a world system cannot be built on the basis of our exclusion, exploitation, domination, marginalization and without our input. It cemented the foundations of the solidarity of progressive forces of the South, emerging to contest the onset of new imperialism under the leadership of the US as the dominant global power after war.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRICS YOUTH COUNCIL

Following the pronouncement by the President of the Republic HE Cyril Ramaphosa to establish a BRICS Youth Council.

The BRICS Youth Council was established to empower young people from BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and provide a platform for them to contribute to the BRICS agenda.

The council aims to promote youth development, entrepreneurship, and innovation, as well as foster cooperation and exchange among young people from BRICS countries.

Further specific reasons for establishing the BRICS Youth Council include:

1. Promoting youth participation: To provide a platform for young people to participate in BRICS decision-making processes and contribute to the development of the BRICS agenda.

2. Fostering youth entrepreneurship: To support young entrepreneurs from BRICS countries and provide them with opportunities for networking, skills development, and access to funding.
3. Encouraging innovation and skills development: To promote innovation, skills development, and education among young people from BRICS countries, with a focus on areas such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
4. Enhancing people-to-people exchanges: To foster people-to-people exchanges and cooperation among young people from BRICS countries, promoting mutual understanding, respect, and friendship.
5. Supporting the BRICS agenda: To support the implementation of the BRICS agenda, particularly in areas such as economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

It is through the ANC Youth League that the true realization and establishment of the BRICS Youth Council was achieved.

BRICS CURRENCY AND IT'S IMPACT TO THE ECONOMY OF EKURHULENI

The emergence of the BRICS currency is an exciting development that could have significant implications for the City of Ekurhuleni. As you know, BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The introduction of a unified currency would be a major step towards economic integration among these nations. ¹ The BRICS currency, potentially backed by gold and commodities, could provide an alternative to the US dollar-dominated global financial system. This might reduce the City of Ekurhuleni's exposure to currency fluctuations and economic sanctions. Moreover, a BRICS currency could facilitate trade and investment among member states, potentially boosting economic growth in Ekurhuleni. ² However, there are also challenges to consider. The introduction of a new currency would require significant economic and structural adjustments. The City

of Ekurhuleni would need to adapt to new financial systems, regulations, and trade agreements. Additionally, the success of the BRICS currency would depend on the ability of member states to coordinate their economic policies and overcome their differences.

- Increased trade and investment: A BRICS currency could facilitate trade and investment among member states, potentially boosting economic growth in Ekurhuleni.
- Reduced exposure to currency fluctuations: A unified currency could reduce the City of Ekurhuleni's exposure to currency fluctuations and economic sanctions.
- New economic opportunities: The introduction of a BRICS currency could create new economic opportunities for Ekurhuleni, such as increased access to foreign markets and investment.
- Challenges in adapting to new financial systems: The City of Ekurhuleni would need to adapt to new financial systems, regulations, and trade agreements, which could be challenging.

In terms of specific impacts on Ekurhuleni, we can expect:

Overall, the emergence of the BRICS currency is a complex and multifaceted development that could have significant implications for the City of Ekurhuleni. While there are potential benefits, such as increased trade and investment, there are also challenges to consider, such as adapting to new financial systems and regulations, therefore despite of the systematical challenges the City of Ekurhuleni stands to benefit greatly from the Emergence of the BRICS Currency.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND THE POSITION OF THE ANCYL

The African National Congress Youth League has always maintained its Support for the people of Palestine and stood in resolute solidarity with the Palestinian people, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to their just struggle for Freedom, self-determination and dignity. In line with its historic mission to combat oppression and injustice, the ANC views the Palestian cause as central to the broader struggle of Human Rights and Global Justice.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine has a long history as the territory of Palestine has been experiencing colonization and occupation for centuries (Mooney, 2023). The last occupant before the 1948/49 Arab-Israeli war was Britain, which declared Palestine as the national home of Jewish people after the First World War, resulting in an influx of Jewish settlers. However, the Arab population invoked their right to self-determination throughout the 1930s and 40s which led to a division of the region into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and Jerusalem as a standalone city (Mooney, 2023).

The first Arab-Israeli War followed in 1948/49, as the Palestinian's claim to independence and the United Nations tripartite split of the area resulted in Jordan occupying the land originally reserved for them, namely the West Bank. This war is commonly referred to as al-Nakba (a catastrophe) by the Palestinian community, as it resulted in a huge death toll of Palestinians, an almost 80% loss of historic Palestinian land, and the Israeli rule over the acquired land and the residing Palestinians (Mooney, 2023). In 1950 followed the annexation of the West Bank by Jordan. Another war occurred in 1967, the so-called Six Day War, with Israel occupying more Palestinian territories as it fought against a coalition of Arab states, including Jordan. More specifically, the territories it gained control of – and is still in

control of – were the annexed West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The dynamics regarding each occupied territory are uniquely complex.

Today, the focus lies on the Gaza Strip and its —control under Hamas. Hamas, an Islamic Resistance Movement in Gaza and considered a foreign terrorist organisation by Western governments, emerged there. It believes in Palestine being the rightful Islamic state on the entire land of historic Palestine (Maqdsi, 1993). Hamas' beginnings are rooted in 1987, the year of the first Intifada, the term used for disputes between Palestinians and Israel's military, when a previous murder of an Israeli in Gaza led to several further killings of Palestinians. Palestinian demonstrations and riots followed, fueled and partly led by Hamas (CRS Report, 2023). Internationally, negotiations for a two-state solution failed and the second Intifada began, with Israeli intrusions on the West Bank (Barnett et al., 2023). Israel officially withdrew its military and engagement in 2005 but imposed far-reaching restrictions on Palestinians. It created the Palestinian Authority (PA) together with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). However, Hamas has been in power of the internal administration of the Gaza Strip since 2007 as it forcefully took authority from the PA (Zanotti and Sharp, 2023). More conflicts followed in the coming years and on October 7th, 2023, Hamas executed unprecedented strikes via land, air, and sea on Israel (Zanotti and Sharp, 2023). Israel responded to the attack with a declaration of war on Hamas and imposing a total blockade of Gaza, cutting off access to food, water, fuel, and electricity (Ahmed, 2023).

The Role of International Law and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Dispute

The international community has been aware of the direness and complexity of this conflict and has been involved since 1947 with Resolution 181 on partition plans of Palestine. The question of Palestine was reintroduced in 1974 affirming the right to

self-determination of the Palestinian people and in 1997 the UN General Assembly held a special emergency session on the occupation by Israel (Zagaris and Plachta, 2023). Additionally, the UNGA attributed non-member observer state status to Palestine, which the US and Israel challenged on the grounds of the lack of Palestinian state sovereignty (GA/11317, 2012). Importantly, the Committee Against Torture of the UN has criticised Israel for its history of untruthfulness and lack of transparency in its security system as has the country's anti-torture authority claiming Israel is not working on ending the suffering of Palestinians (Shahshahani and Montez, 2023).

After the events on October 7th, a Resolution of the UNGA was passed on October 27th on the Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations, emphasizing that state parties must abide by their international legal duties. Despite the fact the Resolution included the need for a humanitarian ceasefire, access to water and humanitarian aid in Gaza, it was criticized by the US and Israel for not condemning Hamas more explicitly (Zagaris and Plachta, 2023). The Security Council of the UN (UNSC) also got involved. Already on October 17th, the UNSC considered a Russian call for ceasefire. However, the resolution did not pass due to US opposition, which again emphasized the failure to condemn Hamas. Following this impasse, various UNSC members proposed a range of resolutions, focusing on both Israel's right to self-defense, stressed by Israel, and calling for a truce, pressed for by Jordan and other Arab countries.

South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

On December 29th, South Africa went in front of the ICJ against Israel on account of alleged violations of Israel's obligations under the Genocide Convention of the UN. The appeal drew the support of an array of entities, including UN organs, NGOs, and journalists physically present in Gaza – with a focus on non-Palestinian groups to

ensure transparency and impartiality (South Africa Application, 29 December 2023). The main article of the Convention coming into focus here is Article 2 which establishes the following:

Article 2: In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group

❖ Legal Claims and Arguments presented by South Africa against Israel South Africa stated that:

— The acts and omissions by Israel complained of by South Africa are genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group, that being part of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip (Palestinians in Gaza__) (South Africa Application, 29 December 2023).

The application was filed under the doctrine of *erga omnes partes*, which refers to international obligations, specifically the protection of fundamental human rights, that states cannot derogate from. Since South Africa is not directly affected by the conflict, it came forward under the doctrine to ensure its jurisdiction. South Africa called for provisional measures that would oblige the Court to rule on the matter now to establish interim actions to prevent the furthering of the crisis. Moreover, these measures grant a lower burden of proof due to their preliminary use as they refer to temporary remedial measures to try and de-escalate a dangerous dispute before the case is taken further.

To establish that a crime was committed, the mens rea element, which is the mental intent to commit the crime, and the actus reus element, which is the existence of physical actions constituting the crime, must be satisfied. South Africa concentrated on actus reus, the acts of violence that, at that time, had killed over 21.000 Palestinians, most of whom were women and children, and that had left many more wounded and missing. For the appellant, these actions —are capable of falling within the provisions of the ConventionII (South Africa Application, 29 December 2023). Furthermore, South Africa did not center its claims around the attack of October 7th but rather emphasized the historical context and developments that led to the current situation. South Africa highlighted the deprivation of medical assistance and adequate standards of living with the lack of access to shelter, clothes, hygiene, and sanitation, as well as food and water.

During the 11th and 12th of January, both states made their statements before the Court. During those hearings, South Africa reiterated its claims for applying provisional measures. The lawyers stressed the urgency of putting an end to the inhumane situation of Palestinian civilians, including but not limited to their being killed by Israel's weapons, the ongoing siege increasing the risk of death, and the impossibility of distributing the limited aid in an active war zone (Verbatim Record, 11 January 2024). They claimed Israel is aware of its killings targeting mostly civilians, especially children and entire families. The numbers depicted that over 115 children are killed every day (Verbatim Record, 11 January 2024). Besides the serious bodily and mental harm with close to 60.000 wounded and mutilated Palestinians, South African lawyers cited the 85% of Palestinians that are currently displaced within Gaza as the result of inhumane evacuation orders, giving Palestinians only 24 hours to leave everything behind (Verbatim Record, 11 January 2024).

The mens rea element is harder to prove at the early stages of a case, especially one of genocide, which requires a special intent. As evidence, South Africa has brought forward the incriminating statements of Israel's military, state officials, and representatives to help establish an intent linked to their actions. These included for instance the Israeli Army Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and the Defense Minister referring to Palestinians as — human animalsll that must be fought and — dealt with accordinglyll (Verbatim Record, 11 January 2024). They attributed the same attitude to the lower levels of the State, the Israeli military, based on several pieces of evidence, such as film recordings of soldiers singing and dancing, calling out to erase everyone in Gaza as everyone is part of the terror and no one is innocent.

The Legal Intervention by the South African is a result of the ongoing interventions facilitated by the African National Congress in its pursuit of a Free and Democratic Africa for all.

BALANCE OF FORCES

The current global order, however, remains plagued by uncertainty and increasing insecurity. The negative impact of globalization can now be felt by the populations of the developed North as well as the elites in countries of the South.

Thus, the financial crisis of 2020 and the COVID19 pandemic consequent economic crisis has impacted on the global social and political landscape. Social movements across the globe are joining forces, especially with the help of new media to connect, inform and mobilize around issues of common concern. In this context the increased connectivity and immediacy of communications creates both threats and

opportunities for progressive social formations to build solidarity and achieve the required transformation of the defunct status quo.

The re-election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States has proven all the pundits wrong, just as the vote by the British people to exit the EU caught the world by surprise. However, there is a pattern that is clearly discernable in what appears to be a world plunged into chaos. The general populace has been calling for change in numerous countries on all continents but has been largely ignored and as a consequence they are seeking change. Whether it is through the ballot box, through pressure groups and public protests, the voice of the people is growing louder. We therefore see increasing support for populist political parties, right-wing political positions, narrow nationalism, intolerance, increasing militarism and extremism. Without any doubt the world is facing a wave of anti-establishment sentiment that is changing the socio-political landscape.

Elites across the globe have a common cause in maintaining the status quo. As the 2017 Oxfam Inequality Report, entitled — An economy for the 99 percent reveals, the rich are still getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer i.e. inequality is increasing. This is in contrast to the neo-liberal argument that there are now fewer poor people than ever before, as a way of supporting the notion that the status quo is beneficial and in the interest of the poor. There is a much more complex interplay of interests and forces competing for the same scarce resources, which has manifested in the above-mentioned anti-establishment sentiment on the one hand and those who, on the other hand believe that the world can still return to the day before the financial crisis occurred.

CONTINENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The ANC was also mandated to build a Global Progressive Movement by the 3rd International Solidarity Conference outcomes as the foundation of the movement with the objective of striving for a better Africa and a just better world free from inequality, disease and underdevelopment.

The current global dynamics, the dawn of social movements on social media platforms and its impact on societies has precipitated the urgency to mobilize progressive forces towards building a World Movement against colonial and structural Global Economic Apartheid and to negate the growing co-operation of reactionary states and multinational corporations.

The nucleus for this progressive solidarity movement will center around the former liberation movements and build up to the progressive social movements, labour union and issue based groups across the continent and the world. The progressive mass democratic movement in this regard will be tasked with shaping and driving the ideological orientation of this movement.

Campaigns In renewing our collective efforts towards consolidating our continental and international solidarity, the following principles will guide our collective efforts and campaign strategy across the broad mass democratic movement:

- Campaign against the constant exploitation of Africa and her natural resources by Western powers and their multinational corporations;
- Lobby our governments to advance progressive positions on Africa's development in the African Union, the United Nations and international financial institutions;
- Consolidate the African Union's initiative of engaging the African Diaspora as the — sixth region of Africa;

- Condemn our colonizers for sponsoring factionalism amongst liberation movements, including the use of some NGOs and media outlets;
- Popularize the outcome of the high level panel on the illicit financial flows out the continent and its recommendations;
- To express concern at the prevailing situation of the peoples of Sudan, notably the situation in Abyei, the displacement of peoples in Nuba mountains, South Kordofan and Blue Nile; and for progressive forces to support the AU and UN efforts to stabilize both Sudan and South Sudan;
- To unite on the urgency of advancing the aspirations of the peoples of Western Sahara towards a free and fair referendum as Africa's last colony seeking self-determination;
- Continue to condemn the delaying actions of Morocco to implement resolution of the United Nations and the African Union in regard to the question of Western Sahara, as well as look at various ways to isolate Morocco;
- To recognize that political solutions in Swaziland should be led by Swazis;
- To develop creative programmes to ensure the potential of women and the youth on our continent is harnessed for a constructive, patriotic role in our societies;
- To condemn the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israeli government and called for a free Palestine along the 1967 borders with (East) Jerusalem as its capital;
- Reiterate support for Palestinian aspirations for an independent state including the full membership of the UN

and called on the UN Security Council to show leadership in halting the expansion of Israeli settlements and the harassment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails!

Amidst this uncertainty and the clash of interests between the various sectors of society, it is easier to recognize the roots of frustration and hopelessness that feeds into insecurity and even extremist violence. At the global level, this manifests in renewed tensions, especially between the big powers, to secure national Interest, project their power abroad and build new alliances to tip the international balance of forces in their Favour.

It is against this view that the system of global governance will continue to be under heavy strain due to geo-politics, the rise of far right-wing parties and anti-establishment governments across Europe, in parts of Asia and Latin America. In this regard, ideological differences and power relations in the global politics will play themselves out in the international bodies that anchor the system of global governance, such as the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO) and other multilateral bodies.

The question that we are consequently faced with is how we can go about building international solidarity to promote a better life for all in a just global order and tip the balance of power in the hands of the people. This is a question of strategy and the implementing tactics of Building a Global Progressive Movement. It is the agency of the developing world, the South, that has the potential to lead the building of a global economy that is based on the diversity of civilizations and cultures; a global economy that is designed to serve all rather than a small fraction of the world__spopulation. We have witnessed such activism and energy in several international forums where developing countries asserted their shared interests through bodies such as the G77 for example, during the negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted

in September 2015. In this and other negotiations, developing countries have insisted on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities so that poor countries should not be expected to shoulder similar responsibilities for solving structural problems in the world or for translating agreements into action, in the same manner as wealthier developed countries are expected to. The ANC-led government's position on this development agenda shared the African position's insistence that the new agenda needed to build on the MDGs. The G77 also understood the intention of G7 countries and other formations of the North to renegotiate everything and introduce stumbling block.

A PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONALISM

Progressive internationalism is a radical perspective of international relations that the liberation movement developed out of the struggle for liberation. It is born out of its interaction with fellow liberation movements throughout the world and international solidarity movements. It is radical in that it entails opposition to the perpetuation of the legacy of global imperialism manifest in the global power asymmetry, the dominance of the global North over the South and the world, structural global inequality and poverty.

Paradigms of violence and the global world manifest in militarization of international relations, global racism and patriarchy, neocolonialism and other ills that delay the development of both a new truly post-colonial world system and an inclusive globalized economy. It envisages a just, equitable, non-racial, non-patriarchal, diverse, democratic and equal world system. It requires the building of alliances and solidarity with progressive forces in the South and North fighting for similar objectives in world affairs.

The NGC discussion document of 2015 correctly points out that the liberation struggle in which progressiveness is born began when the colonial/ imperial project expanded to the South in the 15th to the 19th century. In this period, the world witnessed the rise of a global system of imperialism as the basis of a modern world system that continued to perpetuate unequal power relations. The colonization of South Africa since 1652, almost two hundred years after Vasco da Gama, had rounded the Cape, was intimate element of the global imperial process. Hence, the liberation struggle was about the national question and the international situation.

The period between the calamitous conference of colonial empires in Berlin in 1884-5, which decided on the colonial scramble for Africa, and the achievement of independence from the 1960s saw the growing internationalization of anti-colonial struggles through alliances and solidarity campaigns. This internationalist outlook of the African struggles is epitomized by the Pan-African Conferences that took place between 1900 and reached their heights in the 1950s.

In the backdrop of the so-called Second World War as the Western world developed the Atlantic Charter as a set of principles to govern world affairs, the movement developed an alternative set of principles and rights contained in the African Claims. This envisaged a world shaped not just by the aspiration and interests of the Western world, but one also shaped by African demands.

It thus made clear its opposition to the imperial idea of a world system designed without the consultation of peoples outside the West. Progressive internationalism also draws from the experience of the movement as an active participant in the making of a global South solidarity challenging the North-dominated post-World War 2 world order that found its most prominent expression in the Afro Asian Solidarity Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955. The Bandung Conference sent a strong signal that a world system cannot be built on the basis of our exclusion, exploitation,

domination, marginalization and without our input. It cemented the foundations of the solidarity of progressive forces of the South emerging to contest the onset of new imperialism under the leadership of the US as the dominant global power after war.

ANCYL ROLE IN BUILDING A BETTER CONTINENT

African renaissance A prosperous, stable, secure, and peaceful Africa remains an important objective of the ANCYL international relations policy. We have recognised from our establishment in 1944 that South Africa's prosperity and success is linked to the success and prosperity of Africa. The concrete work done towards the achievement of the African renaissance since 1994 is the ANC's response to the clarion call for the regeneration of Africa.

Africa has always been an important pillar of the strategy of isolating the apartheid state and the creation of a rear base for the armed struggle, a strategy that would help bring the apartheid state to its knees. After our liberation, we continued to work with fellow Africans to advance African unity, solidarity, development and integration. For this reason, we played an active part in the transformation of the OAU into the African Union with improved capacity to respond to post-Cold War challenges in Africa.

We actively participated in the development of a number of social, economic and political policies and protocols, and in pushing for their full implementation. As a movement in power, we played a significant role in the crafting and operationalization of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a collective developmental vision and programme for Africa in partnership with strategic partners in the world. And in 2013, the African leaders adopted Agenda 2063, a vision of the Africa we want.

South Africa is today acclaimed for its role in promoting peaceful and inclusive resolution of Africa's conflicts in countries like Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, the DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Madagascar, Comoros and Zimbabwe. We have played a meaningful role in the strengthening of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The development of SADC's political, security and developmental programmes are crucial contributions to the process of building a regional integration machinery that is able to respond to the region's challenges of poverty, conflict and underdevelopment.

This machinery is important for the stability and prosperity of South Africa also. To this end, we as a movement in power have worked with the region to develop sound policies and programmes, which can assist in stabilizing and assisting the region's growth. In line with our fellow Africans we recognise that for Africa to be prosperous it must be based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to eradicating poverty within one generation, by building shared prosperity through the social and economic transformation of the continent. We shall develop and participate in efforts to utilize African resources, particularly natural resources to power investments in the agricultural and marine (blue economy) sectors, as well as act in an environmentally responsible actor in development. Cognizant of the colonial lag, the ANCYL shall posit that we look at better resource management, with African countries firstly co-operating amongst each other in common resources, and thereafter with other emerging market countries, to create an emerging market bloc on strategic natural resources.

The South African government has played a positive role of a partner in development instead of a hegemon in regional and continental politics. In this regard we contributed to peace in the region and the continent in general. Nevertheless, there have been concerns about links between the movement's efforts on the continent

and domestic imperatives of growing our economy, creating new developmental opportunities and other forms of return for investments made. The view that African renaissance initiatives have so far been state-led is in fact a criticism of the movement's failure to lead the mobilization of civil society in support of the goal of African renewal.

The ANC, like many others recognize that it is an imperative for Africa to be an integrated continent that is politically united and based in the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of the African Renaissance.

Africa cannot accelerate its development and progress, if it is not united. We concur with the objectives of Agenda 2063, to link Africa through modern world class infrastructure, increased intra-African trade, greater movement of people and goods, and ensuring that the remaining territories in Africa which are occupied need to be liberated. As the ANC, we also recognize that as South Africa and its economy has been further integrated with other African economies, the South African economy has benefited. With increased numbers of persons from within the continent attracted to South Africa, our economy has benefited from the inflow of Africans with scarce skills and are economically active, moreover we do note the unappalling of the disregard of our South African Legal systems of immigration and refugee being disregarded by our African counter-parts, it is a great concern as this contributes negatively to the infrastructure development of South Africa.

The ANC Youth League shall educate our general populace regarding these economic spin offs as some sections of the society feel unfairly impinged upon by persons from within the continent. This is in line with our values and ideals as a PAN-Africanist movement. Therefore, as the ANC Youth League we must engage progressive forces and liberation movements on the continent to adopt developmental policies which will contribute to their countries prosperity.

Therefore, it is imperative for us to recognize that the fluidity of politics and objectives within our continent require us to respond dynamically and with speed in defense of African renaissance. We shall however remain focused on pursuing the values of solidarity and shared prosperity within the continent. The Youth League as a wing of the ANC has a responsibility to promote economic development on the continent that will enable us to address our domestic imperatives.

Another matter of particular concern is the slow pace of continental integration. We need to strengthen linkages between the AU and its building blocks, the regional economic communities, to realize a better Africa that we all aspire for. We must encourage our African leaders to fully embrace Africa's shared values and continue with concerted actions to improve the living condition on the continent with a view to realize African renaissance. The ANCYL understands that the fluid global and continental environment throws up new dynamics, which impact on our ability to expeditiously and energetically promote the African agenda as encapsulated in many common positions, protocols and the Constitutive Act of the African Union. These need to be analyzed and thoroughly discussed for enhanced comprehension.

QUESTION'S TO BE ANSWERED IN DISCUSSIONS

Balance of Forces

- How does the internal election results in our BRICS countries affect the ANC and South Africa;
- What does the re-election of Donald Trump as the President of the US signify, and what lessons can the ANC and ANCYL draw from this?
- ANCYL's Role in Building a Better Africa
- How does the ANC balance the increased economic pressures of the poor in South Africa and the increased migration into South Africa from

other regions of Africa, especially taking into account that South Africa's destiny and fortunes are tied to our continent's?

- How does the ANCYL assist in integrating our continent, within the reality of different languages (especially Anglo and Franco heritage) and cultures, so that the continental institutes are strengthened?

ANCYL Strategic Role Towards a Better World

- We remain committed to multilateralism, what strategic role do we play in a world where the lure and temptation of bilateral agreements are prevalent.
- What is and how do we assist the African Union, and all its member states, to agree on a single position on reformation of the United Nations, particularly its Security Council?
- Party-to-Party Relations
- What defines progressive parties in the current world order? Can the political party relate to nonprogressive parties who are now ruling parties in government and still maintain its relations with progressive parties that are in opposition the parties?
- Is there a need to revise the approach of the establishment of a global progressive movement with the emergence of social movements on social media platforms and technological advancement, the weakening and ideological orientation changes of progressive parties, the resource constraints through the impact of globalization, economic recession and business orientated views weakening governments? What needs to be done differently to realize the objective of a Global Progressive Movement?

CAMPAIGNS

- Identify Two International Solidarity Campaigns that will Resonate with our branches



COMMUNICATION AND BATTLE OF IDEAS

- The ANCYL as the body of opinion is charged with a tremendous responsibility to produce new ideas for the revolution and to device new strategies to communicate victories of the organisation.
- The introduction of social media is advantage that should be utilised to promote our political work so that the general society and to create awariness to those who identify themselves as apolitical.
- Over the past years what we have failed as an organisation is to communicate our victorious hence the ongoing electorate decline during elections.
- Cadres should participate in the arial battle in social media platforms such as twitter, Facebook, ticktock, whatsapp when the organisation is under attack from counter revolutionaries.
- We as the youth we should be carries of the organisation propaganda machinery as a strategy to defend the revolution and bring facts/Clarity where we deem necessary.
- Politics are about perseption and we should be the ones who lead narratives in the public domain and move with times on tends of the day.
- This does not mean we should opt to be in popularism contest but we should remain relevant within the constituency we are leading and attract those who don't see it fit to assosiate with the ANC.

- We ought to analyse the current prevailing material conditions on the ground and bring new ideas of that will assist us in championing problems of the current epoch that speaks to today.
- The hegemony of the ANCYL remains central to the advancement of the National Democratic Revolution and our interventions must be informed by the ANC strategy and tactics including organisational renewal.
- There should be increased participation by our cadres in public debates and they should be trained to respond effectively and be the voice of reason.
- Political and ideological training is important to have cadres who are capacitated to tackle questions of interest in society.
- An inclusive, knowledgeable and informed society enables development. This means we would be a better organisation if we invest in research and political education.
- The freedom of speech should be guided by the ANC social media policy, no member who claims to ANCYL should be left unattended when denouncing the organisation in social media. There should be constructive criticism within correct platforms of the ANCYL e.g Agms, ZGCs, RGC and congress.
- The ANCYL should continue to take charge in leading campaigns that in all schools primary to tertiary level it should be compulsory that there should

be an introduction of an Artificial Intelligence cylibus to capacitate learners in new world order.

- The ANCYL membership system should move with times and be online to curb gate keeping and tempering of membership I branches.

KEY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- How do we defend the ANC/ANCYL From false reporting of Journalist?
- How do we counter act the ongoing onslought against our organisation?
- How do we remain relevant as an organisation to society?
- How best can we communicate our vicious as an organisation?
- How does the ANCYL manage its engagement with public without deviating from the ANC policy position?
- How can we improve the presence of the YL IN social media?