

LET'S DO MORE – TOGETHER



**2024
ELECTIONS**

**LET'S DO MORE,
TOGETHER**



VOTE



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Statement on the 2024 National and Provincial Government Elections

LET US UNITE AND DO MORE, TOGETHER!

Our Seventh Democratic National and Provincial Government Elections are taking place in the year that marks the thirtieth anniversary of our hard-won April 1994 democratic breakthrough. This breakthrough marked our transition from the era of colonial and apartheid oppression to our current democratic dispensation. Beginning with the April 1994 democratic breakthrough itself and subsequently our country's current Constitution, including the Bill of Rights for all South Africans regardless of race and gender, millions of our people, the majority of whom are from the working class, have realised commendable achievements under the leadership of the ANC-led government. The SACP commends and calls for unity to defend our people's democratic achievements, to further expand these achievements, and to pursue new ones towards a fully non-racial and non-sexist South Africa characterised by shared prosperity derived from production income.

In this statement on the 2024 Elections, the SACP acknowledges the democratic achievements realised by our people in the 30 years since 1994 and highlights its policy positions on various issues of national importance. A number of these policy positions have now been integrated into the commitments outlined in the ANC's 2024 elections manifesto. This alignment is not coincidental. During the drafting of the manifesto, the ANC consulted and engaged with the SACP, other partners within the ANC-led Alliance, and other progressive organisations. The fact that the ANC



LET'S DO MORE – TOGETHER



embraced a number of proposals demonstrates its receptiveness to democratic transformation supporting input from other organisations and the people at large. This contradicts the narrative perpetuated by forces opposed to further democratic transformation and development.

One fundamental question for this year, the thirtieth anniversary of our democratic dispensation, and the national and provincial elections, is whether South Africa's democratic transformation and development, moving away from the colonial and apartheid past and its legacy, could be halted and reversed, or whether it could be further advanced, deepened and widened. Reactionary and counter-revolutionary forces are working hard overtime to undermine the democratic gains of our people over the past 30 years. These forces seek to impede the progress towards achieving all the goals of the Freedom Charter, including our country's founding vision for a completely non-racial and non-sexist democratic and prosperous society with a better life for all.

On the one hand, the anti-transformation forces have formed electoral pacts, all aimed at undermining the South African National Democratic Revolution and hindering the electoral success of the ANC-led Alliance. On the other hand, they are determined to fragment the historical constituencies of the revolution and the broader ANC-led democratic movement. The working class, peasants, and progressive sectors of our society must unite to defeat this agenda, which is supported by imperialism. In combating this agenda, we must vigorously oppose rebel splinter groups encouraged and sponsored by imperialist and domestic right-wing instigators with various forms of material support. We must also confront the "wolves in sheep's clothing" – elements and groups that pretend to be part of the left but who seek to dismantle our ANC-led Alliance, broader democratic movement and undermine revolutionary transformation of our society.

The ANC-led Alliance and the broader democratic movement remain the only dependable revolutionary democratic force capable of uniting and working with the progressive majority population of our country, including, notably the working class, women, youth, peasants, community-based organisations, cultural formations, and progressive sections of the middle strata, among others. Together, united, we can achieve more.



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For us as the SACP, we place significant importance on the achievement of the immediate aims and aspirations of the majority of our people, with greater emphasis on the working class. However, simultaneously, we attach great importance to fostering broader working-class unity, including through forging a popular left-front movement at all levels, to actively build the future in the here and now. What does this entail? **Simply put, Socialism is future – Build it now!** This is the most sustainable solution to the many problems our society finds itself in as a result of the exploitative capitalist system.

Let us do more, together.

As the SACP General Secretary Solly Mapaila said in The Red Alert on 21 March 2024, our country's human rights for all were not handed to us on a silver platter. Rather, these rights, which we enshrined in our country's Constitution, are the hard-won fruits of our decades-long revolutionary liberation struggle. When we led the struggle to abolish oppression, the white minority supremacist racists presided over it. They were supported by members of the white community who benefited from and unrepentantly supported the racist system of oppression and exploitation.

Together with the white capitalist class playing a dominant role they vigorously defended the successive colonial and apartheid regimes that held sway over our nation. This is one reason why their successor political organisations, overwhelmingly led by white leaders in an African country whose population is overwhelmingly black, see no progress in and nothing good about South Africa since April 1994. This is part of the legacy of apartheid. Your vote for the ANC will help advance greater progress in dismantling that legacy of racial domination and exploitation.

Other than access to human rights, what benefits have our people experienced since our transition from apartheid to the current democratic dispensation in April 1994? There are many social advances. We can only mention a few, as follows.

1. Millions of our people have benefited from free homes built and provided to their families by the ANC-led government.



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2. The ANC-led government has significantly expanded household electrification, reaching millions of our citizens.
3. By 2023, South Africa's social grant system benefitted 27.3 million beneficiaries, including approximately 18.83 million social grants and around 8.5 million COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant recipients.
4. The network of tarred roads in South Africa has been massively expanded, covering vast distances and including rural villages.
5. There has been commendable progress in providing access to water, with ongoing efforts to remove barriers and advance towards achieving universal coverage in the provision of water.
6. Millions of young South Africans have benefited from the substantial expansion of education at all levels, from basic to tertiary.
 - South Africa has seen improvements in the quality of matric results, the number of learners completing matric, and the number of college and university graduates in a range of fields – including those in which the enrolment of black people was prohibited under apartheid.
 - The National School Nutrition Programme, widely known as the school feeding scheme, has ensured that learners do not learn on an empty stomach.
 - The establishment of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, commonly known as the NSFAS, has been instrumental in expanding access to college and university education and training.
7. More people in rural areas have built better homes as a direct result of the improved quality of life in our country since April 1994, including access to better work opportunities.
 - ANC-led government interventions, like the employment equity and skills development legislation, have contributed to this improvement, but those who have inherited the advantages of white privilege attack these policies because they have not abandoned their racist attitudes.



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We need to defend our human rights and these and other democratic gains, build on these achievements further and take new ones to greater heights. For instance, **the democratic state needs to build new electricity generation stations and transmission networks so that South Africa has more electricity capacity going forward than going back.** This will end load shedding and support economic transformation and development.

Let us unite to defend and deepen the democratic gains that benefit millions of our people

Despite the fact that more people are now in work than in 1994 and before, we still have to solve the stubborn problem of high unemployment. Despite reductions in poverty, we still have intractably high levels of poverty to eradicate. We also still have to combat high and persistent levels of inequality. The extent to which these problems affect our people continues to reflect the legacy of apartheid, with Africans in particular and black people in general being the most affected. Women make up the majority of these most affected national population groups.

To make more progress in tackling these problems, let us unite in a resounding vote for the ANC and strengthen our organisational and political capacity to hold the government accountable to implement the following election commitments.

1. To create **large-scale employment**, the government must lead the way in building and raising the levels of national production. **Industrialisation** will play an important role in building national production through the expansion and diversification of manufacturing. **Employment creation** must be the integrated policy of the entire government, with every department, public institution, provincial government and municipality playing a more decisive role.
2. **The macroeconomic framework**, including state revenue and expenditure policies, and therefore the budget, and monetary policies such as interest and exchange rate policies, must support industrialisation and maximum sustainable employment as priority goals. Low interest rates to encourage and support the expansion of local production, and local production-development supporting grants



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should be part of these policies.

3. **Developing and maintaining climate change-resilient infrastructure** is crucial, as is ensuring a truly just energy transition that protects workers' rights and livelihoods. It is essential to build new productive capacity, including employment, thus countering retrenchments, before casting off the old, moving towards a low-carbon economy.
4. Likewise, **trade policy**, as well as government procurement and other policies must make the localisation of manufacturing a top priority, thereby contributing to industrialisation and large-scale domestic employment creation.
 - As a process of production, beneficiation involves the processing of minerals, primary agricultural and forestry products, marine and other natural resources into finished products.
 - Building, expanding and diversifying domestic beneficiation value chains is crucial for employment creation to tackle unemployment, especially through decent work. This is also crucial in order to fight poverty by building national production.
 - To drive industrialisation, the manifesto that the ANC has endorsed in 2024 commits it to rebuilding and expanding domestic oil refining capacity to produce oil by-products such as petrol and diesel locally and to tackle the rising cost of living.
 - In previous elections, the ANC committed itself to reviewing unnecessarily outsourced government operations with a view to in-source them – **this commitment must be implemented.**
5. To achieve industrialisation, we need a **comprehensive, high impact industrial policy**. Through the manifesto it has adopted, the ANC has committed itself to consolidating and enhancing the industrialisation and employment creation impact of sectoral master plans into the comprehensive industrial policy that South Africa needs.
6. **The transformation of the financial sector** is a priority for us in order to transform ownership in the finance industry and the structure of



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our economy.

- Included in this process of transformation is a commitment that will bring us closer to the goals of the Freedom Charter.
 - This is the commitment to build a state banking sector, including sector-specific development banks, guided by industrial policy, and a public retail banking system.
 - A transformed financial sector will comprise provincial state-owned banks.
 - A transformed financial sector will also include a thriving co-operative banking sector, independent of commercial banks.
 - Prescribed (mandated) investment is a priority to drive transformation and development, including investment in infrastructure, with climate-resilient infrastructure development and maintenance a key part of quality standards.
7. To drive mass empowerment, we must **eliminate barriers that affect co-operatives from rising and thriving.**
- The manifesto that the ANC has adopted commits it to implementing this as a priority.
 - As part of **a developmental macroeconomic framework**, the manifesto calls for adequate support for co-operatives and small, medium and micro enterprises to flourish.
 - In particular, adequate support for co-operatives to prosper will expand alternatives for work outside the confines of the job relationship dominated by capitalist exploitation. In addition to co-operatives, the alternatives include self-employment initiatives, which should be supported by the state.
8. The manifesto adopted by the ANC makes an important commitment to **tackling the rising cost of living.**
9. By voting for the ANC, you will be voting for the governing party that



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has introduced and is committed to both extending and improving the **Social Relief of Distress Grant** and transforming it into a **foundation** for a basic income guarantee. We believe this is an important step towards a **universal basic income and a comprehensive social security system**.

10. **Public employment programmes** are a crucial part of the national effort to tackle unemployment. In its manifesto, the ANC commits itself to supporting public employment programmes. We need a decisive increase in public employment programmes, including the development and maintenance of climate-resilient infrastructure. These programmes are a key site for skills development and can be improved to provide guaranteed access to work on an annual basis.
11. The implementation of **National Health Insurance** towards providing quality healthcare for all is a crucial manifesto commitment. The ANC has already led the parliamentary programme to pass the National Health Insurance Bill. We are now looking forward to President Cyril Ramaphosa signing the NHI Bill into law, paving the way for its full implementation.
12. The establishment of a public **Sovereign Wealth Fund** as a social wealth investment fund that prioritises the public good through targeted investments in social programmes, infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives, is one of the key commitments that the ANC has endorsed.
13. We need safer communities by strengthening the fight against crime, including drug dealing and trafficking, violence and gender-based violence, theft and other forms of crime.
14. We must continue to focus on women and youth empowerment and the elimination of racial, gender inequalities in our development priorities. At the same time, government programmes must pay equal attention to the material needs of people over the age of 35, including through employment and economic empowerment.
15. We must clamp down on corruption through societal mobilisation, in



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addition to legislative means, economic and social transformation and development, and anti-corruption efforts by law enforcement authorities. Strengthening the capacity to fight corruption is among the key commitments in the manifesto.

16. If our South African struggle against apartheid had not received international solidarity from countries, we would have taken longer to achieve our April 1994 democratic breakthrough.
- Today, we stand with the people of Palestine against the genocide by the apartheid Israeli settler state.
 - We support the action taken by the ANC-led government to refer the apartheid Israeli settler state genocide against the Palestinian people to the International Court of Justice.
 - This is one of the reasons why the imperialist regimes that support the genocidal Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people want regime change in South Africa. We condemn this agenda in the strongest possible terms and must do our best to make it fail.

Let us unite to transform our country for the better, towards the goals of the **Freedom Charter**, and towards a **socialist society** where the oppression, domination and exploitation of one person or class by another will be eliminated.



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