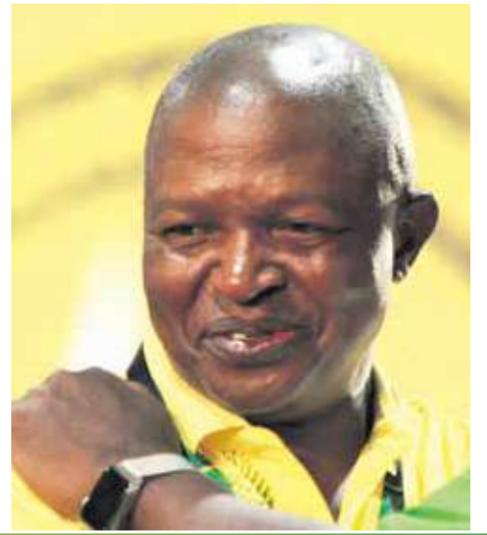




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19 December 2017

2017 ANC Elective Conference

DAWN OF A NEW ERA:



Cyril Ramaphosa takes over as ANC President

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Special Report

DD Mabuza the real winner at ANC conference

David Mabuza, the ANC Mpumalanga chairman and premier, is a master political strategist. Not only did he engineer this win for Cyril Ramaphosa, but what he has successfully done is line himself perfectly for the Presidency of the country, should the ANC continue to dominate at the polls. The outcome of the elections for the top six of the ANC has left many gasping for air. The biggest surprise has been the failure of the ANC's biggest province – KwaZulu-Natal – to have a single representative in the ruling party's top six structure.

That is a massive blow for a province that has fashioned itself as kingmaker. KwaZulu-Natal took the biggest delegation to conference at 840, which was whittled down to 804 after the NEC intervention that saw some of their branch delegates and their entire PEC getting their status reduced to non-voting. But even that was still the biggest voting bloc at this conference. But few expected them to lose what is arguably the biggest position in the ANC after President – that of Secretary-General – to Free State ANC chairman Ace Magashule. Their deep divisions cost them badly.

Mabuza capitalised on those divisions to devise a cunning ploy under the guise of “unity”. Throughout the campaign he had kept both factions guessing about which side he was leaning to. But when over 200 Mpumalanga branches nominated “unity” at the provincial general council, instead of either of the top candidates, Nkosazana

Dlamini-Zuma lobbyists wrongly assumed these votes would favour their person at the conference.

But everyone was wrong. It turns out that what “unity” actually meant was that Mabuza would emerge with a final top six that he has personally engineered. A top six that features Magashule as Secretary-General and Jessie Duarte retaining her position, is one that has made life very difficult for Ramaphosa. While it was not expected that his entire slate would emerge victorious, many expected at least to see them controlling the secretariat of the party.

Dlamini-Zuma supporters might be disappointed that their candidate lost, albeit by a negligible margin of just 179, they will be rejoicing that their slate was not entirely wiped out and in fact ended up occupying some of the most significant positions after that of President. That they control the secretariat and got a deputy president of their choice, is significant for a number of reasons.

Firstly, it means that any talk of a recall of President Jacob Zuma after the conference, as suggested by some Ramaphosa lobbyists during the campaign, becomes just that...talk. Unless his supporters can dominate the national executive committee that will be announced at the final day of the conference, there is no way that the ANC would entertain any talk of a recall of Zuma before his term has ended.

Zuma might not have succeeded in orchestrating a victorious path to power for his ex wife, but he will sleep better at night knowing that those who want him out prematurely do not have significant sway in the party as things stand right now. For Dlamini-Zuma the loss is not that entirely humiliating. That it was so close means that her lobbyists had done an excellent job on the ground.

In fact, this outcome could have been much different had the ANC not taken upon itself to bar branches and PECs affected by court rulings, from voting at conference. The Free State and KwaZulu-Natal PECs would have guaranteed her 54 votes between themselves, while strong indications were that the excluded branches from KwaZulu-Natal and the North West were favouring her to take over. It would not be far fetched for her lobbyists to suggest that the courts decided the outcome of the presidency of the ANC.

The ANC Women's League, which spearheaded her campaign, were the ones left with a massive egg on their faces. They not only failed to convince enough delegates that the ANC was ready for a woman President and that Dlamini-Zuma was the right woman for the job; but they were left bloody nosed by the fact that only one woman made the top six, and even worse, in a position where – just like the past ten years – she is deputising for a man.

It means that ANC branch delegates do not take this women's league and its lip service to the advancement of women leaders seriously. This is a major defeat for Women's League President Bathabile Dlamini, and could tilt the balance of forces seriously against her when the Women's



David Mabuza and Cyril Ramaphosa.
Siyathuthuka Media

League next elects new leaders.

The Youth League is also paying the price for their blind loyalty to a single faction rather than the advancement of youth leaders in general. That none of the top six members is under 50 years of age is a serious indictment on Collen Maine and company. They need to do some serious introspection and decide whether it's wise for the youth league to openly support factions without guaranteeing younger leaders at least a seat at the head table. It will be interesting to see how many young people end up making it to the ANC's NEC.

For Ramaphosa, this leadership team the ANC has given him is a poisoned chalice. He has to serve with a deputy, a secretary-general and a deputy secretary-general that were not his preferences. He will have them watch his every move like a hawk. His relationship with Zuma – now managed via two centres of power – will be scrutinised closely by the other three. He will have little room to wiggle as they squeeze him, intent on making sure he

Without control of the NEC, Ramaphosa and his supporters will have a very difficult tenure at the helm of the ANC. The dominant faction will veto any decisions they make and this is not an ideal situation for effective leadership

does not make life uncomfortable for their man still at the Union Buildings.

What Ramaphosa can hope for now is that his lobbyists have done enough work to dominate the ANC NEC. But given how the leadership contest went, it seems unlikely that their NEC slate will be elected overwhelmingly. In fact, Mabuza still holds sway as to who makes the final NEC list and will never leave such an ace card un-played. He knows that this is where the power lies in between conferences and would not want to leave his tenure as deputy president in the hands of Ramaphosa supporters.

Without control of the NEC, Ramaphosa and his supporters will have a very difficult tenure at the helm of the ANC. The dominant faction will veto any decisions they make and this is not an ideal situation for effective leadership. He will have a difficult time dealing with contentious issues such as state capture, his relationship with Zuma and arresting the overall decline of the ANC. When the country goes to the polls in 16 months or so, the performance of the ANC will be squarely on his shoulders.

How the ANC performs at the polls will hinge on how the country reacts to the newly elected top six and the NEC that will be announced on Wednesday. If the country believes that people such as Magashule, Mabuza and Duarte do not represent a renewal of the ANC but a continuation of the old, they will continue leaving the party in droves. Gwede Mantashe – now ANC chairperson – said at his final press conference as Secretary-General that the ANC does not want to become a rural party. Now that the party has decided who it wants as its top leaders, the reaction of the country will decide what party the ANC ends up coming.

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Oscar Mabuyane: Tight leadership race outcome show ANC branches are tired of slates

IE Reporter

Eastern Cape ANC provincial Chairperson Oscar Mabuyane says the outcome of the votes for the ruling party's top six is indicative that branch delegates are tired of leadership slates.

Mabuyane said this shortly after the Electoral Commission announced Cyril Ramaphosa as the party's new President at the Nasrec Centre in southern Johannesburg on Monday night.

In a tightly contested leadership race that went down to the wire, there were no outright winners. Ramaphosa's leadership slate managed to secure three spots in the top six, with outgoing ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe being voted in as the party's new Chairperson - replacing Speaker of Parliament Baleka Mbete. Gauteng ANC Chairperson Paul Mashatile was elected as Treasurer General and beat his counterpart Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, by 339 votes.

The other three positions went to leaders seen to belong to the former African Union (AU) Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's slate. Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza emerged as the new Deputy President, while Free State Premier Ace Magashule was named as the party's new Secretary General. Incumbent Jesse Duarte retained her post as Deputy Secretary General.

Speaking to journalists shortly after the announcement of the results, Mabuyane said the top six vote produced a "very interesting outcome" that represents unity.

"It is an outcome that actually confirms what we have been talking about. We have been saying that unity in the ANC is sacrosanct.

"So we must see that kind of a departure



Oscar Mabuyane. *Siyathuthuka Media*

from the slates electing leadership model. It is quite an interesting thing that everyone is sick and tired of the slates. Branches of the ANC and delegates here so the onus is on the leadership elected to rise to the occasion to ensure that we emerge from this 54th conference and that we are able to move forward strong and solid," he said.

While questions were asked on whether some leaders could be captured by the Gupta family based on the reported perception President Jacob Zuma's endorsement of Dlamini-Zuma was a way for him to retain a grip on power, Mabuyane said the leaders were elected by branches and none of them had been captured.

"These comrades are elected by the conference and now they are the leadership of the ANC.

He said because the vote was divided down the middle, the new-look top six will need to work together and carry out the mandate of the branches.

"They are not the leadership of anything else which we don't know elsewhere. They are leading the ANC and they will be supported by the leadership of the ANC - the

entirety of the NEC, provinces, all of us members to ensure that we move forward. There is no issue.

"In the ANC you don't choose who you want be elected with, whom you want to work with. You are elected by the membership and the membership in this case through the delegates have elected this collective. We are looking forward to that collective. And fortunately some of them, three of them, have been provincial leaders as chairpersons of the provinces. They know exactly what it is like to be on the coalface of the ANC provinces as far as the provinces are concerned. So they will bring with them so they will bring that experience to help the ANC move forward," he said.

Leading up to the announcement of the results, as soon as alliance partners delivered messages of support, the tension in the plenary hall could be cut with a knife.

While provincial and branch delegates remained divided - with some singing pro-Ramaphosa songs and others chanted pro-Dlamini-Zuma songs. Paraphernalia and posters from both factions were also on full display when delegates danced in groups.

Mabuza's mood could not be read ahead of the vote as he was seen singing and holding hands with Mpumalanga delegates. On the main stage, Ramaphosa

walked around greeting members of the outgoing National Executive Committee as soon as he arrived.

In what appeared like a delay in the release of the votes, with the media speculating that requests for a vote recount had been made, several NEC members were seen hurdling into small groups on the centre stage in what may have been quick discussions over a tight contest.

Some NEC members joined Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal delegates to sing a song called "Unity" - which was composed to support the campaign of Dlamini-Zuma.

Trade Federation Union President Sdumo Dlamini returned to the stage to lead delegates in song and in the process, drowning out songs that were sang by the respective factions. President Zuma also grabbed the microphone to sing is trademark "inde lendlela (the road ahead is long) and "aw'lethumshini wami" (bring my machine...) song. This was the last time he sang the songs as President.

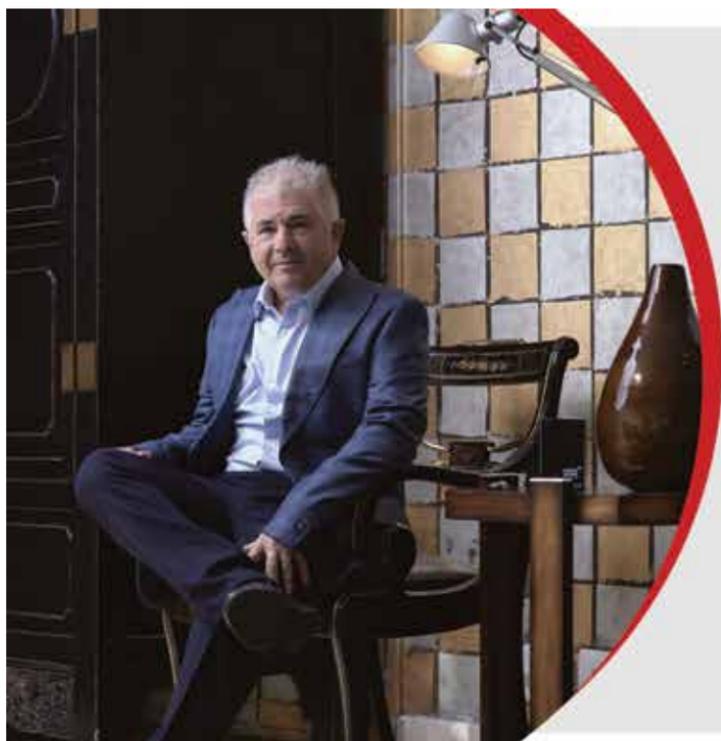
As soon as the election results came out, the focus shifted to the reaction to the results and leaders from various parties did not waste their time to express their views.

Police Minister and ANC's outgoing National Coordinator Fikile Mbalula, who openly backed Dlamini-Zuma leading up to the vote, said branches had spoken and that he joined thousands in congratulating the new leadership.

EFF leader Julius Malema said nothing had really changed, adding that the core of the "corrupt Premier league is at the centre of the organization. The Guptas are still in charge and as a result it will be difficult to recall Zuma. Don't get easily excited over nothing but I'm happy the Zumas ate a humble pie."

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said any winner in the top six will have a small mandate over a divided organisation.

"It is an outcome that actually confirms what we have been talking about. We have been saying that unity in the ANC is sacrosanct"



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Opinion

Investment in Early Childhood Development should be our mantra to fix our education system

Thabo Mohlala

Until the country stops its obsession with matric results and focuses on the Foundation Phase education, chances are very slim to improve and deliver an education system that is credible and reliable.

The recent Progress in Reading and Learning Studies (Pirls) results eloquently illustrated this point. It is a sobering indictment that the most expensive education system faces a reading crisis where eight out of 10 (78%) of Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning in any language.

Celeste Combrink, acting director at Centre for Evaluation and Assessment, underscored the significance of being able to read and write. "Being able to read is the key to academic and future success. If you can't read, your opportunities in school or after school will be limited, which is why reading should start at a very young age," said Combrink.

An education expert, Nic Spaul pointed out that the inability of the learners to read for comprehension points to teachers' lack of skills-set that could enable them to teach learners to master the skill. Some go as far as proposing that teacher training institutions should offer programmes that specifically equip teachers with skills to teach children how to read. In addition, teachers who are already in the system should also be capacitated through customised in-service programmes.

Also telling are the huge provincial differences in terms of percentages of grade 4 learners who can read. For instance, 91% of Grade 4 children in Limpopo cannot read for meaning with equally high percentages in the Eastern Cape (85%), Mpumalanga (83%), Gauteng (69%), Western Cape (55%).

Learners also fared badly in their own mother-tongue, a fact that is commonly taken for granted.

93% of Grade 4 students tested in Sepedi could not read for meaning with similarly large percentages amount Setswana (90%), Tshivenda (89%), isiXhosa (88%), Xitsonga (88%), isiZulu (87%) and isiNdebele (87%) Grade 4 learners

Basil Manning, chief executive of National Professional Teachers Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa) said the outcomes of the Pirls provide a valuable lesson that the country should put invest substantially on early childhood development (ECD). "I don't understand why we continue to take part in the tests if we

do not learn any lessons from them. We should be using the results to plan better and improve the shortcomings in our system," said Manning.

He said compared to other countries, South Africa has facilities that provide child-minding services or serve a social need instead of purpose-built centres that offer adequate foundation phase education.

South Africa spends about R214-billion on education - a figure that puts it on par with the so-called developed countries but in the end, observers contend, there is nothing to show for it. Learners who pass grade 12 struggle in the first year at tertiary level and most of them drop out long before they complete their degrees. In some instances, universities are compelled to use their own resources to introduce intervention programmes to help ease them into their systems. A close analysis of what contributes to their poor performance suggests that most of them would have battled with numeracy and literacy at the rudimentary stage of their schooling.

The funding of free higher education is vital particularly as it assists students from poor households, however, said ECD proponents, it would not help the country to address the problem of the current

non-performing education system. They argue that it is only by investing prudently in sound ECD education that the country would start to see a quick turnaround and marked improvement of the system.

Manning said the reason why all the major teacher unions refused to administer annual national assessments (ANA) tests was to precisely highlight the need to re-calibrate the assessment model and to safeguard the integrity of the tests. He said the country has fallen into the trap of believing that assessments improve results while in fact it is the input that is more crucial.

Manning said they are engaging the department of basic to rather introduce a three-year cycle of systematic evaluation that will ensure support structures are in place particularly at district levels. He said they also wanted to make sure they formulate protocols that would help enhance the integrity of the tests and also address the problem of over-testing.

Most provinces and districts have always been fingered as weak links in the entire education edifice. While the national department formulate policies, it is the provinces and districts that are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing them as they interface closely with

Graphic. freepik.com



schools. However, they are found wanting in most respects owing to a range of reasons including lack of resources and requisite capacity to provide quality services to teachers at school level.

Such is the country education's fixation with producing matric results that the entire system is geared towards preparing grade 12 learners to pass well at the end of the year. With the final matric results expected to be formally announced in few weeks' time, provinces are anxiously waiting to see if the extra-classes and matric camps were worth the resources they invested in them.

Free State fared better than all the other eight provinces and as is the norm other provinces have been plotting to knock them off that pedestal. For the first time the examinations started and ended without any reports of cheating or paper leakage. According to Umalusi, this does not only add credibility to the administration and conduct of the examination but it is also an indication

that provinces have improved their security measures to forestall any possible breaches.

A glance at the general state of education in 2017 indicates that at policy development level there was very little activity except recently when the controversial Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill was introduced. Most school governing bodies challenged some of the proposal the bill made arguing it encroaches into their powers to appoint staff, among others.

There were some unsavoury incidences across the country but Gauteng education department was the busiest with its hands-on MEC, Panyaza Lesufi having been called upon several times to address racism related issues in St. John's College and Klipspruit West Secondary and Noordgesig Primary Schools. He also dealt with several sexual abuse cases including a horrific incident at AB Xuma Primary School in Soweto, where 87 girl learners were molested by a school guard.

Other provinces, particularly KwaZulu-Natal, also experienced noticeable surge of violence attacks and bullying among learners including cases of teachers caught administering corporal punishment even though it has long been abolished.

For starters, recall Zuma as president of the Republic

Mr President, allow us at this historic moment in your political career, to congratulate you for your gallant ride into the position of leader of one of the oldest national liberation movements in the world-system

Winning against a formidable contender like the first woman who became the first female leader of the African Union Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma – who incidentally had the support of some of the most powerful leaders within the now outgoing ANC leadership – is indeed no mean feat.

Having said so, we thought this is also an opportunity to appraise you of the challenges you face as the leader of a party that – through its own makings – has lost its historic position as the leader of society.

You are a leader of a party marred by internal ructions driven mainly by a faction that has used its power of incumbency to serve its own interests. It's the actions of the leaders and members of this ignoble faction that has largely led to the party being seen by the public as a vehicle for self-enrichment.

The situation is actually so dire that there are people who believe that you are doomed to earn the mantle of being the leader who oversaw the ultimate demise of this previously glorious movement.

Given the scenario, we believe it is important that for you to really appreciate the challenges you and your co-leaders as part of the party's Top Six face, we need to take you back to where it really started.

Ten years ago in Polokwane the ANC saw the majority of delegates at the party's 52nd Elective Conference voting former President Thabo Mbeki out and ushering in President Jacob Zuma. Unlike Mbeki, who ran the ANC like a tight ship assisted by a "coterie of intellectuals", Zuma was seen as a people's leader who will once again turn the ANC into a people's movement.

The created impression was that, unlike under Mbeki, there would now be a flowering of ideas which will determine how



Cyril Ramaphosa. *Siyathuthuka Media*

to take country where it should be as an economic powerhouse of the Africa continent. This also saw Zuma being supported by the SACP and Cosatu – organisations known to be representing the interests of the toiling masses.

It is now common knowledge that things really went pear-shaped.

The man of the people turned out to be "an emperor with no clothes" as he got involved in scandal after scandal – displaying his lack of moral probity.

He went on to show whoever supported him in Polokwane that he was not the messiah they thought he was – that he was in fact in the position for self-aggrandisement. He now has the ignoble mantle of being the first sitting President in the world to be facing over 700 counts of alleged corruption, fraud and racketeering.

Many believe that run-ins with the courts in defence of his indefensible abuse of state resources to benefit himself his family and those close to him are an attestation to his abuse of the trust that both the ANC and those who voted the ANC under his leadership to power.

The unfortunate reality is that you and the members of the ANC to 10 elected today – have the responsibility of undoing

all his misdemeanours – if the ANC is to achieve its much spoken about renewal and reclaim its position as the leader of society. A tall order indeed because you and your team is firstly expected to bring unity in the fractured ANC so as to achieve the much desired renewal.

What compounds the situation is the fact that – unlike as initially thought that the differences within the ANC – under his tutelage – were not ideological but mere articulations of how the party must use (even abuse) its legitimacy for its benefit and the benefit of the general populace – the existing fissures seem to be deeply ideological.

This means that, together with your new team, you must entrench within the party an ideology that will see the ANC becoming a party that is capable of dealing with the massive challenges the country faces.

We believe that the first step for you and rest of the soon-to-be completed new national executive committee (NEC) to take in this regard is to remove the person responsible for the political quagmire the ANC finds itself in – recall Zuma as the President of the country.

We are saying all these cognisant of the fact that ANC is a party that believes

in collective leadership and democratic centralism.

A situation which may hobble you as a leader when it comes to "making a clean break" from the ANC described above – a wish you expressed during your now successful presidential campaign.

We, however, believe the position of President of the ANC does give you the leverage to become the party's moral conscience that can lead it into once more become the beacon of hope for the South Africa majority whose quality of life remain encumbered the odious legacy of apartheid.

While recognising the many obstacles that can stand in your way, we do believe that as members of the public – who have for years put their trust in the party you now lead – we can offer some humble advice on how you can contribute towards the renewal of this movement of the people.

Firstly, remember that the best leader is the one who allow those around him to lead on his behalf. This means no dictatorial tendencies and the abuse of your office prerogative like "you know who."

Secondly a good leader leads with humility as the first servant of the people. In this regard we also like to remind you that – contrary to claims that want us to believe anyone in the ANC is capable of becoming a leader in your position by virtue of their commitment to the party's mission – leadership is both an art and a science.

It needs one to have the management and communication skills, the right culture, emotional intelligence and a character amenable to one's position as a leader in society. Many within and without the ANC do believe that you do possess these qualities – only time will tell.

Lastly, in future, please stay away from the Buffaloes – your relationship with them have not done your profile as a people's leader any favour.

Yours Truly
Ido Lekota.



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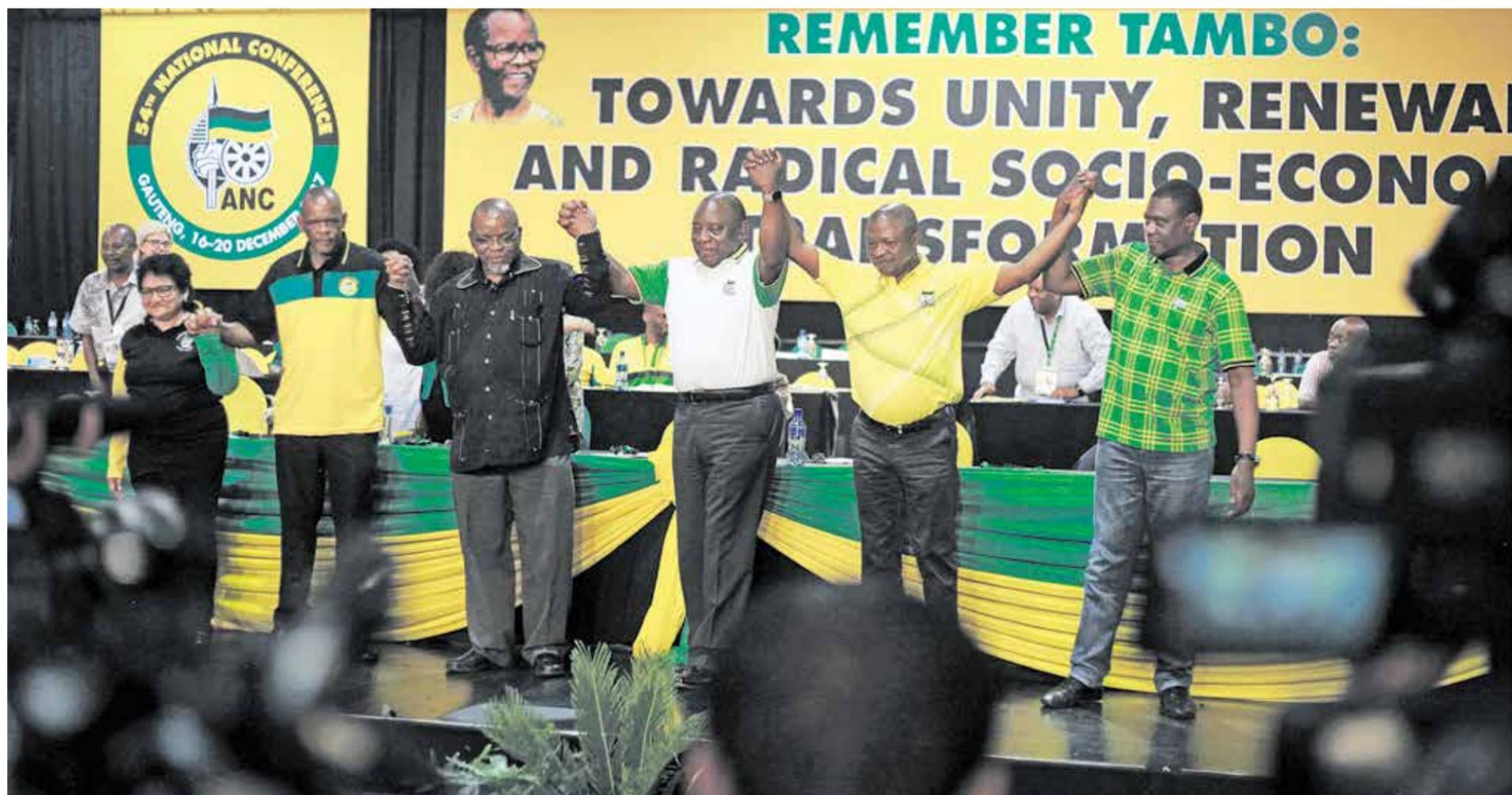
Kaya Bizz with Gugulethu Cele 5 – 6pm for daily updates from the **ANC Elective Conference** 16 – 20 December.

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News feature

The new ANC top six. *Siyathuthuka Media*

Opposition parties: Ramaphosa has a daunting task ahead

Bonile Khanyi

Cyril Ramaphosa's election as the new ANC president at the party's 54th elective conference has elicited mixed reactions from various political parties.

The United Democratic Movement (UDM) welcomed his victory while the Democratic Alliance (DA) has slammed the ANC saying that Ramaphosa cannot save SA and only its people can do this when they cast their votes at the General Elections in 2019.

In a tweet, UDM leader Bantu Holomisa congratulated Ramaphosa and warned him of the new tasks he has ahead of him as the ANC's new president.

<https://twitter.com/BantuHolomisa/status/942800806461497345>

Speaking to Inside Education on Monday, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Chief Whip in Parliament, Narend Singh said he welcomes Ramaphosa's win and that he trusts that he'll take the opposition parties more seriously and work together for the greater good of the country.

He also said Ramaphosa will also have to deal with corruption and officially put an end to it.

"One of the first things they need to commit themselves to as a leadership is to ensure is that we put an end to this kind of corruption that has been taking place,

that has an impact in our communities," said Singh.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane on the other hand said Ramaphosa's victory was a little too late for the ruling party and that he cannot save South Africa, and only the voters can do that in the 2019 general elections.

"The election of Cyril Ramaphosa as ANC President is too little too late for the ANC, and means very little for the people of South Africa who have been left behind in poverty and joblessness. The ANC is dead and cannot self-correct, no matter who is at the helm. This is because the party itself is held together only by the glue of patronage and corruption, and Cyril Ramaphosa is just a new face to the same old ANC. The future of South Africa lies outside of the ANC. It is up to the vot-

The election of Cyril Ramaphosa as ANC President is too little too late for the ANC, and means very little for the people of South Africa

ers to bring about total change by removing the ANC in 2019 and ushering a new beginning for our country," said Maimane.

He also took a swipe at Ramaphosa's history under the leadership of President Jacob Zuma, saying that he's done nothing in the face of his crimes and that he's election as the new ANC's president, corruption will continue.

"Ramaphosa has stood in Jacob Zuma's shadow for years, silent in the face of his crimes and the crimes of fellow ANC comrades. His election means that the corrupt system that is oppressing South Africans will continue. Ramaphosa has relied on David Mabuza to secure a marginal victory, in turn electing him as Deputy President. As Premier of Mpumalanga, Mabuza has presided over a collapsing province, characterised by maladministration and corruption, while keeping people in poverty," read the statement.

"Even before being elected ANC Deputy President in 2012, Ramaphosa's political career has been one of silence towards corruption in government. He has shown no willingness or ability to fight corruption and State Capture. While serving as Jacob Zuma's Deputy President since 2014, he sat silently on the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) while the ANC looted the state and stole money from the people of South Africa."

The DA has urged the newly elected

ANC president to recall President Jacob Zuma.

"Ramaphosa's first act as ANC President must be to recall Jacob Zuma as President of the South Africa, prosecuting him for his corruption charges, and jailing him if he is found guilty. If he fails to do so, Ramaphosa will show South Africa that the leaders in the ANC are all friends, and they practice their corruption together," read the statement.

The DA also said Ramaphosa must also ensure that an immediate plan of action is adopted, which seeks to scrap any version of a "Nuclear Deal"; the appointment of a new National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), the commitment of a National Budget that is balanced and sustainable and a plan that seeks to ensure that a future cabinet is comprised of "fit for purpose individuals, rather than a rewards scheme for certain factions within the ANC".

"As the Democratic Alliance (DA), we will continue our preparation for 2019 national elections. The opportunity for the realignment of politics in South Africa is now before us, and we are committed to this project – regardless of what happens within the ANC. The future lies in a post-ANC South Africa," read the statement.

Economic Freedom Fighter (EFF) leader Julius Malema warned the country not to get too excited as corruption still remains.

Lindiwe Zulu calls for big business to fund and support SMMEs

Bonile Khanyi

Big businesses need to support small and medium enterprises (SMME's) in order for them to thrive and succeed, according to Small Business Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

Addressing the Progressive Business Forum's breakfast briefing with business at the ANC national conference in Nasrec, Zulu said backing for SMMEs should not just come from government and state-owned enterprises.

"In the three and a half years since I have been in office, I have realized that there is a lot of talk about supporting small and medium enterprises. But somewhere along the line it falls short of really understanding the real challenges that are faced by SMMEs," Zulu said.

Zulu urged companies to help the government in supporting and developing SMMEs.

"This is an opportunity for you to speak to the SMME's who are here because the support small and medium enterprises do not necessarily depend on government and state-owned entities, they also depend on big businesses opening up the opportunities from the supply chain and value chain," said Zulu.

She also said small businesses should also be ready to take advantage of support from the government, which was putting the necessary legislation in place and had declared that 30 percent of its goods and services procurement would be given to SMMEs.

"Our view in the department is that yes, there is a political will to ensure that we support SME, but a political will on its own, not being supported by real activities, by real financial and non-financial support, by ensuring that we create that conducive environment for SMMEs, will almost be meaningless," Zulu said.

Referring to the former Secretary General, Gwede Mantashé's report from an organisation point of view yesterday, Zulu said the ruling party will be looking at our "current economic environment in which



Small Business Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu. *Siyathuthuka Media*

we find ourselves in" during the conference.

"We need to look at how to deal with it from an economic cluster point of view. I raise the issue of the economic cluster because its very clear to us that unless we have a very properly coordinated approach to supporting each other both in terms of building the economy, unless we have a common approach of the challenges that we have because South Africa is a developmental state and if we miss that point we might end up developing interventions that do not necessarily deal

with it," she said.

During her presentation on Monday, Zulu also referred to the ANC and what was expected from its 54th conference apart from choosing its new leadership.

She said that some of the ANC's decisions which were taken prior this year's conference, identified the areas in which government needs to deal with in supporting SMME's.

"The 2012 Mangaung resolution encouraged the creation of new businesses, cooperatives and expansion of small business by reducing cost of compliance ensuring

payment of government invoices," said Zulu.

"This is one very important aspect so what we have done as a department for instance is to take that resolution and look at how do we make sure that this resolution is implemented and what are the things that we need to do."

Zulu also turned to the land issue and criticised farmers over their failure to engage in plans to transform.

Zulu said that although the agricultural sector was important for South Africa's economic growth as it continued to show continued resilience while other industries declined, it was still controlled by the "same old white males".

"Land remained one of the thorniest issues facing South Africa, and needed to be addressed collectively... land shouldn't be a thorny issue, if you understand the plight of black people in particular," she said.

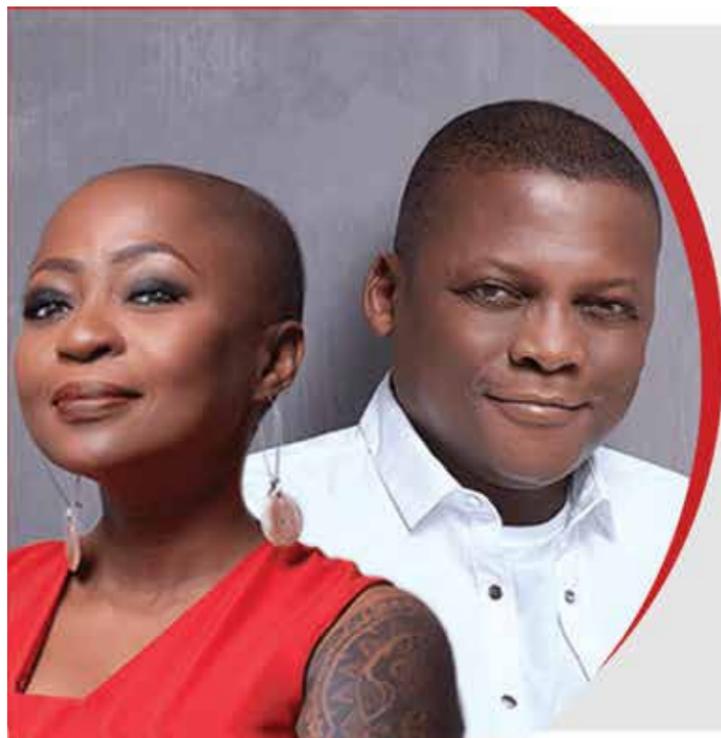
"Black South Africans, who had not had the opportunities that generations of white farmers had, now have to play catch up and needed not only access to land, but the support and education to utilise it properly,

"We are calling on the farmers to say, this is your country, this is our country, but if you don't walk with us, tomorrow we might have a bigger problem, which we might not be able to deal with."

Zulu also said there would be an announcement next year about support for SMMEs and entrepreneurs from the European Union.

"Part of what is happening with my department is the partnership that we have with some of the international diplomats who are here, who are supporting us, not only as a department of small business development, but who are supporting South Africa in its agenda for transformation," said Zulu.

"I know that for instance with the EU next year, we'll be making an announcement of quite a sizable support that we're getting from the EU, directly going to supporting your small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship."



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Day three of the ANC's national conference ended on a high note following the election of Cyril Ramaphosa as ANC President, ushering in a new era to uphold the values of the nation's Constitution.

