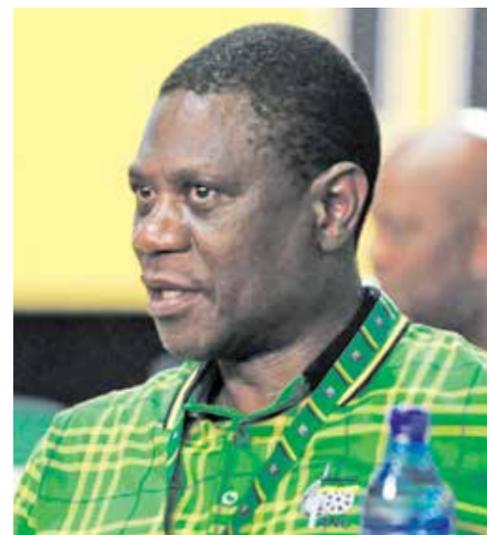


MK Council calls
for ANC NEC with
integrity **PAGE 4**



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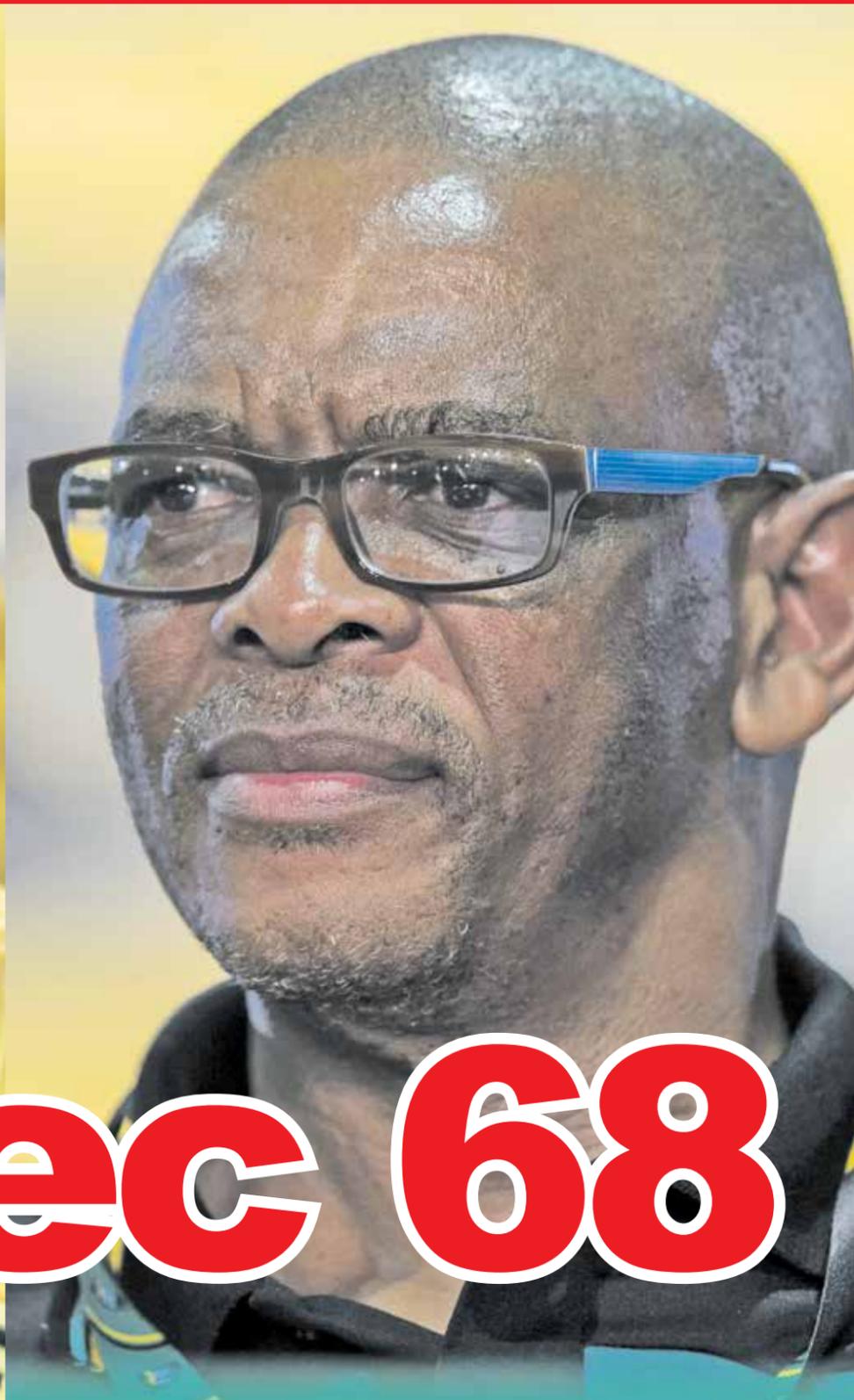
Inspiring Minds

20 December 2017

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2017 ANC Elective Conference

Court action threatens to collapse #ANC54



Nasrec 68

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Special Report

ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule. *Siyathuthuka Media*

Mchunu's supporters threaten court action over 68 disputed votes

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**Thabo Mohlala**

The 54th ANC national conference is teetering on the brink of collapse after Senzo Mchunu's supporters threatened to go to court on Wednesday if the dispute over 68 votes was not resolved.

Mchunu's supporters threw the spanner in the works on Tuesday morning when they lodged a dispute related to voters who were unaccounted for when the results were announced on Monday afternoon.

The dispute severely affected the elections of members of the National Executive Committee (NEC) which was scheduled to start early on Tuesday. The conference's steering committee has been locked in a meeting the whole day trying to resolve the impasse.

But while the matter was being addressed, they decided to allow delegates to cast their votes for the organisation's most powerful structure that takes decision in between conferences.

The Electoral Committee ruled that delegates were not allowed to take the names of candidates in the voting booth but this was strongly resisted by the plenary. After intense plenary discussions the Electoral Commission relented and delegates were allowed to take the names of candidates into the booth.

Mchunu's backers, who belonged to the President Cyril Ramaphosa's slate, raised

objections about 68 special votes which were not counted. They believed this could have swung the results in favour of Mchunu, who lost to Ace Magashule by a slender margin of 24 votes for the position of the Secretary-General.

Said Jomo Sibiya, Mchunu's chief campaigner and lobbyist: "What happened is that when 68 delegates arrived at the voting station their names did not appear on the voters' roll despite them being properly accredited. A decision was then taken that these delegates should be allowed to cast special votes. These were then cast, put in envelopes, sealed and put in a box."

However, Sibiya said when the counting was done, the 68 special votes were not counted and they feel this cheated Mchunu of a chance to become Secretary General.

"Delegates are mainly from Nongoma in KwaZulu-Natal, from the Dullah Omar region in the Western Cape and from Vhembe in Limpopo all of whom supported Mchunu," he said.

There were fears that the standoff is likely to revive the tensions that characterised most of the conference before the poll results yesterday, particularly if it is taken

to plenary.

Supra Mahumapelo, North West provincial chairperson, warned that the delegates are taking a "slippery road" by entertaining the call to recount the votes, asking why it should apply to one position. He said if they allow the recount, they [Nkomo-sazana Dlamini-Zulu camp] would call for a rerun of the entire poll of the top six leaders.

But sources close to the negotiations have indicated that a decision was taken to find a political resolution to avoid potential collapse of the conference.

The delay meant delegates did not have sufficient time to discuss policy issues – another crucial component of the conference – when it wraps up on Wednesday.

Speaking to the SABC, Reverend Frank Chikane said the matter could have been resolved quickly by allowing the delegates to vote and then quarantine their votes in the envelopes until the matter has been resolved. He said since all the leadership of the branches, region, province and national are at the conference it should be easy to deal with matter quickly.

"These are bound to happen and it is the responsibility of the Electoral Committee to resolve it," said Chikane.

Supra Mahumapelo, who supported Dlamini-Zuma, said the issue of the votes should have been raised during the counting stage and questioned how Mchunu's supporters knew who the 68 delegates voted for.

68 votes weren't counted and they feel cheated

Dlamini blames patriarchy for NDZ's defeat

Thabo Mohlala

The African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) President Bathabile Dlamini said yesterday's results of the party's presidential race in which Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (NDZ) lost to Cyril Ramaphosa was the lowest point for the league.

The league backed NDZ, whom they believed was poised to make history by becoming the first female president of the party since its formation in 1912.

Jessie Duarte is the only woman who made it in the male-dominated top six of the ANC after she beat Zingiswa Losi, over the position of deputy secretary-general. She retained the position having served under Gwede Mantashe, who has since been elected the ANC's chairperson.

Briefing the media yesterday at Nasrec, Dlamini blamed the dominance of patriarchy in the ANC, saying that the party has regressed in its endeavour to affirm women and elevate them to powerful decision-making positions.

Dlamini believes that part of the reason why NDZ could not make it was because she was portrayed as an extension of her husband - the outgoing President Jacob Zuma.

She thanked NDZ, hailing her as a brave woman who put up a good fight until the bitter end despite being the target of insults and criticism.

Political analysts said one of the main reasons NDZ campaign faltered was because she was backed by individuals discredited by corruption and their links to the controversial Gupta family.

"We are not proud of these election results and we believe Oliver Tambo must be turning in his grave," said Dlamini. Oliver Tambo was known to be among the organisation's first leaders to champion women's interests and believed they should be elevated and treated as equals to their male comrades.

But some gender rights activists blamed ANCWL's commitment to the struggle of gender equality, particularly the pro-



ANCWL President Bathabile Dlamini. *Siyathuthuka Media*

motion of women. They also berated Dlamini's league for choosing to back NDZ to the exclusion of other presidential hopefuls such as Baleka Mbete and Lindiwe Sisulu

They feel the league pays lip service to the broader feminist issues and is not assertive enough to challenge their male comrades within the ANC.

In 2013, the league controversially declared that South Africa was not ready for female president.

Angie Motshekga, the league's chairperson at the time, said: "We know the ANC, we understand the ANC, we understand the ANC processes, and no one wants to go into a futile battle. There are traditions, there are processes, and those processes have a long, long life."

Her counterpart Clara Ndlovu, Mpumalanga provincial secretary, was quoted as having said "We want to have a female president in the near future. We are just not prepared for it now. We do not have capable leaders."

The statements caused consternation and anger among the gender activists and feminists who felt the league is undermining women's struggle.

Motshekga continued: "You don't just wake up and make a pronouncement to say I am going to be a deputy president. It's a process. It's got its own life and is not a fly-by-night. We will do it in a respectful... and not in an opportunistic way."

Sifisosami Dube, Gender Links' Alliance and Partnerships manager, said it was disappointing that there was only one woman elected to the ANC's top six leadership. However, Dube said this is not out of the ordinary, as research shows that even in countries that have legislative quotas for women to participate in political structures, the number of women taking part in those structures is very small.

Dube said ANC subscribes to a 50:50 gender representation yet the party fails to translate this into reality.

"Until and unless ANC structures take gender issues seriously they are bound to

end with similar outcomes. In fact, this applies to all parties across the political divide, it really doesn't matter which party it is," said Dube.

She said what led to NDZ's presidential loss was the fact that she was always linked to her former husband.

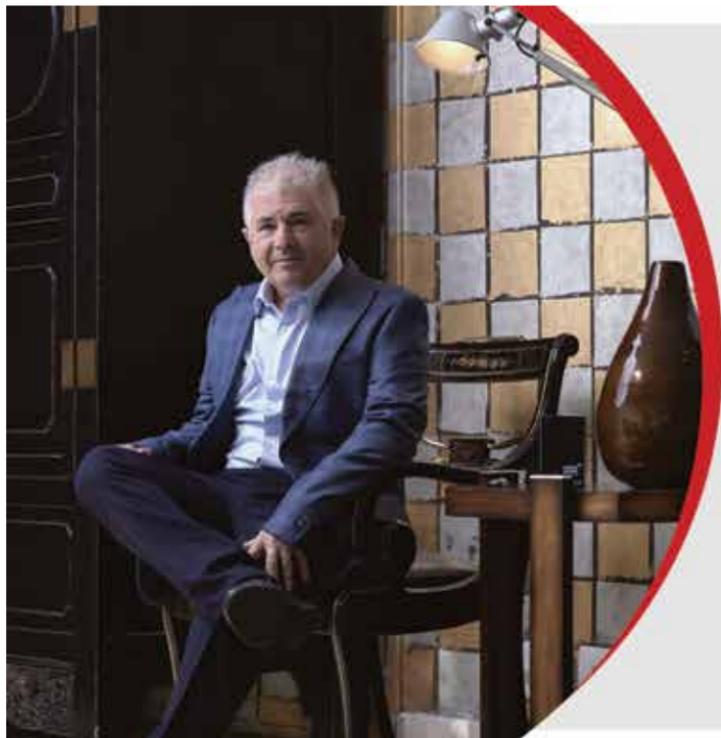
She was projected, Dube said, as an appendage of her husband; someone who does not have her own agency. She said it is unfair to continue to refer NDZ as Zuma's former wife even though they separated twenty years ago.

"And yet this is a woman with impeccable credentials, having been a minister of home and foreign affairs including her recent chairpersonship post at African Union," Dube said. She said this must be seen in a broader context of patriarchy that seeks to denigrate women and marginalise them or always project them within the context of their husbands, even when they are separated. Dube said the ANCWL should do some serious introspection and reflect honestly on its feminism agenda.

Lebohang Pheko, a Senior Research Fellow at Trade Collective, echoed Dube's views saying political parties are a microcosm. They are a reflection the societal flaws such as sexism, masculinity and marginalisation of women. She said what we are seeing about ANCWL represents a break or dissonance with a proud history of gallant fights that women before them waged. Pheko said for this calibre of women, it has never been just about any woman, but was about quality and content.

She said most liberation movement struggles are steeped in the mythology that the national liberation question is the over-riding question. And often this was at the expense of any other issue such as gender and class, said Pheko. She said the question of gender equality or women emancipation was always pushed to the periphery and seen as an addendum. Men used this, said Pheko, to suppress assertive women or those who espoused radical and revolutionary views to challenge the dominance of the patriarchal values. She men would often say "the time to address gender equality issues will come", but first they have to focus on how they should attain the national liberation.

Pheko said while what happened at the ANC's 54th conference where few women made it to the party's top echelons must be seen as a setback for ANCWL, it should not affect the struggle for the broader gender equality project.



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News feature

ANC Deputy President David Mabuza and ANC Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile. *Siyathuthuka Media*

MK Council calls for ANC NEC with integrity

Ido Lekota

THE Ukhonto we Sizwe Council has called on the delegates at the ANC 54th national conference to elect a national executive council (NEC) that will help the party's newly elected party to deliver on its promise to "make a clean break" with the ANC which has lost its credibility as the leader of society.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa has shown during his presidential campaign that he is committed to the renewal of the ANC into a party that will lead South Africa to new heights.

"To do so he needs an NEC made up of people with the necessary integrity and commitment to take the party out of its current crisis. To achieve that you need people who are not captured by self-serving forces", said Thabang Makwetla, MK Council leader and deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services.

Ramaphosa ran his campaign on a ticket including a commitment to fighting corruption and reviving the country's moribund economy by forming a social compact with labour, business and civil society.

This has raised expectations that he would rid the ruling party of forces within the ANC, including President Jacob Zuma and his close allies within the ANC leadership, who are believed to be in the pockets of the notorious Gupta family.

Makwetla spoke to Inside Education yesterday during the election of the new ANC NEC following the election of the party's new Top Six on Monday.

The make-up of the Top Six is made up of Ramaphosa (President), David Mabuza (Deputy President), Ace Magashule

(Secretary General), Jessie Duarte (deputy general secretary), Gwede Mantashe (National Chairman) and Paul Mashatile (Treasurer General) has raised concerns that it would hobble Ramaphosa's mission – because it was divided in the middle into members of the two opposing slates that were involved in the opposing presidential campaigns.

Of more concern is the fact that Magashule, a known supporter of Zuma and a reported ally of the Gupta family, held a key position in the party as the new Secretary General. His deputy Duarte is also a known supporter of Zuma with links with the Guptas.

Further compounding the situation is the fact Ramaphosa's deputy is also a known Zuma supporter – who has been accused of running the Mpumalanga with an iron fist as the former Premier.

Magashule, who has spent 20 years serving as the chairman of the ANC in the Free State, was recently labelled by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) as the "Robert Mugabe of the ANC".

He has been implicated in the Gupta saga along with his son Gift, who alleg-

edly also has a long-standing relationship with the controversial family. He has not, however, been charged with anything

The famous GuptaLeaks emails have revealed details of how the Guptas in their state capture had gone beyond Zuma and his family to use patronage to secure a steady flow of state funds into its coffers.

The emails have shown that the Guptas have cultivated Magashule's sons in much the same way that they worked on bringing Zuma's son Duduzane into the nest.

They, for example, detail how the Guptas have used travel and luxury treats to win over Magashule and his sons.

Mabuza has also made headlines in the past few weeks for alleged wrong-doing.

Presidential hopeful Mathews Phosa had accused Mabuza of having a private army that forced ANC members into backing his preferred candidate for the presidential race.

The gang allegedly intimidated ANC members who did not favour Mabuza's unity campaign after he failed to reveal whether his province would back Ramaphosa or Dlamini-Zuma.

Makwetla said any president on the ANC needed the support of the NEC to execute his/her mandate as the political head of the organisation.

He said the reason the late Oliver Tambo could build and lead the ANC in exile as a vibrant movement that eventually delivered on its mission of freeing its people from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid was because he had a strong and committed national executive committee consisting of leaders of integrity such as Yusuf Dadoo, Moses Mabida and Joe Slovo.

"This is the kind of leadership that must be elected into the new NEC which will

work with President Ramaphosa to ensure that the ANC regains its status as the leader of society and deliver on its mandate of improving the lives of our people", said Makwetla.

Makwetla admitted that Ramaphosa is seen as a leader who will help the ANC regain its credibility with the South African electorate, a move that would help the party win the 2019 general election.

MK Council has previously called for a special conference where the current crisis the ANC found itself would be discussed. The Council then argued that having an elective conference before dealing with the ructions and fissures within the party would not help renew the ANC.

The Council then described the ANC as being like "a very ill athlete who is being pushed to run a race."

In a media briefing last Friday the Council said the ANC did not only need a new leadership but also a new way of doing things. The Council then suggested that the party should change the "top-down" manner in which the party ran its national conference by giving branches more power.

"As it is the branches do not have an input on the policy issues that should be discussed at conference. Such policy discussion documents are developed by the executive and then sent to the branches for discussion. Branches must be allowed to raise issues that affect their communities and come up with a motion to discuss such issues at conference", Makwetla then pointed out.

He said that way the delegates from the branches could, for example, come up with a motion that conference must recall Zuma because his abuse of state funds affect service delivery in their communities.

Ebrahim Patel: Inclusive growth plan will help restore confidence in SA economy

Bonile Khanyi

The Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel said on Tuesday that South Africa must aim for an inclusive economy where black South Africans are part of the economy, not only for equity purposes, but also because there is a compelling, economic advantage to expanding the talent pool of the economy to cover every South African.

Patel was addressing business leaders at the Progressive Business Forum breakfast briefing, on the side-lines of the 54th ANC national conference in Nasrec, Johannesburg.

“We’ve got to increase the rate of growth; the economy is not growing fast enough and even though we’ve avoided a deep and damaging recession this year our growth rate continues to be below that of population growth,” said Patel.

“We need to at least achieve a growth rate higher than population growth so that every South African can grow more prosperous and better off each year as the economy grows in a more inclusive way.”

During his presentation, the minister reflected on the global economy, its growth and the impact it has in South Africa.

“Global growth has picked up slightly over the last period. For this year global growth is projected to be about 3.5 percent and for next year its projected at 3.7 percent. It’s what the international monetary fund chief economist calls a firming recovery,” said Patel.

“If you recall growth rates before the economic crisis they were significantly higher than 3.5 percent. The global crisis essentially brought down possibly the structural rate of global growth. And it matters to our economy because we particularly



Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel. *Siyathuthuka Media*

trade exposed.”

He also outlined the economic situation in the country as well as the challenges of low growth and high levels of youth unemployment, among other things.

“We’ve had the modest economic growth, earlier this year the economy went into a technical recession and it emerged from that recession but whilst growth has recovered somewhat in the last quarter we’ve seen two percent growth per quarter principally off the back of much agricultural performance,” said Patel.

“Our growth rate remains below the level that South Africa needs to be able to create more jobs and ensure greater

economic inclusion and we have high levels on unemployment even though we’ve grown the number of jobs, sometimes quite robustly.

Patel said this calls for an increased growth of employment levels at a much higher rate than most countries in the world.

“Since the global economic crisis, the economy has added 2.5 million additional jobs but at the same time the number of young people looking for work has increased. That means that we need to grow our employment levels at a much higher rate than most countries in the world,” said Patel.

He said despite the huge progress our country has made, South Africa also faces huge challenges.

“We have a lot going for us, we have a lot of challenges, and that’s the complexity of the modern South Africa. Huge progress and big challenges,” he said.

Patel said that there are four things our economy needs to do, to drive further progress.

“We need to have a credible growth story that identifies the sectors of the economy where we can grow fast and where we can create jobs on scale, and do this in a very practical way,” he said.

“We need to transform the economy and by transformation it means bringing young people, the energy of any nation, into the economy in larger numbers. Ensuring that black South Africans are part of the economy, not only for equity purposes, but also because there is a compelling, economic advantage to expanding the talent pool of the economy to cover every South African.

“It means addressing the governance challenge that we have in state-owned companies and in the private sector. Dealing with corruption and state capture, we must talk openly about these things and deal with issues of corporate collusion.

“The challenge I think is impressed so starkly that we sit today with a storyline that we can change. A storyline on the one hand points to state institutions that are currently under investigation for probity issues, for whether they have ensured integrity in tender processes and how they deal with the private sector. Issues of state capture are important.

“And then finally, the issue of partnerships, getting South Africans, business, labour and government to work together to achieve higher levels of growth.”



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News feature



The introduction of the wealth tax has been long called for in South Africa. *freepik.com*

Delegates say wealth tax may help tackle inequality

Ido Lekota

With the election of the leadership out of the way, delegates at the ANC 54th National Conference were locked in commissions last night discussing policy recommendations that came out of the party's policy conference in July.

These recommendations were to be discussed in various commissions the outcome of which will then be endorsed in the form of resolutions endorsing the policy positions taken by the elective conference. These adopted policies will guide the new leadership on how to implement the ANC political action plan, which will be announced during the January 8 statement celebrations, to be held in East London, Eastern Cape.

One of the recommendations is the introduction of wealth tax as a way of dealing with the highly unequal distribution of wealth in SA.

The introduction of the wealth tax has been long called for in South Africa by author and economist Professor Sampie Terreblanche in the early 1990s who recommended that persons with assets over R2 million should be taxed 0,5% annually for between 10 to 20 years in order to address inequality by those who benefited directly or indirectly from apartheid.

As history would have it, Professor Terreblanche's proposal was never implemented and income inequality has increased massively.

A recently released Wealth Inequality Lab research report co-authored by French Economist Thomas Piketty revealed that South Africa was one of the

most unequal countries in the world, with 10% of the top earners capturing 66% of the national income.

Information from the report also revealed that in South Africa, the top 1% of earners held 8,8% of the country's wealth in 1987, and had increased their share to 19,2% by 2012.

The report went further to say the fact that inequality trends varied so greatly among countries, even when countries share similar levels of development, showed the importance of policy such as the one introducing the wealth tax.

Earlier this year, government called on the Davis Tax Committee headed by Professor Denis Davis to investigate whether it would be appropriate to introduce additional wealth taxation and the feasibility of doing so as a way of redressing the glaring inequalities in the country's economy.

The DTC then called for submissions from the various stakeholders on their view about the viability of wealth tax in a developing country like South Africa. This drew variant responses including those for and against wealth tax.

In its submission investment company Chartered Wealth Solution argued that South Africa had a tiny tax base, and is

The wealth tax will redress the current situation where the poor are taxed the same way as the rich

heavily dependent on a small group of individuals and companies that pay around 60% of the personal and corporate income taxes collected each year.

"It is feared that imposing a wealth tax on this small group could encourage a flight of capital and skills which would further weaken the economy", the company argued.

In contrast, the Cape Town-based Dullar Omar Institute for Constitution, Law and Human Rights called for the introduction of wealth tax. The Institute argued that wealth tax would redress the current situation whereby the wealthy had paid decreasing income tax 'due to aggressive tax planning.'

To avoid paying high personal income tax the wealthy were using measures like disguising their income by setting up shelf companies, putting their money in overseas banks account in countries with lower tax rates, taking part of their compensation in stock options etc, argued the Institute.

According to the Institute such measures have led to South Africa forfeiting more than R190 billion in tax revenue in 2014.

"We propose that a wealth tax be implemented on the basis of all assets owned by South Africa's 10% richest. The proposal should ensure that "wealth" is defined as the net value of individual assets, which includes financial holdings, business interest and tangible assets", said the Institute.

Represented at the conference as part of the delegates the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (Cosatu) has called on the ANC conference to pass a resolution in support of a wealth tax.

"The wealth tax will redress the current

situation where the poor are taxed the same way as the rich", Cosatu President Sdumo Dlamini told Insideeducation yesterday.

"The poor have for centuries been subsidising the rich, where is through slave wages, loss of land leading to the creation of the biggest monopolies in Africa. We feel it is about time the rich make a little contribution towards redressing the inequalities this has created", said Dlamini.

However, University of Witwatersrand economist Professor Chris Malokane said measures such as wealth tax will not change the economic structure of the country in which wealth remains in the hands of the white minority.

"Taxing the wealthy does not change the patterns of ownership in the country. The wealthy will pay the tax and continue generating high income for themselves to the exclusion of the black majority. These are band-aid measures which will not radically transform the economy to a situation where black people are the owners of the means of production.

"We need black people – as the majority in this country – to be the fact of business," said Malokane.

Malokane said the current situation negates even the notion that having quality education is a way out of the life of poverty and under-development.

"I am a professor of economics at Wits and I have many graduates with high academic qualification who instead of being bankers and economists are found at call centres because the owners of the means of production are excluding them from using the skills to contribute towards the economic development of this country."

Morogoro: ANC's moment of self-reflection

Chris Makhaye

It is exactly 48 years, seven months after the watershed African National Congress's Morogoro Conference when more than 5 000 African National Congress (ANC) delegates filed in and took their seats at Johannesburg's Nasrec for the ANC's 54th elective conference.

Although the two gatherings may be nearly half a century apart, many are pointing out that the ANC has never found itself more at the crossroads than at these two crucial conferences.

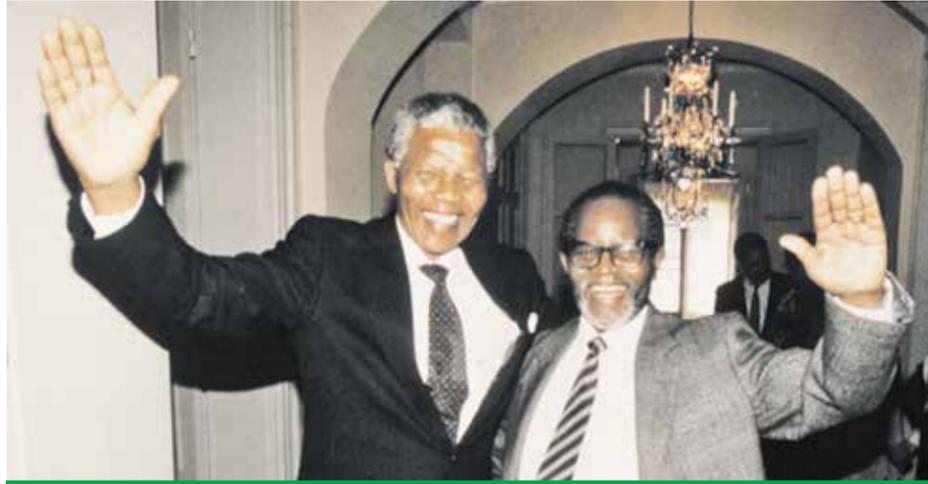
A wrong turn or path or the election of an unsuitable leadership collective could - then and now - spell doom for the organization.

Just years before Morogoro conference, the ANC, the PAC and other anti-apartheid organization had been banned, many of their leaders were jailed for life and thousands of activists were forced into silence. Those in exile were isolated in the countries that gave them asylum and often worked in silos, without any comprehensive coordination.

The apartheid state's brutal crackdown had rendered the ANC largely ineffective inside South Africa, despite relentless efforts to keep the flames of resistance burning.

Before and at Morogoro Conference rumblings and discontent within the ranks were said to have been so palpable that the ANC could have easily torn itself apart, in the process rendering itself irrelevant and ending up in the dustbin of history.

Today, with the fight for positions - fuelled by factions and invariably driven by the desire to loot state tenders and other resources that comes with the levers of power - there is a real possibility that the ANC could tear itself apart, split and the winning faction's victory would be a pyrrhic one, as the opposition could gang up against the winning ANC faction and take over state power, a coveted prize for which many ANC cadres had fought and died for.



The reunion of Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, Sweden, 1990. *The Mayibuye Centre, courtesy of Have You Heard From Johannesburg.*

But how did the ANC find itself in a parlous state that it is in now. Retracing this would be pointless without going back to Morogoro town to find out the source of today's problems..

Morogoro is a teeming little town located in central Tanzania, about 193.63 km from capital Dar es Salaam and 310.43 km from the city of Dodoma.

It is nestled on the foot of the Uluguru Mountains, which are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains. The other sides of Morogoro town is hugged by the large swathes of Tanzanian greenbelt.

The town has always been the centre of the country and buses from Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Dodoma stop here to drop and pick up passengers.

Since the days of colonialism, Morogoro town has also been known as the education centre of Tanzania. Nowadays, it is playing host to no less than three universities and a number of religious, cultural and government education centres and missionary schools.

Just like most other parts of Tanzania, four out of every five vehicles here is a scooter, a tuk-tuk or other vehicles shipped in from Asian countries as second-hands. Nevertheless, these vehicles

provide useful transport to get around for locals and visitors alike, at a price of several thousand Tanzanian shillings.

A few kilometres from the town centre, on the outskirts of Mazimbu township, colloquially known as Dark City, is the Solomon Mahlangu Campus of Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture.

Up until 1993 this was the site of the famed Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) and provided education to many children of exiles and youngsters who fled South Africa after the 1976 Soweto uprising.

The centre also housed the ANC offices in Morogoro and the ANC training camp for its cadres.

Although this site later became ANC's main base in Morogoro and its headquarters in Tanzania, it is not the venue where 70 ANC delegates from its overseas missions, from the ranks of MK cadres in African states, from its alliance partners and other structures gathered here in April 1969 for what became known as the Morogoro Conference, or a "Moment of Self-Reflection"

During his opening address to the ANC's 48th National Conference, Durban, 2 July 1991, the late President OR

Tambo had this to say about Morogoro Conference: "By 1969 it was considered necessary to hold a National Consultative Conference in Morogoro, Tanzania. Conference was to take stock of the totality of our experience and, on the basis of that, map out the way forward.

"Morogoro became a landmark and a turning point in our struggle. It was that conference which produced a comprehensive document on the strategy and tactics of the ANC," he said.

To find anyone, in South Africa or in Tanzania, who was present during the Morogoro conference or knew the exact venue of this conference was like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

Mavuso Msimang, the former DG of Home Affairs and one of the participants in that conference, said his memory of the exact venue is hazy but he believes it (the venue) was about 10 kilometres to the south of Morogoro town, along the road between Zambia and Tanzania, where the ANC camp was established in the early 60s, before it was moved to Mazimbu decades later.

"The Mazimbu camp or the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) was not even dreamt of at that time," he said.

"I cannot say at the conference we were at dagger's drawn but many people were angry, frustrated and disillusioned with the pace of our struggle, especially since other liberation movements, like Frelimo and others were making progress to liberate their countries of white dominated governments, while we in South Africa were making no notable stride or progress. Many (disgruntled) comrades felt that the focus of the leadership was more towards getting political and international solidarity. The trained cadres, including myself, felt neglected and isolated and far from home to make any impact in trying to liberate ourselves," he said.

He said delegates were so critical of the leadership that Oliver Tambo offered to resign and give others a chance to lead the organization. "Delegates stopped and appealed to him. They said he had a solemn responsibility to lead the ANC at that crucial stage. In the end difference were resolved and we came up with strategies and tactics that will link political work with military work and this was coordinated through the revolutionary council (REC). We came out of that conference, stronger and more willing to work towards defeating the apartheid regime," he said.



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Day three of the ANC's 54th national conference was marred by allegations of vote-rigging following claims that some of the votes for the Secretary General position disappeared during the elections on Monday afternoon. An investigation is currently underway and last night there were fears that supporters of former ANC KwaZulu-Natal chairperson Senzo Mchunu may go to court to challenge the results, which saw ANC Free State chairperson Ace Magashule declared as Secretary General of the ANC.

