



# ANC Whip

The bi-monthly newsletter of the ANC Caucus

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## Building an activist Parliament

“The ANC Caucus believes that an activist Parliament will concretely bring into reality government’s comprehensive plans, which are deeply rooted in spiritual and moral values...”

The African National Congress has committed itself to an activist Parliament that must put the interest of all the people of South Africa first and strictly perform its constitutional functions. Such a Parliament, according to the Chief Whip of the ANC, Dr. Mathole Motshekga, must not only be seen on television, but must practically be visible among the people. An activist Parliament must have Members that use Parliamentary Constituency Offices as springboards for community outreach work, not as resting places. It must be a Parliament that ensures the speedy rollout of basic services to people by holding the Executive accountable without fear or favour. In his response to the National Assembly debates on his State of the Nation Address on Wednesday, President Jacob Zuma reaffirmed the importance of having an institution that not only has teeth, but is able to bite too. Responding to ANC Member of Parliament Thaba Mufamadi on the matter of an activist

Parliament, the President emphasised:

“Regardless of differences as political parties, I believe that we have a common goal, which is to make South Africa a great country. We take all contributions to the debate in that spirit. We have noticed too that this House will seriously hold the Executive accountable.

“As Hon. Thaba Mofumadi said, this will be a “strong activist Parliament”

“As the national executive, we welcome increased oversight to assist us in achieving our target of effective efficient government. We will work harder and smarter and the South African people will be the beneficiaries of this constructive robust role of Parliament”.

The ANC Caucus believes that an activist Parliament will concretely bring into reality government’s comprehensive plans, which are deeply rooted in spiritual and moral values that the ANC cherishes and believes are the prerequisite for building cohesive, caring and sustainable communities.

Recovering the humanity of all people, the President said, has been a guiding tenet of the ANC for many decades of its existence.

“When opening the debate, the Honourable Mathole Motshekga, reminded us to focus on that which makes us human. He referred to the call by former ANC President, Rev ZR Mahabane, for “the recovery of the humanity for all.

“It (the humanity for all) will be a central feature of our shared efforts over the term of this government, because we know that working together we can do more to build a great South Africa.

“Decent work and steadily improving quality of life are essential for the recovery of the humanity of all our people”. An activist Parliament will also ensure that humanity of all people is reclaimed through provision of quality education, skills development, affordable energy, decent shelter, water and ensuring secure and vibrant communities.

by KABELO MATABOGE

On Tuesday millions of people within and outside the borders of our country will commemorate June 16 and related struggles waged by young people in this country.

This historic moment in the history of our liberation marks the resilience of our youth who laid down their lives in defiance of oppressive government whose order was to confine the majority to the margins of the labour market through inferior education and ultimately exclude them from the mainstream economic participation.

In the current political epoch we call on the youth of our country to draw inspiration and emulate the generation of 1976 and those who laid down their lives for democracy and freedom today. Those young combatants who sacrificed their lives for our liberation include Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, who was at a tender age executed by the apartheid regime.

As we mark 30 years since the apartheid hangman ended his youthful life, we shall remember the prophetic statement he made to his family:

“Mama, tell people I love them and they must continue to struggle, my blood will nourish the trees of liberty and freedom” Indeed, some of this generation lives amongst us today and they resemble the battle-cry of freedom in our lifetime which the 1944 generation of Sisulu and Mandela committed itself to. The youth of this generation have demonstrated against all odds their commitment to deepen democracy and defend the revolution.

# YOUTH DAY

## Celebrating the voice of the youth

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April 22 saw millions of ordinary South Africans from the length and breadth of our country casting their votes.

There are two interesting elements of this process. Firstly the majority of our people overwhelmingly showed the confidence in the African National Congress as a carrier of their hopes and aspirations. Secondly, these elections became a celebration of a youth voice as multitudes of young people made their mark in the polls and recorded an unprecedented youth voter turnout in the history of the South African democracy.

These young people voted in large numbers because they have witnessed in the last 15 years concrete improvement in the quality of their lives, through progressive legislations such as the National Youth Development Agency Act of 2008.

The Act ushered in a new cohesive Youth Development Agency, whose key interventions include creating decent work and sustainable livelihoods; ensuring greater access to basic and higher education through free and compulsory education; ensuring healthy, positive lifestyle among our youth and constant education on the HIV and Aids pandemic.

As we celebrate youth during this month of June, we express our support for the clarion call by the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa, for a roll-out of the National Youth movement against crime and corruption. This programme will bolster the continued effort for moral renewal and the RDP of the soul.

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■ *Mataboge is ANC MP and Member of the ANCYL National Executive Committee*

# Strengthening our Parliamentary work

**A**NC Members of Parliament deployed in both Houses of Parliament, the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), met on Thursday (11 June) for an ordinary meeting of the national Caucus to reflect on the work of its cadres and to plan for the week ahead.

The meeting received and deliberated on various reports relating to; amongst others, the work of the ANC Study Groups, the debate on the President's State of the Nation Address, the deployment of ANC MPs to various Parliamentary Constituency Offices across the country and the appointment of MPs to the positions of Parliamentary Whips in the NA. The meeting noted the high level and quality team put together by the organisation to participate in the National Assembly's debate on the State of the Nation Address.

Caucus expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness of all its MPs who participated in the debate.

Members of Parliament have a collective responsibility to the people of South Africa to ensure that the commitments made by the President in his State of the Nation Address are fully implemented.

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On the work of Study Groups, the meeting noted that the initial meetings of committees have taken place, to design and discuss the political approach of

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the ANC in all parliamentary structures.

Study Groups are the organisation's political structures in Parliament and their input seeks to add value and strengthen the work of the committees of Parliament. The meeting reflected on the process of deploying MPs to various Parliamentary Constituency Offices, also known as PCOs.

It emphasised the importance of speeding up the conclusion of this process to ensure that the first constituency work period of this new term of Parliament, scheduled for July, is not adversely affected.

Caucus has committed itself to finalise the deployment to PCOs of all its 299 MPs in both Houses by the end of June 2009.

The meeting received a briefing from the Secretary General of the ANC Youth League, Vuyiswa Tulelo, on the League's activities and plans throughout the month of June, which is traditionally known as Youth Month.

The Secretary General's input to Caucus came a day after the National Assembly held a Youth Day commemoration debate,

themed: Celebrating a Vibrant Youth Voice.

The interest of the youth of this country and the daily challenges they face, particularly in the current socioeconomic environment, are issues that must strongly feature on the agenda of the Caucus and Parliament.

Caucus was briefed by the Chief Whip on the state of the Caucus, including the appointments of a number of MPs to the positions of Parliamentary Whips.

The appointments follow our announcement recently of Chairpersons of Committees and are part of a process of capacitating the Fourth Parliament to fully dispense its functions.

Parliamentary Whips are responsible for the political management of the organisation within the institution.

They are custodians of party discipline and form part of the Whippers, a structure headed by the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

The work of Whips for this current term of Parliament is crucial to our endeavour to realise that which we have committed ourselves to: an activist Parliament that is uncompromising in the execution of its constitutional mandate and that regularly accounts to the people of South Africa.

The meeting wished these appointees well and assured them of their full support in the execution of their duties.

# Our new political managers in the NA

ANC Parliamentary Caucus has announced a new team of Whips to various committees in the National Assembly (NA). The list will be forwarded to Parliament for formal appointment.

**JABU ELSIE SOSIBO** (KZN): Whip for the Standing Committee on Auditor-General; the Portfolio Committee on Constitutional Review; the Portfolio Committee on Private Members' Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions  
**WINNIE NGWENYA** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services  
**NTOMBIKAYISE TWALA** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
**MUNTU DOREEN NXUMALO** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Arts & Culture  
**MMAMOLOKO TRYPHOSA KUBAYI** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education; the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education & Training  
**STELLA TEMBISA NDABENI** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Defence & Military Veterans  
**LINDA NELLIE MOSS** (Western Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Energy; the Portfolio Committee on Mining  
**NTOMBIKAYISE SIBHIDLA** (KZN): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Finance  
**GREGORY DAVID SCHNEEMANN** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Police  
**KGOMOTSO RUTH MAGAU** (Free State): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Co-operations

**PAMELA TSHWETE** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Health. Also responsible for Leave and Discipline.  
**DOROTHY RAMODIBE** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committees on Public Enterprises; the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities  
**MANDLENKOSI MBILI** (KZN): Whip for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
**DUMA NDLELENI** (North West): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Public Works  
**HELEN FLORA MATLANYANE** (Limpopo): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform  
**NKOSINATHI BENSON FIHLA** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on State Security  
**XOLISWA CAROLINE MAKASI** (Western Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Tourism  
**NTHABISENG PAULINE KHUNOU** (Free State): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Transport. She is also responsible for House discipline.  
**PIET MOHLAMME MATHEBE** (Limpopo): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs  
**RICHARD MZAMENI MDAKANE** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committees on Human

Settlements; the Portfolio Committee on Labour  
**MARY-ANN LINDELWA DUNJWA** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Science & Technology  
**SIKHUMBUZO ERIC KHOLWANE** (Mpumalanga): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Communications  
**MONDLI GUNGUBELE** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development  
**JEROME JOSEPH MAAKE** (Limpopo): Whip for the Joint Budget Committee on Appropriation  
**CEDRIC THOMAS FROLICK** (Eastern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Sport and Recreation. He is also responsible for Programming.  
**MAGGIE MARGARET MAUNYE** (Gauteng): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs  
**ZWELIFILE CHRISTOPHER NTULI (KZN)**: Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development; the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry  
**DUMISILE GOODNESS Nhlengethwa** (Mpumalanga): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
**EBRAHIM MOHAMMED SULLIMAN** (Northern Cape): Whip for the Portfolio Committee on Public Service & Administration

## Mandela Day

**O**n 18 July – the first President of the democratic South Africa, Nelson Mandela will turn 91. His values and his example of dedication to the service of humanity are shining to people all over the world. An international campaign has been initiated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and related organisations, called Mandela Day.

It will be celebrated on the 18th of July each year and it will afford the people of South African and all over the world the opportunity to do something good to help others. ANC Members of Parliament have committed themselves in response to a call to South Africans by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address, that on the 18th of July we

should commemorate Mandela Day through community work programmes organised and executed through our constituency offices. The Office of the Chief Whip has requested one of its MPs, Buti Manamela, to put together a team that will include provincial representatives to design a plan how this will be executed.