



ANCYL **27**<sup>TH</sup>  
**NATIONAL**  
**CONGRESS**

**ANC YOUTH**  
**LEAGUE NATIONAL**  
**CONGRESS**  
**DECLARATION**

The President, Thlologelo Malatji  
The Deputy President of the ANCYL Cde Francisco,  
The Officials of the ANCYL  
The leadership of the ANCYL from national to branches,  
Different Generations of ANCYL Leaders  
The leadership of the African National Congress represented by NEC Members, PEC members and RECs that are here with us,  
International Guests and our Young Women of Africa  
The leadership of the leagues of the ANC  
The PYA and the alliance  
All delegates and branches of the ANCYL to the 27th National Congress,  
The entire membership and supporters of the ANCYL at home  
Young people of South Africa and Africa,

## Introduction

1. The 27th National Congress of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) convened at the University of Limpopo, gathering over 3,000 delegates from the ANCYL and its partner organizations from across the region and continent. Our presence here signifies our unwavering commitment to intensifying our Renewal Mission and driving the fundamental processes of economic transformation and social change.
2. We, the delegates, emerge from this Congress as the resolute champions of economic transformation and social change for our people, united under the theme: “Economic Freedom and Social Change Now and Not Later.”

## The National Democratic Revolution (NDR) and Societal Contradictions

3. **Progress and the Imperative for Economic Liberation:** Our democratic government has made significant progress since 1994 in transforming our country. The end of national oppression was but the first stage of the declared revolution. More still needs to be done. Our liberation movement must intensify the struggle against class oppression, as economic liberation is the ultimate goal for advancing the National Democratic Revolution.
4. **The Freedom Charter as Blueprint:** The Freedom Charter remains our foundational blueprint for the transformation of the lives of our people. The Congress of the People crafted the Charter in 1955, and the ANC adopted it in 1956 at Bloemfontein precisely because it sought to address the deep-seated contradictions in our society: class contradiction, race contradiction, and gender contradiction.
5. **The Enduring Burden of Gender and Class Oppression:** We note with deep concern that black women still remain at the bottom of the value chain in society. When we analyze the intersecting contradictions of the NDR, race and class—we must bear in mind that women continue to pay the highest price for the development of this country. This is evident in:
  - **Unpaid Labour:** women endure unpaid labour, which acts as a huge subsidy to the capitalist system by taking care of those their men leave behind to take on labour-intensive work in urban cities.



- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** the core of gender-based violence germinates and emanates from the class oppression our mothers have been enduring since the 19th century with the discovery of capitalism.
  - **Concerns Regarding the ANC and Policy Direction:** The ANC Youth League expresses deep concern with the ANC's widening distance between the movement and society. The ANC, as the liberation movement, must not discard its principle of being the champion of the oppressed. While we acknowledge the intermediary interventions made by our movement, such as NSFAS, Social Grants, and the building of massive housing, a huge task remains ahead of us.
6. We urge the ANC to make strategic interventions ideologically and economically. We must acknowledge that our current social conformation, by its form and nature, is not working for our people, as they have not shown greater progress.
  7. We express deep concern over recent policy debates within the ANC that have neglected the crucial issue of macro-economic policy. This goes against the traditions of our Movement and fails to address the overwhelming expectations placed on the ANC as a revolutionary force.
  8. While the ANC National General Council (NGC) attempted to address some core challenges, this Congress is of the view that the NGC addressed most of the symptoms of our challenges but was blind to the core, structural challenges.
  9. **The Youth Crisis and the Need for Decisive Action:** No youth needs to be told about the desperate situation facing the youth. This crisis demands immediate action, characterized by: increasing prices, low wages, unemployment, cuts to services, crime, and gender-based violence. The ongoing wave of strikes shows the willingness of youth to fight long and bitter battles. The ANC must address these burning challenges which are making it irrelevant as a strategic force and charge of motive forces for our people. We therefore call for the classification of youth unemployment as a national disaster and an existential crisis for the future of South Africa.

## **The Critical Crossroads and the Path to Revival**

10. **The ANC's Existential Crisis:** The ANC Youth League, as a beacon of hope, stands duty-bound to mobilize and lead society towards a vision that dislodges the tenacious grip of the dominant class. We shall not waver in our pursuit of an alternative that offers a transformative paradigm and challenges the existing order. We call for an immediate shift in the discourse surrounding economic policy and the urgent implementation of strategies that promote economic freedom.
11. It is our duty to dismantle the barriers that hinder the economic empowerment of the majority, especially the youth. We endorse the sentiment of the ANC Secretary General that our organization faces an existential crisis. Our journey to revive our organization must be guided by the following non-negotiable choices:
  - We can either Renew or Perish.
  - We can Unite or Face Defeat.
  - We can Return to Serving the People or Betray the NDR.



12. **The 2024 Electoral Setback and the Crossroads:** The 27th National Congress acknowledges a critical turning point. The combined, toxic effect of corruption, internal political decay, and persistent inequality has led to severe consequences. The slow progress in reducing poverty and the worsening rates of inequality and unemployment directly resulted in the 2024 electoral setback. This situation has brought the National Democratic Revolution to crossroad.
13. **The 2024 Electoral Setback and the Crossroads:** The 27th National Congress acknowledges a critical turning point. The combined, toxic effect of corruption, internal political decay, and persistent inequality has led to severe consequences. The slow progress in reducing poverty and the worsening rates of inequality and unemployment directly resulted in the 2024 electoral setback. This situation has brought the National Democratic Revolution to a critical crossroads. These failures have not only disappointed voters but have also emboldened opposing forces, both within the country and internationally, that seek to undermine this progressive agenda.
14. **Bringing the NDR Back on Track.** The delegates of this Congress agree that we need to do the following to bring the NDR back on grid and position the ANC as the leader of society:
- **Tackling Corruption:** We must eliminate corruption because it weakens the government's ability to function effectively, damages its credibility with the people, and undermines its authority.
  - **Renewing Our Political Vision:** Our political organizations are facing internal decay. Problems like infighting, the pursuit of wealth over public service, and a growing disconnect from the communities they represent are leading to major failures in delivering basic services. This must be reversed to restore public trust and effectiveness.
15. The 27th National Congress declares that if we want to change our economy and society quickly and effectively, we must first fix this organization. We cannot rebuild the nation unless we also clean up ("purify") the organization. These two goals are tied together and will take place in four specific areas, which are:
- **Breaking the Chains of Monopoly Capital:** The 27th National Congress of the ANCYL observes with profound alarm the deepening crisis of South African society. The economy, still structurally colonial and apartheid in its core, is held captive by Monopoly Capital, which perpetuates the triple scourges of mass unemployment, crushing poverty, and the world's most obscene inequality. The current economic model has failed the youth, with unemployment rates soaring above 60% for young people, a ticking time bomb that threatens the very stability of our democracy. We declare that the time for incremental reform is over. The moment demands a decisive, radical shift towards the full realization of the Freedom Charter's vision.
  - **The De-Commodification of Land and the Restoration of the People's Birthright:** The land question remains the most potent symbol of colonial dispossession and the most critical obstacle to economic justice. The ANCYL reaffirms the constitutional obligation to ensure equitable access to land, but asserts that this must be achieved through a radical, non-negotiable programme of Expropriation Without Compensation (EWC).



## Resolutions on Land:

- **Immediate and Mass-Scale Expropriation:** The ANC-led government must immediately enact legislation for the mass-scale expropriation of all strategically located urban land held for speculative purposes, as well as all underutilized or mismanaged rural land held by absentee landlords and corporate interests. This land must be placed under the custodianship of the state for the benefit of the people.
- **Socialist Cities and Public Housing:** Expropriated urban land must be immediately released for the construction of high-density, integrated, and quality Social Housing. Rents in all state-owned social housing must be drastically reduced to a maximum of 10% of the tenant's income, effectively de-commodifying shelter for the working class.
- **State Land for Economic Inclusion:** All well-located state land parcels, particularly those near economic hubs, must be permanently reserved for mixed-income housing, with a strict mandate to prioritize precarious and low-wage workers. The sale of any state land must be halted and subjected to a national audit and public consultative process, with the ultimate goal of retaining public ownership.
- **Mandatory Inclusionary Housing:** City councils must impose rigorous and non-negotiable building requirements on all private developers, mandating that a minimum of 30% of all new residential units be allocated for cheap, inclusive, and social housing, with no financial compensation or opt-out clauses permitted.

5

16. **Social Ownership of the Commanding Heights:** Strategic Nationalisation for Industrialisation: The concentration of economic power in the hands of a few racialized monopolies is the primary driver of South Africa's structural crisis. To achieve genuine economic sovereignty and industrialization, the state must assert its control over strategic sectors.

## Resolutions on Strategic Nationalisation:

17. **Full Social Ownership of Strategic Minerals:** The ANC must move beyond mere export restrictions and demand the full nationalization of all strategic mineral resources (including Platinum Group Metals, Lithium, Rare Earths, and Iron Ore). These resources are the common heritage of all South Africans and must be used to fuel a state-led industrialization programme, not private profit.
18. **State Control of Capital and Finance:** The Congress resolves that the democratic government must establish a State Bank with a mandate to direct capital towards developmental and industrial projects, breaking the oligopolistic control of the private financial sector. Furthermore, we must explore the feasibility of nationalizing the South African Reserve Bank to ensure monetary policy is aligned with the developmental goals of the NDR.
19. **Breaking Monopoly Power:** The Competition Commission must be radically empowered with the legal and financial teeth to not only fine but to break up and nationalize key oligopolistic firms in sectors critical to the cost of living and industrial production (e.g., food processing, construction materials, and administered prices like energy and water).



20. **De-linking and Localisation:** The state must enforce a radical localization policy, targeting a 50% reduction in reliance on imports in key sectors over the next five years. This must be coupled with a comprehensive industrial plan focused on the battery storage, green hydrogen, and new energy vehicle sectors, with a strict requirement for 100% local assembly and manufacturing of components.
21. **Economic Sovereignty through Energy Security and Climate Justice:** The energy crisis is a direct attack on the working class and the economy, costing the nation billions and deepening unemployment. The ANCYL rejects the false dichotomy between development and environmental protection, asserting that true climate justice requires the developed world to pay for the transition.

## Resolutions on Energy and Climate:

22. **Baseload Crisis as a National Security Threat:** The government must treat the baseload crisis as a national security threat and urgently deploy a state-owned, diversified energy mix. This must include the immediate, full-scale deployment of Nuclear Energy as a clean, reliable baseload source to enable rapid re-industrialization.
23. **Localised Renewable Energy Production:** While embracing renewable energy, the state must ensure that the entire value chain, from manufacturing to assembly, is localized in South Africa. Any reliance on imported components for the energy transition is a continuation of economic colonialism and must be rejected.
24. **Exploitation of Natural Resources for the People:** The state must unashamedly continue the exploitation and exploration of South Africa's natural resources, including oil and gas, with all proceeds directed into a sovereign wealth fund dedicated to funding free education, healthcare, and industrialization.
25. **Education and Economic Inclusion:** The education system remains fractured, bearing the hallmarks of apartheid's separate and unequal development. Education must be conceptualized as a single, unified system geared towards producing a skilled, conscious, and productive citizenry capable of driving the NDR.

## Resolutions on Education and SMMEs:

26. **Unified Education System:** The ANC must revert to its historic position of conceptualizing the entire education system—from Early Childhood Development to Higher Education and Training—as a single, unified pipeline for national development. The administrative separation of departments must not dilute the conceptual clarity that education is a singular tool for liberation.
27. **Free Sanitary Dignity Packs for All:** To restore the dignity of the girl child and ensure uninterrupted learning, the state must provide free, high-quality sanitary dignity packs to every girl child and young woman in all basic education institutions, TVET colleges, and universities, without exception.
28. **Radical Support for Black and Youth-Owned SMMEs:** The state must establish a Fund of Funds administered by a state-owned development finance institution. This fund must be capitalized by a mandatory 2% levy on the net profit after tax of all measured entities, with the sole purpose of providing concessionary finance and technical support to Black-owned, Youth-owned, and Women-owned Small, Medium, and Micro-Enterprises (SMMEs) and co-operatives. This is a revolutionary measure to dismantle the monopolistic value chains and create millions of sustainable jobs.



## On International Relations

29. The 27th National Congress reaffirms the ANCYL's commitment to international solidarity and the struggle against imperialism and oppression globally.
- **Palestine:** We support the Palestinian people's fight for self-determination, freedom, and an end to the occupation. We condemn illegal Israeli settlements and the ongoing human rights violations.
  - **Transformation of Global Governance :** we call on South Africa's government to adopt the Global Governance Initiative which is the reform and modernize the current international framework as the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary. The current global governance through UN has underrepresentation of the Global South and the erosion of international law's authority.
  - **Transformation of the global systems:** The delegates call for and affirm sovereign equality and the rule of international law, rejecting double standards that sustain global power imbalances. They call for a rebalanced multilateral order in which the Global South exercises real influence and urge people-centred, collective action to close the structural divide between the Global North and South.
  - **China and Taiwan:** We support the call by the People's Republic of China in reclaiming and reunification of the of Taiwan under China.
  - **Venezuela:** We support the Venezuelan people's right to self-determination and call for peaceful dialogue to resolve their economic and internal challenges without foreign interference. The World must stand against Donald Trump's actions of want to start a war at Venezuela
  - **Western Sahara:** We support the people of Western Sahara in their struggle for self-determination and decolonization, and we condemn the occupation and human rights abuses.
  - **Eswatini:** We stand with the people of Eswatini, led by the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO), in their efforts to remove the current monarch, as peaceful methods have reportedly failed.

## 30. Conclusion: Economic Freedom Now

Noting the ongoing transformation of South African society and the shifting contours of the African industrial landscape, the 27th National Congress of the ANCYL reaffirms its uncompromising call for Economic Freedom Now. Africa's current integration into the global economy remains extractive and unequal, serving external interests at the expense of its people. To reverse this historical injustice, the Congress asserts the centrality of intra-African trade, decisive domestic industrialisation, and the strategic beneficiation of mineral resources as the basis for sustainable job creation and productive capacity.

The Congress further asserts that genuine economic emancipation from imperialist domination can only be achieved through a capable, democratic developmental state led by the ANC. This requires bold public investment in strategic infrastructure—reliable and affordable energy to drive industrialisation, inclusive digital infrastructure to democratise access to opportunity, and efficient logistics systems to support the movement of people and goods. The demand for economic freedom is therefore inseparable from the struggle to restore African dignity, reclaim sovereignty, and reposition the continent to engage the global economy on its own, just, and developmental terms.

**Matimba! Matla, Amandla**

