

South Africa that Belongs to All. 30 year of the Constitution and the National Dialogue

**NEC Lekgotla 24-25 January 2026
Presentation & Commission report**



**2026: YEAR OF DECISIVE ACTION
TO FIX LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY**



A united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist South Africa

- The 5th NGC stressed that national renewal and rejuvenation, must be anchored on **an effective Developmental Path for Growth and Social Equity**, to mobilise all our people and all our resources to build a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous future, for both current and future generations.
- This requires that we work tirelessly for **Nation-Building, Social Cohesion and Empowerment of the People** – to unify society behind the cause of transformation, that must be concretely manifested in a better life for all.

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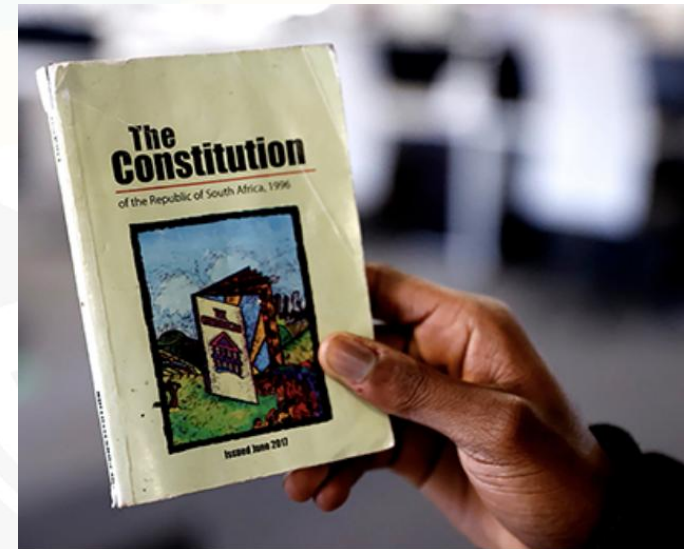
January 8 statement: Defend. Consolidate. Advance

- The liberation movement has consistently opposed the notion of South Africa as comprising a multiplicity of separate nations; of a number of distinct nationalities competing with each other. ANC policy regards our diversity as representative of different components of a single nation, whose unity will and can be realised through democracy.
- The ANC is committed to an inclusive and people-led National Dialogue that reflects the hopes, frustrations and aspirations of the South African people. The National Dialogue should produce a widely inclusive Social Compact with broad support to guide the country forward and inform future National Development Plans. The ANC has always placed dialogue at the centre of our struggle for liberation and nation-building. From the adoption of the Women's Charter and Freedom Charter, to the negotiations that brought an end to apartheid, it is through dialogue that we have overcome division and built consensus.
- Therefore, the ANC calls on its members, alliance partners, mass democratic formations and all South Africans to actively participate in this National Dialogue. It is through open, principled engagement that we will define a renewed national vision and construct a new social compact anchored in shared responsibility.
- Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Constitution provides an opportunity to defend, consolidate and advance the values and vision of the Constitution.

30 Years of Constitution: 5th NGC

The Constitution of the Republic is:

- A foundational document for the National Democratic Revolution.
- A source of legitimacy for democratic institutions.
- A guide for public service ethics, state transformation, and participatory democracy.
- A document committed to redress, whose values must be defended against conservative or anti-transformational narratives.
- A blueprint for rights, equality, governance, anti-racism, non-sexism and socio-economic transformation.



Yearlong Program to Celebrate 30 years of Constitution

- The NGC strongly endorsed the proposal for a programme of action by the ANC and government to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitution in 1996.
- This is an opportunity to deepen public understanding of the Constitution and renew commitment to democratic values. The programme must be aimed at the whole of society, especially young people. It must strengthen active citizenship and civic participation at a time when misinformation and corruption pose real threats to constitutional democracy.
- The celebration is also positioned as a way to showcase the Constitution as both an achievement of the liberation struggle and a living tool for ongoing transformation.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

RECOGNISE THE INJUSTICES OF OUR PAST,
HONOUR THOSE WHO SUFFERED FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM IN OUR LAND,
RESPECT THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED TO BUILD AND DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY
AND BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA BELONGS TO ALL WHO LIVE IN IT,
UNITED IN OUR DIVERSITY.

WE THEREFORE, THROUGH OUR FREELY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPT
THIS CONSTITUTION AS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE REPUBLIC SO AS TO:

HEAL THE DIVISIONS OF THE PAST
AND ESTABLISH A SOCIETY BASED ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES,
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A
DEMOCRATIC AND OPEN SOCIETY IN WHICH GOV-
ERNMENT IS BASED ON THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE
& EVERY CITIZEN IS EQUALLY PROTECTED BY LAW.

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
OF ALL CITIZENS & FREE THE POTENTIAL OF EACH PERSON &

BUILD A UNITED AND DEMOCRATIC
SOUTH AFRICA ABLE TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE
AS A SOVEREIGN STATE IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

MAY GOD PROTECT OUR PEOPLE. NKOSI SIKELEL' IAFRIKA. MORENA
BOLOKA SETJHABA SA HESO. GOD SEEN SUID-AFRIKA. GOD BLESS SOUTH
AFRICA MUDZIMU PHATUTSHEDZA AFURIKA. HOSI KATEKISA AFRIKA.

Yearlong Programme on Constitution @30: Activities

1. National constitutional education campaigns in schools, communities, and public institutions.
2. Civic engagement and volunteerism drives framed around “The People Shall Govern.”
3. Public events that encourage engagement with constitutional institutions and democratic processes.
4. Creative and cultural projects such as theatre productions, exhibitions, films, and a travelling constitutional museum.
5. National and sector-specific democracy summits.
6. Including the Constitution in the school curriculum.
7. Reciting the pre-amble to the Constitution in all schools, government institutions, Parliament and provincial legislatures, and at national events, as well as on the national broadcaster and other media.
8. Campaigns to counter disinformation, extremism, and threats to democratic norms.



THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE
OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE

5th NGC Declaration

The National General Council endorsed an inclusive and citizen-led National Dialogue.

Our participation in the National Dialogue should be guided by four core principles: transparency, inclusivity, objectivity and action orientation. The NGC document defines what we understand by each of these principles

We need to ensure that all sectors have a voice in shaping the dialogue, and that the National Dialogue produces measurable outcomes.

Since NGC, the Steering Committee set up, and poised to ensure that



CITIZEN-LED DIALOGUES IMPACT GUIDE

RADICAL CHANGES

PROPOSE RADICAL CHANGES

EXAMPLES

- Constitutional reforms
- Governance and electoral reforms
- Economic reforms
- Social reforms



RAPID RESPONSE

FAST-TRACK RAPID RESPONSE

EXAMPLES

- Service delivery
- Social relief and disasters
- Accountability and corruption



REBUILD THE HEAL

ACTIONS TO BUILD THE NATION

EXAMPLES

- Social compacting
- Civic Education
- Community-led civic action and projects



Bottom-up Citizen-based Dialogues



Citizen initiated dialogues: mainly by organised formations and sectors, will provide weekly online facilitators training and the National Dialogue App to register events and upload reports.

Ward-based dialogues: organised by the SC, 6000 facilitators to be trained, met with IEC on using some of their infrastructure, e.g. distribution of ND toolkits, drop point for reports, etc. Pilot in 15 districts this year, full roll-out from late Jan 2026

Schools and HE Institutions: Convenor requested to declare National Dialogue Day for school dialogue, partnership with DBE to train teachers and teachers assistants through online training platform.

National Dialogue Outcomes

- Involve broadest range of South Africans on the Dialogue
- Peoples compact that forms the basis of future National Development Plans
- Through ward-based dialogues, encourage community action plans and participation on concrete issues: safer communities, GBV, education, public health.
- Give voice to people and facilitate participation, healing and cooperation.
- Sectoral social compacts

THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE

15 - 16 AUGUST 2025

CDE PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

// The National Dialogue is a call to action. It is a call to South Africans to seize this moment for change and progress. It is a call to build a society in which there is a place for everyone, where the country's wealth is shared by all. A South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it. //

Commission on National Dialogue and Constitution @ 30 Report to Lekgotla Plenary On POA 2026



Preamble

1. Strategic Thrust for 2026

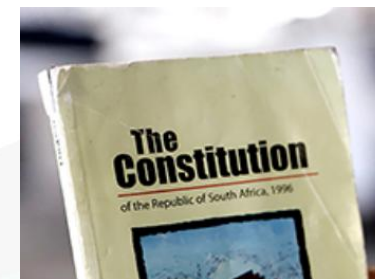
- a) The Commission recognised the centrality of the National Question to the attainment of the strategic objective of NDR: the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South African nation.
- b) The Commission noted the rising tendencies of identification with racial or ethnic groups as opposed to an inclusive South African national identity. This is manifested through, amongst others: voting patterns, the assertion of identity based politics, the formation of ethnic and regionally based parties, as well as calls for territorial secession.
- c) Feeding off, and actively encouraging, these tendencies is the project of domestic and international counter-revolution to maintain the status quo and frustrate fundamental socio-economic transformation by dividing our nation, the motive forces in particular, and to turn national minorities against the liberation movement.

- d) Both the National Dialogue as well as the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution provide us with the opportunity to address these matters. We must reassert the liberation movement's perspective of a nation united in diversity, as opposed to the position advanced by counter-revolutionary forces that South Africa comprises a multiplicity of separate nations, of distinct nationalities, competing with each other.
- e) In defending and advancing the perspective of the Freedom Charter that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it", the liberation movement must be both sensitive and robust. Sensitive to the legitimate demand of all South Africans for maintaining the rule of law, including the consistent application of immigration laws and the security of our borders and ports of entry. Robust in explaining the values of internationalism, Pan-Africanism and the correct content and interpretation of the assertion, both historic and current, that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it."
- f) The Commission also identified the related task of paying urgent and concerted attention to the manifestation of these tendencies in our organisational practice, as part of our renewal project. We must address both the membership and participation of white, coloured and Indian South Africans in the structures of the ANC as well as the presence and active participation of ANC structures in these communities, including the levels of electoral support that the ANC receives from them.

- f) The Commission deliberated on the mandate derived from the National General Council (NGC) and the January 8th Statement regarding the National Dialogue (ND) and the 30 years anniversary of the Constitution in the context of the upcoming local government elections and rising anti-transformation tendencies. The Commission discussed the trigger for the call for a National Dialogue and how the National Dialogue has evolved; and noted that the National Dialogue is a contested terrain in which we must engage in the battle of ideas, advance the NDR, rebuild trust and promote the principles enshrined in both the Freedom Charter and Constitution.
- g) The Constitution frames the key tasks of the NDR - building a South African nation united in our diversity, advancing social justice, economic inclusion and a better life for all, as well as the character and institutions of our democracy. These issues are key to the National Dialogue and our interventions on the National Question.
- h) The 30 years anniversary should reassert the Constitution as a living social contract, advancing socio-economic rights, equality, dignity, participatory democracy and development at all levels, leaving no one behind. This is a call to action for every member of the ANC to play their role to make South Africa into a country that truly belongs to all, united in our diversity.
- i) The Commission reaffirms the need for active ANC structures that champion community development and participation, service delivery, organisational credibility, and voter mobilisation, ensuring the ANC is understood by different sectors of society, appreciating our successes, performance challenges.
- j) The Commission further noted that the NGC endorsed an "inclusive and citizen-led" National Dialogue guided by four core principles: transparency, inclusivity, objectivity and action orientation. The Commission believes that the National Dialogue can help to rebuild trust and confront disunity in our nation.

- k) The NGC also proposed a year-long programme to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the Constitution. This is affirmed by the January 8th Statement, identification of the National Dialogue and 30 year anniversary as one of the six priority tasks for the year. It emphasizes that the movement's mission remains to unite the people and address historical divisions.
- l) The Commission noted concerns raised about the process and the legitimacy of the National Dialogue and Steering Committee, as well as the risks of the Dialogue being perceived as government led and not citizen led. The Commission encouraged the NEC and relevant Subcommittees to develop programmes where necessary and also to respond decisively to emerging contemporary issues. The Commission agreed on the necessity for dialogue and emphasized that the dialogue must be genuinely mass-based and citizen-led, bottom-up, allowing for ordinary South Africans to articulate "the South Africa they want and the South Africa they don't want".
- m) The ANC's role must be one of supporting progress through organising diverse sectors to contribute to the National Dialogue, ensuring inclusive participation, truth-telling, consensus-building, and shared responsibility and shared accountability.

2. Constitution @ 30 – Key Actions for 2026



Action/Activity	Structure	By	Output by the end of 2026
Preparing structures for the National Launch of the 30 Years Anniversary of the Constitution, yearlong programme.	Launched in all nine Provinces, same date and time	March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reaffirming democratic gains, public commitment to transformation and National unity on Constitutional Values ● Preparing ANC structures on the year long commemoration activities that will happen in all structures especially branches and regions
Constitutional review which highlights areas in the Constitution critical to advancing the NDR and defeating anti-transformation narratives. This should include a briefing document that has clear messaging on the value of the Constitution, informs our inputs into the National Dialogue, highlighting our successes and including proposals for a referendum on the Constitution.	Constitutional Committee, Alliance Secretariat	February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A progressive national led debate on the Constitution and how it advances inclusion, a better life, redress and social cohesion. ● Engagement on electoral system

Action/Activity	Structure	By	Output by the end of 2026
ANC engagement on the battle of ideas, in context of the Constitution on transformation, Pan Africanism and foreign policy, land reform, etc.	DCIP POLED	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counter anti transformation narratives and ANC positions explained in public engagements, members understand movement positions.
Establish focal points for both the 30 year Anniversary of the Constitution and the National Dialogue	National, Provincial, Branches	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of focal points to engage/ communicate with
Branch Dialogues and Branch Assemblies	ANC Branches	March - December 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew social compacts across society and strengthen participatory democracy
Constitutional Builders Youth Forums	Youth League and PYA Structures in Regions	June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased youth participation and inter - generational solidarity Confront misinformation and disinformation among young people Youth Voter education and registration

Action/Activity	Structure	By	Output by the end of 2026
<p>Civic Empowerment Assemblies to promote knowledge of the Constitution, national unity and patriotism by honouring national symbols such as the flag, singing the National Anthem and reciting the Preamble to the Constitution</p>	<p>Schools, institutions of higher learning, government institutions, Parliament, provincial legislatures, and at national events, national broadcaster and other media.</p>	<p>Immediate and Continuous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civic Education to encourage patriotism and love for the country and moral regeneration to advance the Constitution ● Deepen Constitutional literacy, rights and informed active citizenry among students and young people ● Deepen dialogue on issues of national interest in all spheres of society. ● Reflect on the 50th anniversary of the Soweto uprising and the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women’s march. Youth taking responsibility for the future.

Action/Activity	Structure	By	Output by the end of 2026
<p>Multimedia impactful campaigns, inclusive of national days</p> <p>Battle of Ideas on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immigration, Pan Africanism and Service Delivery ● National Question - The importance of building an inclusive and diverse ANC and society that reflects the demographics of South Africa 	<p>DCIP; ANC branches; Leagues; Alliance; Regions; Provinces</p>	<p>February - December 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Win the battle of ideas on key pillars of the NDR ● Sensitise principles of inclusivity in the Constitution including addressing tribalism, racism, sexism and other issues that promote disunity ● Contribute in building a united nation
<p>Incorporate the Constitution in political and civic education programs for our own ranks and society in general related to the challenges of the movement</p>	<p>OR Tambo School of Leadership; ANC branches; Alliance</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entrench the history, value, relevance and transformative intent of the Constitution ● Focused engagement on our challenges ● Battle of ideas ● National question

National Dialogue - Key Actions for 2026



THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE
OF SOUTH AFRICA

Action/Activity	Structure	By	Output by the end of 2026
Ward by Ward listening Campaigns and Service delivery Troubleshooting	Branches and Regions ANC Councillors ANC National Caucus and ANC Provincial Caucus	Immediate and based on time frame of National Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolve outstanding service delivery issues in wards and increase accountability and responsibility by ANC deployees Improved coherence between ANC decisions and government implementation, and reduced duplication and fragmentation of interventions. Increase synergy between spheres of government in advancing service delivery Reduced social tensions through early intervention and dialogue Increased trust in the ANC's leadership and governance capacity.

Action/Activity	Structure	By	National Dialogue Output by end of 2026
Mass mobilisation for Nation Dialogue participation	ANC branches; structures all levels; MDM structures	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the voices of progressive forces ● Ensure inclusivity and representation in the National Dialogue
Establish service delivery hotlines at national, provincial and local level	National, provincial and regions	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Address problems people experience is relation to service delivery ● Rebuild trust ● Escalate issues/ support rapid response
Sectoral Outreach and Multi Sectoral Dialogues ANC engagement with Alliance, Legacy Foundations, Civil Society, Pressure groups and Community Based Organisations	Sub Regions/Zones; Regional; Provincial and National	Immediate and based on time frame of National Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rebuild trust between the ANC, sectors, and communities through sustained engagement and delivery.

Action/Activity	Structure	By	National Dialogue Output by end of 2026
Extensive House Meetings	Branches	Immediate & based on National Dialogue time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace diversity and inclusion and strengthen the non-racial character of the ANC
Workshops on ANC talking points and messaging for National Dialogue	PMER, DCIP and Political Education	Immediate & based on National Dialogue time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create consensus of the issues and consolidate an approach to the messaging and how to engage on critical areas
The NEC and relevant subcommittees to develop programmes where necessary and also to respond decisively to emerging contemporary issues	NEC and its relevant subcommittees	Immediate & based on National Dialogue time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of issue-specific programmes responding to popular challenges (e.g. social cohesion, youth unemployment, service delivery crises, misinformation, climate change and shocks like flooding). Alignment between NEC subcommittees, Alliance partners, and ANC structures. This will assist faster translation of policy positions into implementable programmes, timely political and organisational responses to emerging national, provincial, and local issues and clear messaging and coordinated action.

Action/Activity	Structure	By	National Dialogue Output by end of 2026
Inter - Governmental Task Team	All spheres of Government	Immediate and based on time frame of National Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calling upon the Government to establish an Inter - governmental task team that will actively involve local government (Councillors and Mayors) and all three spheres of government into the work of the National Dialogue within the framework of the District Development Model.
Coordination in the Alliance to advance our positions	Alliance partners	Immediate and based on time frame of National Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance progressive vision in the National Dialogue Successfully challenge counter revolutionary stances

Key Indicators for Monitoring

- **Branch activist programs**, where each member of the branch is robustly engaged in community matters, rebuilding trust between the ANC and the people, responsive to service delivery issues, engaging sectors in Dialogue and does civic education
- **Widespread civic and political education**, catering to both the ANC and broader society
- **Research outputs** to support communication, mobilisation and public engagement processes
- **Sectoral engagements** with various stakeholders
- **Effective communication strategies** with measurable reach and impact
- **Rapid service delivery response** with clear and effective feedback loops with affected constituencies

Risk Matrix (1)

Risk	Mitigation	Responsible Structure
Lack of legitimacy in the National Dialogue and the process being perceived as a government and/or ANC-led process	<p>Ensure that the ANC guides and does not dominate the process.</p> <p>Support efforts to ensure the National Dialogue is people centred, bottom-up and citizen led</p> <p>Clear communication strategies must be developed in traditional and non traditional media, at all levels. Attention to be paid to combatting misinformation and disinformation</p>	<p>NEC, PEC</p> <p>SGO</p>
Lack of implementation of the National Dialogue outcomes	An implementation plan must be developed with a monitoring and evaluation framework. This should be accompanied by a risk mitigation framework	<p>NEC DCIP</p> <p>ANC Provincial and National Caucuses</p>
Unrealistic outcomes and expectation of the National Dialogue	Honest and clear messaging from the ANC about the capacity and constraints within the organisation and government	<p>NEC DCIP</p> <p>ANC Provincial and National Caucuses</p>

Risk Matrix (2)

Risk	Mitigation	Responsible Structure
Low attendance and participation of MDM structures to defend and advance our democratic gains	Strengthen mass mobilisation; listening campaigns, branch work, work within the Alliance	ANC branches MDM structures ANC Caucuses PMER, NEC DCIP
Resource constraints for mass mobilisation and sustained engagement initiatives		SGO, TGO
The National Dialogue dominated by counterrevolutionary forces	Strengthen preparations for the National Dialogue through research, political education; outlining ANC positions on contentious issues; sharpening the ideological posture of the ANC in defending the NDR	
Resistance due to public distrust of the ANC and service delivery issues	Fast-track ward based troubleshooting and local government accountability	ANC branches ANC Councillors ANC Caucuses

Consequence management

- The Commission endorsed a quarterly reporting timeline for all activities to track implementation, challenges, and the adoption of mitigation strategies across all programs. To this end, all responsible structures at all levels must account to their relevant and respective restructures accordingly.
- END//