



## **REPORT OF THE ALLIANCE SUMMIT**

**9-10 MAY 2008**  
**GALLAGHER ESTATE**

### **1. Introduction**

The African National Congress (ANC), the South African Communist Party (SACP), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), together with the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), met in a highly successful Alliance Summit at the Gallagher Estate, Midrand, from 09 - 10 May 2008.

After two days of open and constructive debate, delegates agreed that the Alliance, building on the new spirit of unity already displayed in a variety of joint activities over the past four months, is on course to play its historic role as the leader of South African society in achieving the goals of the National Democratic Revolution and building a better life for all.

#### **1.1 Opening Remarks by the President**

The opening address of the ANC President is attached as Annexure 1

#### **1.2 Input by the SACP General Secretary**

The input of the SACP General Secretary is attached as Annexure 2

#### **1.3 Input by the COSATU General Secretary**

COSATU General Secretary spoke from the COSATU CEC Political Paper analysing pre and post Polokwane ANC 52<sup>nd</sup> National Conference.

#### **1.4 Declaration of the Alliance Summit**

The Declaration of the Alliance Summit is attached as Annexure 3.

### **2. Summary of the decisions of the Alliance**

#### **2.1 Strengthening the coordinating structures of the Alliance**

It is agreed to reaffirm that we seek to strengthen the Alliance as ANC led strategic political center that will act together as a revolutionary formation to advance the

objectives of the revolution. The summit reaffirmed the Ekurhuleni I and II in relations to the structure and the frequency of the meetings of the Alliance. The Ekurhuleni I Alliance Summit decided that:

It was noted that there have been serious problems in the operation of the Alliance. It was agreed that the Alliance should not be reduced to crisis management mode, or to an electoral machine, and that it needs to proactively drive the transformation process. Managing intra-Alliance challenges can be greatly facilitated if there are effective and regular meetings of leading Alliance structures. Our previous agreement was that:

1. The Alliance secretariat should meet twice a month;
2. The extended secretariat plus Presidency should meet monthly;
3. The officials should meet every two months;
4. The Ten-a-Side should meet twice yearly; and
5. There should be one Alliance Summit annually.

This constitutes a framework within which we should endeavour to ensure consistency and regularity of Alliance meetings. We should also ensure that the Alliance co-ordinates effectively at all levels provincial, regional and local- and that we establish these structures where they don't exist.

## **2.2. Alliance Programme of Action**

### **2.2.1 Governance**

The summit reaffirmed the ANC-led Alliance as the strategic political centre. Steps need to be taken to strengthen the capacity of the ANC and the alliance to play this role. Therefore the alliance must engage actively and dynamically with its deployees in government, both with regard to the implementation of current programmes and preparations for the medium term. The summit noted with deep concern developments at the SABC, matters surrounding the NPA, the energy crisis, allegations around the arms deal and the crisis in Zimbabwe.

It is agreed that the Alliance should programatise its work so that systematically it could follow a particular programme for a fundamental transformation of our society. In this regard we agree the elements of the Alliance Programme shall be based on the following priorities: Building the capacity of the state to give meaning to the developmental state. Central to the agenda of the developmental state must be creation of decent work and eradication of poverty, rural and land reform programmes and in this regard we should resist the disposing of prime land.

Agree that the matter of employment of strategic staff in this period must be carefully managed so that an impression is not created that a hostile bureaucracy is being put in place to frustrate the ANC government under new leadership elected in Polokwane. At the same time government must move with speed to employ critical staff to fill vacancies that have been left vacant for so long.

### **2.2.2 Transitional measures towards a new administration**

The Summit committed itself to ensuring that, as we move towards elections next year, we will work to ensure that there is a stable and effective transition so that the ANC can continue to meet the objective of improving the quality of life of our people.

To ensure that this happens, mechanisms of consultation will be put in place between government, the ANC and the Alliance partners including with regard to key deployments.

### **2.2.3 Call for Pact and reconfiguration of the Alliance**

Following a discussion it was clear that the demands for Alliance Pact and for the reconfiguration of the Alliance were largely but not solely informed by the divisions and difficulties of the past period.

All formations of the Alliance agreed that we must develop a clear programme of action for the Alliance in every front of transformation. This will go a long way to addressing the essence of the calls for an Alliance Pact and or reconfiguration of the Alliance. This programme shall ensure a full implementation of the Ekurhuleni I and II decisions including the decisions of this Summit. The leadership will, based on assessment of progress on this front, reflect whether further debates are necessary.

### **2.2.4 Mass mobilisation**

The mobilisation of society so that our people take charge of their own destiny will be an important pillar of the political culture we seek to build. The Alliance as whole must play a critical role and will deliberately reverse the trends of only mobilising people for elections campaigns, which have led to demobilisation of our structures and society.

The Alliance will work together to ensure that the three campaigns prioritised by the ANC on health, education and crime enjoys mass support and participation. In addition to this the Alliance will work together to support campaigns of other Alliance components such as on jobs and poverty.

### **2.2.5 SABC Crisis**

The summit noted with concern developments at the SABC and the controversy surrounding the appointment of the Board. The current board is not sufficiently representative. The Alliance is committed to an SABC that is truly a public broadcaster and whose board is representative of the broad cross section of South African society. This matter requires the urgent attention of the Alliance, parliament and government.

We need to review the legislation so that government and parliament may exercise the right of recall in addition to its oversight role. The relevant government leaders must manage the crisis better. Both SACP and COSATU reiterated the call for the immediate resignation and or dismissal of the SABC Board.

### **2.2.6 Economy**

The Summit recognised that the respective national conferences of Alliance formations has narrowed the policy gaps, resulting in broad consensus on key priorities to be tackled. Due to the insufficient time and the importance of the matter it was agreed that to hold a top-level Alliance conference on economic policy.

The following issues were dealt with because they were regarded as being urgent:

#### **1) Creating Decent work**

The summit reaffirms the decision of the ANC National Conference in Polokwane that the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods should be the primary focus of economic policies.

It notes with concern the continuing high levels of unemployment as well as the vulnerable position of workers in trade-exposed sectors such as clothing and printing. It calls for urgent industrial and other policy intervention in vulnerable sectors to ensure that industries are placed on a sustainable growth path and that jobs are created and saved.

We call on government to develop a quick response capacity to address potential large scale job losses and to implement the measures set out in the Polokwane resolution on economic transformation. We commit to develop measures to address and combat increasing casualisation of work, so that we can achieve decent work for all.

## **2) Food prices**

The Alliance expressed its deep concern at the devastating impact of rising food prices on our people. Urgent action is required in this regard including strengthening legislation to criminalise collusive behaviour, including price fixing in the food sector. Urgent consideration should be given to:

- Removing VAT on a wider range of basic food,
- Revamping and increasing financial allocations to the school feeding schemes and
- Subsidies to cushion the effect of price rise on the poor.

Land and agrarian reform programmes must be radically speeded up, so that more land can be made available for food production to ensure food security. The sale of publicly owned land for speculative purposes and non-developmental use should stop.

The summit agreed to support the COSATU-led civil society action against high food prices and the rising cost of living on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

## **3) Electricity crises and the Energy Summit**

The summit was unanimous in rejecting Eskom's demand for a 53% tariff increase. It was agreed that the Energy Summit should examine all aspects of the energy policy and not just electricity tariffs.

It was also agreed that energy-intensive projects such as aluminium smelters should be reviewed, in line with the country's strategic needs. The alliance will take active part in the study to determine the costs and benefits to the country and at provincial level of these decisions.

The summit further expressed support for initiatives designed for the promotion of renewable energy generation as well as utilisation of available opportunities for co-generation. In this regard the alliance committed itself to intensify our campaign on the saving of energy.

## **4) Inflation targeting policy and resultant high interest rate regime**

The Summit took note of rising inflation driven largely by external factors. It noted that high and rising interest rates impact negatively on poor communities and on job creation.

The all Summit therefore calls for urgent national reflection on the appropriateness of inflation targeting as well as the ranges chosen as policy for South Africa given its developmental challenges.

#### **5) Privatisation of basic services**

The Summit calls for a moratorium on privatisation and outsourcing and the review of current outsourced public sector utilities.

#### **6) Pension Funds**

The Summit expressed a concern of reports that some workers have been led to believe that the ANC government is in a process of introducing a legislation that would allow nationalisation of workers pensions funds. This has led to some workers withdrawing their pension funds or resigning from work in order to access their pensions/provident funds.

The Alliance would work closely with the government to send out a clear message that there is no such intention. To the contrary the government will work with labour and employers on creation of a comprehensive social security system that would include restructuring of the retirement funds to introduce compulsory membership to the retirement fund. This is not by any means mean nationalisation of the workers pension or provident funds.

#### **7) Budgeting**

Parliament must introduce and pass legislation, as required by the constitution, enabling it to amend money bills. The budgeting process across the spheres of government, including special appropriations, should take into account urgent social needs and other priorities. Provision should be made for special appropriations to address urgent national needs.

#### **8) Public Administration Management Bill (also called the Single Public Service Bill)**

The Alliance supports the principle of a single public service. The summit however urged that the process to finalise legislation in this regard should be handled in a manner that would allow for sufficient time for inputs from the public. Accordingly the Alliance called for the withdrawal of the Public Administration Management Bill or the so-called Single Public Service Bill to allow adequate consultation between the Department of Public Administration and COSATU. The Bill was taken to Parliament without any engagement with the relevant unions or the Federations.

#### **2.2.7 Managing Deployment of cadres**

The Alliance agreed that it is necessary that the Alliance as a whole should work together on the important matter of deployment of cadres to various spheres of government and other areas of transformation. In future the deployment committees created should allow participation of the Alliance components to enhance consultation and participation.

### **2.2.8 The political meaning of the Polokwane**

The Alliance would continue to engage at the leadership level as well with the membership as a whole to ensure that there is a common political understanding and appreciation of the political meaning of the ANC 52<sup>nd</sup> national conference.

The debate should latch on the ANC President political report to the ANC held on the 14 March 2008. Essentially this was a call for the NEC to initiate a period of renewal of the values, character and organisational practices of the movement. The state of the movement as a whole necessitates this renewal and mass discussion. Failure to do so would not fully appreciate the damage that has been caused on our movement by the past period of divisions as well as the new traditions of selfishness, accumulation and patronage.

### **2.2.9 Preparation for 2009 Elections**

The Alliance committed itself to work hard to substantially increase the ANC majority at national and provincial levels. The Alliance is conscious that doing so will require doubling of efforts. In essence the elections have started and already the alliance is working together in committees to prepare for the full launch of the campaign.

It was agreed that the Alliance would work together to formulate policy, and monitor its implementation through joint ANC/Alliance policy committees and other mechanisms. This will include the drafting of the ANC Election Manifesto for the 2009 elections and matters pertaining to deployment. These kinds of interactions will become a permanent feature of Alliance processes in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies. In this regard the meeting recommitted itself to the implementation of decisions of the Ekurhuleni I and II summits.

It was also agreed that this culture of collective work would be replicated at Provincial and Regional levels and in this regard capacity needs to be developed to achieve this objective.

### **2.2.10 Social mobilisation and social inclusion**

Mass mobilisation of the Alliance, the democratic movement and the society as a whole has become a key priority following years of demobilisation of Alliance and the structures of the mass formations.

As part of the conscious effort to reconnect with the mass formations the Alliance will together convene a conference with these formations to evaluate how we have worked together since the democratic breakthrough. This conference must be held to coincide with the anniversary of the launch of the United Democratic Front.

### **2.2.11 Directorate of Special Operations**

The summit welcomed progress that has been made to finalise legislation on the incorporation of the Scorpions into SAPS, in a manner that would strengthen our fight against organised crime, as part of the overhaul of the criminal justice system that is now underway. It is necessary in this regard to exercise maximum vigilance and ensure that the weaknesses that existed in the DSO are not reproduced in the new institution.

The summit agreed with the process underway to review Directorate on Special Operations. In this regard the Alliance and the rest of the democratic movement

must ensure that they make submissions in support of the decision to integrate the DSO to the police. SACP and COSATU called for action to be taken against the people who commissioned and compiled the special browse mole report.

### **2.2.12 Support for the ANC President**

The Summit reaffirmed its support for the President of the ANC. We will not only be accompanying him to court but to the Union Buildings as the next President of South Africa. The Alliance calls on the members to debate how our organisations should defend the ANC President in the face of the continued onslaught on his rights and his person.

### **2.2.13 Zimbabwe Elections**

The summit notes the outcome of the Zimbabwean elections and expressed grave concern at the worsening situation in that country, including the arrest of the President and Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions. Our approach on this matter is informed by our commitment to the principles of democracy and human rights. We call for an end to all violence and harassment of the civilian population. We urge the leadership and the people of Zimbabwe assisted by SADC to work together to find a lasting solution to this crisis.

We reiterate our call for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe. If there is to be a run off, we call for a strong presence of international observers to ensure that the elections are peaceful. As an alliance we will mobilise solidarity for the Zimbabwean people in our country and the region.

### **2.2.14 Attending to hot spots**

The summit directed the Alliance leadership to urgently attend to all hot spots like cross-border problems, crisis in the Eastern Cape in general and Nelson Mandela Metro in particular.

The Alliance will send a single delegation to familiarise ourselves with the details of the problems at hand. A clear message should be sent out that the divisions belong to the past and not the present. Practises such as victimisation and political purges that are alleged to be behind the upheavals in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere must come to an immediate end where they are happening.

## **3. Way Forward**

The Alliance National Office Bearers or Officials must meet within two weeks to look at how each of the areas of disagreement could be taken forward. In addition, the Alliance will develop a programme of action and deploy all the national leaders of the Alliance to provinces and all structures to report on the decisions of the Alliance Summit. The national leadership of the Alliance would work to ensure that the work done at the national level is replicated at the provincial and local/branch levels.

## **4. Conclusion**

The Alliance has entered a new era of unity and commitment to the struggle to transform the lives of all our people. We call on all South Africans to join us as we march forward, confident that the will and determination of the people will secure victor