

Press release

Dated: Monday 16 October 2017

Subject: The ANC Veterans League Conference

RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE, 17th, 18th 19th NOVEMBER

Dear Member of the Media

Introduction

This press release has been prepared by the ANC stalwarts and veterans (the stalwarts) who are signatories to the document "For the Sake of our Future" (<https://www.facebook.com/notes/anc-stalwarts-and-veterans/founding-document-for-the-sake-of-our-future-25th-october-2016/1234274736640332/>).

The stalwarts include all of the remaining members of those imprisoned after the Rivonia Treason Trial.

The late Comrade Kathrada was the first signatory of the document and we remain honoured by the continued presence and support of Comrades Denis Goldberg and Andrew Mlangeni.

As stalwarts, we have been and remain loyal members of the ANC for many decades. Our objective is to continue to serve all the people of South Africa and ensure the historical values and principles of the ANC are restored. As stalwarts, we feel a profound responsibility to the movement and the country, to ensure that the principles and values of the ANC are not destroyed.

We believe that the overwhelming majority of our citizens embrace the values of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of our country.

We would like to believe that we speak on behalf of all members of the ANC who reject state capture and any form of corruption; want to see the realization of our potential as a nation and who are committed to the elimination of poverty and the unacceptably high levels of inequality.

The Veterans League Conference.

As stalwarts, from the time discussions started with our ANC leadership we have been motivating for the Veterans League Conference to take place and that the VL elective conference was long overdue – the last conference, which was also the inaugural conference was in 2009. The VL conference finally took place on the 13th, 14th and 15th of October 2017. We welcome its successful conclusion.

The Veterans League has the potential to play an important role in the future of the ANC. The members of the Veterans League have the moral and historical memory to

act as principled unifiers. The Veterans League can stand above the narrow factional interests that are prevalent in the ANC today and support all initiatives that can rebuild our once proud movement. We must work together, reclaiming our history, for the sake of our future.

It is pleasing to note that the Veterans League Conference resolved to support the National Consultative Conference on the ANC that will take place on the 17th, 18th and 19th of November at Constitution Hill.

We look forward to the Veterans League's participation and critical input at the National Consultative Conference on the ANC. There is a ground swell of support for this conference. We have the opportunity to confront and collectively work to eradicate state capture, corruption and self-interest, that will always be at the expense of the majority of our citizens and benefit only the few. We also have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the type of leadership that should emerge at the elective conference of the ANC in December.

As stalwarts and Veterans of the ANC we are reminded of the words of the ANC NEC in the 8th January statement, dedicated in 2017 to Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo. It is time to turn those words into constructive action and we believe the National Consultative Conference on the ANC will be one bold step in the right direction.

“Comrade OR united the Movement by listening and engaging with the concerns of comrades, by staying true to the core values of the ANC and through displaying great integrity and discipline in serving his people”.

The National Consultative Conference can also show that the overwhelming majority of past and present members of the ANC remain committed to the values, practices and the highest ethical standards which were recognised internationally as such and characterised our development as a political party.

END

Dear Members of the Media

As always, we would like to thank you for the critical role you play in honestly attempting to ensure that the high standards of ethical journalism and accurate reporting are maintained about our Country and helping to ensure our communities can make informed decisions that affect their future.

We realise that you may not be necessarily based in Johannesburg and we will try and facilitate interviews with you, if so required.

For media enquiries and interviews please do not hesitate to contact:

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The Email address is: sakeofourfuture@gmail.com

The Facebook page is: "<https://www.facebook.com/ANCstalwartsandveterans/>."

It should be noted this is an open Facebook page and posts do not necessarily reflect the collective positions of the signatories to the document "For the Sake of our Future".

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