

MK VETERANS NATIONAL COUNCIL
PRESS STATEMENT

15 December 2017
Luthuli House

Precisely a year ago, on the 17th December 2016, we rendezvoused as former members of Umkhonto weSizwe, its commanders and commissars in response to the intensifying ominous challenges within our movement. It was our believe, and it is still our conviction, that together with the broad membership of the ANC today, we have the responsibility to preserve the ANC by ensuring that it remains a healthy and vibrant instrument for future generations to utilize in the struggle for the further development of our country.

Over the past twelve months we have worked hard to give true meaning to the legacy of Umkhonto weSizwe in the challenges facing our organization, our people, and our country.

We continue to draw courage from the enthusiasm and the spirit of self-sacrifice former members of Umkhonto weSizwe have demonstrated towards this initiative.

Events of the recent months and weeks, in the governance of our country, and those pertaining preparations for our National Conference which commences tomorrow, continue to absolve us that the ANC would be better served by convening a Special Conference to address these challenges. However, as disciplined members of the organization we have considered it appropriate to respect the majority view that the ANC Conference be proceeded with, regardless of the enormous imperfections and deviations which may harm the success of Conference or which conference may not succeed to resolve.

Under the circumstances, we have prepared ourselves to constructively optimize the opportunities Conference accords us to advance the desire to restore and preserve the institution, the ANC.

To the branch delegates of the ANC our message is, let's all appreciate the enormity and sensitivity of the moment upon us in our organization's history. Let us ALL single- mindedly take the responsibility to ensure that:-

Conference prosecutes its business successfully to the end.

The deep polarization of members in preparation for this conference is managed responsibly. The new leadership we elect must assists to keep the organization together.

The new leadership we elect outrightly communicates our resolve to regain the moral rectitude of the ANC.

Our policies enable us objectively and effectively to free the poor.

Our resolutions further deepen our democracy.

Most importantly, that at the end , the ANC is returned to its members and our people broadly.

We go into this conference conscious of the mammoth task at hand to prepare the organization for the coming general elections in 2019. We have on our hands an athlete that is sick and unfit for the race he must compete in. Time is of the essence.

We, as former members of Umkhonto weSizwe throughout our struggle, we have always appreciated that the masses of our people are a vital source of the invincibility of our struggle. We will do everything we can to ensure that we strengthen the symbiotic historical relationship the ANC must have with our people through this conference and beyond.

END

ISSUED BY MKMVA NATIONAL COUNCIL