

# ANC

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<b>Founded:</b>	1912
<b>Leader:</b>	Cyril Ramaphosa
<b>Political position:</b>	Centre left to left-wing
<b>Ideology:</b>	African nationalist social democracy

## *History*

At 112-years-old, the African National Congress (ANC) is Africa's oldest political party. The ANC was formed 36 years before Apartheid and one year before the infamous Native Land Act that stripped all black people of the right to own land. It has a long and proud history fighting for the emancipation of black people and led the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa. The ANC has governed South Africa by a comfortable majority since 1994.

The party's constitution commits to creating a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic society that uplifts the quality of life of all South Africans, especially the poor (7). As the only political party to have governed South Africa nationally in the democratic era, the ANC has the benefit (and perhaps curse) of a lengthy track record voters can reference.

The ANC-led government built 3,2 million free houses for the poor between 1994 and 2019 (8). South Africa's literacy rate also improved from 71 per cent in 1991 (9) to 95 per cent in 2019 (10).

The ANC's time in government has, however, also seen increasing levels of corruption, mismanagement, and ineptitude in the state. An unfortunate feature throughout the Mandela, Mbeki, Zuma, and now Ramaphosa administrations. Transparency International ranks South Africa 72nd out of 180 countries surveyed globally with a score of 43 (11). Although laws have been passed and many state promises made to decisively deal with corruption and stealing of state resources,

it continues to devastate the ability of the government to deliver services and grow the economy. While often inefficient and sometimes incompetent, senior members of the ANC continue in their positions in the face of corruption allegations and lack of delivery. The State Capture Commission bears testament to this, and Eskom is a practical example of what happens when the need to make money off a state asset overrides the need to provide public services. Africa's oldest liberation movement's governance record is also one of competent planning, however, poor execution with the stalled National Development Plan is a prime example of a lack of delivery on government promises.

As a result, voters may be growing tired of the party that has governed South Africa since the arrival of freedom in 1994, and bring the ANC to below 50 per cent of support in the polls for the first time in 30 years.

## *Electoral record (12)*

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- 1994: 62.65%
- 1999: 66.35%
- 2004: 69.69%
- 2009: 65.90%
- 2014: 62.15%
- 2019: 57.50%

## *Positions*

(Sources: <https://www.anc1912.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ANC-National-Elections-Manifesto-2019.pdf>; <https://www.anc1912.org.za/anc-55th-conference-resolutions/>)

## Economic growth and job creation

The ANC's economic policy focuses inclusively on economic growth to address unemployment, poverty, and inequality. The party wants to do this by tackling monopolies and opening the economy up to participation by more small and medium enterprises. The ANC also wants to pursue localisation by directing governmental departments and state-owned enterprise procurement to support local companies—including township and village enterprises—and encourage private sector procurement to do the same. As part of this localisation policy, the party intends to direct the South African Revenue Service to focus their efforts on combating illegal imports and product dumping.

The party has touted a Sovereign Wealth Fund to invest in strategic sectors of the economy as well as an Infrastructure Fund to finance key economic and social infrastructure projects. The ANC advocates for broad-based ownership of the economy, emphasising a mixed economy with public, private, and social ownership. They propose legislation for employee ownership schemes, aiming to share profits and empower workers. The plan includes public assistance for employees to buy businesses from retiring owners and promotes compliance with ownership diversity through a revised broad-based black economic empowerment programme.

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## Safety and security

The ANC proposes repurposing the national Department of Defence for peace support in Africa, border protection, and police assistance. To enhance law enforcement, the party advocates for thorough training, resource strengthening, joint planning, and increased police visibility. The plan includes empowering Community Policing Forums, running national campaigns for rule of law respect, and enforcing legislation on tavern and liquor retailer locations. The ANC calls for strict measures against undocumented immigrants involved in criminal activities and

emphasises community awareness. They aim to address undocumented immigration's impact on national security by ensuring legal entry and monitoring individuals' activities during their stay.

## Foreign affairs

The ANC's global perspective aligns with the principles of the Freedom Charter, emphasising respect for national sovereignty and a commitment to peace. The party advocates for a developed, decolonised Africa, fostering regional integration, supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area, and advancing Agenda 2063. They aim to enhance cross-border infrastructure, tourism, and manufacturing, contributing to peace and stability in the South African Development Community (SADC) and other regions. Dedicated to increase developing countries' voices, South Africa pledges to address climate change and promote global peace during its tenure in the United Nations Security Council.

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## Energy security

The ANC advocates for a balanced energy mix, recognising abundant coal reserves while supporting renewables for cost reduction, emissions cuts, and job creation. Proposals include Eskom's shift to renewable energy, public ownership encouragement, and mandating renewable energy in new developments, especially in informal settlements. The party promotes investment in offshore oil and gas for growth and supports renewable sector demand to aid rural development, localisation, research, small enterprises, and co-operatives. The ANC aims for an inclusive and sustainable energy strategy combining fossil fuels and renewables to meet South Africa's diverse needs.

## Education

The ANC proposes a comprehensive education strategy across early childhood development (ECD) as well as basic and tertiary education. The party proposes two years of compulsory ECD placing the responsibility for its roll out with the Department of Basic Education.

At primary and high school level, the ANC wants to ensure quality teaching and learning by enhancing existing educators' skills, ensure the appointment of qualified teachers, and enforce performance accountability through legislative amendments. The party wants to upgrade and maintain all school infrastructure as well as align the curriculum for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while promoting the study of history.

In post-school education, the ANC strives to provide free higher education for financially needy students and provide for funding for TVET and Community Colleges. The party will pursue industry partnerships for work experience and private sector collaboration for skill development.

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## Mineral resources

The ANC advocates responsible mining, prioritising equitable wealth distribution and environmental preservation. It wants the mining charter—which like BEE, aims for inclusive transformation in the industry—to be better implemented to ensure broader state, community, and employee ownership. The party also supports exploration of offshore oil and gas and plans to implement an export tax for scrap metals to boost local usage and create jobs. It also wants the state mining company strengthened to play a bigger role in the industry.

## Youth development

The ANC wants to implement skills development programmes for unemployed and low-skilled youth which will include a mass apprenticeship programme. The party aims to implement a dedicated education and training initiative on renewable energy for young people and scale up skills development in emerging technologies, like data analytics, information technology, blockchain, and machine learning. The ANC wants more youth internships in both the public and private sectors and wants the removal of work experience as a requirement for young people seeking employment opportunities.

## Housing

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The ANC proposes close collaboration with the private sector for major development projects, integrating economic nodes, human settlements, smart technologies, and public transportation, aiming to build a new city. They aim to transform the property market, promoting access to affordable housing, reversing urban fragmentation, and releasing state land for self-owned homes. The plan involves restructuring the property industry, establishing a Property Sector Ombudsman, and aligning housing provision with public investments. Measures include addressing title deed backlogs, developing principles for spatial development, and revising regulations and incentives for housing and land use management to create a more coherent and inclusive approach to land development.

## The environment and climate change

The ANC advocates for sustainable water resource use, emphasising smart agriculture to combat climate change. The party has committed to the global climate responsibilities under the Paris Agreement. The party aims for a sustainable agriculture strategy, diversifying production for

food security, and supporting the local recycling industry. Additionally, the ANC proposes an economic framework that pursues social and solidarity goals, focusing on societal and environmental needs over profit. Prioritising co-operatives, community-based enterprises, trade union enterprises, informal enterprises, and non-profit organisations seeking to mitigate against the effects of climate change.

## Tourism

The ANC aims to enhance the tourism sector's job creation by adopting a comprehensive government approach, including measures like reducing visa requirements and ensuring tourist security. The party plans to increase support for cultural tourism and identify iconic sites for expansion, catering to both domestic and international tourists.

## Immigration and xenophobia

The ANC acknowledges uncontrolled immigration and xenophobia as one of South Africa's biggest challenges. However, it imagines a country that is integrally and enthusiastically part of the great African continent, as comfortable with immigrants from other countries as we are made to feel when we visit their countries to trade, to invest, to learn, to work, and to settle.

The ANC wants to build a united and democratic South Africa free from all forms of xenophobia and hate crimes against foreign nationals by doing the following:

- Work with other countries to ensure that there are incentives created for immigrants to stay in the borders of their own country.
- Ensure that our policies of regional integration and cooperation includes resolution of immigration matters, especially undocumented immigration.

## LGBTIQA+ rights

The ANC supports LGBTIQA+ rights, advocating legal protection and awareness campaigns while respecting cultural and religious values. The party aims to finalise legislation currently before parliament, preventing hate crimes based on various factors, including sexual orientation, and prosecute offenders. The party envisions a united South Africa free from sexism, homophobia, and hate crimes against the LGBTIQA+ community, emphasising community engagement for this inclusive goal.

## South Africa's twelve official languages

The ANC advocates for linguistic diversity in South Africa and for multilingual resources in the country's public services. The party wants to implement indigenous language programmes in schools including finalisation of language legislation in provinces for inclusion in the school curriculum.

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## Artificial intelligence

The ANC does not have an official policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI); however, the party acknowledges the critical juncture in the Digital Revolution globally and emphasises the need for a national innovation programme to harness the talents of South Africans. The party's goal is for the country to become a hub for digital transformation in Africa, with benefits dispersed across society. The party also advocates for a legal framework supporting innovation, collaboration through a Presidential Digital Industrial Revolution Commission, increased spending on innovation, and youth skill development in emerging technologies. Efforts include reducing data costs, expanding government broadband, promoting localisation, supporting e-commerce for SMMEs, fostering digital entrepreneurship, and advancing government digitalisation.



## *Sources:*

- (7) ANC constitution - <https://www.anc1912.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ANC-Constitution-2017.pdf>
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- (9) Nelson Mandela foundation - <https://omalley.nelsonmandela.org/index.php/site/q/03lv02167/04lv02218/05lv02244/06lv02250.htm>
- (10) South Africa Literacy Rate 1980-2023 - <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/ZAF/south-africa/literacy-rate>
- (11) Corruption perceptions index, 2022 - <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022>
- (12) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>