

## Press Statement

### **Statement on the ANC's 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the January 8 Statement**

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC) wishes to congratulate the African National Congress (ANC) on the occasion of its 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The ANC has since its formation over a century ago on 8 January 1912 provided leadership in the struggle against minority domination. It has enriched South Africa with a leadership cadre imbued with impeccable credentials of commitment and integrity of purpose commencing with its inaugural President Rev John Dube, to such leaders as Pixley ka Isaka Seme, Albert Luthuli, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and Nelson Mandela to state but a few names.

It is at the back of this tried and tested revolutionary leadership role the ANC has played over the past century that NAFCOC urges it to provide leadership in the matter of economic transformation and thereby usher millions of South Africans into an era of unprecedented economic freedom.

We note President Zuma's January 8 Statement today in Rustenburg in which he said that the ANC government will pioneer a new economic growth path that addresses the skewed economic patterns inherited from the apartheid dispensation. The ANC President further pointed that the ANC government opted for a mixed economy to harness the efforts of the State, private sector, SMEs, Informal sector and labour towards economic development and transformation and that the ANC will continue to push for accelerated land reform.

NAFCOC supports the efforts of the ANC government in addressing economic imbalances and further call upon the ANC government to support the quest by NAFCOC to reclaim the African Bank. NAFCOC established African Bank in 1975. This was borne out of the need to support and empower the black majority who often times were not adequately supported by established banks of that time. We still have the same challenge today and we need a bank that understands the banking needs of small businesses and the black majority in general.

NAFCOC further calls upon the ANC government to urgently address the needs of the hawkers, informal traders, taverners and the mini bus taxi operators. The majority of small businesses are in these sectors and yet existing legislation is biased against these industries. A case in point is the fact that mini bus taxi operators do not receive transport subsidies despite the fact that they transport millions of commuters from high density areas and townships on a daily basis. Established bus companies such as Putco, Golden Arrow, Great North and South Cost and many others receive billions of state funds in transport subsidies despite the fact that they transport a lesser number of commuters compared to public taxis. Hawkers, informal traders and taverners continue to be harassed in many different towns and cities of South Africa despite the fact that they play an important role to millions of South Africans, mostly black South Africans who find it easier to access their goods and services in the local communities where these traders operate.

End

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