



African National Congress (South Africa)

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Media Release

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ANC STATEMENT ON SANCTIONS

The African National Congress has taken note of media reports that the states of New York and Oregon in the United States of America are planning to introduce further legislation to tighten sanctions against South Africa. This is alleged to be happening in response to a specific call from the ANC.

The ANC has made NO call for increased sanctions. Our National Executive Committee did recently, however, pass a resolution recommending that on the announcement of an agreed date for elections, and on the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) and the Independent Electoral and Media Commissions, as well as the enactment of the Transition to Democracy Act, sanctions affecting diplomatic relations, gold coins, trade and trade credits, new investment, loans and other financial links should be lifted.

The lifting of most sanctions was therefore brought much closer than ever before. The NEC took this decision because such developments would indicate a clear commitment to democracy. Lifting sanctions at that point would enable steps to be taken to assist an elected, democratic government to address the ailing South African economy and the hardships endured by the majority of our people.

The resolution of the ANC on sanctions was accompanied by a clear call to the investor community, both domestic and international, to seek active ways of involving those who were marginalised by apartheid in the investment projects they embark upon.

However, the delays in setting up the TEC and the evident inability of the Government to put an end to the continuing violence, has influenced opinion in the international community in the direction of further sanctions.

We regret the cheap politics played by Mr Piet Coetser, National Party MP, who immediately accused the ANC of "economic terrorism" without bothering to check the accuracy of the media reports, and despite his being fully aware of the NEC's decisions with regard to sanctions.

South Africa has entered a very delicate transitional phase. We call on all who have campaigned against apartheid, nationally and internationally, to now move anti-apartheid to pro-democracy, and help us obtain the massive assistance needed so that when a democratic government is elected it can begin the enormous task of reconstruction to address the legacy of apartheid.

We look forward to strengthened ties of solidarity -- city to city, people to people -- with the people of the United States.

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