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 ADDRESS BY (, DE, NELSON ELANDELK , DEPLTY PRtgeiiJfLEH zjf
 THE AFRICAN NATEONAL CONGRESS AT THE 305mm; :5? 1211-2
 EASTERN CAPE OFT lCE OF THE ANC: 15.8.1990
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 I salute ycu am be" 219:? eke Veer? Exmxtive
 _.. e 3e _ .L-h
 Committee of' fine ANC.
 It is with a sense of our impending victory for democracy
 that we meet here today to open the new regional o fice of
 the ANC. The Eastern Cape has alw 3 been an
 outstanding example of the heroic r istance of our gespie
 against colonialism, apartheid and Xploitation. TAG 2223
 can look ba:k proudly on our rich editions of res; 7lg: -
 that have produced dedicated leaders such as CUIInFu.-:n
 Govan Mbelci, Raymond Mhlaba and Matthew Sgt. _
 countiess others who have contributed so greatly
 liberati'cn struggle.
 I greet our lasting allies in COSATU, SACP, LTD? 3...: ;
 mangdemocratic formations in the community, -ecieee , :
 eduagiOnal and business sectors. You: struggles Peer: i
 us from the dungeons of apartheid. Your e; arts m us
 continue to consolidate this mighty movement of our
 people.
 The branches and regions are the building biocks cl
 democracy mthm the ANC.
 ldtical order must be based on mass
 figipatht-r: by our peple. Ensure 5' :__ :3 k
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ever; derp end rurai area. We must feel the pulse of nation: and reflect that in our decision-making, polices and actions. Our movement must become the school of democracy in our land.

To achieve this goal our elected leaders must be exemplary. Discipline, humility and commitment mus: ea: watchwords of our code of conduct. We are servants of our people, not their masters. This requires us to be accountable to our structures, acting on mandates and giving report backs.

Our battle for democracy still faces many obstacles. Apartheid has devastated our economy and plunged our country into escalating violence. The masses of our pesple in both the urban and rural areas are locked into brutal poverty. The human, social and economic costs are incalculable.

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The African National Congress, since our launch in 19 :3 has stood for the opposite of apartheid. Born of the furnace of the people's courageous resistance against colonialism , we proudly stand today as the primary democratic alternative to the apartheid nightmare of racism and inhumanity.

You have achieved this. Now as we march the last :11? our freedom, let us all - men, women and children - p'ace our shoulders to the wheel of liberation.

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The ANC has always represented the unity of our ge pie irrespective of race, sex, class or religion. As ear?;- 9.5 1955, in the Congress of the People, we adopted the

Freedom Charter, 11 Inch el en today prov idesa 1 as
beacon tor 011: TEQULJIZ to a non-raci al, 11011-5 ' ex
democrat lc and undi ided South Africa.

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These have been furt her e aborated 111 the Cmarm
Guidell mes, around w hich x e have urged full and Open
debate so that our peopE e can declde the shape ar. CI content
of the post- apart heid society

It is therefore p leasing to note that various initiatives are
being taken to dev elop charters in various sectors, such as
workers,women,health and education This must be
encouraged at a branch and regional level.

W lth confidence ln our strength, we must conti nue 1:) 111:1
our people, both within our ranks as a democratic
movement, and more broadly Within South Africa.

We carfy a heavy responsibility to repair the violent
divisions and hatred that apartheid has sown. That :s
the AN C is prepared to talk to any organisation, in 15:71:91:-
to convince them of our point of view.

This does not 1111:2411 that we impose our leadersmp - Tr:
has to be earned through our hard work. At the same
time, the ANC is not going to become an umbrella
protecting discredited leaders. They Will have to in:-
themselves concretely in our struggle - and resolve tireeir
problems with our people.

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Today we see unacceptable levels of violence in our
country Tr le pri mary cause 0 such violence is stiL'.
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puppet structures tn 13 .21111'121 1:11: e5. guns: 55 r 5:11:71
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'V. . ,_, e; ' . 1.. -, . 1; - - ' ..
Lasual.i-a are ri-.:lg rapidlv 1.9:311519 the pom: 13.1": r . -- . .1
to react 111th extreme ..o'lence. South Africa '3 :11-
only country Mth riistur Dane 43 - yet in other: '1 .vilzsed
countries,p01lce us 19 accepta ab e methods to control
disturbances. Here, every black person is a military
target. Therefore, the role of the security forces in this
on-going violence, 111-1 contin ue to be a major obstacle to
creating a climate conducive to genuine negotiations,
From the side ofthe ANC, we are prepared to do
everything to end this mindless spiral of 17101 ence, .1 .
apartheidls the root cause As a revolutionar ye mo .1
we are committed to peace and to minimising 111:3 .;-:
life.
The recent violence in the E35 Lern Cape remain: 1 .2- '.:i
our struggle for democracy. The responsibi lit 1 for inf;
rests directly at the door of the apartheid author :13
Dummy structures have for years stifled democrat: 1
participation and failed to meet the basic needs 1 1 she
people. The explosmn of peoples anger, and the 'Cr 1:_;
intervention of the security forces allowed 01 ?Mi'ng'.
elements to exploit the situation. This is no fault of ' :e
ANC and we condemn the violence which led to 31;
death, injury and de? ction We are commri-t'. d 1.:
building democratic dis '
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cl 13': had structures :rrezggz
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peopze can gen 11 1lte pra ttczpate in decisions :su:
their lives.

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The struggles of our people, led by the ANC, opened up possibilities for a negotiated political settlement. As a result, we seized the opportunity to meet the Nationalist Party and in the process remove the obstacles to creating a climate conducive to negotiations.

We met the government both at Groote Schuur on the second of May and again in Pretoria on the sixth of August. We have agreed on the process of releasing political prisoners and phasing in the return of political exiles from the first of September 1990. A working group has been instructed to present its final report by the end of August.

These comrades will be granted indemnity as from the first of October 1990. The government has committed itself to giving immediate consideration to the suspension of _ section 5 of the Internal Security Act and further, to LUELLAL\$1LLS a 1.". uycao t Wlllb'll Wlll ll: open LU all persons and organisations - to review security legislation.

On the basis of these commitments received from the government, the ANC has announced an immediate suspension of the armed struggle.

We have made it very clear to the government that we retain the legitimate right to defend ourselves against state-sponsored violence. This right extends to resuming the armed struggle if the government fails to meet its commitments.

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We have taken this bold step because we require decisive action to break the present log' jam and to demonstrate our commitment to peace and a negotiated end to apartheid. We call on all democratic forces to join this search for peace. We need to build mutual trust amongst all our people. We urge that we lay the past to rest and concentrate on building our common future that should be based on non-racial, multi-party democracy. Our goals shared by millions. The masses of our people must participate in determining the future. A non racial and democratic constitution must be drawn up by representatives elected by our people on the basis of universal suffrage. This remains our only guarantee for permanent peace and stability. The policies and actions of the ANC open the way for the development of a stable economy. The ANC IS committed : _ ?pmg a vibrant and dynamic mixed economy, ' :111;3 of apartheid that caused massive poverty and deprivation amongst the masses of our people will have to be addressed urgently by a democratic government. At the same time, the democracy we are building must permeate at both political and economic levels. The ANC does not have any blueprints for this process. We are prepared to engage in a democratic debate on these issues. We urge the vested economic and political interests

not to create mass hysteria, especially amongst our white community, about the policies of the ANC.

Now is the time to deal with the real hardships that face our people, such as the housing, health and education crisis.

Now is the time to focus our energies in curbing the brutal excesses of the security forces, vigilante and criminal elements in our society.

Now is the time to work together to establish a democratic economy that will provide jobs for all at a living wage, and which will provide the goods needed by our people.

The ANC goes forward to its first National Congress held legally inside the country in 30 years on the 16th December 1990. This Congress must be our people's

parliament. The issues to be resolved there must be fully discussed in all branches and regions

We thank the business community, especially Premier Mkhosiwo Ncwane who has donated so generously to the purchase of the furniture for this new office.

In conclusion, we wish to salute the efforts of our interim committee and membership on the occasion of the launch of this region and its new offices.

We urge all democrats to join and support our efforts to usher in a new South Africa based on peace and democracy, which will be able to proudly take its place in the international community of nations.

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Thank you.

Amandla awethu!