

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

📍 Chief Albert Luthuli, 9th Floor, 54 Pixley ka Isaka Seme Street, Johannesburg, 2001

📧 P.O Box 61884, Marshalltown, 2107 📞 +2711 376 1000

✉️ @MYANC 🌐 @MyANC 📺 MyANC 📷 @myanc_

🌐 www.anc1912.org.za

1. Why were the Basic Income Support grant outcomes removed from the ANC's official address to the public? Especially since the outcomes document says the SRD grant will be used "as a mechanism towards phasing in the Basic Income Support Grant this year".

The Basic Income Grant Support item outcome was not removed from the official address - as this suggests it was on the agenda and then removed, which is not the case. The issue of the grant was part of a discussion in the Social Transformation commission which was reported on the last day of the Lekgotla, it was not a stand alone item.

Please see more information in the below answers

2. The outcomes document also mentions plans for skills development and targeted support for SRD Beneficiaries. These were also not mentioned in the ANC's official address to the public on 28 January. Why is this so?

You will appreciate that not every detail of what was discussed in the outcomes of all the eight [8] Lekgotla commissions were included in the statement. The statement is prepared based on key priority areas and national and global challenges.

To reiterate the outcomes, three urgent and interrelated priorities were emphasized to guide the Lekgotla discussions.

First, the renewal and rebuilding of the ANC must focus on strengthening its structures, especially branches, to serve as vibrant centers of community life. The renewal agenda must prioritize restoring public trust and ensuring the ANC remains a decisive and ethical leader.

Second, economic growth and job creation must be at the forefront of the ANC's agenda. Opportunities in manufacturing, the green economy, and digital technologies should be leveraged to stimulate inclusive economic growth and job creation. Addressing youth unemployment through targeted education reforms, skills development, and entrepreneurship programmes is critical.

Third, improving service delivery and accountability is essential. Efforts must focus on addressing water insecurity and eradicating water mafias that sabotage infrastructure. The formalization of informal settlements must be accelerated, and access to basic services for indigent households must be expanded. Developing a comprehensive indigent register will provide critical support to vulnerable households facing rising costs.

Also, it has been reported in last year's SONA that Government has launched Jobs Boost, a pay-for-performance training model to secure sustainable jobs for unemployed youth and it will use the

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SRD grant as a basis for the introduction of a sustainable form of income support for unemployed people to address the challenge of income poverty. The government also plans to link social assistance with other forms of support to lift people out of poverty.

3. The ANC's manifesto mentions that it supports a Basic Income Support Grant that benefits all individuals without work-seeking conditions. Does the ANC still plan to implement the Basic Income Support Grant? If so, when? 4. Is there anything else the ANC would like to add

Just as background information, last year in May 2024 the Election Scorecard on Universal Basic Income Grant Policy by the Universal Basic Income Coalition (UBIC) ranked the ANC at the top out of 19 political parties assessed on their policy stance. According to the UBIC report, the ANC scored 8 out of 12 points.

Last year we issued a statement on this grant and we reiterate that the ANC firmly believes that the well-being and prosperity of all citizens should be at the heart of our progressive economic and social policies. A report done by UJ last year confirms the majority of South Africans fully support the introduction of a basic income support grant.

In line with the ANC policy resolutions and our 2024 Manifesto, we committed to the following key principles and actions:

We acknowledged that the current temporary Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant should serve *as the foundation for the transition to a permanent basic income support grant*. To address the exclusion of a large number of people, we will improve the value of the grant and extend it to reach more beneficiaries.

We support a Basic Income Grant that benefits all individuals without work-seeking conditions. This grant will alleviate poverty and hunger for all vulnerable people, including caregivers, the unemployed, and those in precarious employment.

We recognise the need to progressively achieve an adequate basic income support grant based on the principle of universality. Our approach will ensure inclusivity, an adequate value indexed to scientifically determined poverty lines, and sustainable financing that promotes equitable redistribution. This will include gradually increasing the income threshold to include more individuals and indexing the grant's value to the minimum Food Poverty Line, progressively moving towards the Upper Bound Poverty Line to effectively eliminate poverty in society.

The ANC is committed to financing the basic income grant through progressive mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability and equitable redistribution. We will explore options such as new progressive tax measures, including a social security tax, while maximising fiscal space by effectively utilising existing resources. The ANC is open to considering more diverse funding sources and a faster movement towards universality.

The ANC recognises that the basic income support should complement, not replace, existing social security mechanisms. We will ensure that it coexists with programmes like the Child Support Grant and consider introducing measures to support caregivers, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

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The plan for implementation will be communicated by the responsible department.



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