

ANC'S BIG PROMISE

By **SIMON NARE**

THE ANC has admitted it hasn't created decent jobs as a governing party and, with little detail, has committed to address the matter.

Launching its election manifesto at a hyped-up rally at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), yesterday, party leader and Mzansi President Cyril Ramaphosa conceded more still needed to be done to create decent jobs.

Ramaphosa repeated his promise to create 275 000 jobs per year and an injection of R1,2 trillion over the next four years as part of the party's plan to grow the economy.

Said Ramaphosa to thousands of supporters: "Too many of our people are without decent jobs. Our plan is to draw more South Africans, particularly the youth and women, into decent employment and self-employment. Much more work still needs to be done to promote decent work."

Supporters graced the manifesto launch, which doubled as the traditional 8 January celebrations.

This followed week-long activities across KZN, where ANC leaders interacted with the people the movement claimed had influenced the manifesto.

There was no talk of public works, temporary jobs the party had boasted about in previous election campaigns, but this time the ANC promised not only to create new jobs but to also protect existing ones.

This in the face of the jobs blood bath

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering the ANC's election manifesto at the Moses Mabhida Stadium to tens of thousands of the party's supporters.

Photo by Jabulani Langa



that began late last year.

Ramaphosa promised that government would work with social partners, including business, labour and society to implement the Jobs Summit agreement.

"In line with the Presidential Jobs Summit outcomes, we'll take active steps to ensure retrenchments are the last consideration taken by employers and that retrenchment procedures are reviewed," he said.

There were no tangible plans laid out by Ramaphosa, except to declare that government would increase employment

through programmes that expanded early childhood-development sites and remove work experience as a requirement.

The manifesto also promised to strengthen the country's industrialisation path by boosting domestic demand through public and private tenders and building industries like manufacturing, agriculture and mining.

As expected, and in what promised to be a key factor in this year's election, the ANC resolved in its 54th national congress in Nasrec that the expropriation of land without compensation would be reviewed.

The party said it would expand its land reform programme through a range of measures.

"Land reform is about redressing historical injustices and the dispossession of the black majority. It's also a vital opportunity to unlock growth and promote socio-economic transformation. Our land reform programme provides a sustainable but radical way to address the land question."

The party also put emphasis on growing the economy.

"We will address monopolies, economic concentration, abuse of dominance by large corporations and the growth-inhibiting structure of the economy by de-concentrating and transforming the economy and opening it up to participation by emerging co-operatives and township and village enterprises," the manifesto promises.