



## INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **COVID-19: ANC MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS SHOW OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT MEASURES AND ANC LEADERSHIP, BUT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMY**

The Inclusive Society Institute (ISI) today released the results of a COVID-19-related survey conducted among members and supporters of the African National Congress (ANC). The survey tested members and supporters' perception of government's COVID-19 measures, as well as the impact these measures have had on their views of the president, his Cabinet and the ANC. As the country's ruling party, the ANC has to act in the national interest, despite the potential negative impact that some government decisions may have on its own support base. The survey found overwhelming support for the actions of government, with a general improvement in ANC members and supporters' perception of the president, Cabinet members and the party as a whole.

The survey was undertaken among a cross-section of ANC members and supporters from across all provinces between 13 and 15 May 2020. The poll has a confidence level of 95%, with a 5% margin of error.

#### **Key findings on support for government's measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic**

The survey found overwhelming support for the measures taken by the authorities to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Some 90% of respondents indicated their support, while only 4% did not agree with the measures and 5% indicated that they were uncertain.

ANC members and supporters seem to be satisfied with government's management of efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, although there is some room for authorities to improve. Approximately 39% of respondents perceive the authorities to be "very good" in managing the pandemic, 21% think they are "good", and 30% are satisfied. Overall, therefore, 90% of respondents are well disposed towards government's efforts in fighting the virus.

Similarly, 88% of respondents are confident that the authorities will bring the pandemic under control (71% confident, and 11% somewhat confident), with only 11% holding a negative view in this regard.

Most of the ANC members and supporters also believe the authorities and security forces are exercising their duties responsibly (67%) and displaying competence in doing so (78%). Competence scores vary, however, with 15% of respondents believing the authorities and security forces are highly competent in fulfilling their duties, 34% viewing them as competent, and 29% as somewhat competent.

Yet, despite the overwhelming support for government's current efforts and measures, ANC members and supporters do not appear to be as optimistic about their own and the country's economic future. Less than two thirds of respondents (64%) believe that their own future will improve post-lockdown, and a staggering 84% are not optimistic about the country's economic future. In terms of the economy,

only 14% of respondents think that, in the year after the lockdown, the economy will recover to levels better than before the measures were announced. Some 12% do not believe that the economy will improve. Half (50%) of the respondents do not anticipate the economy to recover to pre-lockdown levels, while 22% think it will return to what it was before lockdown, therefore with no growth potential or prospects for addressing backlogs in society.

### **Key findings on perception of president, Cabinet and ANC**

Survey results suggest that ANC members and supporters view the president in a positive, if not more positive, light since the COVID-19 measures were announced. In terms of support for the president, the opinion of 62% of respondents has improved since the measures were announced, while the perception of 30% has remained the same. Only 7% indicated that their opinion of him had declined.

Perceptions of Cabinet and the ANC as a party show a similar trend, although more evenly distributed between the response categories. Cabinet is perceived in a more favourable light by 46% of respondents, while the opinion of 34% has remained the same. Some 19% of respondents indicated that their opinion of Cabinet had declined. A material number (48%) of respondents' opinion of the ANC movement has improved, the view of 34% has remained the same, while 17% now regards the party in a less positive light than before. In the case of both Cabinet and the ANC, the reasons for the decline warrant careful consideration.

### **In summary**

- i In general, the president, his Cabinet and the ruling party enjoy the overwhelming support of ANC supporters for the measures they are taking to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ii ANC supporters are generally satisfied with the responsibility and competence with which the measures are being carried out.
- iii The opinion of the president, Cabinet and ANC is generally favourable to more favourable.
- iv Despite their support for the measures taken, ANC supporters are concerned about their own and the country's economic future.
- v Although in the minority, the number of supporters whose opinion has declined is not negligible and warrants careful consideration and further research.

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