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To all media houses

Congress of the People Celebrates 30 Years of Democracy in South Africa

For immediate release

Today, as we commemorate the 30th anniversary of our democracy, the Congress of the People (COPE) proudly stands as a pillar of our unwavering commitment to the negotiated settlement that paved the way for our democracy and constitutionalism.

We commemorate this day as a historic milestone in our journey when South Africa emerged from the shadows of apartheid and colonialism into the light of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist society. We honour the pioneers and founding leaders of our present-day democracy, whose sacrifices and relentless efforts have shaped the nation we are today, filling us with pride and hope for the future.

COPE firmly believes in the transformative power of our constitution. The freedoms it articulates are as crucial today as they were 30 years ago. We staunchly defend these values, countering the emerging populist attacks on our constitution, to ensure our citizens feel secure and protected.

The social and economic challenges we face, such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality, do not reflect the Constitution's inadequacy. They are, in fact, a consequence of leadership's failure to robustly implement its provisions and lack of integrity, a government that is not accountable, transparent, and unresponsive. Our constitution is inherently transformative, intended to uplift the lives of all South Africans and foster a society grounded in equality and justice.

As we celebrate this historic occasion, COPE reaffirms its unwavering commitment to defending the Constitution. We firmly believe that the path to a prosperous South Africa lies in upholding and implementing the values enshrined in our constitution, providing our citizens with a sense of reassurance and confidence in our democratic system.

Let us remember this day as a reaffirmation of our commitment to democracy, constitutionalism, peace, freedom, and justice for all people. Let us strive to build a

South Africa that embodies the spirit of Ubuntu, where every citizen enjoys the freedoms and rights enshrined in our constitution.

Happy Freedom Day, South Africa!

Ends.

Issued by the Congress of the People:

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