

**The African National Congress (ANC) and the Cadre
Deployment Policy in the Post-Apartheid South Africa:
A Product of Democratic Centralisation or a Recipe
for a Constitutional Crisis?**

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ABSTRACT The cadre deployment policy has been implemented by the African National Congress (ANC) and its alliance partners in pursuit of its avowed intention to have loyal party hands on all the levers of power in government. The present paper finds out that although the policy is justified by the ANC, it has attracted criticism from those who believe that its implementation has been exposed to abuse by some ANC officials. While certain deployed cadres in public administration are able to function at an acceptable level, it is argued that in some instances far too many are there to do the bidding of the cadre deployment committee that appointed them to national, provincial or local-level positions. However, it is worth noting that historians and political scientists alike contend that this undermines the accountability structures in the public service. Further, this paper avers that deployed cadres who succeed do so despite their deployment, not because of it. There are a number of arguments stating that the implementation of a cadre deployment policy by the ANC is an attempt to centralise democratic powers within the ruling party. In conclusion, the paper attempts to provide a historical analysis of this policy in the 20-year rule of the ANC in South Africa.