■ NATION

# Trust in the ANC at an all-time low, finds survey

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A MERE 27% of adult South Africans believe the country is heading in the right direction. That is according to a survey published in the monthly, the SA Citizens Survey (Sacs). And this despite a much greater confidence in President Cyril Ramaphosa than his predecessor, Jacob Zuma.

"While Ramaphosa retains ample support, it is clear that South Africans want to see tangible change, especially in this election year.

"While the data shows some optimism remains, it is clearly being tempered by political realities," said Reza Omar, Strategic Research Director at Citizens Survey.

The survey also revealed that the optimism of South Africans who believe that the country is headed in the right direction has declined by 7% since early last year.

"South Africa's growing concern about the country's direction coincides with the technical recession announced in September, the depth of state capture revealed at the Nugent and Zondo commissions and the lack of any real change," Omar said.

The top issues citizens have are: unemployment (viewed as the number one issue by 72% of adult South Africans), crime (41%), corruption (25%) and poverty and destitution (23%).

"Education, housing and basic service delivery remain critical issues, as borne out by the growing footprint of service delivery protests across diverse communities."

Professor of political science at Stellenbosch University Amanda Gouws said: "Well, I think it is based on their observations of current politics.

"There are problems with Nsfas, and the discredited Zuma is allowed by the ANC to be on the campaign trail. It does not inspire confidence in government.

I think trust in government institutions is at an all-time low."

Gouws said among the key elements Ramaphosa needed to address when delivering his State of the Nation address were corruption, foreign investment, land expropriation without compensation, Eskom, tertiary education and gender-based violence.