



# Red Voice

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**Inside: YOUTH MONTH & LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION PROGRAMME**



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# Editor's Voice



**Provincial Secretary of the YCLSA in the NC: Cde. Lebogang Moremedi**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Red Voice Issue cover, in the main, the historical and state of youth politics in the Province, as well as the socio-economic development of the Province. This include, among others, the implementation of the Party's Local Government Election Programme which positioned the party correctly in the Province to contribute positively to the overwhelming electoral victory of the ANC led Alliance.

It was Lenin who wrote:

"The proletariat cannot be victorious except through democracy, i.e. by giving full effect to democracy and by linking with each step of its struggle democratic demands formulated in the most resolute terms. It is absurd to contra pose the socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to a single problem democracy, in this case, the national question. We must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary programme and tactics on all demands: a republic, a militia,

the popular election of officials, equal rights for women, the self-determination of nations etc. '(The Revolutionary Proletariat and the Right of Nations to Self-determination, 1915).

The perspectives and programmatic path of a national democratic revolution, uniting a variety of class forces, with the working class at the head, still remains the most appropriate route for our struggle.

In this 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, our June Youth Month and Local Government Programme was a clear indication of a dedicated structure which remains truthful to the revolution and the people. This campaign was, however, fought under extremely challenging conditions. "Our duty is to hold ourselves responsible to the people. Every word , every act and every policy must conform to the people's interests , and if mistakes occur , they must be corrected - that is what being responsible to the people means" Mao Tse Tung

The Red Voice is, like always, filled with a number of programmes, inter alia, having to do with the YCLSA PC Outreach Programme, the visit of the YCLSA National Secretary, the GS of the SACP and the 2<sup>nd</sup> DGS of the SACP whom visited all corners of the Northern Cape Province, with a particular interest on the rural and peripheral areas. Comrades, this is a mouth watering piece, enjoy the reading!!!

***Cde Lebogang Moremedi***  
***YCLSA Provincial Secretary***



# SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT CONGRESS



The 18th national congress held in Venda, Limpopo 2013, and further confirmed by the NGC in 2014, resolved to declare SASCO a Marxist-Leninist organisation that recruits every student but all with an intention of schooling them into the Marxist-Leninist theoretical tradition. which was a epoch making decision taken by the organisation after sasco grappled with it for a very long time. SASCO has for a long time always proclaimed that we use Marxism-Leninism as a tool of analysis and a guide to action however we have never really fully appreciated the historic tasks that Marxism-Leninism imposes on us as an organization both in theory and in practice.

Two of the most fundamental questions that arises out of this resolution is whether or not the new resolution on Marxism- Leninism takes away from SASCO its mass character or the broad church character after the fashion of the African national congress. And Whether this resolution will inevitably lead to the death of SASCO because students can neither be socialists nor communists as they are a stratum in transit. It should be noted that While it may be true that students do not on their own form this or that class, it must be readily acceptable to all that students are not above or without society. They are essentially part and products of a society whose primary contradiction is the class contradiction.

Flowing from this argument, it follows by simple deduction that these students must necessarily have a natural class inclination; a class into which they are born not as a matter of choice but as a result of the participation of their species in a historic process. After all, it is Marxist literature which teaches us that “the unconscious comes before the conscious and that the logic of the historic process comes before the subjective logic of the human beings (students included) who participate in the historic process”. It has been laid bare in practice that the majority of students.

sprout from working class backgrounds and that their social milieu even as students still considerably bears the birthmarks of their background. In fact, their situation is almost worsened by social phenomenon's such as That they experience an unprecedented awareness' growth of their poverty in light of the many new nice-to-haves turned necessities(e.g Weaves, Airmax) that they suddenly get exposed to upon their arrival at institutions of higher learning which constitute the core of the South African capitalist economy.

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## SASCO A MARXIST-LENINIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

This illustrates that it is well possible to organize and mobilize students behind a socialist vision. Organizationally, our resolution to be a Marxist-Leninist student organization in pursuit of socialism opens for us the space to turn our organization into a truly revolutionary mass organization whose actions are guided by and inseparable from the daily struggles of students.

The importance of the emphasis on the masses is that our resolution challenges us not to attempt to wage struggles on behalf of the masses but rather to struggle with them. It is inconceivable that students would reject an organization which struggles side by side with them, explains carefully to them where their problems emanate from and make practical proposals to resolve these merely on the basis of the word socialism. By now it should be clear that we need to reorganize SASCO to make it a truly revolutionary mass organization. What is to be done to achieve this? Our actions need to be decided by the masses for whom we exist and whose participation or lack thereof in our programmes ensures the success or failure of whatever action we embark on.

The other challenge that lies at the heart of this resolution is the transformation of quantity into quality, we ought to continue organizing all students who sprout from all classes and therefore from different ideological persuasions, consciously or unconsciously. But this cannot be the end of it all if we are to honour our resolution. Politically, the new resolution implies that the struggle to build a new cadre in defence of the revolution continues. A cadre who understands and is able to articulate clearly the aspirations of the toiling masses.

A cadre who has grasped or seeks diligently to grasp the economic basis of our demand for free education. In short, this cadre cannot be anything else but a Marxist-Leninist par excellence, a consistent materialist and an antagonistic, Antithesis which finds its origin in idealism.

We must build a culture of reading and debating particularly ideological questions. Ignorance of the importance of theory should thus be seen as serving nothing but reaction and as a betrayal of our resolution and of Marxism-Leninism as a whole. It must be noted that we are not attempting to create a dogma out of Marxism or suggesting that members should follow everything in Marxist literature religiously. However, it is important that we all acknowledge and appreciate the dialectical link between theoretical clarity and actual victories for our cause, the role that this theory of the revolution has played in many movements of the world and the role it can still play in our own movement. As Lenin warned that “without revolutionary theory, there is no revolutionary movement”. This means therefore that every leadership structure of our organization must pay considerable attention to political education programmes and also that all meetings and gatherings of SASCO must be credited in practice with features of a political school. This new resolution requires of us to improve the awareness of our membership and the general masses of our strategic objectives particularly as it relates to the transformation of the South African society as a whole.

The SPOT document on the other hand has to be revised so as to unequivocally state that,

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## SASCO A MARXIST-LENINIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

according to us, the primary contradiction in the South African society is the class contradiction and that the national and gender contradictions are but manifestations of the class contradiction and they cannot thrive on their own in a society where the class contradiction is resolved. We say this because we know that “the production of the means to sustain life and the mode of exchange of these means is the basis of all social structure” . In light of this, we must state that we view the capitalist system as our chief enemy and that we will struggle for its destruction and for its replacement with a socialist order and ultimately a communist society. But however much it is scientifically true that the division of society into classes forms the basis of all other social contradictions, the struggle against these contradictions cannot be deferred in order to focus only on the class struggle. Branches of SASCO must be vigilant and ever ready to fight and defeat racism, sexism tribalism, etc wherever they rear their ugly heads.

Our SPOT must at the very least also explain the historical basis of the state of our education system consistent with our materialistic conception of history. As has already been established, the economic structure of any society has a bearing on all other social structures and education is no exception to this rule. There is nothing which can survive which runs counter to the economic structure of society. The current education system like other social structures such as the state itself has not always existed but was developed at a certain stage of economic development so as to suit and sustain this. It should stand to reason therefore that our education system suffers from the ideological stranglehold of the ruling class, the capitalist class. It is known by all that the economics taught in our schools and even at tertiary emphasizes that the primary objective of business is the maximization of profit. The economics they teach

also amongst its many other evil functions, seeks and manages to legitimize the commodification of education. Because of its emphasis on the invisible hand and the unchallengeable power of the market forces, this economics suggests that all things necessary for the sustenance of life including education must have a price and this must be determined only and exclusively by the forces of demand and supply. A Marxist-Leninist SASCO cannot be content with such a curriculum because it understands that the primary objective of producing and exchanging goods is the satisfaction of needs necessary for the sustenance of life. What this implies in practice is that we must struggle for the transformation of the curriculum so as to free it from the ideological stranglehold of the ruling class.

When talking about the oppressed people of the world, Paulo Freire said that “their liberation will not be given to them as a gift but they shall obtain it through the praxis of their quest for it” . Ours should be a continuous struggle.

This paper attempted to deal with what the resolution on Marxism-Leninism means practically in acknowledgement of the fact that advances in the revolution are not made merely through congress resolutions but through struggle. This begins at the level of diligently seeking to understand our theory of revolution and accepting its guidance in practice. Only then shall we say that SASCO subscribes to Marxism-Leninism both politically and organizationally. In time and in full realization of our resolution, SASCO will give new meaning to the struggle for social transformation in South Africa and will provide the cadreship necessary to participate both in the conceptualization and implementation of transformation.

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## SASCO A MARXIST-LENINIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

which focused amongst others on the critical importance of renewal in the Party and recruitment of the Youth, intimated that "Young people who were born and brought up after the revolution, in a just and democratic society, are a talented and knowledgeable generation with a vision of the world, and should be more actively promoted.. If we want a dynamic leadership we should draw replacements and reinforcements from the younger generation" Such an investment will go a long way to complement efforts at greater unity. It will also serve as a guarantor for the safeguard of the revolution and its gains. This will also be helpful to the young leaders so as not always be used as the messenger.

Always called on corners and be told what they must say. Educating the youth will in the near future save youth leaders and youth in general to avoid a question or a confrontation that may arise like How do you speak about education

matters when you education is under question? Or how do you lead a very expensive mandate of youth development when your education is under question?

This will further be useful to those who insult congress leaders in the conflict hungry media. As YCLSA as a matter of principle, we shall fight and expose young leaders who insult the Alliance leadership. We do not personalize the material conditions, we believe on the art of persuasion through raising our views through internal congress movement structures.

On this anniversary of the martyr of the South African Communist Party , Cde Joe Slovo , as the Young Communist League we commit ourselves to continue strengthening our branches , our Districts , our Provinces and the National Committee as to advance the struggle for socialism, to champion the needs and aspirations of the youth, to be the youth voice and to mobilize , recruit and educate

youth on Marxism-Leninism for the youth to appreciate the struggle for socialism that will never be delinked with a strong ANCYL , SASCO and COSAS.

Let us all go out and do it for Cde Joe Slovo. Let us go to Schools, Colleges, Universities, Workplaces, Villages, Streets, Farms, Townships, Suburbs and everywhere else and mobilize the youth to sing in unison: War on racism, an educated youth is a liberated youth, let's make education fashionable and Aluta Continua.







# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO



***On this youth month , we say to the youth of our country, please receive a declaration of Intentions, Motives and Views of the Youth Communist League of South Africa***

“No amount of skill or care on the part of those engaged in youth development work will eradicate the problems of underserved youth. Racism, drugs, violence, poverty, and lack of resources are root problems that will not disappear quickly. What we can do, however, is demonstrate the value of these young people and empower them by providing choices for better decisions about relations in schooling and doing the right thing.”—T. Martinek, in the epilogue to Youth Development and Physical Education. South Africa's history of Colonialism, Apartheid and Segregation has led to institutionalized and systemic poverty, inequality, unemployment

and underdevelopment requiring a decisive stated response to redress the imbalances of the past. The brutal and fascist, white monopoly Apartheid regime, systemically dehumanized and underdeveloped black South Africans as part of ensuring a conveyor belt of future labour for the extraction of surplus value with the ultimate objective of ensuring the economy remains solely owned and controlled by white monopoly capital. The legacies of colonialism, apartheid and segregation have produced and reproduced the challenges of youth unemployment, poor quality education, lack of skills, high levels of HIV/AIDS, and low levels of entrepreneurship amongst the youth. It is no wonder that despite significant strides since the advent of democracy in 1994, the majority of young South Africans remain doubtful of a better life endowed with education, skills, jobs and opportunities for social and economic progress.

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# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

Youth constitute a significant, growing and distinct group in society. Much can be said about how society views youth. The way in which society views youth is critical to shaping perceptions by the adult population and how youths view themselves. There are three contending social perspectives on youth; youth as consumers in society, youth as problems to society and youth as assets to society.

Youth must lead their own development and the state must support. Youth must be at the forefront of building schools, libraries and community centers as community builders and leaders of society. Young South Africans must never destroy or damage buildings such as schools or hospitals simply because of anger and frustration due to the lack of access to these buildings or to demand something else. Youth anger must be challenged strategically where youth build and not destroy where youth repair and not damage and where all youth are intellectually and productively militant and not destructively emotional.

This manifesto constitutes a declaration of intentions, motives and views of the Young Communist League of South Africa in advancing youth development on ten fronts. Young women, youth with disabilities, youth from rural areas and poor, working class youth are prioritized in all of the ten fronts:

## **CREATING MORE JOBS FOR YOUTH**

South Africa is one of the youngest countries in the world and our youth population is growing at a faster rate than the adult population but it is also growing at a faster rate than employment creation. This makes the challenge of job creation for youth in particular an apex priority for political stability as well as socio-economic growth and development. Wage employment in South Africa is not growing fast enough to absorb the millions

of youth looking for work. It is important to contextualize youth unemployment as not something that is new or unique. Youth unemployment in South Africa has been on the rise since the late 1970s rising to almost 20% in the early 1980s. The challenge of youth unemployment is furthermore not a local challenge but a global one. Many countries throughout the world are facing the challenge of increasing youth unemployment rates. Many countries across the globe are struggling to create jobs for their youth populations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates global youth unemployment at over 75 million young people worldwide.

The biggest challenge that we face as a country is how to help young people walk through the front door of the labour market and into decent jobs as well as other sustainable economic opportunities. The albatross of youth unemployment cannot fall squarely on the shoulders of government. There is also no single actor that can meaningfully and comprehensively create jobs for all youth in need. All social partners must contribute to addressing both demand and supply side causes of youth unemployment.

## **NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE**

Youth unemployment is the most pressing issue facing young people of today and is public enemy number one. One could argue that youth unemployment has become the primary threat to the national democratic revolution. To advance the NDR requires a more dedicated focus on job creation for the youth and affirming youth employment creation as an apex priority of society, not just of government. Youth development must become the business of all stakeholders in society.



# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

There is a need to develop and implement a Compulsory, Comprehensive, Inclusive and Skills-driven National Youth Service Programme. Many countries throughout the world have implemented structured national youth service programmes as a large scale intervention to bring about immediate relief for youth who have no employment or are not registered in an institution of higher learning. Youth service can be used as an effective strategy for youth development, national development and social cohesion. Many young people are actively involved in cleaning up their communities, tutoring and mentorship or particular forms of social work. This helps in positioning young people as active agents for community development as opposed to passive recipients or being part of the problem. A South African National Youth Service Programme with specific and relevant local youth service programmes can radically enhance the capabilities inherent in youth.

A Compulsory, Comprehensive, Inclusive and Skills - driven National Youth Service Programme can have many advantages for youth development, social development and national development. One of the most important advantages is the value it provides to the participant in the form of valuable experience, knowledge and skills that will facilitate the transition into paid employment.

Mainstreaming youth service can reduce the economic and social cost of risky behavior and build the necessary social capital required for nation building. Mainstreaming youth service is critical to the nation's developmental agenda and therefore every government department should develop and implement a national youth service programme. By 2020, a minimum of 1 000 000 young South Africans should be enrolled and actively participating in the South African National Youth Service Programme.







# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

In order for the strategic goals and objectives of a National Youth Service programme to be completely and comprehensively realized, a National Youth Service Act should be legislated. The National Youth Service Act should make it compulsory for unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age to be enrolled on local or national youth service programmes. The Act should provide the principles and values underlying a South African National Youth Service Programme and regulate the approach of government in developing and implementing national and local youth service programmes. By making national youth service compulsory for unemployed youth, the country can stand to benefit from a more skilled, productive and patriotic youth population.

## IMPROVING ACCESS AND SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

Education is arguably the single most important investment to make as a country if we are serious about job creation and sustainable development. However, education must be treated as an ideology and not as a neutral phenomenon. During the dark days of Apartheid we have seen how education was used as an instrument of oppression and it was only after 1994 that we initiated the process of opening the doors of learning for all and the use of education as an instrument of liberation. Education today is a basic need and we must intensify the implementation of free, quality and relevant education for all.

As part of making education fashionable, a culture of academic excellence and increased access to education for youth from poor households and youth in rural areas must be prioritized in the second, more radical phase of the NDR. The majority of youth in South Africa demonstrated a disturbingly low proficiency in key skills such as

numeracy and literacy. South Africa came 10th out of 15 countries in Southern Africa in reading and 8th in mathematics, this despite the fact that we spend more resources on education than any of the 15 countries surveyed. Poor youth in South Africa are performing worse than equally poor youth in other countries in the region.

## SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING

Religion and Science agree that there is only one race and that is the human race. There are no other races. There is no biological basis for categories of race except to say that it is a political and social construct in terms of which power, wealth and social position can be assigned to. Ultimately there is only one nation and that is the nation of humanity.

What is needed is more education in human values. Especially for our youth who must be taught from a very early age that we are all the same. We must work tirelessly to build a more humane society. The construction of a more humane society requires an adequate balance of unity in dialogue and unity in action. Unity in action is cultivated through non-racialism in action given our dark and racially divided past as a country. What we need is non-racialism in action, not only in thought. We need to practice non-racialism in every thought, in every word and in every action.

We need to create an identity and purpose which is strong and accepted by all, this will unite people around a process of building a future that belongs to all. For example, if all youth united around the common goal of eradicating poverty, unemployment and inequality in order to secure humanly coexistence in the future, we would eventually arrive at a point where our society is as cohesive as we desire it to be.





# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO



## YOUTH ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

To address some of the major socio-economic challenges we face as a country such as job creation and poverty alleviation requires a larger cohort of young entrepreneurs. This is simply because entrepreneurs create new enterprises, new enterprises create more jobs and more jobs leads to more household income.

Many countries have promoted the formation and growth of cooperatives as a means to address youth unemployment. Cooperatives worldwide have created more than 800 million jobs. They create jobs because members are allowed to pool resources, ideas and capital for collective growth and prosperity. Cooperatives therefore have a distinct employment creating potential that differs from other forms of enterprise.

Cooperatives can provide decent work opportunities because they allow members to determine for themselves under which conditions they wish to work. This is of course the extreme opposite of exploitation of one by another as experienced under capitalist orientated forms of enterprise. Thus cooperatives provide a viable option for decent job creation and the realization of a living wage. Cooperatives locally and internationally have always had a stronger commitment to empowered governance and involving their workers in decision-making. These are highly valuable characteristics in the enterprises that will make up a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

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# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

## MENTORSHIP

Mentorship is a necessary and vital front for youth development. Many young people lack the necessary support and role models to grow and develop into successful citizens. Mentoring allows young people to benefit from the knowledge and experience of experienced citizens whom they would not normally have access to. In many parts of the world businesses are started with the financial support of family and friends and with this support comes advice, mentorship and access to markets. However, this is not the case for many aspiring young entrepreneurs and cooperatives in South Africa.

In the context of youth entrepreneurship, mentors provide motivation, guidance and advice to young entrepreneurs in the management of their businesses. They work alongside the young entrepreneur or cooperative to ensure that in the workplace, mentorship can provide a means for improving job retention and workplace satisfaction.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The health and wellbeing of young people demonstrates the extent to which the country can achieve its development goals as youth represent the present and future human and social capital of any country. Despite the efforts and resources invested in South Africa's healthcare system, the indicators of a healthy nation remain unacceptably high. South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS, the prevalence of this disease being highest amongst young people. As of 2013, the prevalence rate for youth between the ages of 15 to 24 was 8.5%. This represents a decline from the HIV prevalence rate of 13.6% in 2002 but remains unacceptably high.

## Waging a War against Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Alcohol and drug abuse amongst youth is at volcanic levels requiring immediate attention. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 15% of South Africa's population has a drug problem. Drug abuse in the country is twice the world norm and a World Drug Report had named South Africa as one of the drug capitals of the world. The abuse of alcohol and usage of dagga has led to the country being one of the top ten narcotics and alcohol abusers in the world. Drug abuse is costing the country approximately R20 billion a year and could pose a bigger threat to the country's future than the Aids pandemic.

Alcohol and drug abuse results in mental, emotional, biological or physical, social and economic instability. The effects of substance abuse amongst youth forms the basis of its increasing negative effects on society. The continued patterns of harmful abuse of alcohol and drugs amongst the youth must be brought to an end.

## YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental sustainability for sustainable development must be an apex priority of the state. Environmental sustainability is important for youth development and national development. The environment is an integral part of our lives. We need to preserve it while using it for our day to day activities. Effective and efficient natural resource management, solid waste management and the use of renewable energy is essential for sustainable development.

Green Jobs are a means of achieving sustainable economic development and environmental sustainability. Green jobs are fundamentally more equitable and inclusive. The Youth Employment





# LAUNCH OF THE YCLSA YOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

Accord has determined a youth target set aside of 60% of all jobs in the Green economy to be allocated for youth. This target should be increased to 80% and government should institute closer monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that indeed the target is met and young people are meaningfully employed in the sector.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND ICT FOR YOUTH

The world today is deeply interconnected through the advancements made in the space of information and communications technology or ICT. Youth are one of the major stakeholders of this development. Their engagement with ICT development and their attainments of literacy in ICT will determine their future and ultimately that of the country.

Enabling youth to enjoy electricity, telecommunication facilities and ICT, will open the door for them to link with the rest of the world, debate and discuss their ideas on development, and then make informed contributions to the transformation programme of the country.

While enabling youth to use IT and telecommunication facilities, it is essential to develop their skills in using them effectively and efficiently.

## SPORT AND RECREATION

All young people should have equal access to all sporting codes. All sporting codes should be equitably promoted as part of building a more cohesive, socialist and humane society and ultimately advancing towards communism.

There are multiple social benefits of sport for youth which may include decreased crime levels, increased self - esteem and heightened voluntary community participation. Sport and recreational activities have the potential to empower youth and reduce social exclusion. There is certainly a positive correlation between sport and social cohesion. One of the most important values of sport is the creation of social ties between youth of different races and cultural backgrounds. Thus sport as a social policy is critical for nation building and youth development.

*Socialism in our life time .Amandla!*







# INTENSIFYING PARTY WORK FOR THE ALLIANCE LED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION VICTORY



As the leading component of our liberation movement and alliance, the ANC has led decades of gallant struggles to bring down colonial oppression and apartheid in our country. There is no other political formation in South Africa that can match the heroic history of the ANC in the struggle. As the second oldest political formation after the ANC in our country, the SACP remains a dependable ally of the ANC. The SACP fought together with the ANC in the real theatre of struggle as a reliable ally to bring racial domination to an end in our country. The Constitution that we boast of as a country today was fought for by our national liberation movement, including the Communist Party, as the first non-racial political organisation in our country, and the progressive trade union movement, led by the ANC. Were it not of the ANC our country would not have adopted the Constitution. The Constitution was opposed by liberals, the conservatives and right-wing forces of different moulds.

They killed Comrade Chris Hani as an attempt to prevent the Constitution, whose foundations are in the Freedom Charter, and to stop us from marching forward with the development of democracy in our country!.







# INTENSIFYING PARTY WORK FOR THE ALLIANCE LED

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION VICTORY

These liberals among others took our country to court to prevent the inclusion of socio-economic rights in the Constitution. These rights were elaborated in the Freedom Charter in 1955, and include housing, education and health. We defeated them. And we must still. We have no other option if we want to deepen our struggle to achieve full development of democracy in our country

The massive advances achieved by our people, led by the ANC in government since 1994, are due to the ANC's respect and implementation of the Constitution. Today, over 17 million of our people have benefited from free houses, build by the ANC-led government implementing the Constitution. No other party can match this service delivery record in the history of our country, and indeed in many countries on earth. The ANC-led government massively rolled out electrification to millions of houses benefiting millions more families that relied on wood for cooking. And they were arrested by the successive colonial and apartheid regimes for cutting trees. Implementing the Constitution, the ANC-led



cutting trees. Implementing the Constitution, the ANC-led government massively expanded the provision of clean, drinkable water. For many years, our people relied on water from the river. The ANC-led government built roads and clinics in rural areas and townships where there was none before. As Comrade Chris Hani states in one of his interviews, the survival of at least half of children in a family was seen as an achievement because there was no healthcare in rural areas offered by the oppressors.

Comrade Chris's own family lost three children. Today, millions of our people, pregnant women, the elderly and the unemployed have access to primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, because the ANC is implementing the Constitution. No other party can match this service delivery record in the history of our country, and indeed in many countries on earth. Because the ANC is implementing the Constitution, it has delivered almost near-universal access to schooling for all children. And beyond the Freedom Charter, the ANC has rolled out and continues to roll







## INTENSIFYING PARTY WORK FOR THE ALLIANCE LED LOCAL

### GOVERNMENT ELECTION VICTORY



It took the colonisers 342 years from their arrival in April 1652 in Cape Town, until 1994, to create these problems in collaboration with their allies in Europe and North America - mainly in the United States. Many of them did not stop their exploitative and greedy agendas after we achieved our 1994 democratic breakthrough. To this day many of the beneficiaries of colonial and apartheid oppression and economic exploitation in our country continue to undermine efforts to complete national liberation, achieve economic emancipation and broader social emancipation. As we push forward, they are pushing backward. They are responsible for the persisting economic problems. It is their system of capitalist exploitation and imperialist that produce economic crisis after economic crisis thus deepen inequality, poverty and unemployment. As the SACP we believe that the ANC in alliance with the Communist Party, the progressive trade union movement and civic organisation remains the most capable of leading our country. This is why.

This is a source of encouragement for many from poor households to attend school. There is food at school. It is the ANC implementing the Constitution that has drastically widened access to colleges and universities to over 1.4 million students since 1994. The demographics in our colleges and universities have changed, and black people, who were denied access, are now the majority. In particular, women are a decisive majority of students in our colleges and universities. No other party can match the ANC's record in the history of our country, and indeed in many countries on earth, in terms of the massive progress we have achieved since 1994. There are many other achievements in other areas. Yet there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to reverse the damage caused by colonial dispossession, oppression and exploitation.

The social inequalities that still persist, the high rates of poverty and unemployment were primarily created, and deliberately so, by colonial oppression and imperialist domination.



# Socialism in our lifetime







# INTENSIFYING PARTY WORK FOR THE ALLIANCE

## LED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION VICTORY

as the SACP, we are calling on all our people, women, youth, the working class as a whole and other sectors of society, to vote for the ANC!!



In the court cases that are under way. In particular, there are these Johnny-come-latelies who want to steal the name of Comrade Solomon Mahlangu from his family. The SACP condemns them in the strongest terms possible for undermining the primary position and rights of the Mahlangu family on matters involving Comrade Solomon Mahlangu's name! As the ANC-led liberation we are confident that we will overcome the challenges facing our people working together with them. We draw our inspiration from the sterling leadership qualities of OR Tambo, who passed on this month in 1993 two weeks after the cowardly assassination of Comrade Chris Hani. In memory of Comrade OR Tambo, let us unite our movement and our communities. We must win this municipality, Nelson Mandela Metro, because it belongs to the ANC.



Let us provide quality service to our people and ensure that municipal offices are accessible to workers. Workers should not absent themselves or take leave from work in order to access municipal the offices. The offices must be open even on weekends. Let us build the capacity of the state, including through insourcing outsourced services, to deliver a better quality of service to our people! Let us take this opportunity to pay tribute to all our fallen heroes and particularly those who were hanged in prison and killed by the oppressors. Among them Comrade Chris Hani and Solomon Mahlangu. As the SACP we support both the Hani and Mahlangu families



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 16 AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE

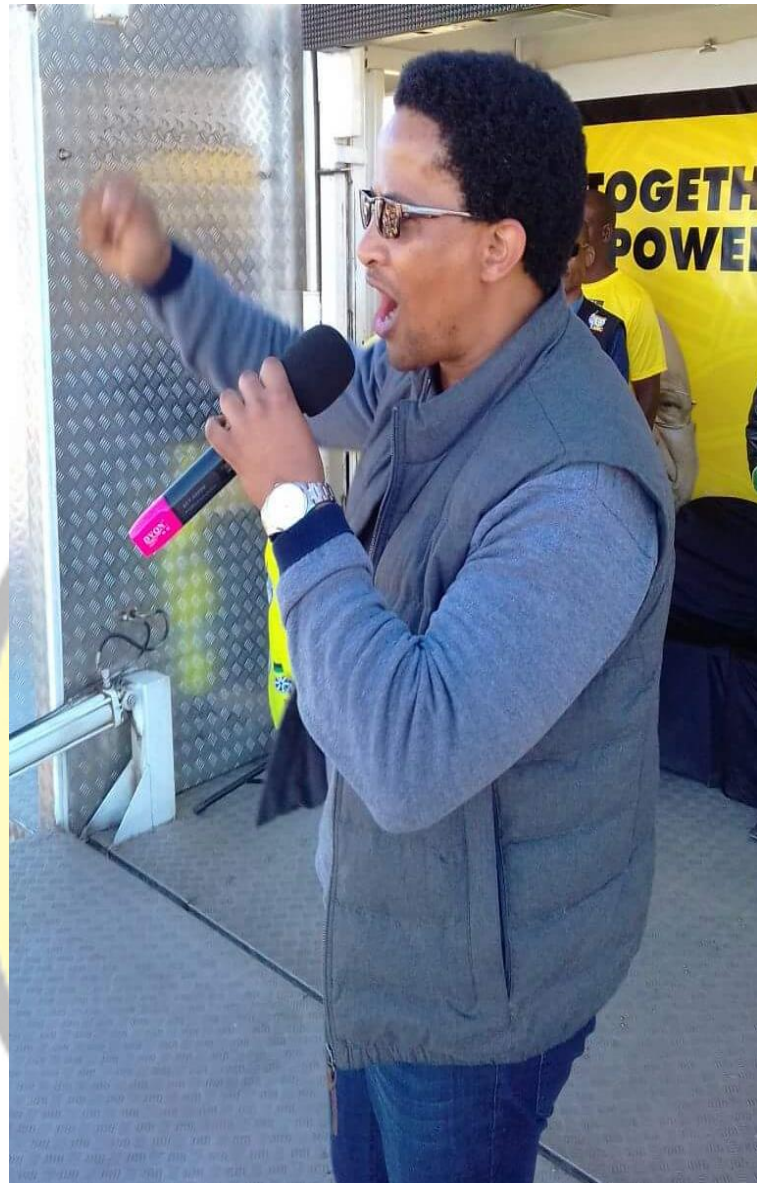
As we celebrate youth month and the heroic contribution of the 1976 young generation to the 40th Anniversary of Youth Uprising in the Country, it is also important to properly understand the primary challenge and reasons for the many problems facing our youth today.

The one social category that has been the single biggest casualty of neo-liberal capitalism has been the youth. Youth has been casualised, retrenched, labour brokered and thrown into the highest levels of youth unemployment since the Great Depression of the early 1930s. However, the sheer scale and intensity of youth unemployment, inactivity and under-employment globally is at a scale not seen since the industrial revolution.

The tendency from both the right wing and (neo) liberals globally and in our country has been to blame this on too much government interference and intervention in the economy, and often also to blame progressive interventions into the labour market by the state (e.g. affirmative action, progressive labour laws, regulating or doing away with labour brokers, etc.). In this argument, capitalism IS ABSOLVED OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY for this potential catastrophe and especially for the destruction of young, potential. Yet, it is the greed of the capitalist system that is daily gravitating our planet towards an ecological and social disaster.

Similarly most of South African media has perfected the art of blaming government for any and all of our economic problems, without saying a word about the responsibility of South African capitalism for many of our economic woes. Of course, this does not surprise us, as most of the print media especially is owned by a white capitalist class. Of course, government should be criticized if it fails in its duties and responsibilities. But this criticism should not divert us from examining the defects of the underlying, capitalist, socio-economic system.

The ultra left both outside, and to some extent from inside, our own ranks often behave similarly to the right wing and liberals by heaping the blame for all our problems on our government and especially the ANC. The criticism that the ultra left occasionally heaps on white monopoly capital is often a genuflection as it is not accompanied by any concrete campaigns against this section of the capitalist class. Instead, any campaigns of the ultra-left are directed at government, and particularly aimed at discrediting the ANC in the public arena.







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## THE STATE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE

The Northern Cape has by far the smallest population and economy of any of the provinces. Its real economy has been dominated by iron ore and ferro alloys, with the mines linked to the coast by significant investments in rail transport. As a result, its economy has been closely linked to the price of iron ore, with rapid growth during the commodity boom and a significant slowdown since then. The province has seen significant out-migration over the past 20 years.

### The real economy in the Northern Cape

The Northern Cape, with 1,2 million residents, accounted for only 2% of South Africa's population in 2014/2015, and contributed a similar share of the GDP. In 2014 – the latest available data – the real economy (represented by agriculture, mining, manufacturing and

construction) made up 34% of the Northern Cape's output. The largest real-economy sector was mining, at 22% of the provincial economy, followed by agriculture at 7%, manufacturing at 3%, and construction at 2%. The Northern Cape contributed 6% of national mining, 0,5% of national manufacturing and 7% of national agriculture, but just 1% of construction. The rapid increase in mining prices compared to other products during the commodity boom, and their subsequent sharp decline, makes it more difficult to assess GDP growth at provincial level. Looking only at the volume of production understates the benefits for mining-dependent provinces during the boom as well as the slowdown afterwards, and exaggerates the relative performance of provinces that do not have much mining activity.

The growth in the Northern Cape using standard figures show only the volume of production, effectively ignoring the impact of changes in prices on the purchasing power of the province.





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By this measure, the Northern Cape mostly lagged national economic growth, especially during the commodity boom. In contrast, as a share of the national GDP, which uses current values of output, the Northern Cape's output climbed through 2008, then stabilised at 2,1%. A similar paradox emerges from the figures for growth by sector over the past decade. In volume terms, mining output in the North West reportedly declined during the commodity boom. In terms of volume, the fastest-growing sector was construction. Manufacturing performed reasonably well during the commodity boom, but grew by only 0,7% a year from 2011 to 2014.

The impact of higher metals prices on mining becomes clear if we compare the change in mining output deflated by the GDP deflator with the figures for growth in the volume of production. By measure mining production in the Northern Cape, it climbed almost 5% a year from 2004 to 2011, but then fell 1% a year through 2014. In terms of purchasing power, as measured by the deflated rand value of production, mining growth far outstripped the rest of the Northern Cape's economy during the commodity boom. The importance of mining for the Northern Cape emerged from its dominant share in the provincial economy. During the commodity boom, its contribution climbed from 21,5% in 2004 to 25% in 2010. It then fell back to 22% in 2014 as iron ore prices collapsed.

The employment data shed further light on the structure of the economy in the North West. In 2015 (using the average for year of the QLFS), the province accounted for 2% of total employment in South Africa. Some 102 500 people were employed in the real economy sectors, which contributed 33% of total provincial employment.

Of employed people in the real economy in the Northern Cape in 2015:

- 39 500 were in mining (in 2014);
- 36 000 were in agriculture;

- 29 000 were in construction;
- 11 000 were in manufacturing



The Northern Cape accounted for 1% of South African manufacturing employment. The top manufacturing industry in the province for employment was food and beverages. But the province accounted for only 1% of employment in that industry. Iron ore and ferro alloys dominated mining employment in the province. Generally, gold mining saw job losses during the commodity boom, while platinum mining, coal and iron ore created employment.

According to Department of Mineral Resources data, which is more reliable for mining, total mining employment in the province climbed from 22 000 in 2003 to 35 500 in 2011, while sales climbed sharply from 8% of the national total to 20%, mostly because iron ore prices multiplied more than tenfold. From 2011 to 2014, the number of Northern Cape miners increased to 39 500, while sales dropped to 19% of the national total as iron prices fell by almost 25%. The major private projects announced for the real economy of the Northern Cape in the past three years have been in mining, including in rare earths, zinc and diamonds.



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The province has seen large public infrastructure projects.

### Employment and unemployment

Employment in the province is close to the national average, with 40% of the working age population employed in 2015, compared to a national average of over 40%. The international norm is around 60%. Working-age people with employment had risen from 39% in 2010, when employment hit a low following the 2008/ 2009 global financial crisis. Sixty-four percent of total employment was in the formal sector, compared to the national average of 69%. In 2014, the median formal wage was R2 600 and the median wage for domestic, informal and agricultural workers was R1 400, compared to R4 000 nationally for formal workers, and R1 500 for other employees. The Northern Cape has seen significant out-migration, in part due to low pay and limited employment opportunities outside of mining. Its population grew 17% from 1996 to 2015, compared to a national average of 35%. The Northern Cape and the national spatial economy Apartheid geography has a significant impact on economic structures, and especially on access to economic opportunities for ordinary South Africans. The Northern Cape has:

- A relatively low share of former “homeland” areas within its borders. In 2015, 21% of the population lived in former “homeland” regions, compared to 27% for the country as a whole;
- No metro areas and one secondary city (Sol Plaatje, which includes Kimberley) out of 32 municipalities. Sol Plaatje accounts for 20% of the province’s population. That compared to 40% of the national population living in metro areas and secondary cities;
- A relatively large share of non-Africans in the total population, at 47% compared to 20% nationally. These factors help explain the province's economic structure and key constraints on growth.

Under apartheid, African areas and especially the former “homeland” regions typically excluded natural resources, and for decades were mainly deprived of infrastructure and government services. Some indicators of the implications for the Northern Cape are:

- The 2015 General Household Survey found that the median household income was R3 460 a month, compared to a national median of R3 260. In the former “homeland” regions it was R2 260 a month, compared to R3 900 in the rest of the province;
- In 2015, only 21% of working-age people in the former “homeland” regions were employed, compared to 40% in the rest of the Northern Cape;



- According to Census data, the population in the former “homeland” regions in the Northern Cape increased by 2% from 1996 to 2011, while the rest of the province saw population growth of 16% - still well below the national average growth;





- In 2015, matric degrees were held by 26% of the province's working-age population aged over 20, but only by 21% in the former "homeland" regions.

For the country as a whole, the figure was 29%. The share of adults in the Northern Cape with matric had climbed from 11% in 1996. Only 9% of the Northern Cape's adult population had a degree, compared to 13% nationally:

- The 2015 General Household Survey found that 77% of households in the Northern Cape had running water in their houses or yards, compared to 73% in 1996. Some 92% had electricity, up from 64% in 1996. Nationally, 73% of households had running water and 85% electricity;

- Municipal expenditure per person in the Northern Cape came to R5 500 in 2015/2016, compared to R5 900 nationally. The lone secondary city, with 20% of the population, raised 36% of all municipal rates and tariffs in the province. It only received 10% of current and 8% of capital transfers and subsidies, mostly from the national government. Still, it spent R7 000 per person compared to R5 100 per person in the other municipalities in the Northern Cape.

### Economic Policy Initiatives

The main national industrial policy and development initiatives that affected the Northern Cape included the following:

- In terms of Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) support, from 2013/2014 to 2014/5, seven projects were approved under the Manufacturing Competitiveness enhancement Programme (MCEP) for R40 million. Eight projects were approved under the Manufacturing Investment Programme (MIP), with a value of R17 million;

- In part because of its scattered population, the Northern Cape has begun to host largescale renewable energy projects as well as the largest radio telescope programme in the world, known as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). It is planning a solar corridor as a Special Economic Zone in Upington. In addition, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) invested 23,4% of its total spending in the Northern Cape, mostly in renewable energy projects;

- The renewable energy and SKA projects were included in the major infrastructure programmes in the province, which also included rail lines to move iron ore and ferro alloys for export and domestic refining. The rail investments have been scaled back in the wake of the collapse in international prices for these commodities. The Northern Cape should also benefit from a range of investments in education and health facilities as well as the roll-out of broadband to poor communities.





# The Sol Plaatje Municipal Electricity Price Hike of 7.64% and the Pretoria High Court Ruling

The YCLSA in the NC applauds the decision of the High Court in Pretoria that has found NERSA's decision to approve the application for a tariff hike as unlawful in that correct procedures weren't followed. However, the YCLSA in the Province is still upset that despite this decision, the Sol Plaatje Municipality (SPM) increased its electricity prices by an average of 7.64% from July 1, meaning that people have since been over-charged. It came to our attention through comparative analysis that in fact SPM residents are paying more or are charged higher for electricity, comparatively to other Municipalities, either at a higher or same category with the SPM. This has among others, being denied and rejected by the SPM after being discovered by YCLSA and brought to the attention of the SPM. Despite the High Court ruling that has set aside Eskom's tariff increase, residents of Sol Plaatje will continue to pay for electricity at a rate ruled as unfair by the high court, and the YCLSA call for the remedy of the situation by SPM.

It's only SPM that knows reasons why communities have all along being charged such a high tariff and for what purpose are such multiple profits generated unfairly from a basic service which has been commodified, being spent at. Thus we are saying, it can't be an excuse that the SPM says it will feel a pinch, those who have been taking wrongfully from our people must remedy the situation.

Today, our Province is a leading site of renewable energy plants which supposed to benefit our communities. It can't be right that bigger townships and cities in other provinces pay lesser than communities which continue to invest on renewable energy plants/infrastructure like the Northern Cape. Given the situation, the question that must be asked is what are the prospects of direct social investment and the benefits that are

derived from this renewable energy infrastructure if at all our communities continue to pay for higher electricity prices. The electricity prices must be reduced as a sign that the Province has invested a lot in renewable energy and of course smaller communities may consume lesser electricity. The YCLSA however, still urges our communities to use energy wisely. The mines, industries and business whom are the biggest consumers are urged to use electricity prudently.

The YCLSA further calls for municipalities and Eskom to design and implement structured community based programmes in line with the green energy initiatives in order to make sure that our people use alternative renewable energy sources and are educated about initiatives to safe energy. Capitalism is a barbaric system that in its chase for profits, will not hesitate to deplete our natural resources that Eskom traditionally relies on to produce energy. It is for this reason that the working class broadly must take up the campaign for energy saving and affordable use of renewable energy sources.



By YCLSA in the NC  
Spokeswoman: Michia Moncho





# Announcements

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