



# Red Voice

ISSUE NUMBER # 13 – THE NC SACP RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN SEP - DEC 2016

COMPLIMENTS OF THE NEW SEASON



**NO TO HIGH ELECTRICITY TARIFFS –  
NO TO ILLEGAL EVICTIONS – NO TO  
CORRUPTION – THE SACP IS  
BUILDING POPULAR MASS POWER  
BY TAKING FORWARD COMMUNITY  
STRUGGLES**



**Inside: FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**



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# Editor's Voice



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

## **GREETINGS OF THE NEW SEASON TO ALL OF YOU COMRADES, CADRES AND COMPATRIOTS**

The YCLSA in the Province wish to pass its good wishes for the new year to all young people, children of the working class and the poor around the world. This is also the period during which Grade 12 results have been released, and many students are out in search of opportunities for further learning, skills development and/or job opportunities, we wish them well and commit to work with them in pursuance of their brighter future.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Red Voice (RV) Edition comprehensively covers the work done in the Province through the consolidation of popular mass power by mobilising our communities to undertake their own struggles primarily through its demand for free education, health, water, municipal services, central banking, development finance, transport, communications, electricity supply, energy including liquid fuels, mineral rights and housing. This also means the

upsizing of the capacity of the democratic state to transform the economy in favour of the working class and the poor through directing, disciplining and rolling back the private sector in our economy particularly in the provision of basic services to our people.

The 13<sup>th</sup> RV Edition is released after the National Congress of NUM Youth Structure in November, we wish them well after their successful National Congress. The YCLSA will also ensure that all COSATU affiliates establish Youth Structures that are political, ideologically, organizationally and financially capacitated to carry out their revolutionary tasks on the factory floor.

Perhaps also look on how COSATU Young Workers Forum can do more work with SASCO at institutions of higher learning in mobilising and conscientising this students whom are future workers and professionals about joining the COSATU Unions at their workplaces instead of being left to be captured by the arrogance of capital.

Emerging from SASCO and YCLSA National Council has been discussions about the Party contesting state and popular power

The YCLSA emphasised that the SACP is an independent political party representing the working class of South Africa.

The YCL says the Party must take the bold and decisive decision to contest state power as a party of power.

Which Communist Party in the world today does not contest for state power? The answer is none. Why should the SACP be any different from the rest of the Parties around the world.

All this is properly contextualised in this edition.

Enjoy the reading!!!



# YCLSA NC PC 5<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY SESSION STATEMENT

The 4th Congress of the Young Communist League of South Africa in the Northern Cape met for its 5th Plenary Provincial Committee meeting on 30th September 2016 -2nd October 2016. The meeting was preceded by a number of few developments internationally and continentally. In the main the meeting covered issues ranging from the historical and state of youth politics in the province, socio economic developments in the province, the state of higher education and the position of YCLSA to state power.

The YCLSA has always maintained that the only way to address systemic challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment is to fundamentally transform the economic base of the country. The YCLSA remains staunch on the view that the SACP is a party of power and must therefore contest state power starting with the national elections in 2019. The SACP has a revolutionary responsibility to play a vanguard role in defence of the working class and the advancement of class struggle for socialism in our lifetime.

The YCLSA supports and is actively participating in all the principled and peaceful struggles by the students against financial exclusion in all its forms including upfront fee payments. We are strongly opposed to any measures adopted by institutions of learning to convert education from a constitutional right into a commodity-privilege for a few mostly, students from well-off and capitalist families whose parents from have the money to buy access.

The government's endeavour undertaken by the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Presidency, especially the recently announced task team to find solutions to the challenges of students funding, must be supported. This in itself is not a mean to an end, but a mean to a start of finding a solution to free higher education. Given the exacerbated burning and destruction of property at institutions of higher learning, it is our observation that this student protests has been

hijacked by the third force which seeks to collapse the higher education system in the country and discredit the GS of the SACP Cde. Blade Nzimande on his deployment as a Minister of Higher Education. Students must be aware of the forces that infiltrate their struggles with an objective of hijacking these struggles to serve their narrow party political and factional interests. Students must raise their views without fear or favour and their interests must be championed without destroying property because Universities are a heritage of students and Universities belong to communities.

We are also calling on the President of the Republic of South Africa Cde. Jacob Zuma to disband the board of the SABC which cannot exercise legal decisions of the court(s) of law in releasing Hlaudi Motsoeneng from SABC, but rather dilly-dally and try to save him by appointing him from one position to the other. This we view as deliberate efforts of the SABC to undermine our courts of law and the concerned voice of reason that Motsoeneng is not the SABC and law unto himself, and thus he must vacate the SABC.

The extended delays of the appointment of the Board of the NYDA is also disappointing. The question that we are asking is that if the President is puzzled by the appointment of a new board seven months after the term of the board has come to an end, the President might as well re-appoint the very same board which has done very well during its tenure to restore the credibility of the NYDA as a viable youth development institution capable of developing the lives of the young people. The narrow location of the NYDA offices in the cities and its absence in the periphery is also a problem. Given the huge bulge of young people faced with challenges of marginalisation, unemployment, lack of skills, and poverty, the focus must also be the resourcing and widening access of the NYDA to the rural masses in all areas of the Province by establishing offices of the NYDA in all towns/municipalities in an endeavour to reach to the masses of our youth.





**BUA THURSDAY**

**#FEES MUST FALL AGAINST ANARCHY**



**BUA  
THURSDAY**



**FREE QUALITY EDUCATION  
FOR ALL OR THE POOR?**

08  
SEPTEMBER  
2016  
16H00



**YCLSA NATIONAL SECRETARY  
MLULEKI DLELANGA**

**IKHUTSENG COMMUNITY HALL  
WARRENTON**

*Bua Thursday Address by the YCLSA National Secretary  
Cde. Mlu Dlelanga*

*"It is not he who makes no mistakes that is intelligent. There are no such men, nor can there be. It is he whose errors are not very grave and who is able to rectify them easily and quickly that is intelligent" Lenin*

South Africans must look at the destruction of university infrastructure and disruptions of academic programmes afresh. We must distinguish between the genuine concerns and peaceful protest on the one hand, on the other hand the destruction of public property and disruptions of academic programmes coupled with violations of the rights of other students.

The destruction of Universities and disruption of education, which is the public service, do not serve the vision of free education for students from poor and workers families..

It is an act of sheer destabilization, using education as a political issue. We can only ignore it at our own peril! Possibilities might as well exist, that the aim by those who are pushing destabilization involves sustaining and then expanding it to disrupt other public services until the country becomes ungovernable.

Progressive students from the congress movement should be vigilant and guard such fringe elements, and whoever is hijacking the course of the struggle for free education for the poor and workers. In particular, it is important, in a developing democratic society, for truly progressive or revolutionary students and youth to win the majority to their side by democratic means. Everyone has constitutional rights. No one should propagate their demands by violating the constitutional rights of others.

This brings us to a very important issue we have been consistently raising as Young Communists. First, As the YCLSA we support the call for free education at higher education and support the pronouncement by the Minister. Secondly, we strongly believe that our country can afford free education; all what is need is to unravel on how we do priorities and come up with new budgeting approach. We must think outside of what is being presented. Thirdly, the continuing failure of the authorities responsible for state security, public safety and policing to protect the rights of other students, members of the public and public property is gravitating plays into the hands of the forces of destabilization. If not stopped, it will reach a point where the legitimacy of democratic developmental state that we seek to build will be discredited with far reaching consequences.

The ANC the main mass political organization at the head of our Alliance and government to look at this more seriously. We are looking forward to the ANC in giving clarity and providing proper leadership on this issue.

**Socialism in our lifetime**





## #FEES MUST FALL AGAISNT ANARCHY

Unity and cohesion are important for the ANC and more so as the leading component of the tripartite alliance inclusive of our mother body, the SACP. The SACP, COSATU and SANCO should also assist its ally the ANC on dealing with this issue. We further call South Africans to go beneath the surface and find out what else is happening so that we can best work together to address it openly , without fear or favor.

What we should not do:

As members of the Progressive Youth Alliance and the congress movement family, during these students' protests, our protest for free education, we should not do the following:

Find ourselves in destruction of infrastructure.

Not allow universities and Councillors to get away with the exorbitant cost of education.

Not allow money to build five stars in the name of universities

What we should do:

We should not relent on the call for free education.

Raise issue of transformation highly.

Think outside of what is being presented.

Struggle for equity in all universities.

Consistently challenge the notion of institutional autonomy.

Struggle for overall transformation of our education system.

Let look closely what does the pronouncement by Minister of Higher Education and Training means for the working class. From a working class perspective, it means a lot. It is one step forward towards the realization of free education in our country. This is not a neutral war for education. It does not mean that if we are in the same classroom or chairing the same classrooms that we come from the same class background.



*In attendance of the Bua Thursday is from left: Che Moremedi and Patrick Bosiame*

*Matlhako, Mlu Dlelanga, Norman Shushu, Lebogang*





## #FEES MUST FALL AGAISNT ANARCHY

Even our class position and our class interests are not the same. We know that there is no class neutrality in a class struggle and the benefit of being class is that whatever move you take one of the class benefits. Even Lenin eloquently taught us that "To expect class neutrality in a class divided society is as foolish naïve as to expect the capitalist to reduce profit to increase wages".

Let's be realistic, let's address from a class perspective the question of free education under capitalist production relations. Indeed, we as the young reds call for a free, compulsory and quality education. But let's analyze it around privately owned property under capitalism. For instance a son or daughter of Manyawuza versus a son and daughter of Oppenheimer, there is no equality and there can be no equality in an unequal situation. Therefore, free education must first focus from the Manyawuza's son or daughter and in the process capitalists and private sector must also contribute on making this possible.

The call for free education , which by the way is the long standing resolution of the Young Communist league of South Africa , which has been calling and campaigning through its annual Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign that Free , Compulsory and Quality Education , an education system that is socialist oriented and ultimately a socialist education system. what their impact on this noble struggle is. In areas where we feel we committed strategic errors we must find ways to correct those

areas and chat a progressive way forward as we take forward the struggle.

We all know that if you have young people on your side, you can build or destroy the revolution. There can be no revolution in South Africa and anywhere in the world without the involvement of the fresh blood which embodies the future of its nation, of an organization and that will carry the load for the elders, becoming the engine of organization, for the realisation of organisation's aspirations and its founding mission. The youth are the pride, drivers of the nations.



*Comrades chanting and singing revolutionary songs*



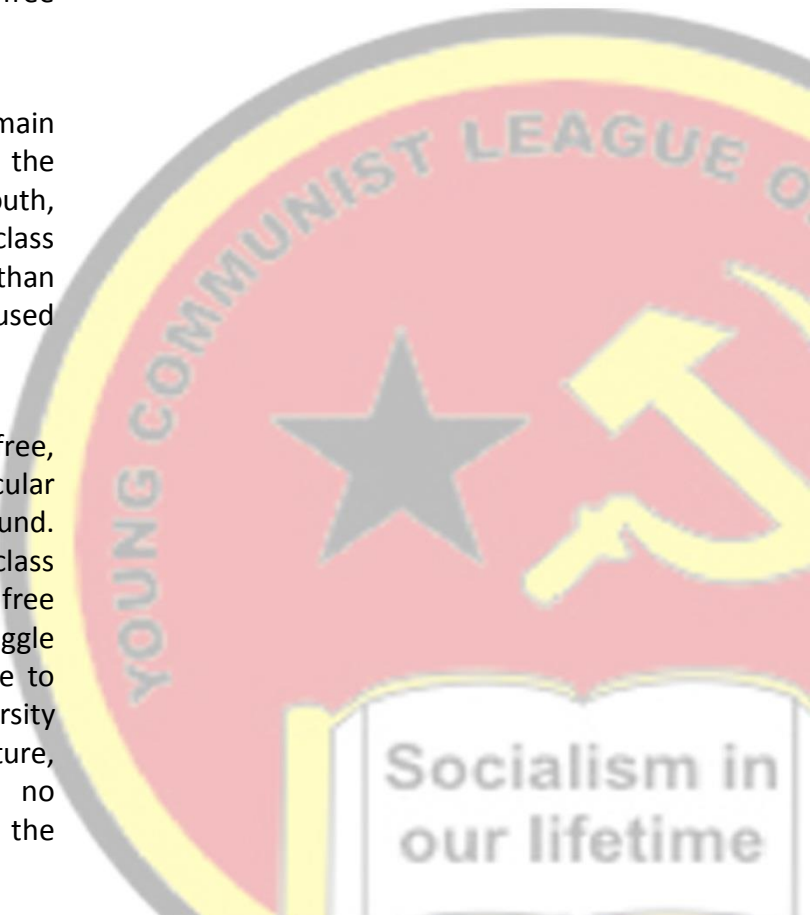
## BUA THURSDAY #FEES MUST FALL AGAISNT ANARCHY

Without the participation and involvement of the youth in the struggle and advancement of the revolution, we are bound to fail in our endeavours to liberate SA from the hands of white European capitalists who still exploit our natural and human resources for the benefit of global world. As young people, we must reflect on the progress made so far on the struggle for free education. We must look both at the pronouncement by Minister and the strides done by President on addressing the matter and reflect

We call for vigilance to all the progressive students that are engaging on the call for free education not to allow anarchists to hijack this noble call as part of keeping the status quo so that the children of the workers and the poor will ultimately suffer and the struggle for free education is delayed.

In the present situation in our country, the main task of the PYA is of rallying and leading of the youth, of supporting SASCO, of organising youth, of politically educating youth through raising class or political clarity. That is more imperative than ever. We must refuse as young people to be used or factionalise the struggle for free education.

The YCLSA fully support the call for free, compulsory and quality education, in particular for the poor and workers students' background. We say so as we believe that as class contradictions deepen the struggle for free education for all will emerge out of the struggle for free education for the poor. We continue to make this clarion call: Do not burn University property, it belongs to you. Guard your future, protest without reversing your gains and no burning of property and vandalism, that's the bottom line coz YCLSA, says so!



# Socialism in our lifetime







# RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN: DECOMMODIFICATION OF ELECTRICITY & ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

## SACP NORTHERN CAPE MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS DELIVERED TO THE SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY

The SACP in the Northern Cape and its youth wing the YCLSA, Alliance partners COSATU and SANCO, and the Progressive NGO's, representing various working class and poor communities in the province that are severely affected by the high electricity tariffs and illegal evictions, calls on the Executive Mayor of Sol Plaatje to intervene decisively within the Municipality and lower the price of electricity and to urgently address a historical - fast developing and growing illegal evictions crisis in the Sol Plaatje Municipality.

### Background and Context

The submission of this Memorandum of Demands is consistent with and seeks to drive the realization of the strategic policies and programme of action of the SACP for mobilisation of our communities as a key site of power as stated in the South African Road to Socialism (SARS).

The memorandum further seeks to deepen, advance, and defend the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), which is our direct route to Socialism, that is, to build a non-racial, non-sexist, united and democratic country that is free of class exploitation, national oppression and gender discrimination.

We are pleased and inspired to submit this memorandum of demands in the month celebrating the Red October Month of the reminiscence of the workers struggle victory.

We are further pleased that the submission of our memorandum of demands takes place at the time after our country has held yet another round of democratic local government elections that are peaceful, free and fair, thus consolidating our democracy.

We are pleased that the outcomes and processes of our democratic elections since April 1994 were never a subject of dispute in any form, thus reaffirming the maturity and credibility of our electoral system, and the integrity of institutions





# RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN: DECOMMODIFICATION OF ELECTRICITY & ILLEGAL EVICTIONS



*PS of the SACP Cde. Norman Shushu handing over*

*Momorandum with Chair Cde. Maruping Lekwene*

entrusted with and acting as custodians of our electoral system and processes.

We are deeply pleased to submit this memorandum in line with our character as the only vanguard party of the working class in general and workers in particular, consistent with, and humbled by our internationalist principle of human solidarity, comradeship and the absolute love and respect for humanity. We are submitting this memorandum of demands following a series of deeply worrying and disturbing set of research outcomes, reports, trends and observations we have made, that have a great potential to undermine the thrust, principles and set of values that collectively constitute the core and real essence of our democracy, it's constitution and all the applicable democratic laws. In this regard, we wish to submit the following demands:

## **ON HIGH ELECTRICITY TARRIFS**

Since 2011 when Sol Plaatje Municipality

submitted its electricity tariffs to NERSA, the rates were submitted inclusive of VAT and should have remained exclusive of VAT during implementation. When the rates were approved by NERSA at this point in time the municipality included VAT on tariffs which already had VAT which they levied to the consumer. This in essence means VAT of 14% was included twice in the electricity tariffs of which there was increase of electricity tariffs of more than 24% which was unjust and unethical by the municipality. As per NERSA regulations you cannot go above the approved NERSA tariffs. If the municipality had deviated from the approved prices, charges, deviation and tariffs received from the NERSA should be communicated to the public and this did not occur with the Sol Plaatje Municipality. This is the root cause as to why electricity tariffs of Sol Plaatje are one of the highest in the country.

When tariffs are submitted to NERSA by a municipality the process should be transparent where the municipality's detailed cost factor is





# RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN: DECOMMODIFICATION OF ELECTRICITY & ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

shown and the profit margin made from buying and selling of electricity. Sol Plaatje Municipality does not comply with this process as they have a difficulty of costing the electricity and showing the profit margins, we can further request detailed calculations from them about the costs and the profit margins from buying and selling of electricity. Sol Plaatje applies increases based on inflationary increase percentages and not on costing calculations. Since the Incline Block Tariff (IBT) was introduced for residential or domestic users, tariffs have always been increased using a percentage (%) increase mirrored within inflation rates, CPI...etc, but never providing a clear indication that they are being reviewed per primary consideration factor and NERSA is pushing for being cost reflective. Hence the budget is derived from customers paying for the increment or set budget targets, a practise NERSA is disputing because customers are now responsible for management inefficiencies.

The Gauteng High Court has ruled in August 2016 that it was unlawful for NERSA to grant the Sol Plaatje Municipality a right to increase its electricity tariff. There exist clear evidence that Sol Plaatje Municipality rates are high and unreasonable. Sol Plaatje municipality rates are the highest in the Northern Cape and Frances Baard by a huge margin. Sol Plaatje Municipality's electricity is even higher than the economic hub of South Africa which - Johannesburg, and it is even higher than the capital of South Africa - the city of Tshwane.

We therefore demand rebates for over-charging of electricity rates since 2011.

We demand the electricity tariffs be adjusted on or before January 2016, so that there is a balance in what the people are paying for and what they receive by July 2017 when the proposed tariff increase is supposed to be implemented. This can be done through section 28(2) (a)(f) of the MFMA (Municipal adjustment budgets).



## Socialism in our lifetime





# RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN: DECOMMODIFICATION OF ELECTRICITY & ILLEGAL EVICTIONS



## ON ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

Section 4(6) and 4(7) of the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998 provides that the court, hearing an eviction application, has a discretion to refuse an eviction order despite the fact that an application is the registered owner and the respondent is an unlawful occupier of the property.

The PIE Act was introduced to regulate the eviction process and to afford proper judicial oversight. It was enacted to balance the owner's property rights and the occupants' right to access to housing. On the one hand, a court may refuse an eviction application if the respondent would be homeless and the granting of the eviction order would not be just and equitable in the circumstances (occupiers, Shula a Court, 11 Hendon Road, Yeoville, Johannesburg v Steele [2010] 4 All SA 54 (SCA))

On the other hand: "the blatant disregard manifested by racist statutes for property rights in

the past makes it all the more important that property rights be fully respected in the new dispensation, both by the state and by private persons' (the Port Elizabeth Municipality case at para 15)

The fact that the owner's common law right to possession of their property and deeds is stripped from the owners by the municipality and the very legislation that was intended to balance the owner's rights against that unlawful occupation. Our objection is aimed against the fact that, by practical implementation, the scale is tipped predominantly in favour of the unlawful occupier and that for a potentially in limited period.

The masses of our people and a number of communities, as well as organised Progressive Formations have approached the South African Communist Party in the Northern Cape in reporting forceful illegal evictions happening around the vicinity of the Sol Plaatje Municipality.





# RED OCTOBER CAMPAIGN: DECOMMODIFICATION OF ELECTRICITY & ILLEGAL EVICTIONS



This is a cyber white collar organised crime by both criminals, the business and officials in the Sol Plaatje Municipality and government departments. This is a syndicate which has been reported by hundreds of households in the areas of, but not limited to Lorato Park, Soul City, Phutanang, Transit Camp, Haal Street, Club 2000, Bloemanda, Roodepan, Jacksonville, the Greater Number 2, Homelite, and Greenpoint. We have also seen such a pattern generate throughout similar demographic of the community, namely in the main poor single women, child headed households and the poor elderly in our community.

By virtue of the evidence before us and the reports filed at the Courts, we demand the immediate dismissal of all Municipal and Government Officials implicated in this scam.

Given the deep seeded extent of these crime against humanity which is historical and continue to be perpetuated during our daily life, we further demand the commissioning of the judicial commission of enquiry on the matter in order to ensure that all the affected masses of our people find closure on the matter.

**Request for urgent intervention:**

We therefore call for your urgent and swift action to ensure that these demands are addressed and that a clear plan be presented on how each of these demands will be addressed.

As stated in previous correspondence sent to the Sol Plaatje Municipality before this march, we remain committed to a discussion that may include the Alliance in the province to address issues that are contained in this memorandum.



# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE



*Keynote Address by the SACP Provincial Chair of the Northern Cape: Cde. Maruping Lekwene*

The SACP has received with great sadness the news of the passing away of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the elder brother of Comrades Fidel. "Cde. Castro passed on during the morning of Tuesday, 23 February, at the age of 91.

Cde. Fidel Castro dedicated his whole life to the world people's struggle- the liberation of mankind and just world. He fought against imperial oppression, gender oppression and economic exploitation in all their dimensions, including his absolute commitment to the struggle against capitalism. It is through the undying fighting spirit of Fidel, and many of those who have led the Cuban Revolution – in the main the first detachment of July 26 inspired by the Cuban ideologue - José Martí Pérez, who sought to engage in the daunting task of building socialism and international solidarity to the workers of the

world and the oppressed indigenous people in their lifetime.

"There are men who struggle for a day and they are good. There are men who struggle for a year and they are better. There are men who struggle many years, and they are better still. But there are those who struggle all their lives: These are the indispensable ones." - Bertolt Brecht

"Fidel! Fidel! Que tiene Fidel que los americanos no pueden con él!"

(Fidel! Fidel! What is it that he has that the U.S. imperialists can't defeat him!) - Cuban Revolutionary chant

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, ceased to breath. Progressive, anti-war and social justice forces across the world joined in the celebration of the life of one of the world's most influential and significant leaders. It is especially worthwhile and necessary to mark and valorise the life and times of a man whose heart, without missing a beat, has withstood more than 600 assassination attempts by U.S imperialism.







# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN

## CAPE

Fidel's life and legacy loom large in world history and development. Fidel is part and parcel of the wave of the anti-colonial, national liberation and social emancipation struggles that swept Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of the 20th century. Fidel is integral to the Cuban-born and international revolutionary and anti-imperialist tradition, theory and practice, stretching through the Taino Cacique, Hatuey, Toussaint L'Overture, Simon Bolivar, José Martí Pérez, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh, among others.

Fidel did not transcend Cuba and history, as some have opined, but, instead, is ineluctably and organically bound to the deepest aspirations of the Cuban people and the demands of the times. Fidel belonged to the world. He did not stand above or outside life. Flesh and blood, brain and bone, he exemplifies the finest traditions of humanity.

His life encapsulates the struggle of the exploited and oppressed, epitomising, as articulated by U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal, "their historic power to transform our dull realities."

The significance of Fidel extends beyond the geographical boundaries of Cuba. Since its inception, the Cuban Revolution has made an invaluable

contribution to the global struggle for justice, social development and human dignity. Under Fidel's leadership Cuba has established an unparalleled legacy of internationalism and humanitarianism, embodying the immortal words of José Martí: "Homeland is Humanity. Humanity is Homeland." In southern Africa, for example, more than 2,000 Cubans gave their lives to defeat the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. Nelson Mandela never forgot. After he was released from prison, one of the first countries outside of Africa and the first country in Latin America that he chose to visit was Cuba.

Today this commitment to humanity is mirrored in the tens of thousands of Cuban medical personnel and educators who have served and continue to serve around the world. This service sees them battling in the trenches against disease and illiteracy, running the gamut from combating the Ebola outbreaks in west Africa to beating back other challenges to public health in southern Africa. No less important is the training inside Cuba of medical cadres from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as North America (including African-American communities from the largest U.S. cities).





# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE



Fidel was only 26 when on 26 July 1953 he led a group of courageous young men and women in the attack on the Moncada Barracks in the city of Santiago de Cuba, and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Barracks in Bayamo, an unsuccessful but valiant effort to overthrow the U.S.-supported puppet dictator Fulgencio Batista. Moncada was a catalyst for the revolutionary struggle to free Cuba from U.S. tutelage and establish authentic independence. Fidel has epitomised the unbending commitment to justice, dignity and independence that has characterised Cuba since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution on 1 January 1959, leading Cuban resistance against the unjust and genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the island by Washington.

No words can adequately convey the singular meaning of Fidel. By holding aloft the banners of Socialism, Justice, Peace, Internationalism and Human Dignity, the Cuban Revolution, led by Fidel, demonstrates that a better world is possible. On October 16, 1953 at his trial following the Moncada

attack, Fidel laid out his vision of national independence and social justice, declaring, "Condemn me, it does not matter, history will absolve me." Since those historic words and the subsequent unfolding of events, in a world fraught with intense challenges and dangers, history has not only absolved Fidel but also vindicated the meaning and legacy of his life.

The augmented annual Central Committee meeting, which was to be held from Friday until Sunday, has been postponed to December 14-16.

The South African Communist Party has shown respect for the late Cuban revolutionary, Fidel Castro, when the party postponed its all-important plenary session to mourn his passing.

"The SACP has strong fraternal relations with the Communist Party of Cuba, as is our struggle for national liberation and social emancipation and the Cuban revolution. Our struggle for socialism in South Africa and the socialist revolution in Cuba are an integral part of a single whole - the struggle by world revolutionary forces for universal emancipation."





# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN

## CAPE

Our own transition to the current democratic dispensation in April 1994 came as a result, among other invaluable contributions, of the defeat of apartheid South Africa in Angola by Cuba under the sterling leadership of Comrade Fidel. The defeat forced the apartheid regime to come to the tables in the face of its days having been clearly numbered by the outstanding leadership of Comrade Fidel.

The man who was popularly known as El Comandante inspired the black South African liberation struggle along with his friend, Che Guevara, for his resilient anti-imperialist fight. He toppled the corrupt regime of former president Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and ruled until he handed over reins to his brother Raul ten years ago after Fidel became sick.

He attended the late former president Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration in May 1994 while his brother Raul came to the icon's funeral in December 2013.



*Message of support from the ANC delivered by the Provincial Secretary of the ANC: Cde. Zamani Saul*

On behalf of the members of the ANC in the Northern Cape, the PEC wishes to express its most profound condolences to the family of the Commander In Chief Fidel Castro, the Communist Party of Cuba and the people of Cuba as a whole. We lower our revolutionary banner in mourning the passing away of one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century.

Much as we mourn the passing-on of comrade Fidel on the 25th of November 2016 we should also celebrate his great life and his immortal historic contribution in building a better life for all humanity. Comrade Fidel will go down in history as one of the greatest revolutionaries of the 20th century. This is highlighted by how his leadership is characterised throughout the world, the CNN as a 'colossus revolutionary that stood against injustice', Aljazeera as the 'greatest revolutionary of the 20th century', etv as the 'father of the Cuban revolution', CubanNational Broadcast as an 'unparalleled





# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

revolutionary leader of the 20th century', the SACP as the 'rarest breed of finest revolutionaries and a communist par excellence' the Communist Party of China as the 'extraordinary revolutionary of immeasurable talent'.

Comrade Fidel was a great friend of the ANC, the alliance, the broader liberation movement and the people of South Africa. He stood firmly with the oppressed in South Africa during the dark days of apartheid-colonialism and throughout the 30 year period of exile, the arm struggle and international isolation. His commitment to our struggle for liberation was demonstrated by action.

Cuba under the leadership of Comrade Fidel was also committed to the struggle for the decolonisation of Africa. This was demonstrably marked by the deployment of thousands of Cuban soldiers in the 1980s to support the Angolan liberation movement against apartheid South African Defence Force aggression, what came to be known as the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. The defeat of the SADF heralded the victory of the MPLA in Angola and this laid the basis for the independence in Namibia in 1990 and the defeat of the apartheid regime in South Africa in 1994.

Comrade Fidel was both an internationalist and an anti-imperialist. He selflessly supported the struggle for liberation in Latin America and in Africa. Castro managed to build a Cuban nation that believes in solidarity without expectation of any gain. Today in South Africa, the Cuban doctors and engineers continue to make an immense contribution in our programme of social transformation to develop our country and to ensure a better life for all. In Latin America alone more than 6000 Cuban doctors are deployed and thousands more deployed to many poorest parts of world.

More than half a million Cubans have gone on international missions as technicians and'

combatants. More than 10 000 Latin American young people and thousands of young South Africans are studying medicine in Cuba for free. Reflecting on this, comrade Fidel alludes 'we are a small and a poor country, so we do all of these things not out of luxury but because we are moved by humanity. Cuba is not a country, it is humanity. Comrade Fidel vociferously defended the national sovereignty of Cuba and correctly did not see any contradiction between the defence of one's sovereignty and international solidarity. He firmly believed that it is through revolutionary internationalist solidarity that the legitimate aspiration of national sovereignty by nations could be safeguarded. This directly challenged the urge of the war-monger, the US, to be the police of the world.

What were the benefits that ordinary Cubans derived from the revolution? Today, Cuba is the world most equal society, with the lowest infant mortality rate, high life expectancy, almost 100% primary school enrolment and low crime rate. Cubans enjoy much higher health standards than the citizens of the United States.







# THE FIDEL CASTRO MEMORIAL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

Cuba recorded all these achievements despite facing the world fiercest, protracted and unjust economic blockade from the US. We owe it to the Cubans to ensure that we improve our education system and health in this country.

The question of what sustained the Cuban revolution begs to be answered. What is it that made the people of Cuba to defend their revolution under extremely difficult circumstances for more than 58 years? Generally, there are three aspects that constituted the basis for the successful prosecution and defence of the Cuban revolution.

One, is the strong Cuban Communist Party, which the people of Cuba trusted with their future. A strong party is the greatest gift and heritage that the people of Cuba have. The Cuban Communist Party is revolutionary party with a revolutionary theory and a revolutionary leadership. The Cuban Communist Party is a political instrument in the hands of the people of Cuba to improve their lives. The party does not exploit the trust and confidence that the people of Cuba have in it.

Two, honest and uncompromised party leadership. This is party leadership that is trained by the history never to betray the cause of the revolution. This is a leadership whose commitment to the struggle to improve the quality of life of the Cuban people is not questionable. This is leadership that is selfless and incorruptible, and persistently tries to improve their understanding of how society works (self-cultivation). This is a leadership that masters the art of managing both internal and external contradictions to the best interest of the people. This is a leadership that wholeheartedly put itself at the service of the people. Comrade Fidel alluded that the precondition for the masses to support and defend the revolution, is that the 'leaders must be honest in their dealings with the revolution'. Leadership of the Cuban Communist Party was not and is still not a commodified leadership with a price tag susceptible to capture by business interest.



Third, is the consistent ideological work to sharpen the focus of the party and its cadres. The leadership of the party appreciated the importance of political education on the tools of analysis and the theory of the revolution both inside and outside the party. This enabled the party to strengthen its cadreship base. Any revolution without a strong cadreship base is doomed, as cadres are the advance elements at the frontline of the defence of the revolution. So the party placed pre-eminence on the importance of having a clearly defined ideology, that can be articulated with ease and simplicity to all the motive forces of the revolution.

So, what are lessons for the ANC and the broader alliance movement? In the aftermath of the August 2016 Local Government Elections the ANC Research Unit conducted a study to establish the causes of the electoral decline of the ANC. This study was conducted in the ANC strongholds and highlights three factors that caused discomfort among the ANC traditional support base. These are:

- Corruption
- Divisions in the ANC, and
- Arrogance.



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All these problems are fuelled by the lack of capacity in the ANC structures to hold members and leaders accountable. These problems are further fuelled by ideological degeneration that is taking root within our ranks. Where membership of the ANC or election into leadership means unbridled access to control of state resources. The cumulative impact of all these, is weak ANC structures, weak leadership and an unguided drift of the country.

Comrades, to effectively defend our revolution we need to embark on a programme to strengthen the movement of the people. We owe it to comrade Fidel and the people of Cuba to urgently restore the confidence in the ANC and the broader alliance by tackling all the challenges that confront the organisation. So, in memory of comrade Fidel we must fight corruption as it robs the poor of the much-needed state resources to improve their quality of life. In memory of comrade comrade Fidel we must unite our movement and be humble leaders to our people. In memory of comrade Fidel we need to deepen and strengthen solidarity with Cuba and the global progressive forces.

As the ANC we shall forever be indebted to the immortal contribution and role played by comrade Fidel.

Amandla



*COSATU input delivered by the Provincial Secretary of COSATU Cde. Anele Gqoyiya*

The Congress of South Africa Trade Unions in the Northern Cape joins millions of socialist revolutionaries and the working class people across the globe in bidding farewell to the founding father of an independent Cuban nation, Fidel Castro. His name is engraved in history as a champion of the successful struggle against American Imperialism.

We will remember Comrade Fidel on the role that he, together with the likes of Che Guevara played in the liberation struggle of the African Continent. They fought side by side with the revolutionary masses of the African people in battles like Cuito Canavalle where the back of apartheid was broken. This was the confirmation of their unwavering commitment to the global fight against capitalist imperialism.

Comrade Fidel Castro presided over a government that produces the best skills in the field of science and engineering. His government entered into a partnership that saw our government sending many young people to Cuba to study medicine while Cuba deployed the best medical practitioners to our





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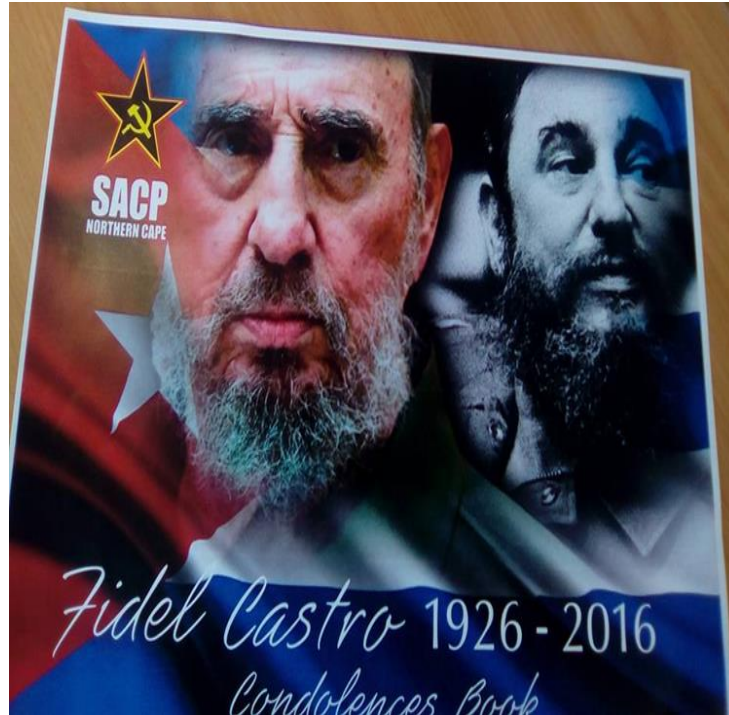
shores, a gesture that saw our country getting the best qualified medical professionals from Cuba.

Comrade Fidel Castro hated capitalism because he knew it is the breeding ground for high levels of corruption and which produces the triple challenges of unemployment, inequalities and poverty.

The Cuban revolution under El Comandante Castro is a model of success as it improved the quality of life of the greater majority of Cubans through the eradication of illiteracy and the introduction of the best and the most advanced healthcare system in the world. The life expectancy in Cuba surpasses all under developed and developing countries, in fact it is an equivalent of the developed countries. This is thanks to the selfless commitment of Comrade Castro to the people of Cuba.

There are lessons to learn from Fidel Castro's leadership of the Cuban revolution:

- He never lost focus on the big land owners and the multinational corporations as represented by government, hence he did not hesitate to



*Fidel Castro 1926 – 2016 Condolences Book*

nationalize.

- Free education topped the agenda of the independent Cuba and resulted in the oversupply of skills.
- They identified those amongst the bourgeoisie who were progressive and were likely to support their revolution.
- The revolution was anchored on the unemployed masses, the vulnerable farm workers, the badly treated and underpaid public servants and academics as well as the young professionals.
- Fidel Castro never flirted with private capital and set up his family for business deals at the expense of the Cuban government and people, in fact he kept his private life private.
- After attaining freedom Fidel lived up to his promise of a better life for all Cubans
- They survived the longest sanctions for their belief in a socialist cause.





A fitting honour and tribute for El Commandant is to unite the ANC and the tripartite alliance behind the NDR which is the direct route to socialism.

Long live the fighting sprirt of El Comandante Fidel  
Castro!!!







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the idea and actions to create medical faculty to graduate more than 1500 foreign doctors from more than 80 nations, among many other great achievements. A partisan who survived more than 600 assassin attempts on his life with 11 American Presidents (administrations) trying to overthrow him. Fidel is more than a man, he is an identification from ourselves with specific attitude in life, be able to see a different road, most of the time invisible and guide and inspired also many, through it.

I would like to use a quote from the speech of President Zuma at the massive memorial service dedicated to our commander held in Havana, he referred to the words said by Oliver Tambo in the meeting of the non-aligned countries held in Cuba in 1979: "African's have come to know the Cuban people not merely be meeting them in their own country but because they live with us in Africa, they fight with us, they die with us, they fail and they win with us. They have become part of the struggling people of our continent".

Without Fidel we wouldn't do that, we would think the way we do now, Fidel is a paradigm of a doctrine that will sustain the ideological pillars of the Cuban's and the whole world revolutionaries.

Eternal Glory Companero Fidel.



*Message of support delivered from the Cuban Society living in South Africa – the Northern Cape by Cde. Doctor Espenaco*

On behalf of the Cuban Embassy and the Cuban people working in the Northern Cape Province, we would like to thank our South African colleagues, comrades, brothers and sisters for being here today sharing our grief and sorrow.

Gathering together, lets celebrate the victorious, the invictus life of an internationalist, of a man who supports until the last minutes of his life the struggling from the oppressed, a man who defends the idea that everyone have the right to live in dignity, a man who led the revolution with a profound social changes that became a symbol of anti-imperialism, anti-apartheid and anti-colonialism.

A commander who led a revolution just 90 miles away from the cradle of imperialism, a commander who managed to lower infant mortality rate in Cuba from 42% to 4%, a commander who eliminated illiteracy just in a year after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, a commander who led



## STUDENT CONGRESS



*The Provincial Secretary of the YCLSA Cde. Lebogang Moremedi delivering the message of support on behalf of the YCLSA*

On behalf of the National Secretary whom was supposed to address these National Council of SASCO on behalf of the National Committee of the YCL and its structures, Cde. President and delegates, please receive our fraternal revolutionary greetings.

- Cde President of SASCO, it is not by accident that YCLSA is invited to address your gatherings. Our relationship are programmatic, dynamic organizational and political.

Your theme for the council is Enhancing Access,

Ensuring Quality Education and Academic Excellence reinforces the recently held YCLSA 3rd National Council Theme of Deepening Youth Mobilisation for Socialism.

Let's open with a quote from a Marxist Scholar Paolo Freire on his writings of Revolutionary Education and the Breakthrough, "freedom will be the result of praxis or informed action when a balance between theory and practice is achieved. Understanding these contradictions is necessary especially in situations of extreme poverty, because oppressors create a culture of silence that propagates a negative self-image of the oppressed. The student/learner needs a critical consciousness to realize that this culture of silence is created to oppress. With a critical consciousness it will become evident that freedom from oppression is possible through engaged political change".

SASCO is the only student formation that can ensure that we achieve this praxis of a balance between theory and practice.

- To us you are our reliable ally all in the Progressive Youth Alliance that is confirmed by our shared perspective which was developed by 2010. "It is changing and dynamic political milieu that has continued to challenge SASCO and YCL to become and remain politically close each other from the outset. All our structures should be encouraged to work together as a matter of necessity. We should condemn any of our structures that contribute with our fractious relations with either of our allies.

- For more than a decade, after its unbanning, the SACP relied almost exclusively on SASCO as its recruitment ground for young communists, to the point that when the YCL was to be re-launched, the Party of the working class once more looked to current and former SASCO leaders such as Smiso Nkwanyana, Gilbert Kganyago, Jacob Mamabolo etc. to take the process forward of the re-birth of the YCL.





## STUDENT CONGRESS

- As a result of its left-leaning posture, SASCO for years played a role of defac to the YCL, in the absence of real makoya. The re-launch of the YCL essentially displaced SASCO from this role. This is why; it came as no surprise that the nucleus of the YCL national leadership that emerged at the re-launch was formed around once more former SASCO leaders David Masondo and Buti Manamela.
- Comrades we would like re-emphasize the importance of our relations to the National Council conference and remind you that SASCO used to produce leaders to the YCLSA and SASCO has been refinery machinery to the YCLSA. This becomes the responsibility of the current SASCO generation to preserve that revolutionary duty.
- Of course without any denialism that our PYA machinery has also produced some factory faults that are in the main not genuine but being bought to derail us from our programme of mobilizing, organizing, agitating, educating and orientating the masses of our young people towards left oriented ideology. This in the main happens through playing into the pertinent issues of our young people and buying them with money to sell their soul to this individuals.
- Comrades we must never fault and sell our organizations to the highest bidder, but tell this willing-buyers / bidders that our organizations are not available for sale.
- Being that SASCO is Marxist-Leninist Student Formation, delegates, we all have a daunting task of guarding our organisation with jealousy to ensure that we defend the future of communism in South Africa.
- This we can achieve through strengthening structures of SASCO and produce for YCLSA which is a preparatory school for future socialism in our Country.
- Thus our strategy have been, must be and should continue to be at all material times to combine building a strong SASCO which is rooted amongs

the masses of our student communities with an advanced cadreship that is ever ready to lead the YCL and take forward the struggle for socialism.

- SASCO is by no doubt a student formation of FIGHTING SOLDIERS OF SOCIALISM

Comrade President and delegates, in the interest of time, allow me to lift few areas that might be of interest to the Council.



### Free Education

- Like Paolo Frere a Marxist scholar said in his writings of the pedagogy of the oppressed, first and foremost, literally speaking, there is nothing free in a capitalist mode of production.
- Our education system is responding to the needs and aspirations of the ruling class. It does not respond to the needs and aspirations of the exploited class. The core of any education system is curriculum.
- The content of curriculum of our education system



## STUDENT CONGRESS

is informed by ruling class. The basis of any curriculum becomes reflective of social class interests, which is by definition of social culture. Culture anyway is a way of life of society. Any society irrespective of class antagonisms has an economic system, communication system, rationality system, morality system, aesthetic system and value and norms system. Therefore curriculum does selection on systems. Obviously, curriculum reflects the ruling class ideas. A school from Grade A- to tertiary level reflects class interests of property owners.

- Our call for free education should therefore not benefit those who affords to pay and those who owns the means of production. This call for free education for all can only be achievable if the workers and the poor can be the owners of production.

- Cdes, We must commend efforts made by leaders of the YCLSA to establish Youth Structures in COSATU affiliates as political cells for mobilising, organising and conscientising young workers in the country.

- These comrades continue to work tirelessly to ensure that young workers play a greater, more significant role in shaping the future of COSATU. This National Council of SASCO must discuss the

role of the YCLSA in ensuring that all COSATU affiliates establish Youth Structures that are political, ideologically, organizationally and financially capacitated to carry out their revolutionary tasks on the factory floor.

- Perhaps also look on how COSATU Young Workers Forum can do more work with SASCO at institutions of higher learning in mobilising and conscientising this students whom are future workers and professionals about joining the COSATU Unions at their workplaces instead of being left to be captured by the arrogance of capital.

- In conclusion Comrades, the Council of SASCO should make a reflection on the call of the YCLSA for the Party to contest state and popular power

- The SACP is an independent political party representing the working class of South Africa.

- The YCL says the Party must take the bold and decisive decision to contest state power as a party of power.

- Which Communist Party in the world today does not contest for state power? The answer is none. Why should the SACP be any different from the rest of the Parties around the world.

Thank you very much Chair!!!

AMANDLA!!!







# Announcements

***Let your voice be heard write to the editorial team at [yclsa.nc@gmail.com](mailto:yclsa.nc@gmail.com)!***



***Please send your letters/views/comments to the editorial team, we want to publish your inputs in the next edition of the **Red Voice*****

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## **Northern Cape**

**Provincial Office**

**053 831 4180**

**yclsa.nc@gmail.com**

**17 Graham Street**

**Kimberley**

**8301**

## **Next Edition**

- **Memorial Lecture and the Right to Learn Campaign**
- **The 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress Provincial Committee**
- **Red Saturdays and Bua Thursdays**

### **District Contact Details:**

#### **Parks Leburu District**

**District Secretary – Petrus Letselebe: 073 662 7454 /  
diceletselebe@yahoo.com**

#### **Joe Slovo District**

**District Secretary – Andile Fatyela: /  
empirefatyela@gmail.com**

#### **Braam Fisher District**

**District Secretary - Jonny Seleke: /  
jjohnyseleke@gmail.com**

#### **Dora Tamana District**

**District Secretary – Ken Shapumba: /  
kshapumba@gmail.com**

#### **Basil February District**

**District Secretary - Darren Engelbrecht: 082 560 8855 /  
darrenengelbrecht@gmail.com**

### **Editorial Team:**

**Lebogang Moremedi**

**Northern Cape Provincial  
Secretary of the YCLSA**

**Patrick Bosiambe:**

**Northern Provincial Chair  
of the YCLSA**

**Kabelo Mohibidu**

**Northern Cape 2nd  
Deputy Provincial  
Secretary of the SACP**