



Young Communist League of South Africa

5th National Congress Declaration

06 – 09 December 2018, University of Fort Hare - Eastern Cape.

We, the over 1200 delegates, representing nine provinces of the Young Communist League of South Africa, graced by the presence of Central Committee Members, our progressive youth alliance components, and our fraternal international formations convened from 06 – 09 December 2018 at the University of Fort Hare, Alice in Eastern Cape under the theme “Deepen Youth Mobilisation and Build Capacity for People’s Power”.

In the Centenary celebrations of our struggle icons, Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, we are humbled to convene the congress in the province of legends, the birth province to OR Tambo, Raymond Mhlaba, Walter Sisulu, Albertina Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and our former General Secretary, Chris Hani.

The congress received an address from our General Secretary, comrade Blade Nzimande on behalf of the 14th Congress Central Committee. He urged the YCLSA to continue with its work in all sectors of society to provide a home for young people who want to see a better, more egalitarian and prosperous South Africa.

The congress emphasised the importance of the YCLSA as an integral part of the SACP, to always subject itself to the decisions and guidance of the Party with an element that seek to add a catalyst and innovation for the advancement of the working class struggles. We further reaffirm the centrality of general membership in the livelihood of the organisation.

Furthermore, congress received messages of support from PYA components, COSAS and SASCO; and message of international solidarity from various international formations across the world. This includes representation from Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Basque country, Greece, Cyprus, Venezuela and Palestine.

The congress received and adopted political, financial and organisational reports. It dealt with an assessment of the work executed collectively for the period under review as well as analysing the contemporary domestic and global political developments.

As a result of the failures of the Capitalist system, there is no doubt that as many countries as possible are being faced with many challenges which include unemployment, poverty, inequality and alarming levels of corrupt practices. These serious challenges are actually worsening in our country. As the YCLSA, we do agree that the albatross of youth unemployment cannot fall squarely on the shoulders of government only but we do put it to government that certain measures need to be immediately taken to address among others elements such as the unfair age restrictions placed on positions within spaces in the army, police, traffic which can be occupied by young people. This also include the red-tape that is found in the public service.

Taking Responsibility for the NDR:

The congress made an assessment on how far are we in advancing the national democratic revolution. We are of the view that, the NDR is on trial and there are attempts to isolate the working class as the primary motive force of the revolution. The revolution is under threat from both internal and external factors. We are of the view that there are attempts by the beneficiaries of corporate state capture and parasitic criminal network to fight back and try by all means to capture structures of the movement.

We commend all members of the YCLSA, leaders of the SACP, activists from civil societies and the South African public who mobilized in the recent past in opposing state capture. In relation to this, all individual actions must be treated equally. We note that the Commission had begun to clean the rot that had been there but it will be a long process before we have cleansed our systems and defended the sovereignty of our country.

However, we as the YCLSA maintain that in order to avoid any future capture of state and government, we should do away with capitalist systems of running our state and speedily introduce socialist orientated systems of governance that put people at the center of service delivery and totally not cater for fat cats, corporations, greedy tenderpreneurs who are obsessed with profit at the compromise of the poor and the workers.

SACP and State Power for Peoples Power:

We should be able to understand that the question of state power does not necessarily mean an electoral contest however the latter is part of entrenching hegemony in some organs of the state in the quest of building people's power. State power is located in diverse sites, including the executive, the legislatures, the judiciary, broad public sector and state owned companies.

The state remains a contested terrain. The reconfiguration of the Alliance does not necessarily mean that SACP should not contest elections. In fact, we as the YCLSA are of the view that contesting elections can be the part of reconfiguring the alliance.

We reconfirm our National Council position that the SACP has a responsibility to run an independent programme to advance and defend both the national democratic revolution and the struggle for socialism in the interest of the working class. It is against this background that the congress reaffirm its resolution for the SACP to contest elections in defence of workers and the poor.

We reaffirm our founding principle that we are indeed the YCLSA of the SACP and that we will continue to derive our approach from its wisdom and that we will always make space for robust engagements on any matter.

On Transformation of Education:

It remains our view that a nation that loves its future invests in its youth, therefore we feel that there is a need to transform our educational system to be inline and best suits our needs while addressing our market needs. The struggle for attaining free and quality education for the poor, should be broadened beyond breaking financial barriers but transforming the neo-liberal curriculum content that for over the years being entrenched in the name of institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

The Congress vowed to intensify participation at institutions of higher learning and in particular at Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges where the majority of young people receive their formal education. We are however concerned with the programme of producing artisans by TVETS, this would have gone a long-way in addressing the persisting challenges of skills shortage. We therefore declare 2019 as the year of the 'TVET Sector'.

The Congress resolved that the new leadership collective must convene an international student summit whereby we will consolidate the work we do with international students based in South Africa. All structures are instructed to participate in our annual Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign, all other activities, and campaigns. Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign must be carry out from early childhood development (ECD) centres all the way through to institutions of higher learning. Education is key in the development of our society and further saying that all efforts should be put towards increased investment in public education so that it truly become qualitative and of benefit for the public good.

Building a vibrant and campaigning YCLSA:

The congress is convened during the dedicated period on the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and in particular abuse against women and children. The YCLSA affirms its commitment to the struggle to eradicate all forms of

oppression meted out against women, children and the marginalized. We remain inspired by one of our great African leader, Comrade Samora Machel, who put it succinctly that “the liberation of women is not an act of charity. It is not the result of a humanitarian or compassionate position. It is a fundamental necessity for the Revolution, a guarantee of its continuity, and a condition for its success”.

Our call for free sanitary towels remains relevant and as well ever solid. We welcome certain gains being registered by this campaign as it was also adopted by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the National and Provincial departments, etc. We as the YCLSA will not let go of this important campaign until all women have access to sanitary towels as it is not of their choice but a necessity.

Substance abuse is something that affects all young people, with dire consequences for young people from the working class backgrounds. The YCLSA will intensify its campaign for greater regulation and better education. We urge our members and young people in general to reduce abuse of alcohol and build a healthy lifestyle. On this note, we welcome the measures being taken to reduce sugar and salt in our foods in the interest of creating a healthier country. In the same vain, both male and female, members of the YCLSA and young people in general are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyles in an attempt to increase the lifespan. We need strong soldiers in the building of socialism hence we say loudly - #UmkhambaMustFall!

The YCLSA will campaign to ensure that unnecessary red-tape facing young people who have entrepreneurial capacity is completely eradicated especially those focusing on building cooperatives. We encourage young people to specifically focus on sectors related to the emerging 4th industrial Revolution, as well, there is no doubt that there is a need for the cooperatives that will focus in the agricultural related sectors with its subsidiaries. This is motivated by the fact that whether there are drastic changes but with agriculture, there can be no major alternatives as human beings need food on a daily basis and recently, it is one sector of the economy that is contributing to the growth of the Gross Domestic Product.

In this revolution, we will ensure that the agenda of the poor and the workers is secured and that the advancements of the 4th Industrial Revolution will be to the benefit of the young, oppressed and marginalized – not to the benefit elites and entrench unemployment and inequality.

For the benefit of young people in general, the Congress has entrusted the 5th Congress National Committee to ensure that a vigorous campaign of #DataMustFall must be undertaken. Big corporations that are greedily over-charging for data must be forced to change their stance for the sake of working class. The price of data needs to be drastically reduced so that the poor and the workers in particular young

people can properly be incorporated to the channels of getting information. We say no to high data tariffs.

On International Front:

The Congress reaffirmed the need to maintain, advance and deepen our international solidarity stance seeking to build the struggle for socialism ultimate communism as it is an internationalist and a just course of a struggle.

As an internationalist youth organization, we recommit ourselves to practical support to all oppressed peoples of the world as we believe that International solidarity is not an act of charity: it is an act of unity between allies fighting on different terrains toward the same objectives. The foremost of these objectives is to assist in the development of humanity to the highest level possible as the late Mozambican President Samora Machel once said.

The YCLSA strongly believes that people of the world would be free if willingness efforts to do so can be intensified. Likewise, imperialist countries such as the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom of Great Britain, France and others including their assistants like Saudi Arabia, Israel and others are murdering people, bombing them, agitating for regime change and interfering in other countries such as Iran, Syria, Venezuela and elsewhere. These imperialist tendencies will be met head-on as we begin our term in office. We will also be challenging government's lame "diplomatic policy" as opposed to principled "internationalist" posture.

Our commitment to internationalism is not a favour and any member of the YCLSA who transgresses our policies, by for example, going on propaganda trips to Israel, will be disciplined and possible expelled if there is no other revolutionary recourse. We take all of our commitments and resolutions seriously as they will be honoured by our organization with high discipline and moral

Conclusion:

We wish our outgoing National Committee led by Comrade Mluleki Dlelanga strength in their endeavours. We lend our full support to the incoming leadership led by Comrade Tinyiko Ntini strength in carrying out the mandate given to them by members who are the anchors of the organization. We are confident that socialism is not only possible but is already being built. We look forward to a near future liberated from all forms of oppression and suppression.

The congress elected the following collective:

1. Tinyiko Ntini - National Secretary
2. Mabuse Mpe - National Chairperson
3. Kebaabetswe Nkate - National Treasurer
4. Andile Moshā - 1st Deputy National Secretary
5. Dibolelo Mahlatsi - 2nd Deputy National Secretary
6. Nqobile Gumede - Deputy National Chairperson

Pertunia Mpanza, Xolani Fakude, Richard Mamabalo, Khalipha Nyathi, Avuma Mdini, Molaodi Sekake, Kgaogelo Lesoka, Muhammed Desai, Castro Mbovane, Mzwandile Thakudi, Stephen Cornelious, Themba Makamu, Mandisa Shezi, Precious Banda, Nelisiwe Motebang, Buhle Ntshenge, Junior Kgwedi, Zuko Mndayi, Mcondisi Matikwane, Simbongile Gulwa.