



Red Voice

Issue number: Launching edition

2013

The Year that was

2012



Inside: The Year 2012 - Socialism is our lifetime!



Contents

Editor`s Voice	Page 2
SACP Provincial Secretary	Page 3
Socialism is the Future	Page 4
A Shared History	Page 6
3 rd Provincial Congress	Page 7
National Award	Page 8
Bua Thursday	Page 9
National Lekgotla	Page 10
Parks Leburu District Congress	Page 11
Calendar 2013	Page 12



3rd YCLSA PEC

Socialism in
our lifetime



Editor's Voice



Today with unmeasured degree of excitement, we are launching the first issue of our Provincial publication marking a historical moment of the YCLSA in the Province - **RED VOICE**. Our intention will be to communicate our views, programmes, activities and create a platform for exchanges so that we remain engaged with the majority of young people in the province.

We wish to dedicate this first issue to our fallen young Hero's and Heroines by reliving the life and times of Tommy Morebodi. In ancient times the name and title of a person remained one of the dearest possessions people had. They cherished their names and titles, they were identified with those and actually lived their names and titles, and they would even die for their names.

Now what is in the name or who is Tommy Morebodi? The beginning of 1985, the International Year of the Youth, saw a movement towards uprising in the township. Student leaders saw it fit that they should embark on a school boycott to respond to a call for the total emancipation of the country. The fight was no longer against apartheid, but against laws like the Group Areas and Job Reservation Acts, municipal services, inequality, economic emancipation, etc. Galeshewe ended up like all the townships of South Africa and caught in a state of emergency.

Delivery trucks coming to Galeshewe were burned including those of the municipality. There was teargas all over the place including rubber bullets. If that did not work the racist government would then send troops with live ammunition. Tommy in his mind saw this as an encroachment to his freedom. He also took part in some of the political activities, on that fateful day of 11th March 1985; eyewitnesses saw an open canopy van covered with canvas. At the back were Riot Squad members who rose up fire at the stone throwing youth. Tommy was shot in this skirmish and was taken to hospital where he died on arrival.

His mother was called from work to come and identify her son. His killing was a trigger for an escalation in the conflicts. Arson and public violence arrests took place and police action with rubber bullets, teargas and birdshots were commonplace during this period. July to August was a peak period of street resistance and repression. His death was to serve as an inspiration for the swelling of the ranks of the Galeshewe Students Organization and Galeshewe Youth Organization. These organizations were later banned alongside COSAS in August of that year, in the aftermath of the state of emergency.

We are calling on all youth to join the fight, against imperialism and capitalism.

Let's be part of constructing a people's alternative - Socialism and demand Equality, Jobs and Education.

Enjoy reading the Red Voice and we hope to hear from you!!!

Provincial Secretary
Kabelo Mohibidu

ism in
our lifetime



SACP & YCLSA

By Norman Shushu



The launching of the provincial news letter of the Young Communist League in our province is a significant and important historic development for our YCL. This reflects the qualitative growth of the YCL since the South African Communist Party re-launched its YCL ten years ago in 2003.

Since that time we sought to build a YCL that is rooted in traditions of the Party, militant but disciplined and socialist in orientation.

We also sought to build a YCL that carefully select the usage of language in persuading society on the correctness of their ideas as young communists, rather than being uncouth and insulting to those who hold different views. The YCL, we insist, must never ape counter-revolutionary conduct from the lumpen youth who, in a reckless manner, encourage shortcuts in addressing the challenges facing young people in our country and province.

We are satisfied as the SACP in the Northern Cape Province that in the realm of public discourse the Young Communist League continue to demonstrate a high level of political maturity and astuteness in comprehending the complexities of the current political conjuncture.

Given the socio economic challenges that young people face in our country; we need to build a Young Communist League that is capable of leading working class youth in a programme that should fundamentally alter for the better the conditions of the working class youth of our country.

Therefore the mobilization of society around, amongst others, the YCL's '**make education fashionable**' campaign is important and must include providing support to; out of school youth, learners at schools, FET colleges and Institutions of Higher Learning. YCL structures must combine the strengths of our members and collectively approach the current challenges of the revolution, with sweep and rigor; imagination and thoroughness; creativity and perseverance; struggle and unity. The YCL branch, districts and PEC is the principal site where members work to systematically grasp and apply, deepen and develop, and struggle over how to implement the programme of the Party, the South African Road to Socialism (SARS).

The YCL must constantly give guidance to YCL and party members, and to the people we lead, in relation to the ideological and political line of the Party, beginning with the most cardinal questions facing the revolutionary masses.

The YCL news letter is an important contribution in asserting working class ideological perspectives in the battle of ideas but also in building working class consciousness. Underpinning this must be intensified ideological work to expose the neo liberal anti majoritarian agenda and its intentions to subvert, if not undermine, the majoritarian character of our democracy and to reverse the gains of the working class since the 1994 democratic breakthrough. In all the above ideological struggles, we need to systematically advance the ideological and political development of our young cadres. It is the combination of all the above that must be at the center of advancing our SARS (South African Road to Socialism), with and for the workers and the poor .

Enforce party discipline, expand party organisation and built working class hegemony!!!

A e gole YCL a e gole.

Cde Norman Shushu is the Provincial Secretary of the SACP in the Northern Cape



Socialism is the Future!

By Chris Mathako



The YCL of the Party (SACP) in the Northern Cape, through this publication is scaling new heights once again. Congratulations to the provincial and other leadership collective, including the entire membership and cadreship of the YCL-SA in the Northern Cape. We have witnessed a solid basis for the further growth and consolidation of the YCL-SA over the years and in the recent period, a focussed political, ideological and organisational focus has evolved, with an expectant air of revolutionary euphoria expanding the Marxist-Leninist ideas of socialism across the corners of the vast geography of the province.

You don't struggle just for the struggle – you are not any radical combative youth. You are the youth of SACP! You prepare the future members of the Communist Party! You endeavour to construct an army of the revolution. You don't fight simply to improve the conditions of life, work and education. You are not absent from any struggle for the relief, for even the smallest conquest. But you are conscious of the fact that exploitation and class barriers cannot be moderated and therefore cannot be any essential improvement in a decadent system, which suffers consecutive crises. The living conditions will constantly worsen.

We have come to expect nothing but the concerted effort of aspirant scholars of Marxism-Leninism to undertake these and many other initiatives to ensure that young people and in particular, aspiring Marxist-Leninists have both a platform and avenues to express their views and perspectives, thereby contributing towards the unfolding struggle for the realisation of the goals

of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) and the struggle for socialism. Socialism is the future – build it now! Communism is the youth of the world!

Since the re-launch of the YCL of South Africa, a critical left and progressive youth-wing activism and impetus in the struggle for an alternative society to that of capitalism, has been infused into the broad youth politics of the country and the province in particular. We should do away with broad sloganeering, the lack of intellectualism and general condemnation. It is not enough to condemn imperialism – to have an anti-imperialist rhetoric, to struggle against consequences (war, poverty, etc.) of imperialist aggression in order to boost anti-imperialist struggle and to attract forces in it. The main task among others is to understand the phenomenon and its inter-related forces and how it plays itself out in concrete conditions. The nature and character of the phenomenon can only be developed through thorough political, ideological and organisational engagement using Marxist-Leninist tools of analysis.

Ideas of and for a society that shuns capitalism and all its trappings, have since the emergence of the rapacious system of exploitation of person by person, never been popular among young people. However, in the context of democratic South Africa, the trappings of capitalism and its proponents have aggressively sourced the youth as its main pillar for mobilisation and advertisement of the so-called benefits of a free capitalist society – represented by the example of (North) Americanisation.

Not only have the ideas of revolution been distorted (the so-called Arab Spring), by the beret quasi-revolutionaries, so has the very organisations of the working class and poor, their philosophy been distorted muddled-up in an endeavour to disengage young people from these ideas and the inherent historical value of transforming society towards an alternative society to capitalism.

“Socialism is the future – build it now! Communism is the youth of the world!”



Socialism is the Future!

Continues...

The ideas of communism across the world have been despised and thus everything related to its deemed a threat. But, the events of crisis of the system of capitalism in Europe and elsewhere, proof once-more and beyond any doubt that the system of capitalism must be overthrown for indeed it has not sustainable answers to the deep multiple crises that afflict societies and in particular young people everywhere. They face unemployment, poverty, inequality, disease, xenophobia, racism, sexism, exclusion and marginalisation.

Whereas, this strata has also become an important buffer of capitalism and its proxies, as witnessed in the exploitation of the real inequalities, deep and grinding poverty that afflicts society and structural unemployment – all that manifest to acutely between and among young, and are the direct outcomes of capitalism. The notion that education and everything related to it should be bunked for BEE-tenders and rent-seeking, where the youth will act as shock-troopers, is all but visible. Unbeknown to them, apolitical and lumpen youth has been used as political pawns in political battles for control of various sites of power.

“The YCL in the province has been exemplary in many ways...”

Whereas you will expect young people to make mistakes and through that learn important lessons, confusing such important conceptual frames such as radicalism and Che Guevara, demonstrate little if any of the Guevara and other Marxists appreciation of radicalism a political construct. Che Guevara was always radical as far as the truth was concerned. In the book ‘A Man Who Acted as He Thinks’, Ortiz recounts an occasion Guevara friend Alberto Granado gave evidence of during one of the their trips to Latin American countries. “In Peru”, recounts Granado, “... they had received the support of Dr Hugo Pesce, who invited them to dinner at his home and during the dinner showed them a book he had written about Indians”.

(Ortiz. 2006: 21 - Always radical as far as the truth was concerned).

Whilst eating Dr Pesce insisted Che Guevara provide an opinion of the book which Che Guevara, reluctantly gave at the end of the dinner and said: “Look Doctor, its incredible that such an intelligent man like you, with your capacity and value, has written such a mediocre book. This book is bad because its negative, because it is not Marxist, because it describes a fatalism of Indian that is not true, because that is our point of view and not theirs...”

The YCL in the province has been exemplary in many ways than one and managed to set the bar higher for future generations. Its consistency regarding principle over expediency, seeking Marxist-Leninist guidance in the Lenin maxim (The role of young people is to learn, learn, learn), has contributed to an organisation of youth focussed on the tasks at hand, Marxist-Leninist ideological grounding and connecting theory with practice in a dialectical way.

The various programmes such as the young women’s health programme, Bua Thursday, Joe Slovo Right to Learn, Ten Youth Demands, and many others, have not only ensured that the province and its districts win various accolades, but that the traditions of a Marxist-Leninist KOMSOMOL continue to engage society across the length and breadth of the province.

May we remind you that you take this mantle of victorious Marxist-Leninist youth activism from many a luminary such as Ruth First and other national, international icons. But, also from Parks Leburu and Seshupo Segole and others who passed on in the line of duty in the province. In their honour we must continue to explore and expand the political scope by among others unfolding creative agendas to critically engage young people and fight for the Ten Youth Demands, organise festival of communist youth which will create a platform for various theatrical performances, political discussions for all youth – working youth/young workers, unemployed, students and others!

Cde Chris Matlhako is a Central Committee and Politburo member of the SACP



A Shared History

By Lebogang Olyn

As Communists we are proud to celebrate, together with all progressives, like minded, sympathisers, and comrades, the ANC's centenary year. Over the decades, since the late 1920s, Communists have actively participated in and helped to build the ANC – both as ordinary rank-and-file members, and as leaders of the ANC in their own right. Today we pledge to continue this great tradition to which our Communist forerunners contributed so greatly – among them Moses Kotane, Dora Tamana, JB Marks, Walter Sisulu, and Moses Mabhida.

As we marked the ANC centenary year, the SACP pledged to be a factor for unity and discipline within the broad liberation movement. We agree with the ANC, that 18 years beyond our democratic breakthrough our revolution is now at critical cross-roads.



“Our shared history is a history of conscious cross-fertilization”



Either we lose momentum, or we embark upon a decisive second radical phase of the transition from apartheid-colonialism to a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and more egalitarian society. The YCLSA in the province proud itself that the Communist Party in South Africa, now in its 91years of unbroken struggle, communists have served in the ranks of the ANC for over 80 years. Shoulder to shoulder with other patriotic revolutionaries, communists have helped to build and sustain the ANC. But also, through their activism within the ANC, communist cadres have carried over into the SACP a deeper appreciation of the centrality of the national question within our struggle, and of power vested in a majority's sense of collective national grievance and of mass-based, national capacity. Our shared history is a history of conscious cross-fertilization.

Cde Lebogang Olyn is the Deputy Provincial Secretary of the YCLSA



3rd Provincial Congress

By Ntamehlo Sivuyile

The 3rd YCLSA Provincial Congress was held from 30 March – 01 April 2012 at the Phatsimang (NIHE) Institution of higher learning, under the theme “Towards 2013: Marking Ten Years of building momentum towards, capacity for elements for socialism”. With 150 delegates from 5 districts – it was the largest congress the YCLSA ever held in the Province. This congress came 3 months after the 4th Provincial Congress of the SACP in the province; both congresses were used effectively as political schools, informed by the growth of the organization in the past 4 years.

With disciplined delegates coming across all corners of our province it was with no uncertainty that the revolutionary discipline and the success of the SACP congress had a direct influence in shaping the outcome of the YCLSA’s 3rd Provincial Congress, this was observed through the same eagerness of delegates, to learn and understand the SACP, the YCLSA, its policies, programmes and above all the ever required revolutionary discipline of communists and young aspiring communists in particular.

This congress marked a significant moment in the development of the YCLSA in the province and it was able to correctly note the growth of the YCLSA in the province and in the same breath identified the challenges that the growth has brought to the organization in particular with the new members, thus amongst others, congress resolved on a need for a concrete programme focusing on political education relevant to aspirant young communists.

One of the challenges that the congress noted in line with the organizational growth, is that, as much as we stand for active ideological struggle and seeking to ensure unity within the

YCLSA there are some elements which have crippled in our organizations, elements that rejects ideological struggle and standing for unprincipled unity and peace and having potential to bring about the political erosion amongst certain individuals within our organization. In relation to this, it is worth noting the address from the SACP Provincial Secretary Comrade Norman Shushu and the Central Committee member Chris Matlhako that cautioned the delegates of the YCLSA that we should at all times guard against the collapse of organizational discipline and the undermining of democratic centralism and that the YCLSA should be for socialism and all other conducts that are foreign to the organization must be met head-on and upturned.

Together with our PYA partners, the congress sent out a very clear message to all branches that we must revive the Progressive Youth Alliance and ensure our determination to the aspirations, concerns and perspectives of young people in our province (especially the poor) that they become the dominant voice in our province.

In the same breath the congress instructed the YCLers to participate effectively in the structures of the revolutionary alliance to ensure that our perspectives finds expression. One of the key focus areas was on our ever relevant campaigns and congress mandated the 3rd Congress PEC to continue to make the YCLSA a campaigning organization, including campaigning “to make education fashionable” to ensure the skilling of young people in mathematics, science, technology and engineering. The congress called upon the youth, students and young workers to join the fight in building momentum, capacity for and elements for Socialism in our lifetime.

Cde Ntamehlo Sivuyile is the Provincial Chairperson of the YCLSA



National Award

By Lebogang Olyn

The Florence Matomela Award has been conferred to the Parks Leburu District as a best performing YCLSA District at the SACP's 13th National Congress, on the 15th July 2012 at KZN - Ngoye. The District has been honored for actively implementing YCLSA programmes, campaigns and the advancement of the 10 youth demands, which include among others:

Kabelo Thibedi ID Campaign - After the sentence of Kabelo Thibedi to 5 years in prison due to kidnap of a home affairs department official, the YCLSA decided to include his appeal for the sentence as part of our access to social campaigns;

Chris Hani Inquest - The campaign wishes to find closure and answers on the death of our late General Secretary and to correct our history for the coming generations to know what happened and who was behind the killing of Chris Hani?

Right to Work - The programme wishes to engage stake holders and to provide alternatives in the attempt to create jobs through establishment of co-operatives and of the forms of collective ownership in communities;



District Secretary Lebogang Olyn receives the award from National General Secretary Blade Nzimande

Joe Slovo Right to learn campaign - Each year the YCLSA embarks on the Joe Slovo Right Learn Campaign. Its objective is to make sure that students / learners are not denied access to education because of fees, both tertiary and pre-tertiary level.

The District did not achieve this alone, but it is through the unwarranted support of the province, the branches and general membership. Let's continue to fight and take the selfless struggle against capitalism forward, and build stronger branches that are prepared to take the work of the organization forward because a branch is the basic unit of the Organization.

“Parks Leburu District won the award for the best performing YCLSA District in the country”



District Secretary Lebogang Olyn and Provincial Chairperson Ntamehlo Sivuyile

Cde Lebogang Olyn is now the Deputy Provincial Secretary of the YCLSA



Bua Thursday

By OJ Fourie

The YCLSA in the province has been running numerous and successful Bua Thursday programmes throughout the year of 2012.

Bua Thursday events are used to address and stimulate fruitful discussions on topical issues currently experienced in our communities. Various guest speakers have been participating in the Bua Thursday events.

On the 1st of November 2012 the YCLSA in the province hosted the National Secretary of the YCLSA, Buti Manamela, as the guest speaker of the Bua Thursday that took place in Galeshewe.

The National Secretary opened his address by highlighting key aspects and the importance of the shared history between the SACP and the ANC.



National Secretary Buti Manamela addresses YCLers in Galeshewe

“As young people, we deserve a better future...”

He referred to Joe Slovo who was spot on to suggest that there can be no struggle for socialism (SACP) outside of the struggle for national emancipation (ANC), for it can only be under socialism that we completely eradicate the shackles of colonialism and national oppression. Joe Slovo further said that any struggle for national emancipation and economic freedom that falls short of pursuing the goals of socialism is worthless and would face massive defeats.

The National Secretary also reflected on the achievements of government of the day, the Lonmin Marikana incident and the upcoming 53rd National Conference of the ANC. The National Secretary ended his address by saying: “Comrades, the challenge of building a democratic, prosperous society that will be inherited by our youth lies in strengthening the alliance and its leadership for all of our society. As young people, we deserve a better future that is enshrined in the golden values of non-racism, non-sexism and common social justice. We cannot allow the history of our fathers and mothers to divide a future society. We need to hold, without fear, the current leadership accountable in order to guarantee this prosperity. We are duty bound to ask problematic questions, to expect solid answers about what is being done to guarantee a better future for all the youth of our country. We need a future where practical things such as education, health, employment, housing, safe and quality public transport, electricity and water are guaranteed.”

I want to implore all YCLers to ensure that they attend the Bua Thursday events that will be held in 2013! It serves as a healthy platform for positive and progressive debate.

Cde OJ Fourie is the National Committee Member of the YCLSA



National Lekgotla

By Patrick Bosiambe

The 2012 National Committee Lekgotla of the 3rd National Congress of the Young Communist League of South Africa (Ufasimba) was convened from the 23rd-25th of November 2012 at COSATU HOUSE. The meeting was constituted by provincial and district representatives to critically assess the state of the organization and develop a programme of action for 2013. The exciting high level of robust and frank debates from the Young Reds reflected a growing YCLSA that is critical and highly conscious.

“In Defense of the National Democratic Revolution-In Defense of the SACP and the Alliance-In Defense of the Working Class and its Youth”

The theme for the National Lekgotla was, “In Defense of the National Democratic Revolution-In Defense of the SACP and the Alliance-In Defense of the Working Class and its Youth”.

The National Lekgotla highlighted, amongst others, the following:

Unemployment, poverty and inequalities remain key challenges facing our people, particularly the youth and young women in rural areas. The Lekgotla agreed that these three interrelated and interconnected contradictions should be understood as key indicators of whether progress has been done in advancing the NDR and the human development index of our country.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Amongst others we need to ensure that every campaign of the YCLSA in every branch, district, province and at a national level finds expression on these matters at all times. Every member of the YCLSA and broader society must be encouraged to go back to school and pass.

- We should be able to work with SADTU, COSAS, ANCYL and SASCO in ensuring that schools are run smoothly. Our Campaign, “Making Education Fashionable” must be intensified across the country.
- The National Health Insurance (NHI) must be implemented speedily, and every YCLer who is a member of NEHAWU must ensure that they engage in this process. We will need people who will serve in the Hospital Boards and progressive health activists to ensure that campaign such as the Free Sanitary Towel for Women Campaign and the Circumcision for Boys Campaign are fully implemented by hospitals without fail.
- The Lekgotla welcomed the New Growth Path, the National Development Plan 2030 and the Industrial Policy Action Plan 2, as building blocks and momentum for Socialism in our Lifetime.
- Our campaign against the tender system should be intensified and the Lekgotla agrees that as young communists we should call on local government to prioritize co-operatives instead.
- Having assessed the state of the organization and the current conjectural challenges that continue to play themselves out in society, the 2012 National Committee Lekgotla believes that we need to focus on ideological work and political training in 2013.

We also want to congratulate Cde OJ Fourie who has been co-opted, during the National Lekgotla, to serve on the National Committee of the YCLSA.

Lastly as Lenin correctly stated the role of the youth is to Learn.... Learn....Learn!, this is what we will be focusing on in the 2013 and beyond!!

Cde Patrick Bosiambe is a PEC/PWC member of the YCLSA



Parks Leburu Congress

By Basil Sekao

The Young Communist League of South Africa in the Parks Leburu District had a successful district congress on the 14th of December 2012 at Phatsimang Higher Institution of Learning. The congress took place on the eve of the most anticipated National Conference of the ANC in Mangaung. The district congress also took place in the aftermath of the 100 year centenary celebrations of the ANC, the 13th National Congress of the SACP and the National Congress of COSATU. As the YCLSA in the District we truly draw our strength and passion from the magnitude of these events. The District Congress also celebrated the 9th Anniversary of the YCLSA since its re-launch in 2003 and also presenting the Florence Matombela Award that the Parks Leburu District received at the 13th National Congress of the SACP to the delegates.

The District Elective Congress has directed the newly elected collective to actively participate and to radically advance in all key sites of struggle.



- Community based cooperatives, education and skills development should receive the deserved attention in addressing the issue of youth unemployment in the province in particular the Parks Leburu District.
- Renewal of Municipal Youth Desks for young people particular in the rural areas.
- Re-establish strong ties with the Progressive Youth Structures (ANCYL, SASCO and COSAS) and put great emphasis on political and ideological education.
- Building of cooperatives and strong vibrant relationships with progressive NGO's.
- The congress concluded by reiterating the call for the renaming of Kimberley Airport after one of the cities youngest recorded brutal victims of the apartheid government Tommy Morebodi Airport. The YCLSA in the Parks Leburu District will respect and defend the SACP's vanguard role in the district. The growth of the YCLSA in the district is critical both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Newly elected DEC of the Parks Leburu District (left)

Cde Basil Sekao is the District Secretary of the Parks Leburu District



Calendar 2013



2013

Northern Cape Province YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTH AFRICA Socialism in our lifetime

January 2013						
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- 1 January - New Year's Day
- 21 March - Human Rights Day
- 22 March - School Holiday
- 29 March - Good Friday
- 1 April - Family Day
- 27 April - Freedom Day
- 1 May - Workers' Day
- 16 June - Youth Day
- 17 June - Public Holiday
- 9 August - Women's Day
- 24 September - Heritage Day
- 16 December - Day of Reconciliation
- 25 December - Christmas Day
- 26 December - Day of Goodwill





'Towards 2013: Marking ten years
of building momentum towards,
capacity for, elements for
socialism in our lifetime!'



Join YCLSA on

facebook.

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