

PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES: KZN, EASTERN CAPE, NORTH WEST



December 2011

Voice of the South African Communist Party

Umsebenzi

RED OCTOBER

BUILDING WORKING CLASS POWER IN OUR COMMUNITY



PEOPLE'S EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE'S POWER!

RED OCTOBER

Towards people's education for people's power

There is a four-letter word that perfectly describes the state of our schools: Mess!



Red October at Warrenton: Northern Cape Legislature Speaker and PC member, cde Connie Seoposengwe welcomes cdes Blade Nzimande, Sidumo Dlamini, Bonakele Majuba, Yershen Pillay (far right) and other speakers to the rally

By MALESELA MALEKA

This year's Red October Campaign – People's Education for People's Power – was launched in Warrenton in the Northern Cape. It was attended by about 3 000 people.

Weeks of preparations came to fruition as the leadership entered the stadium to kick-start the rally, much to the relief of hundreds of volunteers who formed part

of the mobilisation team.

Young Communist League National Chairperson, cde Yershen Pillay, called on the youth to participate in the campaign to demand a nationwide effective skilling programme for the youth.

“When one looks at the general state of schools in our country, there is a particular four letter word that comes to mind: MESS! Our schools are in a mess. Our schooling system generally is in a mess. Buildings are falling apart; there

is a lack of proper sanitation and high levels of truancy, even amongst teachers. It's just a mess!

“We must work together with the basic education department and communities to ensure that we see rapid acceleration in the transformation of education. Better schools, adequate leadership, dedicated teaching, relevant curriculum, committed, hard working scholars, meaningful support services and parents who care. It must be a collective effort,”



Red October in Warrenton: Part of the 3 000-strong crowd who gathered for the launch



MK veterans at the Red October rally

said cde Pillay.

Cosatu President cde Sidumo Dlamini called on workers to join the campaign as it took up themes similar to those raised at Cosatu's 5th Central Committee: "We call on Alliance structures to work with communities to form education transformation forums. We call on all our schools and parents to ensure that by the end of this year all learners have been registered and that next year textbooks are delivered to all schools."

Cde Dlamini also spoke about other campaigns including the march to Pick 'n Pay to demand a halt to the planned retrenchments, the Walmart deal and labour brokers.

"Besides being notorious for undermining workers rights, Walmart also tries to avoid the tax laws of the countries it invests in," said cde Dlamini.

He called for unity in action of the alliance partners and warned that if the leaders fail to unite, the people may pun-

ish them severely in the future.

"This Red October must be dedicated to achieving maximum unity in action among progressive forces of change. It is when we are united in action that those who want to use our organisations for their selfish interests can get exposed," said cde Dlamini.

SACP General Secretary cde Blade Nzimande called on all progressive formations to rally behind the 2011 Red October Campaign whose main themes were building "People's Education for People's Power," a solidarity economy, and local people's committees for comprehensive rural development, and Intensifying the struggle against corruption.

Cde Nzimande had tough words for the tenderpreneurs and encouraged people to stand up against the bullying tactics of those who wanted to use the name of the ANC for corrupt purposes. "Tenderpreneurs don't like us as communists and we do not like them as well: the feeling is mutual," he said, to rapturous applause.

"Corruption must be fought with all the energies of our organisations as it poses a threat to the unity of the movement and our hard won democracy." ●

Cde Maleka is SACP National Media Officer

Reports from the Provincial Congresses

NORTH WEST

Deepening working class hegemony in the NDR

We, the 350 delegates in this congress representing 9 846 members have gathered here on 11-13 November under the theme *Deepening the working class hegemony in the NDR as the direct route towards socialism*.

The congress reaffirms its commitment to work in unison with Alliance partners in pursuance of the advancement of NDR. The SACP in collaboration with Cosatu will always remain staunch allies, fighting together, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand in the trenches to make a reality of our shared vision.

The political report characterised the period we are coming from as the period marred by factionalism which is driven by narrow materialistic interests – and some members of the SACP find themselves implicated in this. We need to stem this tide.

We have entered an unprecedented period of politics, with a power-grab mentality, and the appropriation of democratic organisations. Ours is a revolutionary Party steered in iron discipline. We call for all communists to distinguish themselves as the most reliable, dependable and honest revolutionaries. We call for restraint against provocation and yet decisive action against any form of ill-discipline. We need to defend the revolution, the sanctity of our organisations and its symbols and the future of our country.

The unbearable balance of forces and the glaring ill-discipline of elements that prevails within and outside SACP struc-



tures derail organisational programmes. The congress condemns comrades who negate organisational policies and principles in pursuit of their narrow interests.

This 6th Provincial Congress should mark a decisive turning point in addressing all the negative tendencies that erode the organisational integrity and very character of the SACP.

The responsibility to assert the core values and principles of our Party rests with every leader, every cadre, every member, and every supporter of the SACP. Our Party must lead a major societal campaign against corruption. The SACP has led the campaign in the streets and some of our members paid with their lives.

We will fight any attempt to subvert the fundamental notion of “the people shall govern” by inverting it to mean “the people shall vote”. This includes the liberal agenda using the institutions of democracy to undermine majority rule. We will expose ultra-left detractors, sections of whom have found common cause with either the liberal offensive or the new tendency, who have already dismissed the state as a bourgeois, if not predator, state. We must not simply characterise the current state as a conventional bourgeois state, controlled and dominated by a bourgeoisie without serious struggle and access to state power by the workers and the poor.

Congress appreciates the poor living conditions of the majority of people due to the deepening crisis of the capitalist system and its inability to respond suf-

ficiently to the plight of the majority. The SACP pledges to work jointly with communities to fight poverty, unemployment and confront the capitalist system.

We will mobilise our structures in pursuit of the reconfiguration of economic power and shall equally fight for a solidarity economy, advance the building of cooperatives and in particular financial cooperatives.

The congress further reaffirms the Central Committee resolutions to support Swaziland's people in their just struggle for democracy.

We also agree to intensify our work of solidarity with the Botswana National Front and the working class of Botswana.

We reaffirm our call to the US administration to release the Cuban heroes unjustly imprisoned for fighting against terrorism.

Coming out of this congress united as ever we therefore declare our commitment to:

- Build a living Party that will champion working class issues confronting society;
- Improve working relations with the fraternal structures and build a strong revolutionary united Alliance. Build and support the YCL and strengthen its capacity; and
- Recommit ourselves to implement the resolutions of this congress in line with organisational programmes and principles and to build a strong, dynamic and vibrant SACP in all key sites of power to advance our MTV.

Office Bearers elected: Chairperson cde Olifile Sefako; Deputy Chair cde Alfred Dikole; Provincial Secretary cde Madoda Sambatha; Deputy Secretary cde Pat Motubatse; Treasury cde Tebogo Modise

Additional Members: cde Leticia Basson; cde Ashmar Khuduge; cde Lesego Lejaka; cde Godukile Macatha; cde Zola March; cde Smuts Matshe; cde Jomo Megalane; cde Mpho Mothlabane; cde Nomsa Nong; cde Solly Rasmeni; cde Masello Lolo; cde Lawrence Tsajwa. ●

EASTERN CAPE

Call for a transition to a socialist order

We the 771 voting delegates, representing more than 19 000 members of the South African Communist Party in the Eastern Cape, have gathered in East London on 7-9 October 2011 for our 6th Provincial Congress under the theme *Communists call for a transition to a socialist order*.

The keynote address of our General Secretary, cde Blade Nzimande, and the NHI presentation by Health Minister cde Aaron Motsoaledi; the presentation on co-operatives as sound alternative forms of enterprise by cde Pillay; and the meaning of being an SACP member by SACP Central Committee Member, cde Charles Setsubi, sharpened the quality of discussions.

We firmly believe that a united and strengthened reconfigured revolutionary Alliance is not a choice but a necessity, if working class interests are to be realised.

We appreciate that while SACP and Cosatu continue to share trenches; they are not identical nor are they in competition. We are complimentary. Broader Alliance relations in the province are fairly good. However, much work is required in some regions.

We will continue to work tirelessly in jealously guarding the unity of the two working class formations, the SACP and Cosatu.

On the international outlook we noted that, capitalism all over the world is in crisis, particularly in the US and Europe, hence the desperation to re-colonise Africa.

The state is an organ of class rule in the interests of the owners of the means of production. Therefore the Communist party must contest state power through active participation and mass mobilisation in all spheres.

The South African Communist Party in the province has grown quantitatively, qualitatively and in influence.

We therefore resolved that we will organise, educate and lead the working class in the struggle for socialism and the more immediate objectives of defending and deepening the national democratic



revolution as a direct route to socialist order. We will further organise women within the working class, the poor and rural communities. On international solidarity front we will:

- Strengthen the South to South relations.
- Intensify the debates on Brics.
- Have an international commission in the province and districts.
- Intensify the campaign against multinational corporations that are plundering the resources of African continent and also on environmental degradation (Cop17 and climate change).
- Intensify the campaign against imperialist-sponsored wars in Africa and elsewhere.

On state power, after having noted the resolution of the 2007 Conference and its implementation we resolved on the intensification of the MTV in all key sites of power.

We affirm the correctness of contesting state power as it is the highest concentration of political power consistent with the modalities outlined in MTV.

We understand that as communists, we cannot sit on the sidelines and be spectators and critics of a game we should be playing. The recent local government elections saw a number of our comrades being deployed in strategic positions. This means that we do not have the liberty of merely analysing and criticising programmes of government. We have an obligation to perform where we have leaders as we will have to own up to all challenges confronting the government led by the Alliance.

Our province remains largely rural and among the poorest in the country while the funding formula of the government still mainly favours those who have benefitted in the past. We therefore call for the restructuring of the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform so that it is able to capacitate our people and contribute to the skilling of our masses.

On education we resolved that:

- We accept the recent Presidential Section 100 intervention in the Department of Education and place the centrality of the Alliance in providing leadership in this regard.
 - There must be an acceleration of the implementation of the ANC Polokwane Resolutions on free and compulsory education.
 - There is a need to recapitalise the FET sector as it is a solution to the scarcity of skills in society.
 - NFSAS must be considered a vehicle to introduce free education.
 - Grade R must be part of the mainstream education and certified for quality assurance.
 - The Department of Education must compile a cooperative database so as to discontinue the system of tenders particularly in scholar transport and nutrition.
- On health we resolved that:
- There must be a health summit in the province.
 - Caregivers must be employed by the department and be certified.
 - There must be a ban of labour brokers and employment agencies.
 - All Party activists must take a keen interest in hospital boards within their districts.
 - There must be a NHI campaign to popularise the scheme.

Office-bearers elected: Congress elected the following office bearers: Provincial Chairperson cde Mzoleli Mrara; Deputy Chair cde Bulelwa Tunyiswa; Provincial Secretary cde Xolile Nqatha; Deputy Secretary cde Ndumiso Roiland; Treasurer cde Vuyani Limba. ●

KZN

Crush the liberal offensive & populist demagogues

The SACP in KwaZulu-Natal held a successful Provincial Congress on 13-16 October in Esikhawini, attended by 1 130 delegates.

The congress was convened under the theme: *Crush the liberal offensive and populist demagogues – defend Marxist Leninist principles and discipline – advance working class leadership.*

6 UMSEBENZI

The 6th Provincial Congress noted the resounding victory of the ANC in local government elections in which we won many municipalities previously controlled by the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The people of KwaZulu-Natal have conferred more political trust to the ANC and its Alliance to change their lives for the better, particularly in rural areas. The Party pledged to work closely with ANC and the whole of the Alliance in KwaZulu-Natal to concretely effect change for the poor.

The congress noted the encouraging growth of the Party in KZN as well as in the whole country.

This provincial congress also confirms the need to close ranks between the two left formations (Cosatu and SACP).

Delegates reminded us that these two formations are independent organisations, and yet at an ideological and political level they are inseparably bound by a common class enemy.

The weakening or defeat of the working class struggles by the forces of counter-revolution threatens the ideals represented by the struggles of both these organisations.

The congress discussed among others things, the battles of ideas, the Party and State Transformation, Party Building, gender transformation, economic transformation and finance and fundraising.

Among other issues, the congress resolved:

- To mobilise the working class through the Red October campaign to support the introduction of the National Health Insurance system in April 2012.
- The provincial leadership will conduct workshops and political classes on the



Party's perspectives on the New Growth Path. In line with this, the SACP will engage the ANC to convene a Provincial Alliance Economic Summit before the National Policy Conference of the ANC in 2012.

- As KwaZulu-Natal is hosting COP17 all structures of the Party must be taken through the challenges and ensure the hegemony of the working class in the deliberations of COP 17.

- Condemns the under-spending by government departments in the province. The SACP commits itself to working together with the broader society in repositioning and improving education in this province.

- To work tirelessly to ensure political stability in the province through the political and ideological role of the SACP in strengthening the Alliance.

- To fight with all our power any form of counter-revolution even if the platform is organised on seemingly legitimate demands.

- To reaffirm that the youth of our country should know that in class terms they

constitute a mere social strata and can never be misled to think they are a class on their own. We know that these strata can contribute immensely to the success of the revolutionary class movements.

- To at all times fight corruption.
- Oppose a growing trend in the province to use state institutions for party political and factional purposes such as in the recent Amigos case. This growing trend is foreign to the ANC and its Alliance partners in KwaZulu-Natal and should be crushed by masses of the people.

- Condemn the manner in which the notorious Vlakplaas-style Cato Manor Organised Crime Unit is conducting itself. It has perhaps been responsible for the deaths of more suspects at its hands than those who have been prosecuted. Police must arrest suspects so that they will be prosecuted and jailed.

- The SACP in the province should be in contact with the Party at a national level to monitor the growing threats of possible attacks on senior party leaders and their families especially in this province in the run-up to the Mangaung Conference. The SACP in the province is aware that certain national leaders from this province and their families have been targeted in the planned "terrorist" attacks which would also include kidnapping of their family members to create anarchy and try to embarrass the government that it is not in charge of the state security organs.

Office-bearers elected: Congress elected new leaders: Provincial Chairperson cde J Nxumalo; Deputy Chair cde D Caluza; Provincial Secretary cde T Mthembu, Deputy Provincial Secretary cde F Bhengu; Treasurer cde M Mathonsi. ●



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MK ANNIVERSARY

SACP tribute to MK: Hamba Kahle Umkhonto!

Solly Mapaila traces the history of MK and pays tribute to the fearless heroes of our struggle

On 16 December 2011, it will be 50 years since the launch of Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK) as the armed wing of the African National Congress.

The formation of MK followed a series of events that made it necessary for the national liberation movement to move towards armed struggle.

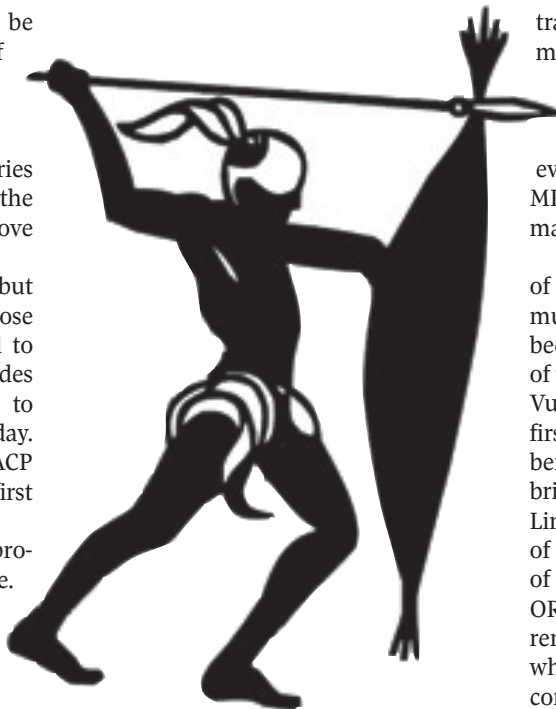
This shift was not achieved easily but was through principled work of those in the ANC and the SACP who had to over time convince their own comrades that this was a necessary response to the tactics of the government of the day. Cde Michael Harmel, a prominent SACP member, is credited with having first raised the idea.

Cde Nelson Mandela tabled the proposal to ANC Working Committee. Subsequently, the NWC agreed to table the proposal to the NEC.

The Sharpeville Massacre, on 21 March 1960, among other events, was also a significant catalyst that led to the armed struggle.

SACP cadres provided much of the initial work in the work of MK, including conceptualization, operations and political and military training of cadres. The first MK base in the country was at Liliesleaf Farm, the SACP underground headquarters.

Subsequent to the Rivonia Trial, various allies of SACP provided support to MK, and thousands of MK cadres were



**Remembering
our combatants,
who gave their lives
on the frontline**

trained in the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and China. Cdes Raymond Mhlaba and Wilton Mkwayi, SACP leaders, were the first to receive training in China even before the actual formation of the MK. Cde Mkwayi was to be the first commander of MK.

Without the sacrifices of thousands of comrades in MK, many of them communists, our liberation would not have been achieved. One of the first martyrs of the revolution army was a communist, Vuyisile Mini. In Wankie and Sipolilo the first combatant to fall was SACP member, Comrade Basil February. Another brilliant cadre was the young comrade Linda Petros Jabane, known by the alias of Gordon Dikebu was named the lion of Chiawelo by the ANC President, cde OR Tambo for his bravery and “no surrender” spirit under intense enemy fire when he engaged a heavily-armed police contingent for several hours alone.

These are the values that we strive to assert today as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of MK – values of selflessness and sacrifice under the most difficult circumstances. They are in sharp contrast to the mentality of crass materialism and greed that has influenced our revolutionary movement.

The SACP adds its voice to those that salute the heroic MK on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary - with the blood of our revolutionary martyrs. We salute this

SACP tribute to MK: Hamba Kahle Umkhonto! (Continued)

Cde.
Chris
Hani



brave liberation army of the people of our country. We also salute the MK Chief of Staff, cde Chris Hani for his last blood that gave this country its freedom date 27 April!

For all commanders and commissars of the people's army, this is your day to reminisce and celebrate your achievements for our country, this is the time to remember our fellow combatants who

perished in the frontline battles in North and Eastern Angola, against the marauding attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army, against the attacks of Unita and Renamo, and all who paid the supreme sacrifice for us to be free!

Long live MK, *A Luta Continua!* ●

Cde Mapaila is an SACP Politburo and former MK member

Communists and MK

BY MFANAFUTHI TSELA

Fifty years ago, on 16 December 1961, a series of bomb blasts against apartheid structures in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Durban announced the formation of Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK). The role of communists in the formation of MK is interpreted differently by different people. The sacrifices of communists in the armed struggle are undeniable. Cde Slovo wrote in the MK journal *Dawn*: "To constitute the High Command the ANC appointed Mandela and the Party appointed me. We were instructed by both bodies to make recommendations about the balance of members of the High Command, which we did and it was endorsed."

The first High Command of MK comprised cdes Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Andrew Mlangeni from the ANC; and Cde Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba and Joe Slovo from the SACP.

Communists also featured prominently in regional structures of MK. These comrades included cdes Ahmed Kathrada, Arthur Goldreich, Dennis Goldberg,

Jack Hodgson and Elias Motsoaledi, who served in the Transvaal Regional Command. The Natal Regional Command included cdes Curnick Ndlovu, Billy Nair, Ronnie Kasrils and Eric 'Stalin' Mtshali.

One of the first volunteers of MK was cde Chris Hani, later to become its Chief of Staff. He noted: "The Party had debated and I think as a whole endorsed MK, but it was ... a period of serious questioning and introspection and soul-searching on the part of the ANC (and) the Communist Party. It was the uncertainty about moving from non-violence to armed struggle without the existence of objective and subjective factors. Our people knew nothing about military struggle. The last wars that we fought were towards the end of the 19th century. People had been deskilled in terms of understanding war. They were not even allowed to keep spears in their own houses."

The crucial role of the Party in the history of MK was articulated by Govan Mbeki in 1994 when he said that: "The South Africa Communist Party lost no time in setting up sabotage units while the ANC also formed its own. Towards

the end of the year [1961], however, these units were merged."

The generous military support the liberation movement received from the USSR and other Eastern bloc countries was in good part a result of the ANC's alliance with the SACP. Cdes Moses Kotane and Yusuf Dadoo played an outstanding role in facilitating Soviet bloc support to the liberation movement.

The historic Morogoro Conference of the ANC acknowledged the shortcomings of the first decade of armed struggle and replaced the High Command with the Revolutionary Council. It was made up of senior members of the ANC NEC, including SACP leaders, cdes Dadoo, Moses Mabhida and Slovo.

The 1976 uprisings saw thousands of young South Africans crossing the borders to join MK. Many of them would also join the South African Communist Party.

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the founding of MK, the SACP can be justly proud of its contribution to the role of MK in the struggle. ●

Cde Tsela is an SACP activist

Umsebenzi

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IMPERIALISM

The seminar on Imperialism comes to Joburg

The Party and CORINT co-host a review of imperialism's furious response to capitalism's crisis

By CHRIS MATLHAKO

The SACP co-hosted with Correspondence International (CORINT), a Paris-based Institute for Social and Political Studies, *The International Seminar on Imperialism*, with the theme: "The deepening crisis of imperialism and its manoeuvres! What options for the Left in building an alternative world?"

The Seminar was a platform to bring together local and international Left progressives to share perspectives on imperialism. A similar seminar was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2009 and resulted in publication of a book.

The seminar was reminded that the world order has changed significantly since the demise of Soviet and Eastern European socialism and the ushering in of a uni-polar world.

Zbigniew Brzezinski in *The Grand Chessboard* says: "The last decade of the twentieth century witnessed a tectonic shift in world affairs. For the first time ever, a non-Eurasian power has emerged not only as a key arbiter of Eurasian power relations but also as the world's paramount power. The defeat and collapse of the Soviet Union was the final step in the rapid ascendance of a Western Hemisphere power, the United States, as a sole and indeed, the truly global power".

The seminar brought together leading activists and academics from Brazil, Argentina, Belgium, France, Poland, Italy,

Tunisia, Mauritania, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Ethiopia.

It is significant that it was held in South Africa, in view of the following:

- The war in Libya and the difficulties of elections in the Ivory Coast.
- Africa is also at the core of the significant new emerging countries.
- Africa's role in the transformation of the United Nations system and its Security Council.

Among the key issues addressed in the seminar were:

- Imperialism in Africa
- Imperialism and perspectives from the rest of the world.
- Imperialism and perspectives from inside.
- Resistance and alternatives.

Cde Ian Beddowes from Zimbabwe explained how in a very short time, an old liberation movement tradition can revive in the context of an anti-imperialist fight against sanctions, and can offer an alternative between a degenerated liberation movement and forces subordinated to imperialism.

Cde Yajoubi TejMbarka from Tunisia

**Imperialism:
Dividing
to dominate,
corrupting to divide**

explained the strength of people in united and determined struggles but also the capacity of imperialism to adapt to save the essential elements of its rule.

Cde Nzokima Benoit from Burundi explained the difficult situation in his country, with the history and current situation of imperialist destruction of his country and the region, especially by encouraging ethnic strife.

Cde Mohamed Hassan of Ethiopia spoke mostly about the greater Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa. He demonstrated how imperialism works with history, geography and ethnic factors: "dividing by all means to dominate, corrupting by all means to divide".

Cde Moustapha Bedreddine from Mauritania explained the history of the people's movement in his country against French colonialism, then neo-colonialism, including the recent coup backed by French imperialism, showing how it has used different forms to retain domination.

Cde Michel Collon from Belgium exposed the agenda of the Imperialism, with its key targets: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Lebanon and Iran.

Cde Bruno Drweski from Poland analysed imperialism in Eastern European and in terms of the so-called 'coloured revolutions'. The methods developed there progressively became more sophisticated from the times of dissidents financed by western states to current new movements called "coloured revo-

lutions". These started in the former Yugoslavia, and through exploiting real frustrations, imperialism organised chaos, including through new technologies (internet, social networks, etc) and riots, mainly based on the youth.

Cde Danielle Follett from the United States spoke of the current state of the US empire, including its financial bankruptcy, military and political decline, and on-going capacity for destruction and destabilisation through special operations. She gave figures of indebtedness, declining manufacturing sectors and foreign intervention (including through special operations commands, dependence on defence spending, etc.).

Cde Robert Griffiths from the UK described UK imperialism and its adaptation to global capitalism, and the strengthening of the links between US and European imperialism.

By exploiting real frustrations, imperialism has been able to organise chaos

Cde Rosa Moussaoui from France dealt with regime change in the Ivory Coast in which French Imperialism renewed its old colonialism in its strongest neo-colony. This is a new stage in what is called Françafrique, which currently tends to be complementary to US imperialism instead of acting as its rival.

Cde Umberto Martins from Brazil

dealt with the increasing differences raised by the deepening crisis of the imperialist countries and the huge growth of emerging China. He gave a picture of the Latin American process aimed at major economic and political integration as an important contribution to establishing alternatives.

Cde Francesco Maringio of Italy focussed on resisting countries in Asia, and Brics in changing the global balance of power

The seminar expressed solidarity with Cuba and Tunisian communists facing new repression.

It ended with a session on Libya as a concentrated expression of imperialism and anti-Imperialism today. ●

Cde Matlhako is SACP Secretary for International Relations and a Politburo Member

A POEM BY TSHEPO SEMUDI

OUR HISTORY

He who rides a tiger
Cannot dismount at will
With sickle and hammer
We drive the working class wheel
Home and abroad
Bringing all willing hearts on board
This is our history
This is our history

Let me tell you
Something you know best
I re-assure you
Your mind won't rest
When songs of our soil
Reach the bed of your soul
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is a tree
Standing tall in a blind bush
It withstood terror and misery
Never shifted by a pull or push
From the west wild winds
That erode bones blood and minds
This is our history
This is our history
Our history is a dance
Where the dance suits the beat
And the beat is tuned to the dance
Gum-boot dance to the heart beat
Following forefathers foot steps
Moses M and Moses K wearing the three caps
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is that child
With ribs of a guitar strings
Crawling into dust bins so wild
Empty stomach empty dust bins
screaming
Screaming calling for Mama....
On all fours scrubbing bourgeois floors
Mama
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is that viva Mandela viva
Tambo
Armed with perseverance and patience
It is that viva Chris Hani viva Joe Slovo
Armed with endurance and resilience
Defying bullets bullets and dungeons
impregnable
With fire burning the combustible
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is this alliance
Glued shoulder to shoulder with blood
mould
It is a history of disciplined
commitments
Tigers hoisting high a flag Black Green
and Gold
After a heavy pain full Apart-hate torrent
And for a hammer and sickle we are
adamant
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is a proud song
A song of no surrender
For it will not take us long
Socialism is our future
Build it now don't ask me how
These Tigers know how
This is our history
This is our history

Our history is a rainbow
After a heavy flood
When tides ebbed low
And there is no more blood
We shall sing and remember
Songs of no surrender
"Aulethe Umshini wame"
"Aulethe Umshini wame"
This is our history
This is our history
When we show
Red card
They cry
Tenders
We close the ranks
They try
Divide
Give the enemy no quarter
Give the enemy no quarter
This is our history
This is our history

LESOTHO

Keeping the flame of struggle burning

Among the untold stories from our struggle are those of the heroic role played by comrades of the Communist Party of Lesotho. Cde Vuyani Tyhali, long-standing CPL member and an active participant himself, takes up the story

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, cde Chris Hani had succeeded in rebuilding MK and ANC structures in Lesotho, using it as a base to launch missions and to receive recruits and information. In carrying out this work, cde Chris and his South African comrades were greatly assisted by the Communist Party of Lesotho, and particularly our general secretary, cde Mokhafisi Kena (aka Jeremiah Mosotho).

Cde Kena was a military veteran from World War II, and he had also been trained in intelligence work in the Soviet Union.

Working with the CPL, Cde Chris recruited senior members in the Lesotho Defence Force and in government to work in solidarity with the South African liberation movement. Lesotho came under pressure to expel cde Chris and this duly happened in December 1981 when he was declared persona non grata.

But the underground structures he had helped to establish in Lesotho continued to gain in strength and capacity, playing a major role in the ongoing rolling waves of semi-insurrectionary struggle inside South Africa.

The apartheid government tried to pressurise the Basotho National Party (BNP) government to expel the ANC from Lesotho, but despite serious threats

from Pretoria, the BNP government rejected this..

The apartheid regime then turned its attention to elements within the Lesotho Defence Force and began encouraging, supervising and ultimately directing a military coup. Because of our own secret structures within the army, the CPL leadership became aware of the impending coup. They were able to communicate with cde Chris and the senior structures of MK warning of what was about to happen. The Warsaw Pact countries were also concerned, and requested that cde Kena travel to Moscow to brief them on what was afoot. Because of the threatening situation inside Lesotho and his many responsibilities here, cde Kena sent cde Sehoai Santho to Moscow.



Cde.Vuyani Tyhali

The Lesotho Defence Force, under the supervision of the apartheid state, carried out the coup on 20 January 1986. At 4am, cde Chris phoned cde Kena asking him to contact all MK commanders in Lesotho, and instruct them to avoid arrest if possible but not to leave Lesotho.

Some known members of MK were rounded up, and some were severely beaten before being deported. A majority of MK members were able to evade arrest and were hidden by CPL structures under the supervision of cde Kena. Many

were hidden in the National University of Lesotho, squatting in residences with the assistance of members of the Committee for Action and Solidarity for Southern African Students – another structure jointly established by cdes Chris and Kena. Others were hidden in houses outside the university.

Senior Lesotho nationals were among those killed in the coup. They included recruits of cde Chris - Brigadier Ramotsekhoane, Colonel Sehlabo, and two cabinet ministers in the BNP government, Desmond Sixishi and BNP secretary general Monts'i Makhele.

The military junta issued a series of decrees outlawing political activity in Lesotho and establishing King Moshoeshoe II as the titular head of state, but under the effective direction of the military junta – itself effectively directed by the apartheid regime.

Despite these grave setbacks, Cde Kena and his CPL comrades continued the work of rebuilding MK in Lesotho. They also worked through the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL) to alert the world about who was detained and handed over to the apartheid regime. The role of the CCL in this led to the deportation of Father Worsenip. With the intensified manhunt under way for MK comrades, cde Santho argued that King Moshoeshoe II should be contacted to save the lives of MK cadres. The king was known for his sympathy to the ANC, and cde Santho argued that the king should be advised to use his executive powers. Cde Kena objected to this line of approach, and his objections proved correct when cde Santho tried the king in vain.

As the general secretary of the CPL, cde Kena and CPL CC members convened an underground congress in Maseru. The congress resolved to continue ANC work, to act as MK couriers, and to provide MK with logistical support. Cde Kena sent regular MK intelligence reports to Cde Chris in Lusaka, collected money for MK, and assisted with new assignments to the front. CPL members' names were used to rent houses for MK cadres.

One of cde Chris's concerns was for the welfare of veteran SACP members living in Lesotho, particularly cde Thabo Edwin Mofutsanyana. He asked cde Kena to do his best to take care of them and cde Kena accordingly, instructed advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane to adopt cde Thabo Mofutsanyana as his dependent which he did until 1991 when Cde Chris made arrangements for cde Thabo Mofutsanyana to return to South Africa. ●

IN MEMORIAM

An offensive against reaction – in Cde Sankara’s name

Since 1921 communists have pointed the way forward and encouraged workers to take on the class enemy

It is pivotal to remember one of the creative African leaders – a soldier and communist, Thomas Sankara, born on 21 December 1949 in Yako, Upper Volta.

History has placed enormous responsibility on all revolutionaries worldwide. Our struggle is internationalist in character, shape and content.

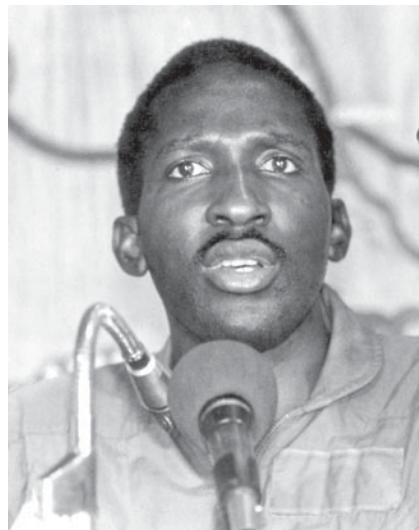
This African hero was a real symbol of working class internationalism because he understood and valued active human solidarity with all people oppressed and exploited by the imperialist forces.

On 4 October 1984 he said at the UN General Assembly: “We want to place ourselves within this world, without lending any credence to that gigantic fraud of history, and certainly without accepting the status of ‘hinterland of satiated West’. Rather we want to assert our awareness of belonging to a tri-continental whole.”

This is the man who never subscribed to neoliberal formulas and fervently believed that “there can be no salvation for our people unless we decisively turn our backs on all the models of all the charlatans, cut from the same cloth.”

He constantly raised the issue of Africa’s debt. This was in the interests of the protection of the principle of African independence and sovereignty against Western dominance.

In a moving political orientation speech on 2 October 1983 he outlined the character of the Burkina Faso Revolution: his government abolished all compulsory payments to and unpaid labour for



Thomas Sankara

traditional chiefs. He ended house rent in recognition of the suffering of tenants. In 1984 he nationalised land and mineral resources and circumvented “illicit enrichment” through the speculative economy.

“Our economic aspiration is to create a situation where any Burkinabe can at least use his brain and mind to invent and create enough to ensure him two meals a day and drinking water.”

What then is the legacy of this great revolutionary to South Africa? This is the

man who abolished prostitution and polygamy, transformed the economy fundamentally, and the first to recognize the HIV-Aids challenge. Today certain rightwing forces are opposing the Protection of Information Bill in the name of freedom of speech and right to know

– which equals freedom to lie through the media, which is a powerful instrument for the corporate world to attack our movement.

When the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reforms released a Green Paper, representatives of the bourgeoisie class cry foul, forgetting the historical theft of our land.

The courts are used by these forces and they are entrenching bourgeois rule of law. The task in our movement now is to firm up a revolutionary counter-offensive against these forces.

We should do this in honour of Cde Sankara who hated imperialism with all his being.

The SACP says we need to tackle corruption and tenderpreneurship. Cde Sankara also fought corruption. That is also why he was assassinated on 15 October 1987. They killed him, but not his exemplary revolutionary convictions.

They must know that corruption will be defeated.

In this process we need to educate the young including the ANCYL. Cde Sankara said: “the art of teaching is repetition. It is up to revolutionaries, every day never to become discouraged, never to become weary, and to make physical, moral and intellectual efforts to reach out to others. This frequently requires that we be hard on ourselves: explain and explain again.

This is how to deal ruthlessly with those who believe the revolution is synonymous with weakness, those who confuse the democratic discussions which we need, with condescension and sentimentality.” ●

Cde Parkies is SACP Free State Secretary



By PHEL PARKIES