

# YCL CONGRESS SPECIAL



December 2014

Voice of the South African Communist Party

# Unsebenzi

## 2<sup>ND</sup>, RADICAL TRANSITION FOR SA YOUTH!

- Job-rich reindustrialisation!
- Open training and second-chance opportunities!
- Build the National Youth Service!



# INTENSIFYING YOUTH MOBILISATION FOR SOCIALISM!

# Forward to a New Deal for the youth!

*80 000-plus young communists prepare for the YCLSA's 4th national congress in Cape Town from 10 to 14 December*

About 1 200 delegates representing 1 216 branches will converge at the University of the Western Cape for the 4th National Congress of the YCLSA (Young Communist League of South Africa) from 10 to 14 December.

The Congress will be organised around the theme of "Intensifying Youth Mobilisation for Socialism."

The YCL has a membership of 87 916, with 44 601 in good standing for the Congress, with the remainder having becoming members or renewed their membership after the cut-off date for deciding on delegates for the Congress.

"But they are all legitimate members, let me stress," said YCL National Secretary, cde Buti Manamela.

"A major focus of the Congress will be a new deal for young people from working class communities. This will include a focus on job-creation for youth through a job-rich reindustrialisation strategy. The YCL has to develop proposals for the reindustrialisation of South Africa and the creation of decent jobs for youth.

"We need to look into connecting young people to employment opportunities including short term employment such as the Expanded Public Works Programme. An industrialisation strategy is the best way to reorient the South African economy on a job-rich path.

"Opening training and second-chance opportunities for young people who have not completed secondary education is crucial. In this respect, government and the private sector have to be urged to design programmes that can benefit this category of young people.

"It is also necessary to scale up the National Youth Service to draw large numbers of young people into community service. Developing the productive



**Deputy Minister in the Presidency cde Buti Manamela (right) and NYDA head cde Yershen Pillay lay a wreath at the Hector Pieterse Memorial**

sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture and mining is also vital. So is creating work exposure measures for those young people that do not have degree and diplomas. We also need to improve working conditions and pay for youth across the economy, including in the services sector.

"One of our concerns is the retail sector precisely because it's mainly youth who are employed there as casuals, temps and the like."

Cde Manamela also stressed that "we need, from the perspective of the youth, to consider what exactly the second, more radical phase of the transition, with its emphasis on economic transformation means. Ownership and control of the economy would be a crucial aspect, surely! The provisional Sunday Times list of the country's richest people has just been released, and reveals once again the obscene gap between the rich and poor in this country. This gap is just not sustainable, and frankly it's not in the interests of the wealthy either that it continues. The country will implode and all of us, but mostly the super-rich will lose out! Interestingly, the three wealthiest people are in the mining sector. Yet

just consider what the average mine-worker earns!"

The YCL National Secretary also referred to the "challenges caused by policies of the broader movement of which we are part that do not serve the interests of the youth, and sometimes even undermine these interests. How do we organise and mobilise in these circumstances?"

"We also need to look at our role in the PYA (Progressive Youth Alliance) to see how we can strengthen it and win it over to a new deal for the youth," he said.

"We need too to experiment with organising and mobilising outside our comfort zones - reaching out to youth outside our structures and also become more relevant to them. We have done some of this already but need to take this forward.

"Our own growth as the YCLSA is uneven across the country and we need the stronger provinces to assist the weaker provinces more so that we can become strong across the country more uniformly."

SACP General Secretary, Blade Nzimande, said: "We are very proud of the YCL. And we congratulate the YCL's re-founding leadership, cde Buti Manamela and the other comrades. We never in our wildest dreams thought the YCL would be such a success, and that it would become such an important part of the PYA.

"Of course, the YCL also has its challenges, but it has built a firm foundation, and the new leadership that emerges from this Congress has a responsibility to attend to these challenges and to build on this foundation and make the YCL even stronger and more effective. The YCL is an indispensable part of our struggle for socialism."

And it certainly is!

AUGMENTED CC STATEMENT

# Build unity of the working class and trade union movement!

*The SACP held a meeting of the Augmented Central Committee from 28 to 30 November 2014*



**Delivery: Some of the 3-million subsidised houses built since the defeat of apartheid**

**T**he annual, end-of-year SACP augmented Central Committee was held in Ekurhuleni over the weekend of 28-30 November. At the augmented meeting, the regular CC is joined by a larger representation from the leaderships of our provinces and districts. The objective of the end-of-year augmented CC is to review the past year and prepare a programme of action for the SACP in the coming year.

The CC noted that in the recent period, following the ANC-led alliance's renewed electoral mandate with an overwhelming 62% majority in the May elections, the anti-majoritarian regime-change agenda emanating from dispa-

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**The triple social crisis – inequality, poverty and unemployment – flows from SA's capitalist growth path and massive disinvestment**

rate quarters has been intensified.

The broader context for this offensive is the persisting crisis of unemployment, poverty and inequality. This interlinked social crisis persists, despite a major post-apartheid, redistributive effort (including 16-million South Africans on social grants, 7-million new household electricity connections, 3-million subsidised houses and over 400 000 solar panel heaters installed free on the roofs of poor homes.) The persistence of the triple crisis in our society is directly linked to a deeply problematic capitalist growth path and the massive disinvestment out of our country by monopoly capital over the past two decades. This

disinvestment has involved illegal capital flight, as well as dual listings, transfer pricing, tax avoidance, and financialisation. The post-2008 stagnation in most developed capitalist economies and the current slow-down in China have now dramatically exposed the vulnerabilities of our own recent modest growth that was largely consumption-driven and dependent upon unbeneficiated commodity exports and the flow of short-term speculative “hot money” investments.

This is the root cause of our persisting socio-economic crises. However, opposition forces (neo-liberals and pseudo-left populists alike), seek to shift all blame on to the ANC-led government. They are abetted in this endeavour precisely by weaknesses and failures on our side. In particular, as a movement we need to implement more decisively key anti-corruption resolutions like those adopted at the ANC’s 2012 Mangaung national conference. This included the resolution that those in our ranks facing criminal charges in the courts of law should stand down from their party political and government positions. It is costing us publicly as a movement that we are not moving decisively in this regard. There are also widespread indications of money politics at play and even of business people having a direct hand into appointments into key positions within the state.

However, the SACP rejects the allegation that the “whole of the ANC”, or “the whole of the state” is corrupt. But unless corruption and corporate-capture are dealt with severely and decisively these problems risk becoming systemic and difficult to reverse.

The best weapon against these dangers is two-fold:

Decisive state action, including criminal prosecution of those allegedly involved in corrupt activities. In this context the SACP welcomes news that the Hawks Anti-Corruption Task Team has arrested and charged with fraud and corruption Thandeka Nene and others associated with two construction companies. We are concerned however that corruption and fraud cases are typically dragged out over many months in our courts. The capacity of the courts to deal effectively and efficiently with this scourge must be enhanced.

Anti-corruption state intervention needs to be combined with active communities and a united and mobilised working class.

The anti-majoritarian, anti-working class, regime change agenda has targeted

three critical sectors in the present: our hard-won democratic institutions (and notably parliament); the trade union movement (and specifically Cosatu); and the youth of our country.

### **Defend our democratic institutions**

The scenes that have played out in Parliament over the past months are cause for concern. They are a grave insult to all those, including many communists, who fought and even died for a non-racial democratic SA based on the principle of one-person one-vote. The SACP has no problem with a multi-party democratic dispensation. We agree that opposition parties have every right to robustly represent the views of those who have elected them. This is how our hard-won democratic legislatures have functioned over the past 20 years. The majority principle and the rights of minorities are not in conflict with each other.

But now there is a new and toxic reality. The EFF, a demagogic, neo-fascist, populist formation has made it clear that it is prepared to erode the legitimacy of hard-won democratic institutions as it

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advances, hell-bent, its egotistic agenda. This is the conduct of those who have no memory of the downward spiral into a cataclysmic civil war from which SA was rescued by the collective action of a wide array of South Africans in the early 1990s.

The EFF are not the only ones who have forgotten the situation out of which our present democracy emerged. There is now a youngish, largely male, white, often racist, brat-pack within the DA that has captured hegemony in its parliamentary caucus. This brat-pack has marginalised more experienced DA parliamentarians, and is twisting the arm of the nominal DA parliamentary leader, Mmusi Maimane, whose personal inclinations

are clearly less recklessly anarchistic. The white DA brat-pack now collaborates actively and brazenly with the EFF.

It is pleasing to note, therefore, that in the past week there is an emergent awareness from a range of opposition parties, of the danger posed by the EFF/DA brat-pack axis. As one opposition MP put it in the House last week, they are “playing us” meaning Parliament, but also our country, “for fools”. While some of the more arcane customs of parliament require renovation, and while robust parliamentary debate is essential, we call on parliamentary parties to close ranks against anarchy.

This is why the SACP supports and welcomes the decisive action taken in the last few days and sanctions adopted against the hooliganisation of Parliament.

### **Defend the unity of the working class, build the unity of Cosatu!**

The SACP re-iterates its support for the ANC-led process to defend and re-build the unity of Cosatu. This can only be achieved by not compromising on the founding principles of the Federation, and notably condemning cannibalising, membership poaching that offends the core principle of “one industry, one union”. The Numsa leadership was given ample opportunity at the last Cosatu CEC to indicate a preparedness to work for unity within the Federation. In a lengthy presentation, over two hours and forty-five minutes, it defiantly refused to prioritise principled unity over factional self-interest. The CC calls on all metal-workers to remain within Cosatu and not follow a leadership clique within Numsa that is diverting union resources into its personal agenda of launching a political party while neglecting the shop-floor servicing of workers.

### **Forward to a successful YCLSA national conference**

The CC received a report from the Young Communist League of South Africa on its work and campaigns over the past year and on preparations for its National Congress to be held in two weeks’ time. The CC commended the YCLSA for its model, steady influence and leadership role in an often volatile youth sector. The YCL has played an exemplary role in building the Progressive Youth Alliance, while YCL cadres are at the centre of turning around the NYDA that had been plundered and brought to near ruin in the re-



**Hot water: One of the 400 000-plus solar water heaters installed free for poor households since 1994**

cent past. The CC wishes YCL well for its national congress and calls on it to once more set an example of militant unity – our country needs you.

**We salute the progressive role of the ANC-led government on many fronts**

In the midst of a media-led anti-government offensive, the CC notes and salutes the progressive role that the South African government has been playing in the difficult task of repatriating the deceased remains of those killed in the Nigerian church tragedy. The South African government is also playing a leading but unheralded role in the fight against Ebola in West Africa. We also salute the role played by our ANC-led government in the framework of SADC in restoring Lesotho to democracy.

The SACP welcomed the presidential visit to our country of President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine – an indication of our government and our country’s commitment to the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people against the apartheid-Zionist policies of the Israeli state. These policies have received further momentum with the Knesset decision to declare Israel a Jewish state.

**16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children**

This CC met in the midst of the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children. The CC strongly associates

itself with the campaign and declares as one: “count us in”. We need to build this theme into all of our ongoing campaigns and work. The SACP joins the NUM in welcoming the sentencing of the killer of cde Pinky Mosiane who was raped and murdered on duty in an Anglo Platinum mine.

**Towards the SACP 2015 Programme of Action – Fostering working class unity for a people’s economy**

Finally, the SACP CC discussed the broad framework of the 2015 programme of action. Our key focus will continue to be the struggle to build a People’s Economy, involving both the radical transformation of the mainstream economy as well as building a non-capitalist, solidarity economy that includes public employment programmes, cooperatives, self-employed and micro-enterprises and a range of community and faith-based initiatives.

**The Party’s Framework of Action 2015**

In the coming year taking forward these objectives will involve three main pillars:

Our ongoing Financial Sector Campaign, in which we will move towards a second national Financial Sector Summit. Our major demands include the diversification of the financial sector; for the Postbank to be properly constituted; and the building of cooperative banks

working with the trade union movement. More generally the financial sector campaign embraces the social wage struggle.

Local economic development, including support for public employment programmes like the Community Work programme, and cleaning your neighbourhood efforts. The SACP will also actively be supporting government’s “back to basics” municipal initiative. In order to support this initiative, SACP local branches and district structure will be convening people’s local summits on Local Economic Development and basic services.

The third pillar will be the intensification of Party work within the trade union movement and broadening SACP recruitment at the workplace. We will focus on defending the unity of Cosatu, with particular focus on regions and districts in which destabilisation is being focused.

The SACP is alive, organisationally sound, and unified programmatically. We are growing in numbers with a membership now of 209 000. We salute the hundreds of thousands of SACP cadres throughout our country who, in the course of 2014 have continued to set an example of honesty, commitment and exemplary discipline.

We take this opportunity to wish our Party activists and all democratic and peace-loving South Africans well over the festive season. ●

# Uniting Cosatu – our revolutionary duty!

*A message from a Young Revolutionary to his comrades on the eve of the YCL's 4<sup>th</sup> National Congress*

BY OJ (OLTMAN) FOURIE



On the eve of the YCLSA's 4<sup>th</sup> National Congress, it is important that we reflect on the past four years' progress towards improving the lives of the working class youth and the challenges that we have faced and overcome as a youth organisation. It is of great importance that we strengthen and intensify our efforts, moving forward after this Congress.

We must speak with one voice and be clear about our programme of action.

We are revolutionaries and our blood remains red as we continue with the struggle for our 10 youth demands. In 2006, the YCLSA adopted these 10 youth demands. They remain relevant and should be pursued whatever the cost. Some of the youth demands are:

- Universal economic participation for all young people through quality employment;
- Universal access to quality and free secondary and tertiary education;
- Universal access to quality and free health care;
- Universal and equal access to, and usage of land;
- Universal access to quality public service; and
- Universal access to financial services for small businesses, housing, youth co-operatives by both government and the private sector.

Achieving these youth demands, albeit to various degrees, will go a long way in addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality that the youth are facing.



One of YCL's 10 demands: Universal access to free, quality education to tertiary level

Young progressive workers must start playing a more prominent role within the largest trade union federation in Africa. Let us not become disillusioned with factional battles within Cosatu: let us instead ensure that Cosatu remains steadfast in fighting for the improved conditions of workers and remains a critical member within the alliance. Let us stop dividing, and instead unite Cosatu. We must ensure that Cosatu remains a powerful trade union movement that protects workers' rights in all sectors and at all levels.

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**We have a revolutionary duty to educate ourselves – to equip ourselves for the tasks ahead**

The challenges that the federation are facing are growing leadership distance from the work-place, bureaucratism, the sins of incumbency, and business unionism. Most critical of all currently is the absence of revolutionary unity. These challenges emphasise the great responsibility that young workers have to rebuild the unity of Cosatu and to restore the workers' confidence in their own federation.

- A divided Cosatu plays into the hands of monopoly capital!
- A divided Cosatu plays into the hands of neo-colonialism!
- A divided Cosatu plays into the hands of the ruling class!
- A divided Cosatu plays into the hands of the political opposition!
- A divided Cosatu will cause a further decline in the number of unionised workers in the private sector!
- A divided Cosatu weakens the opportunities of the working class youth!



# Building a home and hope for young people

*KwaZulu-Natal YCL is ready for the National Congress – and for the struggles ahead*

BY MAFIKA DAMANE MNDEBELE

Throughout its 10-year history, the YCLSA in KwaZulu Natal has taken many forms. In each period, young Communists have taken part in and led some of the most important social struggles of working class youth – against poverty and unemployment, racism and capitalism. It has fought for socialism, drawing on the traditions of the SACP and carrying them to young people, and learning from each new generation of youth the concerns and analyses which would enrich that tradition.

YCLSA was born in KZN in 2004 immediately after the historic 2003 re-establishment Congress. Then the organisation campaigned against labour brokers, supported the struggle of organised young workers into trade unions, and engaged in solidarity campaigns against the brutal Swaziland government. This collective of 2004 was led by cde Khayelihle Kwanyana and Njabulo Ntanzu as the Provincial Secretary and Chairperson respectively

In 2007, a collective as led by cde Mlungisi Hlongwane and Bheka Mbuthuma was elected at Durban University of Technology on the eve of the economic meltdown in our country. As the economic challenges deepened, the YCLSA-KZN fought against youth unemployment, and for free sanitary towels for school girls in rural areas. We fought against exploitation of women through backward practices, including ukuthwala.

The YCLSA became a serious body of opinion in the province and insisted on discussing every topic without fear, for example calling for the budget of King Zwelithini to be reduced, a campaign for



**KwaZulu-Natal founding YCL Provincial Secretary cde Khaye Nkwanyana**

the return of Cde Mzala Nxumalo's book (Gatsha Buthelezi: A Chief with a Double Agenda), we fought against corruption and many other issues.

In 2010 disagreements ahead of the National Congress within the provincial body saw the dissolution of the Provincial Committee, with some comrades elected in leadership positions at the National Congress. An interim leadership mainly consisting of the younger generation was put in place. The leadership's main mandate was to hold a provincial congress which they were unable to do until the Party took over that responsibility together with the national leadership.

On 30 November 2014, the seed of hope was planted as young communists representing close to 8 000 members

throughout the province met at the Durban University of Technology to revive their movement under the theme "Building hope and a home for the youth in KZN". The congress was officially opened by the National Secretary of YCLSA cde Buti Manamela. The National Secretary took his time while addressing the Congress, educating delegates about the history of YCLSA, the Marxism-Leninism doctrine and then spent most of his time on the political campaigns YCLSA should undertake.

It was spelled out that YCLSA is a political university of the Party. It is responsible for educating to educate working class youth about Marxism-Leninism, imbuing them with the consciousness that victory in the building of socialism in our country is fully possible and necessary. Beyond this, the YCLSA should rally these young people behind the political program of the SACP, the South African Road to Socialism. Young communists were also called upon to be active in all areas of youth development, including industry, agriculture, institutions of education, the co-operatives, and the progressive youth formations. Every member of the YCLSA must link his or her daily work in all spheres of youth development with the prospect of building a socialist South Africa.

The Congress re-affirmed the 10 Youth Demands adopted by the 2005 National Policy Conference of YCLSA and resolved to convene a provincial council to develop a political program of action that will resolve the plight of young people in KwaZulu Natal and build YCLSA as the home for all working class youth. ●

**Cde Mndebele is a YCLSA National Committee Member**

# A tribute to veteran Norman Levy

*Special national congress lifetime membership  
award for Treason Trialist and SACP stalwart*

**T**he YCLSA will give SACP veteran cde Norman Lev YCLSA Lifetime Member Award at its National Congress next weekend.

Cde Norman Levy was born in Johannesburg in 1929. He joined the Young Communist League, while still at school at the age of 14. There he met Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Paul Joseph, Ahmed Kathrada and many other comrades who later distinguished themselves in the struggle. At the age of sixteen he joined the Communist Party of South Africa and the SACP in 1953 soon after the CPSA was banned. He was educated at Athlone High School, the University of the Witwatersrand, the London School of Economics and Birkbeck College in London. He gained his doctorate in Economic History in 1979 and published his first book on *The Foundations of the South African Cheap Labour System* in 1982.

A founding member of the South African Congress of Democrats and a participant in many of the landmark campaigns in the fifties, including the Congress of the People, he was arrested in 1956 as one of Treason Trialists. The trial lasted for five years, but he was acquitted with 61 others in 1958. He was subsequently charged with Bram Fischer, Eli Weinberg, Jean Middleton and 10 other comrades for membership of the South African Communist Party and for aiding and abetting the ANC. For this offence he spent 54 days in solitary confinement and then served a three-year prison sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act before leaving for London in 1968.

In exile Levy served as Head of the School of History



**Cde Levy: Joined the YCL 71 years ago**

at the Middlesex University teaching politics and history and continued to be involved in SACP and anti-apartheid activities, conducting research for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on the South African cheap labour system. He returned to South Africa at the end of 1990 and played a major role in restructuring the public service and in creating a framework for Affirmative Action for government.

In 1996, he became a Professor in the School of Government at the University of the Western Cape while serving as deputy chair on the Presidential Review Commission (1996-1998). As part of his brief with the School of Government he directed a survey of Intergovernmental Relations (2001-2), served as a member

of the interministerial committee for the Classification and Declassification of apartheid documents (2003-4); and wrote a book on intergovernmental relations and one on secrecy and transparency in a democracy, which he did for two government ministries. After that he directed many projects on the challenges of intergovernmental relations.

Although now retired, cde Norman has written a memoir entitled *The Final Prize – My life in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle* dealing with his early years in the YCL and the Party as well as the half century of great struggles against the rise of what he calls the South African variant of fascism. Although his book is a memoir, it is primarily a history of the struggle from the 1940s to the beginning of Mandela's government. ●

• Cde Levy is 85 and still active in the Party.

PAN AFRICAN YOUTH UNION

# At the cutting edge of internationalism

*Africa's young leaders gather in Ekurhuleni to take Africa forward*

BY YERSHEN PILLAY



**A**s communists and internationalists, it is important that we engage in the battle of ideas both locally and globally and further seek to occupy international sites of power to advance the anti-imperialist struggle.

We should at all times be able to assess the international balance of forces and analyse the global capitalist economy by providing an active critique of its assumptions and prescriptions. In recent times we have seen a crisis in monopoly capitalism and the printing of virtual or 'hot' money by imperialist powers such as the USA, leading to massive disinvestment by large monopolies from emerging economies and into more developed economies. The continued accumulation of capital is then used to pacify the working class in the imperialist states while the developing countries continue to be exploited. With such developments in the international global capitalist economy, the role of progressive, organised youth formations has never been more important.

On the 28 November 2014, 200 youth leaders convened the 4<sup>th</sup> Pan African Youth Leaders' Summit in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng. This Summit of the Pan African Youth Union or PYU constituted the largest gathering of youth leaders on the continent. The Pan African Youth Movement (PYM), the predecessor of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), was established on 26 April, 1962 in Conakry, Guinea, where it had its headquarters until 1967, after which it was transferred to Algiers, Algeria. The PYM was then composed of youth wings of political

parties and mainly the youth leagues of liberation movements. The PYM was instrumental in mobilising young people in Africa to take part in the liberation struggles of Africa states.

It was also adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at the time to become a specialised agent until its eventual transformation to the African Union (AU). With the advent of political independence and the change of the political landscape in Africa through the introduction of democracy, the PYM slowly lost its relevance. There was therefore a need for an overhaul of the PYM, its mandate and its members to make it more responsive to the needs of young people in post-colonial Africa. Due to the political processes taking place in Africa, the need to transform the PYM became dire and the process became inevitable. The 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of the PYU was held in 2003, in Windhoek, Namibia. This Summit took the decision to transform the PYM into the PYU, with its members being national youth councils or national youth agencies in member states.

The newly constituted PYU had the responsibility of uniting the youth of Africa behind a common vision of peace and prosperity for all. The 4<sup>th</sup> Summit in South Africa convened under the theme "Youth Moving Africa Forward" and delegates discussed a range of issues in the areas of economic participation, educa-

tion and skills development, health and well-being and the empowerment of young women and youth with disabilities. The summit will be remembered for electing the first female President of the PYU since inception giving practical expression to the intense discussions involving the struggles of young women on the continent.

The summit further resolved to advocate for free, quality, relevant education in every member state of the AU and for the AU to pass a resolution on the matter by 2017. It is of great significance that youth leaders on the continent accepted a resolution to advance the struggle for free, quality, relevant education up to the undergraduate level in every member state of the AU. The Summit focused on the key tasks of the PYU post-2014 and the contribution of African youth in shaping the content of Agenda 2063. It was resolved that the PYU must be a 'shock force' capable of uniting the youth of Africa behind a common vision driven by a mass-based, comprehensive and clinical programme of action.

Youth leaders attending the summit also presented President Jacob Zuma with the African Youth Medal for Peace. President Zuma became only the 6<sup>th</sup> head of state to receive the prestigious award. Previous recipients include former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa, former, first Namibian president Sam Nujoma and Angolan president Jose Eduardo Dos Santos. The summit was a great success and central to the discussions and resolutions was a call for African interventions in African issues in the fight against imperialism. ●

**The role of progressive, organised youth formations has never been more important**

*Comrade Pillay is the YCLSA Chairperson and immediate past PYU President*

# Including the youth is essential

• From Page 12

the Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Youth, cde Buti Manamela, led the South Africa's participation in the forum.

The forum came at an opportune time as our country is currently reviewing national youth policy. An issue that was highlighted by the forum was that of participation of youth. It is important that policy makers refrain from assuming that they know best what young people want but also design mechanisms and processes to listen to young people, let them express their needs and express them in youth policy. This requires careful management as young people are not homogenous, and have different interests that are not static. Youth voice and inclusion is first and foremost an important ingredient in the process of putting together a youth policy and in its implementation.

A second prominent issue that came up was the need to identify the domain of youth policy since by their nature youth issues are cross-sectoral. This clearer understanding will inform the institutional designs that various governments opt for with respect to implementation and political drive of youth policy.

A third crucial issue that came out of the forum was the question of funding needed to deliver on the stated goals of youth policy. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process must be well resourced as well so that there can be early detection in instances where there are problems and these can be corrected early.

As a host country, Azerbaijan got ample opportunity and time to showcase its work in the field of youth development, including the address by President Ilham Aliyev to the forum. Youth in Azerbaijan is defined, by law, as people between 14 and 20. Education receives great attention and the government takes strong practical steps to ensure smooth transition management for youth between school/education and a place of work. Accordingly, there are six areas of focus with respect to youth policy in Azerbaijan, and they are:

- Moral-spiritual education and participation in cultural life;
- Support to talented youth;
- Health & physical development;
- Employment;
- Support for young families, and;
- Support to youth organisations.

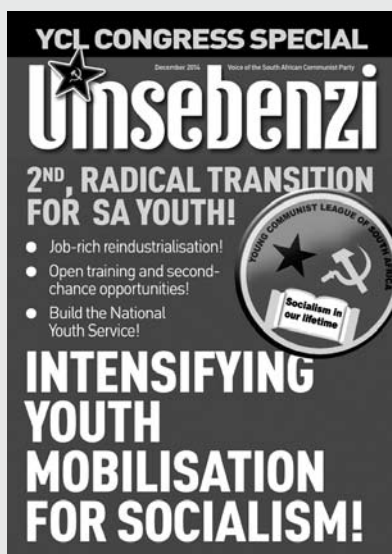
A Youth Fund has been established which aims at supporting youth in the field of innovation, science, education

and culture. The country also places at the centre of youth policy the issue of civic and patriotic development of youth given the ongoing geo-political challenges with Armenia.

The forum also enabled an opportunity for youth activists from Africa to engage briefly and popularise the draft Agenda 2063 led by the AU. South African youth would do well to take an active role of integrating their policy mind map with the overall African aspirations as initially articulated in Agenda 2063, informing these aspirations, and popularizing them amongst South African youth specifically and youth in the region generally.

One of the most prolific revolutionaries of our country, Cde Moses Kotane, once said to the youth of our country: "At this hour of destiny, your country and your people need you. The future of South Africa is in your hands and it will be what you make of it." Youth Policy is about mapping up that future in a democratic space so that our young people can make the best of our country. Youth policy is about capacity for the youth to make the best of the future of our country. ●

**Cde Maleka is a YCLSA National Committee Member and head of the SACP Policy Unit**



## Umsebenzi

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# YCL CONGRESS SPECIAL



**SOCIALISM  
IN OUR  
LIFETIME!**

# Y-REDS

VOICE OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA • DECEMBER 2014



Delegates to the global Youth Policy Forum outside the venue, the Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan

GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM

# Nothing about them without them

*Baku forum delivers message to the world on the need  
for youth involvement in development of youth policy*



BY MALESELA MALEKA

**T**he United Nations Secretary's General Envoy on Youth, in conjunction with other UN agencies, the UNDP and

UNESCO and the Council of Europe convened the first global forum on youth policies hosted by the government of Azerbaijan, in the City of Baku.

Close to 700 participants, drawn from the ranks of Ministers responsible for youth, experts, activists from NGOs, vari-

ous UN agencies and civil society representatives gathered to discuss various issues affecting youth policy. In many respects the forum was historic and ground breaking. The Deputy Minister in

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