

July 2016

Voice of the South African Communist Party

# Umsebenzi



**TOGETHER WE FOUGHT  
APARTHEID.**

**TOGETHER WE CAN  
FIGHT INEQUALITY,  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
AND POVERTY.**

**VOTE ANC**



ELECTION 2016

# Together we fought apartheid! Together we can fight unemployment, poverty, inequality and end the system that creates them – capitalism!

# The SACP says: Vote ANC!

**W**orking together: We have built an inclusive local government system on a non-racial basis that supports urban and rural areas, including working class and poor communities.

Since the historic milestone of our 1994 democratic breakthrough, through which together we dislodged the apartheid regime and ushered in human rights, millions of our people have realised important social achievements implemented by our liberation Alliance, led by our governing party, the ANC. To mention a few achievements:

- The ANC-led government built some 4-million houses benefiting more than 16-million people;
- It increased electrification to over 7-million houses on a non-racial basis, two million more than the 5-million households electrified on a racist basis in the 100 years to 1994 by successive colonial and apartheid regimes, since the first household electricity connection was made in Cape Town in 1894;
- Between 2001 and 2014 alone, more than 2-million households benefitted from indigent support for electricity;
- During the same period, between 2001 and 2014 the ANC-led government increased access to clean water services from 61,3% to 90% of households, including rural areas that were deliberately either excluded from development or under-developed by successive colonial and apartheid regimes;
- The ANC-led government increased free basic water services dramatically from over 7-million households in 2007 to over 11-million households in

2013.

- It expanded access to basic sanitation services from 62,3% of households in 2002 to 79,5% of households in 2014;
- The ANC-led government has built decent, ventilated and hygienic toilets in many rural areas across the country – work is still underway to achieve full coverage.

The ANC-led national government has improved the management of local government with improved planning capacity, audit outcomes and building a professional local government. It has put into law democratic participatory governance, introduced ward committees and strengthened councillor accountability.

However much more needs to be done!

Despite our social achievements, we face deep-seated problems of a system that was built over three centuries by colonial and apartheid oppression, and fails to meet the needs of humanity. The crisis of capitalism affects us daily. Food is becoming more and more expensive, electricity prices are rising and our environment is being destroyed by the capitalist system. Unemployment remains persistently high. But this is neither a time for despair nor to hand over our hard won victories to the opponents of

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**We have made real progress, but despite our social achievements, much more needs to be done!**

our National Democratic Revolution. Working together we shall overcome the challenges!

The SACP says vote for the ANC on 3 August 2016 to:

#### **Defend democratic local government**

- Build the capacity of the state at the local level to render services directly rather than rely on outsourcing and privatisation – both of which are the breeding ground of corruption, patronage and continuing inequality;
- End outsourcing, in-source all functions at the end of existing contracts or tenders;
- Extend office hours in our municipalities including weekends to make local government services available to workers, improve local government performance, and push back private sector managerial tools and profiteering through government at the expense of service to people;
- Fight corporate capture, corruption, crime, reclaim our streets from the drug lords and the gangsters and confront drugs, substance and alcohol abuse to finish.

#### **Defend, advance and deepen participatory government**

- The SACP says councillors must consult meaningfully and listen to our people. Importantly, councillors must give regular feedback to communities. Exercising people's power on the ground, communities must hold councillors accountable and participate in social delivery;
- Public participation must not be used to extend patronage networks and to settle political scores. It must



**TOGETHER:** Campaigning at the SACP’s Mpumalanga rally (from left): Lekwa Mayor Linda Dlamini; Lekwa Council Speaker Thandi Shongwe; SACP General Secretary Blade Nzimande; SACP Mpumalanga Provincial Secretary Bonakele Majuba; and Cosatu Provincial Secretary Fidel Mlambo.

Pic: Mpho Ranto

be used to genuinely canvass and empower our people through joint planning with them and joint action involving their participation to overcome the challenges they face and help them benefit from available opportunities – not only social but also economic opportunities;

- Let the people truly govern and the basic wealth of our country and its resources be shared among them to progressively eliminate inequality!

**For people-centred and people driven local economic development**

- Local economic development programmes must serve the needs of the people and not the markets or the big bosses;
- Build strong support for small business, the informal sector and for co-operatives that are facing extinction from big corporations;
- Use land reform and agricultural support to small-scale farmers for food production for the people;
- Establish cooperative banks in each municipality to roll back the hold of big financial predators and

oligopolies;

- Let us build sustainable communities and households by breaking the dependence of working class communities on the exploitative capitalist mode for consumer goods and services;
- Enhance planning capacity at local government and work towards synergy with spatial development plans, alignment with national and development goals and priorities.

**For employment opportunities for all**

- Let us use Expanded Public Works and Community Works Programmes to advance productive work for the working class and offer employment opportunities for the millions of our

**Let us use public employment programmes to empower our youth to be productive contributors to society and the economy!**

people on the basis of decent work!

- Let us use public employment programmes let us attend to our child-headed and female-headed households to make them safe and secure and address their needs;
- Let us use public employment programmes let us break the cycle of poverty, secure the vulnerable and provide income to the poor through the development of a comprehensive social security programme;
- Let us use public employment programmes to deepen our community health education, promote better health outcomes, promote community centred preventative care and reduce the high cost of healthcare;
- Let us use public employment programmes to empower our youth and equip them to be productive contributors to society and the economy – from which they must benefit. ●

**The SACP says:**  
**Together we fought apartheid**  
**Together we can fight unemployment, poverty and inequality**  
**Vote ANC on 3 August 2016**

ELECTIONS 2016

# At the root of the Tshwane mayoral conflict

*Alex Mashilo outlines the factors that fed into the often-violent reaction in Tshwane to the ANC's choice of mayoral candidate*



The announcement of the African National Congress (ANC) stalwart Thoko Didiza in Tshwane as its mayoral candidate was met with mixed reactions of welcome and anger from sections of the ANC and the community in the capital city. More than a dozen buses were torched, street barricades were burnt by some of the protestors who disagreed with the choice, at least one person was killed on the day the announcement was made and police arrested over 40 suspects. The divisive slogan: "She is not one of our own", or "She does not come from Tshwane", was one of the emotive mobilising tools. Others quickly formed opinions, ranging from: "This is tribalism or ethnicity" and so on. But what actually was going on the ground?

The old saying "all that glitters is not gold" and the materialist dialectics distinguishing between form and content provide a guide to understanding what happened, and the line-up of forces, in the complex structure of contentions. As Karl Marx summarised it succinctly in his thesis *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*: "As, in private life, the distinction is made between what a man thinks of himself and says, and that which he really is and does, so, all the more, must the phrases and notions of parties in historic struggles be distinguished from their real organism, and their real interests, their notions and their reality."

No doubt the Regional Executive Committee (REC) of the ANC in Tshwane was divided on mayoral candidate choic-

es and on choices of councillors – linked to the prospects of the election of leaders at the next ANC conference. The disunity was transmitted on the ground and spilled over to a wide range of other organisations, and based on factional alignments in the ANC. This has become entrenched to the extent that in all likelihood some people are not motivated by principle but on the basis of factions and accuse others of wrongful conduct to smear them.

In terms of ANC 52nd National Conference resolution the RECs were empowered to propose three names to their respective Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) to finalise the selection of mayoral candidates based on those names. The REC did not recommend the current serving mayor, who is also an ANC Regional Chairperson, Cde *Kgosientso Ramokgopa*, to continue serving as the mayor for another term. Implementing the "three names resolutions" it recommended Deputy Regional Chairperson, Cde Mapiti Matsena, followed by Cdes Karin Littler and Susan Ngobeni.

Sections of the ANC membership and the community that supported Cde Ramokgopa opposed these choices. As reported by the ANC following its National List Conference, the ANC Gauteng

PEC – for different reasons – believed the three names would not provide the way forward. The name of Cde Didiza was proposed following consultation and endorsement by the REC. This was a strategic intervention to ensure that the ANC retains the capital city and that governance continues to improve, building on the progress achieved since the current system of local government was introduced.

The mobilisation was also based on economic interests. There was an opinion spreading associating jobs, appointments, contracts and tenders that many people have in Tshwane to Cde Ramokgopa. This includes community and public works employment opportunities that people either already have or want access to. The threat of possibly losing these opportunities clearly turned out to be a motive in mobilising the eruption that occurred in Tshwane as those affected wanted assurance that they will not lose out.

But there was another dynamic at play – localism.

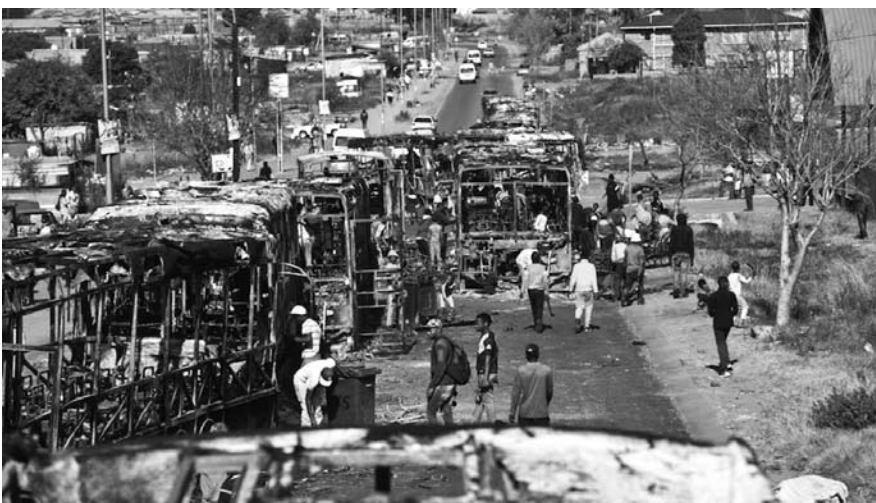
The apartheid regime forged a strong sense of localism in Tshwane, with Pretoria serving that regime as its administrative capital and a laboratory of its practices, a place where apartheid could not leave an inch unattended in rigorously implementing its rule. The system of passes reached a point where there were some old local residents or their descendants participating in enforcing localism – also instrumental in the allocation of resources and opportunities.

If you have lived in Tshwane, particularly in old townships such as Mamelodi, you will know phrases referring to people who recently arrive in the area such as:

**Another dynamic contributed to the protests – localism, key to the allocation of resources and opportunities**



Vehicles set ablaze by protesters burn at the entrances to Atteridgeville, Pretoria, and (below) the aftermath of the protests: the burnt-out frames of municipal buses



“O tlike mo/fa” - directly translated from Sepedi or Setswana it means “you have come here” rather than belonging to this place. In this and other ways localism was entrenched in Tshwane, forging together the “localists” regardless of their tribal or ethnic backgrounds, to the extent that a “localist” speaking the same language and practicing the same culture

(e.g. Sepedi, Setswana, Shitsonga, Sindebele or iSizulu) as another person who s/he believes arrived later than him/her in the area can be found telling that person: “Otlile hier” (“hier” is Afrikaans meaning “here”).

Other micro versions of the same phenomenon stemmed from the organisation of human settlements by the apart-

heid regime particularly in townships along lines of language or ethnic background. This fostered backward practices in the past such as a person either being prevented from passing through or visiting another section in the same township. This is to be found in many old Gauteng townships to the extent that in areas such as Jeppe in Johannesburg there are some Africans who prevented the use of African languages other than their own at meetings.. This is a subject of another discussion.

The situation in Tshwane exposed problematic aspects of the national psyche that have yet to be thoroughly researched, written about and transformed towards the vision of the Freedom Charter. Departments such as Arts and Culture can play a meaningful role in this transformation process and shaping a new national psyche. But as the people we have our part to play. ●

***Cde Mashilo is the SACP Spokesperson and a former YCLSA Deputy National Secretary***

ELECTION 2016

# The Tia Moshumi campaign: Babelegi industrial site

*Lucky Ndala describes the Party's rapid-response election campaigning in Tshwane's working class heartland*

Following the call by the SACP to campaign tirelessly and independently for an ANC victory, and with Tshwane having been identified as the weakest link amongst the metros in the country, especially in view of the anarchy after the ANC announcement of Cde Thoko Didiza as Mayoral candidate, the SACP zeroed in on the Tshwane Hammanskraal sub-district, in particular to do election work among the working class around the Babelegi Industrial Site.

The Tia Moshumi campaign, which was launched on 24 June, involved SACP Central Committee member Cde Reneva Fourie, the Gauteng Provincial leadership led by the 1st Deputy Provincial Secretary Cde Mpapa Kanyane, the Tshwane District leadership and about 100 SACP members from the area. We painted Babelegi red as we did our blitz-

ing and pamphleteering. Workers were engaged to hear their key concerns and encouraged to vote for the ANC in the local government election. The occasion was also used to pledge solidarity with the workers of Harvest Group who had embarked on an unprotected strike organised by the Liberated Metalworkers' Union of South Africa (Limusa).

On the 11 to 14 July we conducted a Tia Moshumi campaign follow-up. The follow-up entrenched our working rela-

**The Tia Moshumi campaign and follow-up entrenched our working relations with Limusa, Cosatu's new metalworkers' affiliate**

tions with this new affiliate of Cosatu, the new home of metal workers in South Africa. As the SACP, we vowed to support the workers of Harvest in their fight against super-exploitation and clear disregard of South African labour laws. The workers downed tools to challenge their disparate salary scales, unsafe working conditions and the employer's tendency to deny them freedom of movement.

We have full confidence in the leadership of Limusa and believe that they have the requisite capacity to fight and liberate the workers from the oppression and exploitation that defines Babelegi. We say this, informed by the conduct of the leadership, especially Limusa General Secretary Cde Cedric Gina flanked by the National Treasurer Cde Sello Rapau, who showed humility and understanding of the workers and personally attended to their concerns. Limusa moved speedily, and has already lodged a dispute with CCMA against the employer and has successfully negotiated the payment of salaries that were owed to the striking workers.

The tendency to continue exploiting and treating workers with no regard for the labour laws is intolerable. The SACP in the Hammanskraal Sub-District and Cosatu Babelegi local will intensify efforts in this Tia Moshumi campaign and move from factory to factory to protect and defend the hard-won workers' rights. ●

*Cde Lucky Ndala is the Sub-District Secretary of the Hammanskraal Sub-District of Tshwane*

## Umsebenzi

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Lekwa Mayor Linda Dhlamini (left), SACP General Secretary Blade Nzimande (centre) toytotyping with ANC council candidates during the SACP's Sakhile rally.

Pic: Lusanda Ngwane

## ELECTIONS 2016

# SACP election rally in Standerton

*Hlengiwe Nkonyane reports on door-to-door campaigning by the SACP Sakhile, Mpumalanga, followed by a rally at the local stadium*



The SACP held an election mini rally in Mpumalanga on 17 July. The Party first visited the community of Sakhile in Standerton on a voter door-to-door campaign after which Party officials met the community in the local hall.

SACP General Secretary Cde Blade Nzimande was part of the electioneering team throughout the day. He handed over a two-bedroom house to 65-year-old disabled Gogo Mbatha. This house was built by the students of the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) College in Standerton. Cde Nzimande said these TVET colleges are part of the government's continuous contribution to societal change in communities and that these students are members of the community first before they are students.

"This is going to change the life of Gogo Mbatha dramatically and significantly in the name of our late leader, Nelson Mandela. It is also showcasing what

TVET colleges are doing. The students would not have acquired the construction and building skills [without these colleges] and they are now able to make a difference to their communities."

The SACP team then headed to the Sakhile stadium where crowds were already gathered to hear the message of the SACP in rallying voters to the polls on 3 August. The jubilation in the masses was the mood of the day. The people gathered under the theme: "Together let's build on our democratic achievements, let's tackle the challenges facing our communities through people's power behind local government and quality service delivery!"

The people were welcomed by Cde Bonakele Majuba, the Mpumalanga SACP Provincial Secretary, who thanked the community for their continuous support of the ANC. Lekwa Executive Mayor Cde Lindokuhle Dhlamini expressed his appreciation for the election mini-rally organised by the SACP and the ongoing collaboration on the election campaign.

Cosatu Provincial Secretary Cde Fidel Mlombo said that rallying behind the ANC defends the gains of the workers, and ensures that more will be achieved. He said that a vote for the ANC defends the revolution.

Lekwa council Speaker Cde Thandi Shongwe expressed gratitude to the SACP for rallying communities to vote ANC and ensuring that the municipality remains governed by the people's ANC.

Cde Nzimande said that "together we fought apartheid and together we can fight inequality, unemployment, poverty and the system that reproduces these social problems – capitalism!" He noted that our communities are facing challenges but are better off today than during the oppressive years of apartheid. He stressed that that we should not forget the milestone achievements of the ANC-led government in building some 4-million houses nationwide benefiting close to 16-million mainly working class families. He emphasised the intensification of electrifying households across the country and the ANC government's programme on expanded access to basic sanitation services.

He said more needed to be done and that this is neither a time for despair nor to hand over our hard won victories to the opponents of our National Democratic Revolution. "Working together we shall overcome the challenges!"

He stressed that councillors must consult meaningfully and listen to the people. Importantly, councillors must give regular feedback to communities and that exercising people's power on the ground meant that communities must hold councillors accountable and participate in social delivery. He stated that public participation must not be used to extend patronage networks and to settle political scores. It must be used to genuinely canvass and empower our people through joint planning with them and joint action involving their participation to overcome the challenges they face. Councillors must help people to benefit from available opportunities – not only social but economic opportunities as well.

Cde Nzimande introduced the councillor candidates much to the jubilation of the masses, clearly signifying that these candidates were indeed the people's choice. ●

**Cde Nkonyane is SACP National Media Liaison Officer and Communications Administrator**

ELECTIONS 2016

# The Red Brigades of the Western Cape

*Deployed for the first time ahead of the 2014 general election, the Western Cape Red Brigades have been hard at work for this year's poll, writes Barry Mitchell*

It is within the difficult conditions of the ANC-led 2016 election campaign, especially in the Western Cape, that the SACP in this province has sought to implement our independent and ANC-complementary campaign.

In 2014, the Party in the province trained and deployed Red Brigade volunteers across the Western Cape. The successes of our independent campaign in 2014 aimed at building the Party during the elections.

To date, the Party in the Western Cape has deployed Red Brigade volunteers in all of our major districts. Despite some campaign contradictions within the Alliance, our volunteers have been strategically targeting identified voting districts, wards and municipalities. We have bolstered the support of the ANC in many areas in which it faces hostility from communities.

There are interesting reports coming from our volunteers on the ground. In the Che Guevara District (West Coast), our Red Brigades were confronted by initial hostility from a so-called coloured working class community. This specific ward has prevented the ANC from actively canvassing, but after engagements by our district leadership, community leaders permitted our volunteers to engage prospective voters.

Similar occurrences have been experienced by Red Brigades in the Brian Bunting (Cape Town Metro) and Elizabeth Nana Abrahams (Boland) districts. Weekly Red Forums convened by our districts have provided space for Party and Alliance members to deliberate on the challenging political contradictions we face in the province, in the absence of



**Brian Bunting District Chairperson Monde Nqulwana marshalling Red Brigades in Ward 88 in Phillippi, Western Cape**

Pic: Wandisile 'Lloyd' Kekana

crucial gatherings of our individual Alliance components.

Party members and volunteers are all fully conscious of our strategic and tactical Alliance with the ANC. During the "silly season" however, contradictions in implementing our political programme sometimes emerge. Our Red Brigade volunteers work tirelessly to strengthen the ANC elections campaign despite some ideological differences. The necessity remains to ensure that comrades at the most basic organisational level practically realise that the SACP is not a narrow electoral political party. Our objective must always be to build the SACP as a strong, independent vanguard Party for socialism and the working class, not only during elections but also through all our socialist orientated programmes.

Elections campaigns often raise critical points of organisational clarity and

reflection. It is during the stress of planning and coordinating programmes, hours of debate or after a day of exhausting door-to-door work that our volunteers and election structures contemplate the upcoming campaign outcomes. Winning a voting district, ward or municipality after a hard-fought campaign should be celebrated as a means to continue to transform our society, and in this particular context of local government elections, to strengthen "democratic organs of self-government". The SACP's 2016 local government election declaration to our members and supporters is: "Let's strengthen participatory democracy and people's power through local government!"

The contradiction, however, is the organisational approach taken in solidifying hegemony in our communities. Providing space and platforms for ac-

tive participatory democracy often only occurs towards the run-up to elections and ward councillors are only expected to convene community meetings every quarter. Statutory institutions such as community police forums, school governing bodies, ward committees, and municipal participatory budgeting are in most cases captured for interests other than transforming society.

The importance of constructive reflection cannot be over-emphasised inside our Alliance structures during and after the campaign. Members of the Party who operate under these conditions often become caught up in the challenges and characteristics associated with elections. Alliance partners often only re-energise

branch structures during elections campaigns, it is during this period that the weaknesses of political structures come to the fore.

Branches should continuously formulate programmes based on the material conditions in which they operate. These programmes should be ideologically and politically motivated, aimed at addressing the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. Establishing bureaucratic election structure upon bureaucratic election structure cannot address the organisational challenges we face. Our grass-roots structures should be the leading component of any campaign, especially in relation to local government elections.

The lessons we have learnt as we

approach 3 August indicate a strong predilection towards SACP leaders and activists within our communities. The oft-repeated question of when the Party will stand and represent our working class communities has been a common trend. Our volunteers in the Western Cape remain committed to strengthening the independence and complementary character of our elections campaign for an ANC victory. The necessity of ensuring that our socialist objective remains at the forefront of any deployment of Red Brigades remains the cornerstone of our programme going forward. ●

**Cde Mitchell is the Western Cape SACP Deputy Provincial Secretary**

## ELECTIONS 2016

# It is our ANC – we must vote it back in!

*OJ Fourie argues that the working class has been the ANC's most consistent supporter, and that Party activists must work tirelessly to persuade workers and others to do so again on 3 August*



Once again it will be required from the working class to unite and deliver the ANC to victory in the upcoming 2016 local government elections.

The impact of the working class cannot go unnoticed in any election campaign. It remains the working class, in their millions, on the ground that are the force behind the ANC's elections machinery time and again. It is our ANC, and as the working class, we will continue to defend and vote ANC. We did so comprehensively and decisively in all previous election campaigns and we will do so again in 2016.

The working class must give their full participation and support for the election programmes of the ANC from branch level to national level. We must engage our neighbours, co-workers and friends on the importance of casting their vote for the ANC. When we are engaging we don't need to speak about the opposition. The reason for this is very simple: the opposition did not fight against apartheid;

the opposition were not there when our people were forced to live under pass laws; the opposition were not there when our children were shot while dressed in school clothes; the opposition were not there when leaders, for the sake of their lives and for the revolution, had to flee into exile; the opposition were not there when revolutionaries were murdered and executed by the brutal security forces of the apartheid regime; it was not the former leaders of the opposition who served life sentences; the opposition were not there when our people were disposed of their land, possessions and dignity.

It is the ANC government that passed the 1996 Constitution; it is the ANC government that has built houses for millions, and provided millions of households with water and electricity; it is the ANC government that has been paying grants to millions of the most poor and vulnerable people; it is the ANC government that has given back land to those that have been disposed; it is the ANC government that has given access to higher education to the majority of our

youth.

That's why we don't need to speak about the opposition during any election campaign. Let's engage our neighbours, co-workers and friends on what the ANC has done for us both pre-1994 and all that it has done post-1994 as well.

Of course, we can't deny that some leaders within the ANC have disappointed the electorate. We can also include the failure of those deployed leaders to the various spheres of government. These leaders, whether at national, provincial, or local level, have lost their focus on what it truly means to serve as a leader in the oldest liberation movement in Africa. Let us therefore not be distracted by the opposition that wants us to remember only the mistakes of those leaders. Let us remember what the ANC has done and is doing for us as the working class.

When we needed the ANC most, the ANC was there for us; now that the ANC needs us, let us be there for the ANC. South Africa needs to remain firmly in the hands of the ANC if we want to secure a good future for all South Africans.

The ANC public representatives who will emerge after the 3 August elections must serve the people who have elected them to represent their interests and not serve their own interests. Leaders who are found serving their own interests should be un-deployed and not be re-deployed. Our representatives must remain conscious of the plight of the working class.

It remains, as it has always been, the revolutionary duty of the working class to defend and build the ANC! Let's vote ANC on 3 August! ●

**Cde Fourie is the SACP Deputy Kimberley District Secretary**

ELECTIONS 2016

# Towards ANC victories in the Northern Cape

*Alongside the Red Brigades, SACP and YCL branches have driven the Party's elections campaign in the province, writes Alister Jack – despite the purging of Party, Sanco and Cosatu volunteers from ANC election structures*



The SACP participates actively in all Northern Cape Alliance elections machinery. Our focus has been on strengthening our war rooms at both provincial and district levels.

Linked to this has been the launching of SACP Chris Hani Red Brigades in branches and districts, with special attention on youth-headed households, farm workers, mining communities, organised and unorganised workers, professionals and the unemployed.

This has included the assembling of a team of data analysts and media personnel. Our provincial elections coordinating committee continues to dispense its work as mandated by the Provincial Executive Committee. All our structures are fully functional and continue to drive the SACP campaigns.

The Party has continued to contribute fully in the provincial election teams (PETs) and provincial elections management team (PEMT) structures of the ANC. Our participation is led by the provincial secretary, the provincial chairperson and PEC members deployed to different responsibilities of the elections machinery.

## Campaigns and activities

Programmes and activities by Party and YCLSA branches have been mainly grassroots driven. They have included the

active deployment of the PEC and DEC members within branches and communities in the districts.

We have also used this opportunity to ensure that Party structures are revived and that continuous recruitment takes place. We have made use of this period to consistently implement the *Know and Act in Your Neighbourhood Campaign* driven by the secretariat and officials working with the branch activists. Our areas of focus have been around destitute communities and informal settlements.

Our election activities have also included the campaign against illegal evictions and the high priced electricity tariffs by local municipalities. This has defined the independent yet complementary campaigns of our Party structures within the Alliance.

Our work with Cosatu affiliates has also increased as part of ensuring that the Left axis in the province is able to make a meaningful contribution to the overwhelming victory of the ANC-headed Alliance. We have also been able to do more work with National Union of Mineworkers,

**We have used the campaign to ensure Party structures are revived and continuous recruitment takes place**

through their branches in areas such as Kathu, Postmasburg and Kuruman, which are affected by the planned retrenchment of 7 500 workers by Kumba Iron Ore.

We have also hosted a successful rally, with the National Secretary of the YCLSA Cde Mluleki Dlelanga working closely with the YCLSA Provincial Committee. The campaign and door-to-door activities focused in the Joe Slovo District (Pixley Ka Seme Region) where there has been an increase of independent candidates and the rise of the EFF and other opposition.

Our Party structures have received SACP posters and paraphernalia to assist in promoting and popularising the Party. There has been a huge demand for SACP t-shirts, flags, posters and fliers carrying election messages.

As part of complementing the work of the ANC, Party districts have done massive work focusing on the rural and farm workers in various districts. Some of the campaigns have drawn on the Financial Sector Coalition Campaign as part of mobilising mineworkers and farmworkers. This has ensured that SACP members in branches participate in the ANC elections machinery and develop Red Party Cells to give ideological training.

## Areas of concern

Work done by the Provincial Elections Coordinating Committee has included identifying areas of concern and challenges in the elections campaign, among them the following:

- The continued submission of good elections work by lower structures on paper but which is not reflective on the ground;
- The slow intervention by our rapid response teams in municipalities to deal with challenges as and when they arise;
- The low levels of media coverage, focusing on our successes;
- The purging of Cosatu, SACP and Sanco volunteers in local election teams (LETs) and PETs, further extended to the non-usage of volunteers with experience to assist in the work of our structures;
- Political and organisational education remains a challenge, particularly as it relates to the understanding of the manifesto and ability to respond to questions from undecided voters. ●

*Cde Jack is SACP 2nd Deputy Provincial Secretary of the Northern Cape Province*

ELECTIONS 2016

# SACP acts decisively against electoral fraud

*The SACP has secured an electoral court ban on individuals attempting to stand for election in its name, writes Alex Mashilo, and plans to ensure they are criminally prosecuted*

The Party is now armed with an electoral court order, and is forging ahead in bringing criminal charges against electoral fraudsters.

The SACP welcomes the Electoral Court of South Africa's order, delivered on 19 July, reaffirming the Party's democratic organisational sovereignty following attempts by individuals to register as candidates of the SACP.

The order recognised the SACP's standing electoral strategy of campaigning for an ANC-led Alliance victory on 3 August.

The Party has instructed the Independent Electoral Commission to ensure that no unauthorised use of its name occurs on the ballot across all municipalities.

The SACP's constitution categorically states: "SACP members are obliged to defend the SACP and to carry out its decisions. All decisions taken by higher structures are binding on all lower structures and individual members".

This procedure is based on the principles of inner-Party democracy, involving freedom of discussion in policy de-

termination as well as centralism (i.e. unity of, and in, action) behind the outcomes of the exercise of freedom of discussion.

Individuals who are not SACP members – such as almost all of the individuals in the Alfred Nzo District municipality, Eastern Cape, who sought to stand for elections in the name of the SACP, or using its name without authorisation; or as the court found, individuals who are not members of the SACP, as a registered political party, and do not have any legal standing to represent the party!

The SACP will continue to act decisively against any identity theft and electoral fraud affecting it, and wishes to reiterate that it strictly reserves its rights and responsibilities in terms of its constitution, party discipline and political programme.

The SACP will bring charges against individuals who committed forgery and fraud affecting the Party or its name or that of its General Secretary Cde Blade Nzimande.

**Cde Mashilo is the SACP Spokesperson and a former Deputy National Secretary of the YCLSA**



The Party's anniversary rally poster

## Popcru's gift!

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) has secretly bought an entire building in the Johannesburg CBD as a gift to the SACP, to house its national head office – and on 15 July handed over the key to SACP General Secretary, a visibly moved Blade Nzimande.

Cde Nzimande (centre) had just addressed 1 000 delegates at Popcru's Central Executive Committee meeting when Popcru President Cde Zizamele Cebekhulu (right) and Cosatu President Sdumo Dlamini presented him with a symbolic key to the new Party headquarters.

Cde Nzimande, and the SACP, had been completely unaware of the building – or of the planned presentation.

Afterwards Cde Nzimande said: "I was overwhelmed and shed some tears. Since our unbanning in 1990 we have never had our own building. We were initially housed by the NUM and later Cosatu, till today. To Popcru members we salute you for this historic revolutionary gesture!

"The SACP truly belongs to the workers of this country as their only political vanguard. Communists and all other friends let us celebrate this!"

ELECTIONS 2016

# SACP 95th birthday rally on eve of elections

*Reneva Fourie outlines the Party's plans for its 95th anniversary celebration, with a rally in Nelson Mandela Bay and a packed build-up week*



The SACP celebrates its 95th anniversary on the eve of South Africa's fifth local government elections. The oldest and biggest Communist Party on the continent carries the hope of workers and the poor, filling a void expressed by many voters that their needs are not represented.

As palace politics appear to dominate attention within the Movement; as liberal parties advance bourgeois interests and a privatisation agenda; and as the ultra-left spew unrealistic, populist rhetoric, the masses of our people yearn for an authentic voice with a solid track record of defending and advancing their interests and aspirations. They find this expression within the SACP.

The desperation for representation had resulted in some individuals contesting the elections on a platform other than the ANC. Given that the transformation agenda as espoused in the National Democratic Revolution is far from complete and interruption of this agenda cannot be afforded, the Central Committee has emphasised the importance of ensuring an overwhelming victory for the ANC. It was for this reason that we decided to bring the 95th anniversary of the SACP to the Eastern Cape.

The rally will be an important show of strength. It will seek to demonstrate the strength of the Alliance and affirm our internal cohesion and unity. It will seek to show the popularity of the SACP on the ground and confirm that the liberation movement still enjoys significant support within the Metropole. Given its significance, the comrades in



the Nelson Mandela Bay District are working to ensure a successful rally on Saturday, 30 July at the Lillian Ngoyi Sports Centre. The main speaker will be SACP General Secretary Cde Blade Nzimande.

A comprehensive mobilisation programme, fully integrated into the general elections strategy of the region is

attended.

The 95th Anniversary will be a fitting precursor to the ANC's National Siyanqoba Rally. Undoubtedly too, it will be a significant indicator of the capacity of the SACP to organise, as we work towards our 2017 National Congress. ●

*Cde Fourie is a full-time SACP Central Committee member*