

April 2024 Voice of the South African Communist Party

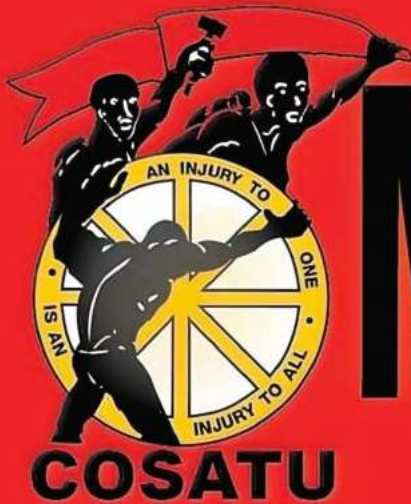
Umsebenzi

**2024 ELECTIONS
29 MAY**

**VOTE
ANC**



LET'S DO MORE – TOGETHER!



MAY DAY

Down with federalism imposed on poor working class communities by DA in Western Cape!

COSATU National May Day

will be celebrated at the

Athlone Stadium in Western Cape on

1 MAY 2024

X VOTE ANC



'Building a strong and united COSATU in mobilizing for the ANC electoral victory'

Defend working-class gains

Tinyiko Ntini unpacks the crucial need for an ANC-headed Alliance victory at the polls to advance the National Democratic Revolution



These elections take place on the 30th anniversary of our democratic breakthrough. The remarkable progress made by the state has transformed the lives and socio-economic conditions of historically oppressed and marginalised people.

This has included significant changes in education, health, infrastructure, social protection, workers' rights, promotion of cooperatives and small businesses, and improved quality of life, including increased life expectancy.

Despite some challenges, we emphasise that the ANC-led Alliance in government has done a lot, but we remain committed to the imperative of "Let's Do More – Together".

These elections are taking place in a hostile ideological environment and with a highly contested electorate in terms of whether the ANC has succeeded or failed over the last 30 years.

Some of these negative perceptions are baseless, but given the rise in unemployment, high cost of living and corruption, together with failing state-owned enterprises, crime and inconsistent energy supply, it is going to be a hard slog to convince the electorate that the ANC remains the only option to advance the current phase of the National Democratic Revolution.

Independent campaign within the Alliance

We are approaching these elections both as an independent political party



SACP General Secretary Solly Mapaila addressing the launch of the Party's Red Brigades and 2024 Election Campaign, Rustenburg, Moses Kotane Province

and as part of the ANC-led Alliance programme. This means that we must mobilise our structures to firstly, initiate SACP-specific election programmes that maintain our Party identity and amplify the SACP's priorities in the ANC election manifesto (not to the detriment of the rest, of course) and, secondly, participate in the Alliance programme by Sanco, Cosatu and the ANC. As we campaign for a decisive victory of the ANC in the elections, we evaluate our strength independently but also work hand in hand with our Alliance structures on specific issues.

These elections take place under a

capitalist economy in crisis, a creeping neoliberal agenda within the movement that seeks to maintain fiscal and monetary policies, including the privatisation of state-owned enterprises and cuts in social spending that throttle basic services and constrains the public service. Our support for the ANC is not devoid of criticism, but the SACP acknowledges that more work can be done together. We should maintain this approach as part of building the independent profile of the SACP during and after the election period.

Following an intense nomination process and the review of the 2019 manifesto, the first two phases of the election campaign, with the Mayihlome phase as the third phase, were launched on 24 February, when Cde Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled our Manifesto, drafted through an Alliance discussion process, which prioritised six key areas.

The SACP launched our elections campaign and our Red Brigades on 10 March in Moses Kotane province. The event was a resounding success with about 2,000 people in attendance, including leaders from our tripartite Alliance partners, the YCLSA, Contralesa and the MK Liberation War Veterans.

SACP message

Our General Secretary, Cde Solly Mapaila delivered the launch message on behalf of the Central Committee. "The 2024 elections are highly contested as part of the fiercely contested direction of our democratic dispensation and its international cooperation and relations policy. There is no problem if the contes-

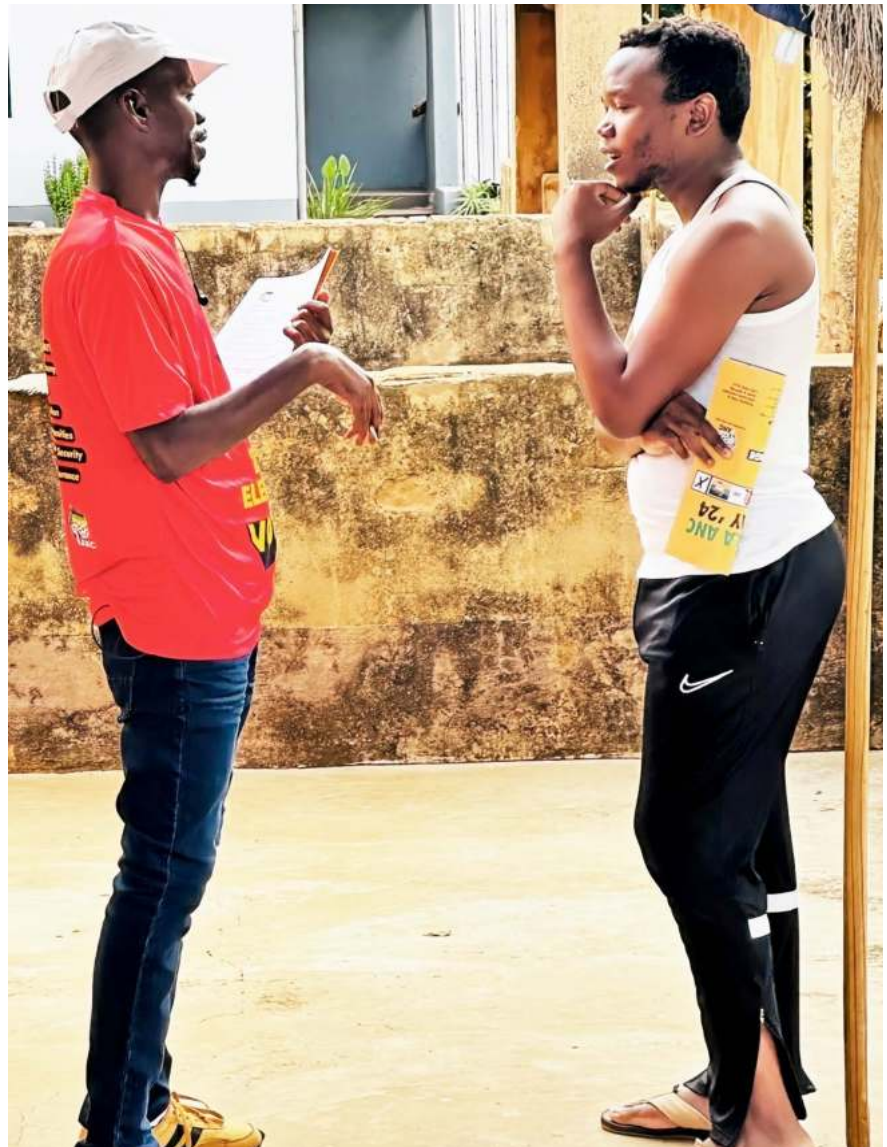
tation is only among the people of South Africa. However, there is a fundamental problem with any form of, or invitation to, external interference in our elections and other internal affairs. This is because we are a sovereign republic," said Mapaila, referring to the Democratic Alliance's leaked letter to the US requesting intervention.

Highlights of the message from the General Secretary included an emphasis on the key themes of the manifesto:

- The aggressive posture of imperialist forces, especially since the International Criminal Justice case on the Israeli genocide of Palestinians;
- The need to reposition the National Democratic Revolution, post the ANC-headed Alliance victory on 29 May 2024;
- The importance of localised industrialisation, a source of large-scale employment creation;
- Prioritisation of localisation and domestic manufacturing through international trade policies and other policies;
- The transformation of the financial sector to take us closer to realisation of the Freedom Charter in terms of the ownership in the banking sector;
- The commitment to eliminate barriers that prevent co-operatives from rising and thriving;
- The commitment to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, which is a global capitalist system reality; and
- The commitment to extend and improve the Social Relief of Distress Grant and transform it into a foundation for a basic income guarantee for the unemployed towards the Universal Basic Income Grant.

The SACP, as a vanguard of the working class, must play our role, strengthen our organisational and political capacity to build leadership in holding government accountable, and defend, advance, and deepen the national democratic revolution towards socialism. We must dive deeper into the strategic task of Party building and mass mobilisation to enforce the implementation of the manifesto and guard against revisionism after the elections.

Our election campaign remains rooted within the framework of our 2024 Programme of Action that has elevated ten pillars linked to our Party programme, The South African Struggle for Socialism, six tributaries of building the socialist movement of the workers and the poor and the 102-anniversary statement on



Taking the campaign door-to-door / motto mothong in Atteridgeville's Ward 63, Tshwane

Land, Food, Work and Electricity. These pillars are:

- Roll back financialisation and fight for the Universal Basic Income Grant.
- Land redistribution for urban and rural development.
- Creation of work for all.
- Fight for affordable, consistent, dependable, and sustainable electricity.
- Safety in our communities.
- The roll-out of National Health Insurance.
- Building of a people's economy.

Through these pillars, the working class will surely benefit and gain some relief from the crises that exacerbate the stresses of the class. The rising cost of living and the deepening socio-economic problems as a result of the capitalist

crisis, especially around loss or reduced income, has been at the centre of many new cases of mental illnesses. Living up to our manifesto commitments, the working class, as the motive force of this revolution, must benefit; we cannot fail to discipline capital, and we must not succumb to its threats.

The Village and Community Development Programme is being rolled out in different places. It is building close relationships between the Party and the community, with traditional and religious leaders and other strategic social strata. We have collaborated with various civic organisations on the ground to respond to the challenges facing our communities. These interventions will go a long way in activating every community



Thousands of Red Brigade activists have fanned out across the country to boost the Know and Act in Your Neighbourhood Campaign and the drive for an ANC victory at the polls

member to take active citizenry in developing their surroundings.

SACP mobilising Red Brigades

The SACP showed its commitment to preparing for this election campaign by convening an augmented Party Building Commission, which included our Districts, followed by a Special Augmented Central Committee meeting that mandated all our Districts to launch Red Brigades for the decisive ANC electoral victory. All our structures have implemented the decision, and our Red Brigades are already on the ground to not only popularise the manifesto but also ensure a consolidation towards an electoral victory for the ANC.

Our campaign must be complimentary yet independent, in rebuilding the vanguard character of the Party on the ground. We have a responsibility to infuse hegemony of Marxist-Leninist ideology within the trade union movement and through our industrial area campaigning this can be achieved.

Our work in different communities should be able to embrace the non-racial character of the SACP and the movement at large. Over the years, we have seen a massive decline in this key principle of our movement. It is the vanguard that could be able to work with all national groups to retain this principle.

Taking a lead on women’s reproductive rights must be linked to our manifesto commitment to fully implement-

ing the NHI. Our ongoing Red Card to gender-based violence must be emphasised in our elections work, and all our structures must ensure that such cases in our communities are exposed and combatted, even within the movement.

The SACP understands that the 2024 general elections are not just about domestic issues, as we see clear imperialist interests manifesting themselves around the world, as in South Africa. It is crucial for progressive South Africans and the working class to close ranks and continue to advocate for world peace, sustainable development, and international solidarity among the oppressed nations.

It is the time for all of us to go all out to

secure a decisive electoral victory for the ANC within the framework of our ANC-headed Alliance’s shared electoral platform. All our provinces have launched the Red Brigades, and their task now is to intensify our Know and Act in Your Neighbourhood Campaign, our door-to-door work and our long-standing industrial area campaign, Qina Msebenzi.

Everything for the revolution and nothing against it!

All hands on the deck for a decisive victory!

**Let’s Do More – Together!
Vote ANC!**



Cde Ntini is an SACP CC Member and Assistant Secretary for Campaigns.

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Defend and advance the National Democratic Revolution!

The SACP launch of its Red Brigades and election campaign work for a decisive ANC victory at the 29 May elections took place in Rustenburg, 10 March. The Party's statement at the launch was delivered by General Secretary Solly Mapaila. These posters, which contain key messages from the statement, were made by Cde OJ Fourie



MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“To implement the Freedom Charter’s clarion call, ‘The people shall govern’, we need to strengthen mass organisation and embark on sustained mass mobilisation. In all major policy processes, it is important to solicit the views of the people, the majority of whom are the working class.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

102 YEARS OF UNBROKEN STRUGGLE



MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“The SACP welcomes the commendable progress that is benefitting millions of our people since our hard-won April 1994 democratic breakthrough. It is the right thing for the manifesto to highlight this progress.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

102 YEARS OF UNBROKEN STRUGGLE



MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“The manifesto commitment to advance a more caring social security system is crucial.”
 “The SACP welcomes the commitment to infrastructure development and financial sector transformation.”
 “Financial sector transformation must move us towards the public control that the Freedom Charter calls for.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

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MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“The manifesto is not one-sided, however. It draws attention to the problems that we must solve and the challenges that we must overcome towards a better South Africa. The central thrust, as well as the aims of the manifesto, is progressive. For this reason, besides the consensus-seeking consultative process from which the manifesto emerged, the SACP endorses it.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

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MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“Among others, we must not allow ArcelorMittal to shut down the steel productive capacity that South Africa still needs. When push comes to shove, state intervention to save the much-needed steel productive capacity must include renationalisation.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

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MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“The SACP welcomes the importance attached to industrialisation in the manifesto. Building, expanding, diversifying and raising the levels of national production is crucial for employment creation at a scale that will resolve our unemployment crisis.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

102 YEARS OF UNBROKEN STRUGGLE



MANIFESTO LAUNCH

“We reiterate our support for our government’s decision to refer the apartheid Israeli settler regime’s genocide on the Palestinians to the International Court of Justice.”

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

102 YEARS OF UNBROKEN STRUGGLE



SACP MESSAGE TO VOTERS

Six key reasons why you should vote ANC

The South African Communist Party (SACP), a long-standing and reliable ally of the African National Congress (ANC), has been at the forefront of fighting for the interests and aspirations of the majority of South Africans, particularly the workers and the poor, for more than a hundred years

On 29 May 2024 in the National General Elections, the SACP will be participating under the banner of the ANC. In this election message, the SACP provides the six key reasons why you should vote ANC.

1. Vote ANC for People's Democracy

Since 1994, the ANC, together with the SACP, has been at the forefront of protecting and promoting democracy in South Africa. Over the past three decades, the ANC has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of South Africans, especially workers and the poor, by providing free housing, electricity, improved infrastructure, access to clean water, quality education, health services and social grants. We have advanced a progressive constitution that combats racial and gender discrimination and promotes workers' rights.

We have advanced the rights of women and ensured a more equal representation of women in leadership positions in parliament, government, and society overall.

These achievements cannot be taken for granted. This 2024 election is about

the defence and advancement of our people's democracy, encouraging active empowerment and participation of our people beyond voting – in schools, hospitals, clinics, community development, community policing and more.

The ANC has also learned from its mistakes and focused on serving the people rather than personal interests. Recent efforts to combat corruption and ensure accountable and disciplined leadership have shown good results.

By voting for the ANC, you support the progress made in building a democratic South Africa.

2. Vote ANC for a good plan that puts South Africans to work and for a people's economy

Unemployment remains a major challenge in South Africa, affecting mostly young people. The ANC is committed to addressing this issue head-on through its massive public employment programme funded by government, which aims to create and sustain 2.5 million job opportunities over the next five years, benefitting largely youth and women. It is a plan to realise the Freedom Charter

call for the right to work.

By prioritising local manufacturing, investing in old and new industries, supporting small businesses and co-operatives, and investing in skills development, the ANC aims to build a people's economy that provides sustainable jobs and reduces inequality.

Vote ANC to create jobs for South Africans to transform the economy and include women in productive economic activity.

3. Vote ANC for pro-poor policies

The ANC has implemented various policies to uplift the poor and marginalised communities in townships and villages. These include social grants, free basic services, affordable and free housing programmes, and social security such as the National Minimum Wage and the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

By voting ANC, you will ensure that these pro-poor policies will continue and expand.

The ANC will introduce a permanent Universal Basic Income Grant to provide financial support to millions of unemployed and vulnerable workers.



This 2024 election is about the defence and advancement of our people's democracy

4. Vote ANC for quality education and skills development

Education is the key to empowering the working class. Under the ANC government, access to basic and higher education has been greatly expanded. We are on track to achieve universal early childhood education, along with plans to open new universities and colleges over the next five years.

The ANC prioritises investment in education and training to equip the working class with the skills needed for sustainable employment. By voting ANC, you will be supporting a party that values lifelong learning and strives to create a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

5. Vote ANC for accessible healthcare for all

The ANC has been championing the struggle for healthcare for all. We have made significant progress towards healthcare for all, including provision of free access to healthcare for pregnant women and children under 5 years, tackling the HIV-AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics, increasing life

expectancy and improving healthcare facilities in rural areas and townships.

The ANC's plan for the next five years includes the effective implementation of the law on National Health Insurance (NHI). This will ensure good healthcare for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic status.

By voting ANC, you will be supporting the goal of providing quality healthcare, reducing the financial burden on individuals and families, and reducing inequality in the healthcare system

6. A Vote for the ANC means a vote towards global peace and a better world

The ANC has been providing leadership in global peace efforts, be it between Russia and Ukraine, or in exposing the genocidal acts by apartheid state of Israel against the Palestinian people.

The ANC has worked tirelessly to ensure that we unite Africa around an agenda for the development of Africa and work to advance the interests of the

people of the continent.

Your vote matters

The election on 29 May will have a major impact on the future direction of our country and our people.

The SACP says, let us:

- Unite to defeat apartheid-rooted parties who want to reverse the progress we have made since our democracy.
- Let us reject insincere smaller parties that only waste our votes. Let us continue our journey and struggle for a better future for all.
- Let us all come out on election day and exercise our right to vote and elect the ANC for a better South Africa, a peaceful world and an end to imperialist wars.
- Vote ANC to honour the sacrifice and commitment of our leaders, communist and non-communist, like Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo, Chris Hani, Dora Tamana, Ray Alexander.

Together we can continue to build a people's democracy and a people's economy! ★

We must keep the Democratic Alliance out of power

The right-wing DA's drive to defeat the ANC has nothing to do with democracy and a lot to do with rampant capitalism and imperialism, writes O J Fourie



The mission of the Democratic Alliance (DA) is to bring the ANC below 50% in the elections so that the DA can form a coalition and defeat the ANC in the name of democracy. The DA is a party of Western and colonial interests. They are a party for the interests of the minority. We must defeat the DA at the ballot box and expose their agenda. We must not be blinded by their language of democratic rhetoric.

In the battle of ideas during the election period, we must defend our people against the lies of the DA and the opposition. This is how we can defend our revolution, by exposing the lies and showing the true intentions of the DA. The Party must provide clarity on the elections and ensure that the proletariat is not misled. We must not condemn our liberation struggle and hand it over to the imperialists by voting for the opposition. We will deal with our challenges and shortcomings, but we cannot allow our revolution to fall into the hands of the oppressors.

Many African countries are kicking France out of the African continent to finally get rid of the coloniser. South Africa cannot now reverse the process and welcome the coloniser back to the continent and give him a stronghold from which to operate. The colonial oppressors are just too happy that African countries have a constitution, but Africans are not enjoy-

ing the fruits of their democracy. Europe wants to continue to feed its economy by leeching off the African continent. The fate of the continent depends on the outcome of our elections. The continent will be in trouble if the ANC leaves political office.

Massive progress has been made by the Global South, from which South Africa has benefited. The Global South is creating a multipolar world. Multipolarity is a distribution of power among states. Realising an equitable and orderly multipolar world and inclusive economic growth benefits everyone, not just the West. South Africa's participation in the multipolar world will be reversed by a DA government.

For example, the DA will pull South Africa out of the BRICS+, and we will suffer the same fate as Argentina. Argentina did not accept the invitation to join the BRICS+ family on 1 January 2024. Instead, the newly elected president, Javier Milei, sold Argentina to the West. Since then, Argentina's economy has taken a nosedive. In December 2023, prices doubled from the previous

month following the inauguration of the libertarian Milei, who quickly devalued the peso currency, slashed public subsidies and loosened some price controls, pushing inflation to its highest level since the country's hyperinflation crisis in the early 1990s. By February 2024, Argentina's inflation had reached a staggering 254%. The IMF expects Argentina's economy to contract by 2.5% in 2024. The Argentine president has sold Argentina for the US dollar.

The DA has shown its desperation to unseat the ANC government at the polls by sending a letter to the West inviting them to observe the upcoming elections. The DA has called for foreign (American and European) interference in our elections. Why has the DA not called for African or Asian or Latin American observers? Because they are not the colonisers of the world. The DA wants to hand over South Africa's sovereignty to the West on a silver platter. It is disingenuous of the DA to make these demands and there seems to be another agenda behind it. The DA is prepared to sell out our country and that is treason.

A DA election victory will have dire consequences for South Africa's support for the people of Palestine. A DA government will overnight reverse all the support South Africa has given to the oppressed people of Palestine. In fact, the DA government will use government resources to further support the West's oppression of the Palestinians and with-

South Africa's participation in the multipolar world will be reversed by a DA government



YCLSA and SACP members hold a picket at Constitution Hill, 27 March, to protest racist remarks about Gauteng Crime Prevention Wardens (CPWs) by DA leader John Steenhuisen. CPWs have been deployed by the provincial government in Gauteng to bolster community safety

draw our ICJ genocide case against the apartheid state of Israel. A vote for the ANC is a vote for a free Palestine!

Comrades who have not made it onto the ANC election lists must not be offended, but must remain resolute and committed to the Party and support those comrades who have made it onto the lists. Comrades must not be so narrow-minded and short-sighted as to decide to join another political party because they didn't make a list. Do not be a "list" comrade, be a revolutionary cadre of the movement. It is by remaining humble and disciplined that you will qualify to be on a list in the future.

We must mobilise the working class to vote in defence of the revolution and leave no stone unturned. A crucial role

of the party during the elections is to defend the ANC's election manifesto. Much progress has been made since our hard-won democratic breakthrough, benefiting millions of our people. But the ANC government wants to do more and this is reflected in the election manifesto.

The manifesto commits to a more caring social security system. It pledges to develop infrastructure and transform the financial sector. It talks about addressing the under-capacity in power generation and transmission. There is a focus on industrialising the country. Building, expanding, diversifying and raising the level of national production is crucial to creating jobs on a scale that will solve our unemployment crisis.

The manifesto commits to the localisation of production through the benefi-

ciation of our minerals and primary agricultural and forestry products, as well as fisheries and other marine resources, which are essential for industrialisation and large-scale job creation. There is support for worker-controlled cooperatives, the development of collective worker ownership and the social economy, which will contribute meaningfully to mass empowerment. The aim is to combat corruption and crime, including gender-based violence and drugs.

Forward to a majority electoral victory! ★

Cde Fourie is an SACP member in Gauteng Province and works for the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) in the Presidency



Palestinians in Nelson Mandela Square in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, 11 January, rallying in support of South Africa's genocide case against Israel

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY

Unmasking the truth

SA's just stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been falsely attacked as anti-Semitism, but nothing could be further from the truth, writes Lefika Chetty



In a feeble attempt to distort the truth, Howard Sackstein's article "Is it time to go?" (Jewish Report, 18 January 2024) has shamelessly propagated a distorted narrative, falsely implying that South Africa and President Ramaphosa's principled stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in anti-Jewish sentiment. These fallacies must be confronted, and the

world must be informed of the true understanding of South Africa's position.

First, let us make it abundantly clear that South Africa's firm stance on the Palestinian conflict is not driven by any form of hatred or discrimination against the Jewish community. Our country has a proud history of opposing apartheid and working for justice and equality for all. Indeed, many Jews in South Africa were an integral part of the struggle

against apartheid.

We consistently condemn all human rights abuses, regardless of the parties involved.

It's nothing more than baseless and misleading for Sackstein to claim that our government has fallen under the influence of radical Islamists and their sympathisers. This is simply absurd. South Africa's foreign policy is guided by principles such as human rights, in-

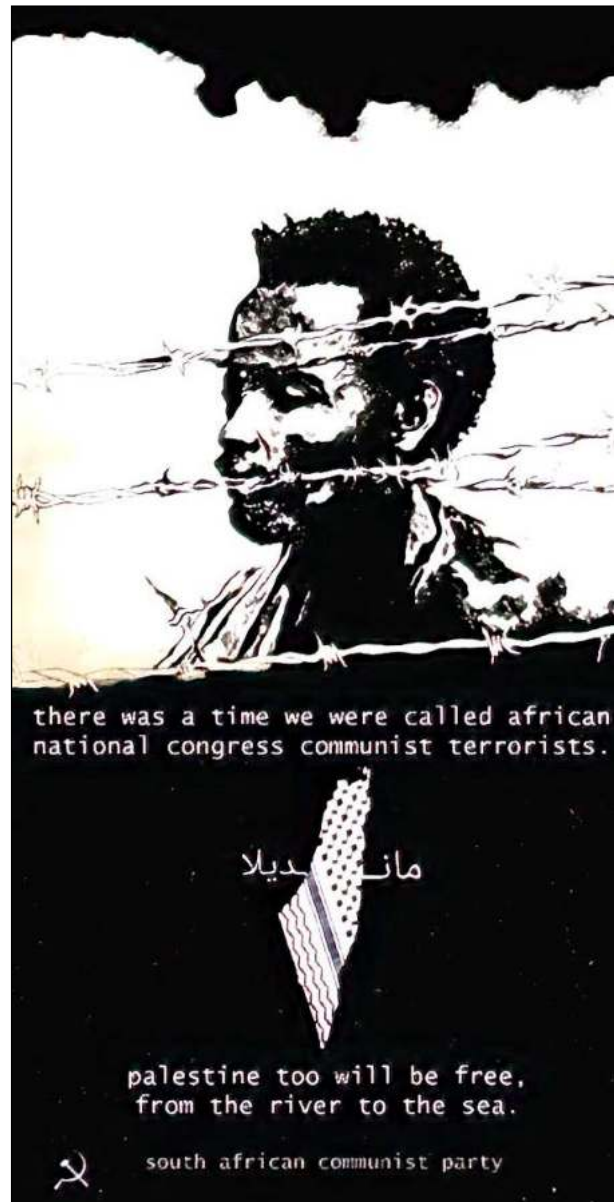
Drawing by Cde Ben Dikobe Martins

ternational law and the pursuit of peaceful solutions to conflicts. Our support for the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and an end to the occupation, is based on these principles, not on any hidden agenda.

Furthermore, to suggest that South Africa has embraced anti-Semitism is a despicable lie that undermines our unwavering commitment to non-racialism and non-discrimination. We proudly celebrate our diverse Jewish community, which contributes immensely to our social, cultural and economic fabric. Our government consistently condemns all forms of hate speech and discrimination, including anti-Semitism. South Africa's criticism of Israel's policies and actions does not mean hostility towards Jews or support for terrorism. Like many other countries, we are concerned about the Israeli government's expansion of settlements, the violation of Palestinian human rights and the lack of progress towards a just and lasting peace. Our criticism stems from a genuine desire for a peaceful solution that respects the rights and dignity of all parties.

Sackstein and the Jewish Report have a history of spreading outlandish and false statements against the ANC and the Alliance, using the courts and the media to attack our unwavering stance on the Palestinian issue. The Jewish Report must understand that South Africa has the right to determine our own decisions and actions in solidarity with Palestine.

The Jewish Report and Sackstein are very far from reality if they think that any number of slanderous lies about our Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, will



cause us to retreat from our positions on Palestine and its right to freedom. South Africa's support for Palestine is directed at the state of Israel and those who support it. We won't be silent on any of the apartheid atrocities inflicted on the Palestinian people. This includes

- Restriction of Palestinians' freedom of movement;
- Seizing land for Jews whilst crowding Palestinians into enclaves;

- Immigration for Jews only;
- The denial of Palestinians to political participation;
- The destruction and genocide of the Palestinian people.

Unlike our experience in South Africa, where the government of the day declared itself an apartheid state, Israel does not have to make such a declaration. It is Israel's actions, policies and practices that openly and shamelessly define it as an apartheid state. In fact, the Israeli apartheid regime was always on the side of the South African apartheid regime, including military support and the building of nuclear weapons.

Therefore, South Africa will continue to openly state that the occupation and genocide in Palestine violate international law, the Geneva Conventions and the Charter of the United Nations. So Israel, its allies and lackeys like the Jewish Report must be clear that no amount of lies or intimidation will make us back down from our support for our Palestinian people.

It is essential to separate fact from fiction and to address the misrepresentations propagated in Sackstein's article. South Africa's principled stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is based on its unwavering commitment to justice, human rights and the pursuit of a peaceful solution. Criticism of certain Israeli policies should not be misconstrued as anti-Jewish sentiment. South Africa remains a diverse and inclusive nation that

deeply values the contributions of its Jewish community and relentlessly strives for a just and inclusive society for all its citizens. We will continue to expose the fabrications and misrepresentations propagated by Sackstein and others. ★

Cde Chetty is an SACP Gauteng PEC member and serves on the Central Committee International Relations subcommittee

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REMEMBER CHRIS HANI



PEOPLE'S HERO
VOTE ANC

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