

NEHAWU : 9TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

GENERAL SECRETARY : SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Salutations and bring greetings FROM THE South African Communist Party.

The theme is communist parties and labour movements

Communist Parties cannot exist without vibrant trade unions

Capitalism is built on crises – capital always asks working class to pay for crisis. We must never again allow this to happen.

NGC

An initial SACP evaluation of the NGC

The SACP was happy with the decisive leadership that the ANC displayed the NGC.

ANC signalled clearly need to restore revolutionary discipline in ANC. It is our task to assist ANC to do this so that the ANC is not substituted by other voices

The SACP would work tirelessly to ensure that the ANC maintained discipline within its ranks and workers must support the ANC's eagerness to discipline wayward members.

Reaffirmed alliance – SACP and COSATU not leagues of ANC – they have a unique role. The three organisations can't replace each other – they are allies – and cannot surrender their independence. The leagues are subject to the ANC as they are constituents of ANC. By understanding that the SACP, the ANC and COSATU are separate allies, the workers could be better mobilised, he said.

On a recent visit to Russia we were told that corruption is endemic as a result of the USSR forcing the demobilisation of working class.

Workers have a responsibility to build the SACP as political vanguard and a duty to be in the ANC and build it to prevent other forces from capturing it.

Revolutionaries do not become angry and disengage they rather engage more vigorously

On nationalisation

The SACP were very pleased that the ANC shelved the issue of nationalisation of mines, and referred this for formal debate in its structures.

The SACP believes that nationalisation not an end in itself but a stage to socialism and should be in the hands of working class

Nationalisation should be with and for the workers and the poor and not to bail out BEE companies

It is important to be clear that we need to know nationalisation for what by whom for whom

Call for nationalisation – formal debate in structures

There is a danger of vulgarisation in the distinction between a left and right wing perspectives on nationalisation. With a formal debate in structures there can now a proper ANC debate - sane and not as campaigning issue for 2012 but a principled discussion.

On the New Growth Path : Primary goal!

On NHI :

The SACP was adamant that *National Health Insurance (NHI) plan should not be funded through VAT because that would affect the poor but rather that it should be funded through general taxes. The rich must pay more.*

Nzimande praised NEHAWU for leading the argument for NHI rather than SHI at previous congress. Polokwane and COSATU followed and thereafter government

On the new tendency

There is a new and emboldened liberal offensive against the NDR. A huge liberal offensive versus democracy – cover for counter revolutionaries and right wing elements

Liberals and new tendency are 2 sides of same coin. Liberals and tenderpreneurs – both believe in capitalism

The new tendency is a new platform that appear legitimate and has become a refuge for all scoundrels, including counter revolutionaries and those with right wing agendas that have been rolled back and are unable to emerge on their own.

Media is at the head of this with a liberal interpretation and not revolutionary interpretation of our constitution. It is not about legalism but transfer of the entire semi-colonial character of our economy. The attack on our songs is a deliberate attempt to paint us as not supporting the SA constitution

The new tendency unwittingly assists this renewed liberal offensive in two ways

- ★ Their corrupt practices allow the liberal offensive a legitimate platform to assault the movement
- ★ They both basically share a capitalist paradigm, the only difference being that liberalism openly protects the interests of the white capital class, and new tendency has a black fronting, subjected to the very same white capitalist class.

This results in liberal commentators being elevated.

The new tendency is within our own ranks in the movement. They steal organisations so they can be used for self enrichment.

A revolutionary perspective / approach on our constitution

We must mount a revolutionary defence and place interests of poor and workers at centre

The state as a critical site of struggle – issue not just a site of struggle for wages and conditions of service, important as these may be but to drive a revolutionary agenda

The constitution is under threat. We must address constitutionalism – unemployment, hunger HIV and AIDS. The media is the biggest threat to “the social revolution”, and unemployment, poverty and HIV/AIDS are the biggest dangers to the constitution.

The print media is the biggest perpetrator of this liberal thinking. They (the media) have gone to their friends around the world, including those in America to get people to go against the tribunal. How can we trust the American journalists who invaded Iraq and then were told what to write by the army generals there. We need a revolutionary, not liberal, defence of our constitution. Political analysts and economists that were quoted by journalists were liberals, who did not understand working- class struggles

A media appeals tribunal was essential to protect socialism’s future in SA

The party has been proposing the creation of a media tribunal and the Protection of Information Bill throughout the year .

The revolutionary tasks of the working class

- ★ Intensify struggle against corruption!
- ★ Public sector workers are both employees and a vanguard component for a revolutionary state. The two imperatives may sometimes conflict but need to be understood in their relationship
- ★ Build public service for developmental state
- ★ Inequity in society as a whole but reflected in wage gap in public sector. The SACP believes that workers are angry because we didn’t do what should have done 3 /4 years ago – close wage gap in public service
- ★ NEHAWU / COSATU have retirement funds, millions of rands in the PIC and it is used to prop up narrow BEE and then lose the money when that fails. Nehawu should be running campaigns to provide workers with benefits such as RDP housing and be demanding that GEMS support the public sector and not be used to fund the private sector. A summit needs be held to find out where institutions such as the Land Bank have invested in workers’ pension funds

- ★ Build the ANC and SACP. The absence of workers' presence in ANC allow it to be stolen by all sorts of forces – the petty bourgeoisie, tenderpreneurs etc
- ★ Political education is important – we obtain practice through struggle, but need theory to educate young workers in political theory. We must not allow the youth to equate politics to insults. As history of apartheid recedes, there is a danger of a rupture between our past and current revolutionary challenges. Set aside funds to up political education – establish Marxist Leninist workers college to encourage a better understanding of politics”. Let’s establish a joint permanent school for all working class formations

The SACP

SACP now has 110 000 members largely through the establishment of voting district branches – to be closer to peoples’ struggles. The SACP must now build work place units

Red October campaign

Will focus on the financial sector but will extend to the Development Finance Institutions – and will host a summit on DFIs

Included will be a campaign for decent social wage – support Red October

Intensification of the struggle for socialism on these concrete terrains of struggle

Using state resources to fund of the five priorities of our revolution – including Housing, Higher Education and Health rather than the trillions which are used to enforce inequality

On skills development

Workers / COSATU are not playing their rightful role

Voice of workers on SETA boards are quiet – always hear private sector

PSETA could train millions of people sitting at home and be used to skill public sector

FETC Colleges

Please – go and organise in FETC – weak and provide suspect programmes

State must be at centre of driving FETC - full-time permanent workers will be placed back on the state payroll

Strengthen trade unions

State of organisation in FET colleges

International

Key foci – Cuban 5, US blockade, democracy in Swaziland, independence of Western Sahara, free democratic Palestine.