

Advance medium term vision, says CC

We must actively transform our society and economy

The last SACP Central Committee Meeting released the following statement regarding the tasks of the National Congress:

The Central Committee meeting devoted most of its time to preparations for the SACP's 12th National Congress. The CC agreed that the principal objectives of the 12th Congress will be to assess progress made and to consolidate and advance the SACP's medium term vision, building working class hegemony in all centres of power within our society – in our communities, at the point of production and in the economy at large, in the state, and in the contest to assert progressive ideas and the values of solidarity.

The CC identified these latter challenges (in a world and in a society too often dominated by individualistic and acquisitive values) as being particularly important.

The 12th National Congress will also have to evaluate and analyse the challenges facing the working class and the broader mass of urban and rural poor.

Like their counterparts throughout the world, and especially throughout the Third World, South African workers have experienced an intense capitalist offensive over the last decades, which has seen mass retrenchments, wholesale casualisation and informalisation.

These realities call for a return to the basics of grass-roots trade union organisation, but also for new forms of working class organisation and mobilisation in

Biggest ever SACP National Congress

With about 1900 voting delegates representing a paid-up membership of 51 874 organised in 714 branches and 53 districts, the 12th National Congress of the SACP, to be held from 11 to 15 July at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, will be the largest ever Congress in the SACP's 86-year history.

In the weeks leading up to the Congress, organised around the theme, "Communists to the front, for a better, socialist world", branches and districts have been discussing the party's new programme, "The South African Road to Socialism" which is to be considered for adoption by the Congress. The main aims of the Congress are to review progress since the last National Congress 5 years ago, to further develop the party's Medium Term Vision (MTV), to effect constitutional amendments, to adopt a programme for the next 5 years and to elect a new Central Committee.

The Congress will also discuss the Central Committee political report by General Secretary Blade Nzimande, the "State of Organisation" report by National Organiser, Cde Solly Mapaila, and the Treasurer's audited financial report. The Congress will be addressed by ANC President Thabo Mbeki, Deputy ANC President Jacob Zuma Cosatu General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi and YCL National Secretary, Buti Manamela.

It is proposed that Moses Kotane award be conferred on Cdes Eric "Stalin" Mtshali, Flag Boshielo and Makhlima Ndlovu.

communities, in rural areas, and around issues of sustainable livelihoods and communities.

These challenges underline the ongoing and increased relevance of a broad national democratic struggle within our country, a struggle that must be hegemonised by workers and the poor.

Since our 11th National Congress in July 2002, SACP membership has more than doubled from just under 25 000 to the

present 51 000 members.

We attribute this growth to, amongst other things, the many important campaigns the SACP has waged over the last several years – including a land agrarian reform campaign; a financial sector campaign; a 'know your neighbourhood' campaign; a campaign for safe, reliable and affordable public transport; and ongoing grass-roots work in support of the cooperatives movement.

Among the many achievements of these campaigns is the National Credit Act, and it includes a partial amnesty for some of those black-listed by the credit bureaux.

While the struggle on this and many other fronts continues, the SACP is in no doubt that these important developments are the direct consequence of the campaigns led by the SACP together with over 50 other formations.

We will, of course, need to be vigilant that partial victories won in legislation become real victories in actual implementation.

A key challenge of the 12th National Congress and of the SACP going forward will be to work to ensure that we enhance the interconnections and systematic impact of our various campaigns. The point is not to simply ameliorate the present reality but to actively transform our society and economy, taking it out of its apartheid-colonial capitalist accumulation path that still, today, constantly reproduces abject, racialised poverty and inequality. ●