



YCL's Cde Buti Manamela, Deputy ANC President Cde Jacob Zuma, and SACP GS, Cde Blade Nzimande, greet enthusiastic crowds at a Youth Day rally in Bushbuckridge

Leadership that should emerge at the Congress

Extracts from YCL National Committee Statement

The SACP 12th National Congress, from the 11-15 July 2007 at Port Elizabeth, is the first National Congress that will be held since the re-establishment of the YCL in 2003.

This is an elective Congress. We need to define what the role of the YCL should be in respect to the issue of leadership in the context of the challenges facing the working class and the poor, and the struggle for socialism.

The YCL should engage with the founding principles of a collective leadership, and may consider factors such as continuity, competence in fields designated by the last Congress (office bearers), attendance of meetings and SACP activities by Central Committee members, representation of youth and women, representation of worker and working class leaders, SACP members in civil society organs, adherence to Communist Party discipline and constitution, consistency of service to the party and its structures, contribution to SACP campaigns and understanding the strategic objectives of the Party and commitment towards taking these forward.

We need to also elect leaders within

the context of an ongoing discussion on the current challenges that face the SACP and the alliance. The extent to which leaders who will be elected at this Congress should be based on their commitment to build a strong alliance and defend it as a component part of the SACP Medium Term Vision should no doubt form part of the principles. No doubt what transpires at the SACP National Congress will have an impact on the ANC 52nd National Conference later in the year. The leadership collective should be able to complement each other on these challenges, without necessarily determining these on the basis of loyalty. We further need to ensure that we

The YCL discussion on leadership should consider the fact that we will have power to nominate and vote for a candidate or candidates. It should also consider that we will be having full participatory powers at the Congress. We should be careful not be party to factionalisation in discussion on leadership at the Congress. This does not mean that we should shy away from explicitly expressing our support for one cadre over the other. ●

Whose interests are the PSL serving?

By CASTRO NGOBESE

The Premier Soccer League (PSL) has sold all domestic matches television rights to Naspers's Supersport pay channel in a reported deal worth more than a billion rand for the next five years.

This will be a severe blow to the millions of soccer fans in South Africa who have in the past relied on the SABC, the public broadcaster for matches through TV and radio. The SABC has since assured the public that the deal that has been struck by the PSL and Supersport their will challenge it and it is a 'laughable sham', said the SABC Group Executive Dali Mpofu.

The YCL rejected this deal which was announced by the PSL Chairperson, Dr Irvin Khoza in its statement. The YCL said 'this deal will deprive the working class and poor communities from watching and listing soccer from TV and radio respectively', the YCL said. The YREDS also threatened to call on soccer supporters to boycott the new season games which is due to kick-off in August, if the deal is not reversed by the PSL.

The deal has been condemned by civil society formations and government officials such as the Cosatu, the SA Communist Party, the portfolio committee on sport and the Minister of Sport, Cde Makhenkesi Stofile among others. The PSL has defended itself from this ridiculous deal through Professor Ronnie Schloss, 'We went to tender on an open market. The SABC did not tender,' said the leagues chief operations officer.

The deal has proven how powerful capital (business) is in South Africa including in the field of play or in soccer which is regarded as a working class and poor sport in the country. The lingering in the majority of people who follow soccer in the country both in rural and urban areas is whose interests is the PSL serving? ●