

## FREE STATE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

### Crass materialism afflicts our country

Free State held its provincial congress under the theme “Forward to the South African Road to Socialism”. 300 delegates representing a paid-up membership of close to 5000 organised in 47 branches and 5 districts participated.

According to Provincial Secretary, Cde Phel Parkies, the Congress “reviewed the implementation of the Party’s MTV strategy in the province, its impact on the current trajectory of the NDR, and prepared for the SACP National Congress and the ANC’s Policy and National Conference”.

The Declaration adopted at the end of the Congress noted that “this Congress is taking place at the time when crass materialism is afflicting the country, including the entire National Liberation Movement and threatens to change its working-class character”

Cde Parkies said that the Congress “recognised that capitalism is dominant globally but the contradictions emerging open up space for a radical project of the left.

“We also noted the current acrimonious relations within the tripartite alliance which is caused by an attempt by ANC to reduce the other partners to junior partners. Yet the Alliance remains relevant and strategic.”

The Declaration noted “the problems affecting the Party within the province as well as its relative structural weaknesses to carry out important programmatic work, and resolved to intensify the work of building the organisation. The SACP remains the vanguard of the working class and we will resist any attempts to turn it into a step-ladder for careerists and individuals seeking to attain positions in government. While the growth of membership remains an important element of building our Party, we condemn strongly dubious attempts at forming branches only when we approach elective congresses.”

The Declaration noted “with concern the deepening tensions in the ANC leadership in the Free State which has the potential to weaken the ANC in the province and sacrifice the gains we have made since the assumption of power. The provincial congress committed itself to:

Fostering unity within the ANC

## FROM THE PROVINCES

Fighting to maintain the ANC’s working class character.

Calling for discussion in the province on building the alliance.

The Congress declared that “the Freedom Charter remains a unifying programme to which the alliance must be committed. The second decade of freedom must become the decade of the working class and the poor in which the Freedom Charter and the RDP are paramount. The impact of policies should be measured against the objectives of the Freedom Charter.”

The Congress raised “the need to intensify work on building a popular movement towards socialism. This will include mobilising the mass based formations. They must campaign around different but converging struggles and reassert the Freedom Charter’s transitional demands towards socialism.”

The Declaration noted “with great concern the neglect to follow up on the assassination of the former SACP General Secretary comrade Chris Hani. We call for the re-opening of the inquest and for a commitment to fully honour his undying memory.”

The Declaration noted: “We reject American intentions to colonise the African continent through the establishment of the Africa Command based in Germany. We reject any attempts to colonise the continent again and call upon our government to make sure that the African people are fully united against another form of colonisation. We call upon African countries to reject being used as bases for the expansion of American imperialism.

The Congress called for “the re-nationalisation of SASOL as part of the commanding heights of the economy and to intensify the Financial Sector Campaign and build the campaign in the province. We also agree to intensify the campaign for Once-Off Credit Amnesty.”

The Congress elected the following members of the PEC:

Provincial Secretary – Phel Parkies

Provincial Chairperson – Charles Stofile

### Limpopo SACP's Provincial Council meeting was only due to take place after Umsebenzi went to print

Deputy Provincial Secretary – Beren Soke

Deputy Provincial Chairperson – Mbuyiselo

Provincial Treasurer – Nthabiseng Mokotjo

Additional PEC Members: Sam Mataise, Sam Mashinini, More Ramoeletsi, Sello Ramokopu, Jonas Mosia, Siyaphi Yende, Nozipho Haya, Pascallina Thakgedi, Lesedi Giba, Magala Mofokeng, Kentse Segoane, Penny Nthunya, Fusi Nchabeng, Lechesa Tsenoli, and Mzewandile Hleko

## MPUMALANGA PC

### Fully implement the Freedom Charter

Zpumalanga held its Provincial Council (PC) on 17 June. 304 delegates representing 6788 paid-up members attended.

The PC was addressed by SACP Central Committee member, Cde Crosby Moni. Cde Moni stressed the need for the SACP to build working class power in all the key sites of power set out in the party’s Medium Term Vision..

Provincial Secretary, Cde Bobakele Majuba, said: “we reflected on progress, challenges, and the context in which we have to build working class hegemony. The Provincial Council felt that GEAR, did not take place in a vacuum, but was part of a broader capitalist agenda including both domestic and international capital. It is not just a 1996 class project, but a 1988 class project, when the capitalists tried to win the ANC leadership over.

“This class project”, he said, “has given birth to this failing economic path that is characterized by jobless growth, retrenchments, perpetuation of poverty, greed, corruption and individualism. It is this trajectory that has created problems of the state through its self-imposed structural adjustment programme that has led to the squeezing of the size of the state and weakening its capacity to lead development. It is this class project that has weakened the workplace by casualising jobs and also weakening trade unions. It is this project that has brought in new values of individualism and accumulation and has robbed society of its noble value system of ubuntu and communalism.”

“We further wish”, notes the Declara-

## FROM THE PROVINCES



**Cde Bobakele Majuba**  
Mpumalanga Provincial Secretary

tion, "to reiterate our position that the Communist Party is not an NGO, and it is a party of power, and so it should contest state power, even if it means contesting elections on its own, when material conditions permits. Whilst assessing conjunctural situations on whether to contest elections, there should be a pact of the tripartite alliance in government.

"The Freedom Charter, is a common programme for socialists and non-socialists. This should be the basis of our relationship with the ANC and other Alliance partners. We therefore are calling for, the full implementation of the Freedom Charter in its correct version for the advancement of the NDR to its logical conclusion.

"It is for this reason that we reject the two centres of power approach that may result in the diluting of government's focus in implementing this common programme of the Alliance. We support the position of the ANC in Mpumalanga that the President of the ANC should be the President of the country."

"As we move to our 12th Congress", noted the Declaration, "we are going to use our resolve to match the kind of leaders that we would like to see emerging in the Congress. The last five years we have seen a growing, vibrant and campaigning party. For the first time since the assassination of Cde Chris Hanu in 2003, we are seeing a party with growing membership, solid branches, districts and provinces that are continually renewed. We are seeing a party that continuously opens up vibrant debates, including on issues regarded as holy cows."

On Cde Phillip Dexter's document, the Declaration noted, that "without being disrespectful, we condemn these lose ut-

terings from somebody we have high regard for, like our National Treasurer and a member of PB of the SACP. We question his motives in starting such a discussion right at the tail-end of his term, when we are not going to have a chance to properly discuss this matter in our structures."

## GAUTENG PC

## 'Contest elections in 2009'

**O**n 1 July Gauteng held its 2nd Provincial Council (PC) since the 9th Provincial Congress of March. The PC was attended by 125 delegates, representing 57 Branches and 6 Districts. The main focus of the PC was the 12th National Congress of the SACP. A Report from the 11th Congress Central Committee (CC) meeting of May 25 to 27 was also discussed.

Cde Zico Tamela, Gauteng Provincial Secretary, said that "there was lively discussion on various aspects of internal Party life. The decision to shelve discussion on Congress Discussion Documents, particularly the Draft Programme, contributed to the exclusive focus of the PC on the internal Party life. Some of the issues that came to the fore were Comrade Phillip Dexter's suspension, relations between the Party and the YCL, and relations between the Gauteng Province and the Head Office. After lengthy, and sometimes heated, debates resolutions were adopted on how to move forward. The PEC, PWC and the Party-Building Committee will ensure their speedy implementation."

As part of Congress preparations, the PC also nominated its candidates for the CC, including the Officials. "The Province is now in a position to influence others, and be influenced by them as well, on its views on both the State Power debate and Party leadership", said Cde Tamela.

"On the downside, the Council was marred by an unacceptable behaviour on the part of some delegates who took their intolerance of their own fellow comrades' views to the extreme by staging a walk-out when they lost out on the nominations for national leadership..

Once again, the Council expressed itself in no uncertain terms on this anti-democratic type of conduct, and tasked the provincial leadership to leave no stone

untuned in rooting this out.. Already Bolshevik measures are being pursued to straighten things out! The Province shall unswervingly pursue unity in diversity, and shall not allow inner-Party democracy to be stifled and actually wiped out by autocratic practice - such is the mandate from the 9th Provincial Congress!"

On July 07, eyes will turn to the 86th Anniversary rally organised by the Gauteng SACPe in Khutsong. "This interaction with the masses", says Cde Tamela "will be used to agitate for the views the Province holds on various issues, like SACP independent electoral contestation from 2009 onwards, the public sector strike, municipal boundary demarcation, service delivery, schooling, and so on".

On 8 July a political workshop will be held for all delegates to the Congress to discuss the National Congress Discussion Documents..

## KwaZulu -Natal PC

## 'Quality, not just quantity'

**A**tended by 255 delegates representing a membership of 10 225 in the province, the SACP in KZN held a very successful Provincial Council (PC) meeting on 23 and 24 June in order to prepare for the 12th National Congress.

The PC was addressed by both the General Secretary, Cde Blade Nzimande, and Deputy General Secretary, Cde Jeremy Cronin. Cde Nzimande's speech is carried elsewhere in this issue. Cde Cronin stressed that the "SACP has a very important strategic role in this year of policy development not just for ourselves but the Alliance as a whole".

He said that the "SACP has been highlighting the persistence of 'colonialism of a special type' features of our society. We are still locked into a dependent developmental path. Our capital accumulation path dates back to the late 19th century and we have to break out of this."

Provincial Chairperson, Cde Willie Mchunu, said that "the working class is not leading the revolution because we are allowing other classes to do so. This is a period of heightening class contradictions. Politics is being re-defined. There are forces at work in this province to have an ANC-IFP-DA bloc against the working class. So it is important that we build the strength of the working class"

Provincial Secretary, Cde Themba Mthembu, said that while the SACP definitely has an interest in state power, “we must not see ourselves as an electoral party. Have you ever seen a Communist Party win a solid majority in a bourgeois democracy anywhere in the world?”

The meeting welcomed the phenomenal increase in the SACP’s membership nationally and in the province. “Our challenge”, noted the Declaration adopted by the PC, “is to increasingly focus on the quality, not just quantity, of our membership.”

“We welcome constructive criticism of the SACP and robust debate which can enrich and develop the party”, noted the Declaration. “But we are utterly clear that the behaviour of the SACP National Treasurer, Comrade Phillip Dexter, is unacceptable by the standards of any open, democratic organisation, and we fully endorse the SACP PB decision to suspend him from membership for a year.”

“While recognising the importance of electing an effective SACP national leadership”, noted the Declaration, “we are clear that the main concern of the 12th National Congress is to advance SACP theories, strategies, tactics, programmes and policies.”

Branches and districts have been engaging with the SACP discussion documents for the National Congress and the provincial council took this process further. Our role in the National Congress would be to help unite and strengthen the party and its leadership in the interests of advancing socialism.”

The PC called “for a speedy, fair and effective resolution of the public workers strike. We call for the reinstatement of all workers dismissed because of their participation in the strike.”

We feel that the broader issues relating to the strike also need to be addressed, especially as we cannot have an effective developmental state without a reasonably paid, highly motivated public sector workforce. We call upon the national leadership of the SACP to take this and related issues forward in the next meeting of the Tripartite Alliance.

The PC also expressed “concern about the continuing conflict over municipal boundaries in Matatiele and Khutsong and urged the government and all relevant parties to expeditiously settle this matter. We urge the government to listen to and take full account of the views of the residents in these areas.”

“We are alarmed”, noted the Declaration “at the confrontation between the

eThekweni municipality and street vendors. We call on the municipality, street vendor organisations and all relevant stakeholders to resolve the conflict amicably, including through investigating allegations of corruption on all sides. The eThekweni SACP Districts are urged to play an appropriate role in contributing to resolving the conflict amicably.”

## NORTH WEST PC

### ‘Prepare for elections as SACP’

**N**orth West held a Provincial Council (PC) on 30 June and 1 July 2007. The council was attended by 110 delegates out of 150 delegates who will attend the National Congress.

The council was addressed by CC member, Cde Jerry Thibedi. Provincial Secretary, Cde Madoda Sambatha, said, “We considered the organisational and political reports which dealt mainly with the state of the organisation in the Province, including the performance of Districts, the functionality of the Alliance, provincial and local governance and the state of the YCL.”

The PC had commissions on: SACP and socialism; the economy; state power; the workplace; communities; and finance and fundraising. “The plenary agreed”, said Cde Sambatha, “that the Secretariat should consolidate the recommendations and present them at the Provincial Secretariat Forum on 7 July for finalisation

“The Council reconfirmed the position of the North West that the SACP should contest elections.” The CC should:

Develop a conceptual framework on the electoral options: the Pact approach; independent contestation; and restructuring the Alliance( re-defining the Alliance and its role when the SACP contests elections)

Define the type of preferred state and role of all spheres of government.

Study the modalities of the involvement of the communist parties in the state internationally.

Organisational restructuring of the SACP( including developing capacity on research, organising and campaigns, international relations and staff)

Alliance consultation and convening of the Conference of the Left to have developed an Elections Manifesto.

“The CC should finalise this work before December 2008 and give enough time to our structures to prepare, especially if

our first option to take part independently in elections”, said Cde Sambatha.

“The council reflected on the performance of the SACP since 2002 Congress. We celebrated the growth in membership and are also happy with the performance of the Party on the ideological terrain. In discussing nominations for the CC, we felt the CC also needs to be restructured. Despite media speculation and some attacks by individuals on the party, had it not been comrade Blade Nzimande driving the CC collective, surely the collective would have collapsed by now in the midst of the offensive by the class project? We also noted with serious concern the lack of commitment by some CC members and their unavailability for deployment.

## EASTERN CAPE PC

### We will host a successful Congress

**O**ver 180 delegates gathered at the Eastern Cape Provincial Council (PC). Provincial Secretary Mandla Makupula said: “we assessed the political terrain and, isolated challenges confronting the working class and the poor in our province”.

“Council felt that we should improve the draft national programme to reflect a Party confident of its mission, and avoid communicating ambiguities. We should strengthen the language or to make it consistent with our historical evolution.

“Council noted President Mbeki’s remarks at the ANC’s policy conference on the SACP’s role. But the SACP has never believed that the ANC should undertake our role. The PC resolved that the Party should intensify its campaigns to stay close to the aspirations of the working class. The growth of the Party’s membership is largely due to these campaigns.

Cde Makupula said that the “Council felt that the SACP should do all that is necessary to pursue power for the working class in all its manifestations including the option of contesting via the ballot. The majority felt that ‘now is the time’ for the SACP to take part in elections. This does not mean breaking the Alliance. Council also felt that the SACP should consider holding a Policy Conference in 2008 to finalise details.

“Council felt strongly there should be nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy as envisaged in the Freedom Charter. The Party should

agitate for this within the Alliance and independently. We also feel the Freedom Charter provides essential elements for our struggle towards socialism”.

The PC noted the emergence of Left forces in Latin America: “Our Party needs to link up with these forces and help to revive communist parties in Africa.

“Council expressed happiness with the leadership given to the Party as signified by the monumental growth of the SACP. Our guiding criteria in nominations for the new CC is commitment to the SACP programme and availability to carry out SACP work.

“As the hosting province we are committed to making the Congress a big success”, said Cde Makupula.

## NORTHERN CAPE PROV SEC

### 'SA Road to Socialism is correct'

The Northern Cape will be having its Provincial Council on 8 July, past our deadline, so we have included reports on 4 District Congresses in the province. The South African Communist Party in the Kimberley and Braam Fischer Districts held their District Congresses during the week-end of 23-24 June and the Basil February and the Dora Tamana Districts met on 30 June to elect their respective district leaderships and prepare for the National Congress.

The district congresses reflected on the gains made since the 1994 democratic breakthrough and also the challenges that face the country and the NDR.

Provincial Secretary Cde Norman Mahobe Shushu, said that the district congresses “noted the sentiment that the economy has seen unprecedented growth and that the economic fundamentals are well in place. But it is monopoly capital that is the main beneficiary. The economy is still in White hands with blacks connected to the ruling class benefiting a bit.”

“The Party's new ‘South African Road to Socialism’ could not have come at a better time. By its very orientation, the concept of a national democratic revolution is a Marxist concept and any attempt to characterise it any other way will be a historical distortion.

In respect of Cde Phillip Dexter's document the congresses noted that “the assertions being made seek to reduce the YCL, Provinces and District to foot-soldiers who are being marshalled by HQ and that these structures do not have



**Norman Mahobe Shushu**  
Northern Cape Provincial Secretary

brains of their own and do not make any input in terms of the SACP's outlook.. It is therefore our view that Congress should be allowed to discuss these assertions and without disrespecting the decision of the Politburo, should also be allowed to make a decision on the future of Cde Dexter.”

The congresses noted that “the party, as a political organisation needs, to be able to give the South African electorate, especially the working class and the poor an opportunity as to who they want to be led by. It is therefore important that the party should contest elections ‘

The 12th congress of the party needs to be able to develop modalities as to how these elections will be contested and who will be our strategic allies, having assessed conditions on the ground and taking into consideration that the party is not a narrow elections party.. It should not be a foregone conclusion as to who will be our election allies. The decision to contest elections should be informed by the Party's Medium Term Vision.”

“The relationship of the SACP and YCL, should not only be defined by the constitution but also needs to be defined organisationally and programmatically at all levels i.e. branch, districts, provinces and national.”

“We also feel the Alliance should be reviewed.. Is the ANC best placed to lead the Alliance or should we perhaps look at the SACP to lead the alliance?”

“We feel that the ‘South African Road to Socialism’ is the best way of moving forward to advance the struggle of the working class and poor of our country.

It is important that all communists engage at branch level on building the working class.

## WESTERN CAPE PC

### 'Contest Elections but set no date'

On 30 June Western Cape held a “Special Purpose Provincial Council attended by 115 delegates”, says Provincial Secretary, Cde Khaya Magxa. “It was special because it dealt solely with the National Congress and because of the nature of the discussions”.

The Provincial Council (PC) received a political report from Cde Magxa, which covered the ANC National Policy Conference, the public sector workers' strike, alliance summit, South African Road to Socialism and the situation in Western Sahara.

The ANC President said that “the SACP, not the ANC, would lead the forces and the struggle for the victory of the socialist revolution...” and that “the ANC serves as the leader of the forces committed to the victory of the NDR, which struggle for the realisation of the national democratic goals of the masses of our people.....”

The PC felt, said Cde Magxa, that “this perspective goes to the heart of the raging debate in our movement regarding the historical objectives of the NDR, its content and future direction”.

The political report also dealt with the paper by Cde Phillip Dexter, “Working class leadership, political power and hegemony in the NDR”. The PC engaged robustly with the political report and it will serve as the basis for discussions at the Congress.

The PC also decided, said Cde Magxa that the “Western Cape should submit a special motion to the 12th National Congress that Phillip Dexter be expelled from the SACP”.

The Provincial Council broke into five commissions: internationalism and ideology; Socialism and the NDR; the economy; SACP and State Power; and the workplace and the community as part of the “South African Road to Socialism” draft programme. There was a commission on constitutional amendments.

Cde Magxa said that the “Council agreed with the general thrust of the political documents for the National Congress.

We also overwhelmingly agreed that the SACP should contest elections on our own, but we should not set a date for this. The modalities and the timing of contesting the elections should be left to the Central Committee. ●