



SACP

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

EASTERN CAPE

PEC BULLETIN



10th edition

Socialism is the future, Build it now!!!!

Background

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is a medium of the SACP for propagating its views with the working class in an unmediated fashion.

While it is important to constantly engage and contest ideas within the bourgeoisie commercial media but SACP is alive to the reality that any commercial media is first and foremost inclined to reflect views of its masters (monopoly capital).

It also contains regular features such as letters to the editor, commentary and a variety of other exciting features on working class struggles, the economy, etc.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles

Style and Length.

The length for feature articles is 1200-1800 words.

Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words and opinion pieces must not exceed 600 words.

Articles must be written in plain and simple English. Articles may contain words in other South African languages, with the English meaning bracketed.

Articles must be relevant to membership of our party and the working class in general, exciting and solicit debate and discussions.

Articles about recent events or contemporary issues in South Africa and the world will be given preference for publication in the SACP Eastern Cape PEC bulletin.

All SACP District Spokespersons, YCLSA Spokesperson and other Spokespersons of the MDM fraternal organisations are encouraged to submit articles about the recent activities; as they might not be covered in the mainstream media.

Due Date

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is published monthly (12 issues per annum). The due date for the submission of articles is the 20th of each month.

Late submissions will not be considered for an edition of such month but for future editions.

Originality

The SACP EC PEC Bulletin publishes original articles. We also publish articles which have appeared elsewhere in whole or in part.

Should you feel that republishing an article would be beneficial to SACP EC PEC Bulletin readership and that the article will reach a broader readership through our medium than the medium that first published it, then you need to bring this to the attention of the Editor.

All sources cited in the articles must be referenced.

Themes

Different editions/ issues of the SACP PEC Bulletin will have specific themes (Joe Slovo Month, Chris Hani Month, Youth Month, Red October, SACP anniversaries, COSATU Anniversaries, ANC anniversary, etc.) therefore some articles must be tailored to suit the specific theme. Each issue/edition of the SACP EC PEC bulletin will indicate the theme of the next edition, so articles should be submitted as such.

Processing of Articles

All articles shall be subjected to scrutiny by the SACP EC PEC bulletin editorial team.

The SACP EC Bulletin is particularly interested in fostering a culture of reading and writing amongst the leadership and membership of our party.

We will therefore give special consideration to the articles written by the general members of our party.

Articles will go through a review process, after which we will inform the contributor whether the article will be published or not.

The review process largely depends on the adherence to deadlines provided by the Editor and the content of the article as submitted.

Editorial Team:

Xolile Nqatha
Siyabonga Mdoti
Sisimone Rakaibe
Siyabulela Mbedla
Fundile "Blacks" Gade
Mawethu Rune
Nonkoliso Ngqongwa
Andile Moshia

Next Edition: The theme for the next edition will be the "Red October": Kindly forward your contributions to simdodi@gmail.com on Tuesday, 20 October 2015.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorial Notes	Page 2
Transform the financial sector	Page 3
Inspired by the October Revolution	Page 5
Free education is in the best interest of SA	Page 8
Free Education and 2 nd Phase of Transition	Page 10
SACP Eastern Cape statement	Page 13



In this important month of October, the month in which all parties of the world commemorate the October Revolution. The South African Communist Party (SACP) had successful Red October Campaigns as it always do in this period. In this year the focused on a twofold campaign - "Transform the financial sector and build banks which will serve the people" "Free the media!" The campaign based on our principled programme to "Unite the working class, our communities, and our movement!"

We rolled out many activities throughout the country in this regard, those include the SACP Media transformation Summit held in Gauteng; Red October Launch in Moses Kotane Province (North West).

The SACP in the Eastern Cape will lead a march to the finance capital in Mbuyiselo Ngwenda (Port Elizabeth) on the 05 November 2015. The march is organised by the SACP working with a range of social forces organised under the Financial Sector Campaign Coalition (FSCC). We call on all the people to join our efforts to transform the financial sector and make banks to serve the people.

In light of our campaign, calling for the transformation of the media. One is justifiably tempted to discuss the use of social media and message applications for internal and external communications within our organisations. The social media is becoming the most powerful platform in South Africa, as many SA are active in that space.

As per January 2015, there were a total of 16.74 million South Africans active on WhatsApp application, which is 31% of the SA population. There were 14.04 million South Africans active on Facebook, which translates to 26% of the South African Population. There were 7.02 million South Africans on Twitter, which is about 13% of the South African population. There were about 3.78 million South Africans on We Chat application, which translates to 7% of the population.

The South African reality in relation to the latter is that predominantly people use their cellphones to access the social networks and the applications. This owes to variety of reasons, one being affordability status across. We can argue that in South Africa every household has a minimum of one cellular phone.

The above illustrate how the media landscape is changing in South Africa. The social networks have become an important platform wherein you can dialogue with the society, in an unedited and



SIYABONGA MDODI

unmediated form. Many journalist have in the recent past used tweets from political, sports and entertainment personalities in anchoring their stories. This should mean we must be careful of how we use these platforms as members and as leaders.

The WhatsApp application should be of strategic importance to us for internal communication (information dissemination) as it reaches people fast and easily accessible. Another good thing about it is that you can group many people together, which means our structures can have these groups for internal communication and information dissemination.

I have for over a period of time observed how comrades have misused the social networks against each other. How we have used the power of the social media to undermine the organisational decision(s). How we have used the social networks to discredit other comrades due to congress fever.

The negative use of the social media is in essence wittingly or unwittingly liquidating our organisations. You may not like the current leaders but that does not mean at some point the organisation will not have leaders whom you dearly love.

How would you mobilise people into the organisation you have long liquidated. How would you instil the confidence of the people in that organisation? We should always be alive to the fact that organisation is bigger than all of us and we have joined it individually and ought to subject ourselves to it.

We should find positive ways of using the social networks to the advantage of our organisations. Let's use the social networks to market the African National Congress (ANC) as the people's brand. Let's use the social networks, as powerful as they are to profile the SACP, as the vanguard of the South African working class. Let's use the powerful social networks to profile the giant worker federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

We should use the social media as a site and the terrain of the struggle, if we correctly locate in in that context. It will be then be easy for all of us in the movement to use the social media to deepen the battle of ideas. We will use it to advance developmental and strategic policy proposals of our movement.

We wish you a revolutionary read. Your suggestions and contributions to make the SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin even better are always welcomed.

Siyabonga Mdodi - SACP EC Provincial Spokesperson.



“Intensify the struggle to transform the Financial Sector and make banks serve the people”

The year 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the SACP Red October Campaign as an annual SACP programme to mobilise its structures and broader civil society in taking up issues as part of efforts to transform our country for the benefit of the majority of workers and the poor. Over the years our Party has registered many gains through this campaign.

We have held marches throughout our country demanding our government to accelerate land reform to change the land ownership patterns in the country after the majority of the black population were dispossessed by the colonial and apartheid governments and confined to 13 % of the land whilst the minority had access and control to 87% of the land.

This is the context we have demanded for an audit of land parcels and review of the willing seller willing buyer policy, burning of foreign land ownership and restriction on the parcels of land to be owned by an individual. We called for a land summit and which was convened by our government to examine the above among many issues.

We are glad that our government has begun to address some of the issues we raised as the SACP but the pace for ensuring access to land by the majority remain very slow. This is very critical in realising the radical second phase of the transition and for freedom to have deeper meaning to the majority of the South Africans. The important issue especially under the deepening capitalist economic crisis to ensure access to land for food security amongst other things.

We also campaigned for the affordable quality public health care for the majority and an end to discrimination of people living with HIV and AIDS by insurance companies as they refused to approve the payment of their benefits and or accept them as members on the basis of their status. We are glad that our government has begun to introduce a National Health Insurance (NHI) to ensure universal access to health by all irrespective of the size of their pockets. We believe that this is the area as the SACP whilst focusing on annual

campaign themes each year we will continue to defend and mobilise for its successful implementation.

We will do so as we are alive to a reality that the NHI is contested reality in South Africa, there are market forces who would like to see it collapsing for their accumulation interests. We should also work to defeat the unscrupulous elements within National Treasury who work with private sector to frustrate the implementation of the NHI.

We have vigorously campaigned for the transformation and diversification of the financial sector to make banks serve the people, for the regulation of the Credit Bureaus and a financial sector summit to compel the banks to commit on

their role as we build the country. Again our government responded by convening the summit which resulted in many commitments by the banks of

which they have not moved in many of the commitments including a R50 billion contribution in housing developments.

We have welcomed the regulation on reckless lending and the

opening of Mzantsi account to ensure access by the poor to banking services.

2015 Red October on the financial sector critical for deepening the desirability for radical economic transformation.

This year we are taking our campaign for the transformation and diversification of the financial sector having noted the failure by the banks to implement many of the commitments during the 2002 summit. We are calling for the government to convene a second financial sector summit for banks to come and report on what they have done in relation to the 2002 financial summit agreements.

We are also calling for the return of the Community Re-investment Bill to be passed into law to compel the sector to invest in the communities including housing and infrastructure. Some in the business sector have been demanding leadership on the side of ANC led movement and its government and yet they have failed to provide leadership in implementing their commitments and partner with government in a meaningful way and yet they have been the ones



“This is very critical in realising the radical second phase of the transition and for freedom to have deeper meaning to the majority of the South Africans”



benefiting when the economy was better performing. Their role has been parasitic and they secured immense wealth even during the 2010 Soccer World Cup held in South Africa.

As the Eastern Cape Province we have launched Financial Sector Campaign Coalition (FSCC) in the province and in 5 of our 8 districts and have managed to mobilise not less than 60 organisations behind this year campaign with all committing to work with the SACP for the achievement of the campaign goals.

We are committed to deepen our struggle to ensure that the monopolisation of the banking sector in the country is changed and that banks desist from the greed driven behaviour to illegally evict people from their houses. We want to compel them to invest in the communities and in the productive sectors of the economy for job creation.

We are committed to the struggle to expose gross abuses by the short term insurance companies and funeral services. It is in this context that we are calling for the public administering off all unclaimed pension funds.



We are also of the firm view that part of diversification of the financial sector includes an increase role of the state in the banking sector by changing Post Bank into a State Bank and a bank of choice for government and its entities. Given its foot print in all corners of our country we are convinced that it is better placed to ensure access by the majority and less travel by pensioners to access their social grants.

We are of the firm view that the financial sector in general and the banks in particular should take an active role in funding the free and qualitative higher

education and training in our country. The funding of free education in our country would go a long way in developing skills that the SA economy so dearly needs.

For the radical economic transition to be possible requires a state with not only boldness and financial capacity to lead development and legislative capacity to discipline and compel the banks to play a role in the development of the country.

It is high time that the financial sector must realise that it is in their deepest interests that the South African economy performs in a manner that absorb the unemployment and reduce in equality as failure to tackle these challenges can result to instability. Under conditions of growing poverty, unemployment and inequality any sense of security in temporary and is a false sense of security.

We will use this campaign to highlight the impact of financialization of the economy in the country's productive capacity and impact to workers as in many case especially women. Few years ago they were employed as cashiers in a super market but today they have found themselves being bank tellers but remaining one salary for jobs of two people for example.

We calling upon all our people to join us in the activities we will be organising as a province starting with the Provincial March to be held in Port Elizabeth. The march will start in Greenacres then proceed to the Newton Park (the Head Office of big financial monopolies) on the 05 November 2015.

As the Eastern Cape like many rural provinces we have seen many malls being built in many of our areas resulting in collapse of the old black owned small businesses in the townships and villages. The worse part the owners of the malls have community re-investment and share ownership for surrounding communities.

We want our people to have share in ownership and control not only the welcomed contributions for local teams and schools.

Our people deserve more and the time for change cannot be postponed any longer.

Xolile Nqatha is SACP EC Provincial Secretary.

“Our people deserve more and the time for change cannot be postponed any longer”



INSPIRED BY THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

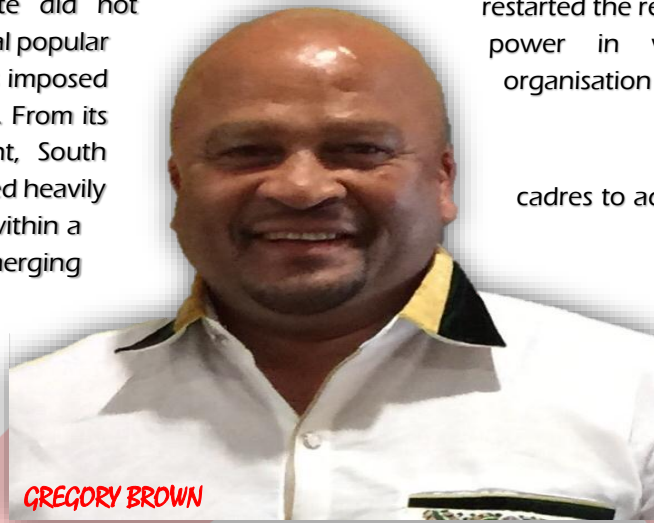
Octobrists are Makers of Revolution in their Month

“South African capitalist state did not emerge as a result of an internal popular anti – feudal revolution. It was imposed from above and from without. From its birth through to the present, South African capitalism has depended heavily on imperialist centres. It was within a colonial setting that the emerging South African capitalist class entrenched and extended the racially exclusive system to increase its opportunities for profit. The racial division of labour, the battery of racist laws and political exclusiveness guaranteed this. In all essential respects, the colonial status of the black majority has remained in place. Therefore we characterize our society as colonialism of a special type “ (Mick Harmel , 1960 CST)

October month is traditionally the month used to heighten the SACP Red October campaign on the range of issues affecting the working class. In making greater emphasis on the Financial Sector Campaign and raises the leftover of imperialism inside our fledging democratic society for deeper thought and consciousness in order to ensure Africa and South Africa are no more a human dumping ground of the global powers.

I believe the Red October is aimed of making real Octobrists out of us and seek to create a cadre steed in principle and armed with the true historical origins and theoretical frame of the October socialist revolution for the campaign to reach a much broader spectrum of society. The intention should always be to influence.

Why the month of October and the significance of this month in the history of the Great Socialist Russian Revolution of 1917. Shall we not bother to mention the failure of the February Russian Revolution and the lessons that was drawn from it in the same year 1917 and the period in between? Obviously the month was more than a month in the Russian calendar and its ideological remedies it has brought during a period. You are either a failed Februarist who turned against their



GREGORY BROWN

own masses after the establishment of the Provisional government or you postulate as an Octobrist who restarted the revolutionary moment and seized power in well planned strategy and organisation with trained

cadres to advance the second revolution in October from the government of “thieves”

The mistakes made in the February revolution in the victory over tsarism which has brought about a power struggle between the wearing classes over the control over society and

the period in between became a good dress rehearsal for the October moment.

The October moment was hard worked for in the country side and on all fronts and it is perhaps why today communists put such great significance on the October months for all campaigns against imperialisms and in our case the international character of capital.

As communists the month is a reminder of high level of organisation and political determinism the same as the lost ground the working masses and peasants had to regain after the petit bourgeoisie seized leadership in the February revolution with Mensheviks. This was again a prologue for the October revolution cause this revolution was just a cooperation amongst feudal, capital and nationalist forces whose aim was never to resolve the of the masses which was to end the imperialist war and to conclude peace, abolition of those large land ownership of the serfs and to bring an end to national oppression.

The national atmosphere in the country was generally down and the population really expected to be withdrawn from the imperialist war and their fundamental battle cry for making revolution in the first place was grossly ignored by the leaders then. The October revolution has come to correct that and a new moment was gradually build until it has climaxed. The words coming revolution originated during that period of struggle and not to be vulgarized at any man made upheaval.



During the period after February leading up to October the Russian society was in deep crises and the socialist revolution was inevitable with the rising of trade unions and workplace committees whom have raised the consciousness of the workers and the worker control over production in an economy that was literally destroyed has strengthen the productive forces to the highest stage of development in conditions of general despair. The complete take charge of the new conditions by asserting control over the productive processes was a fundamental game changer for the Octobrists.

The national bourgeoisie who betrayed the class struggle during the February revolution has now in this period showed a dangerous trend of trying to make use of the national liberation struggle of the oppressed nationalities for their own class interests. Are we not confronted by the same type of opportunism openly disguised as anti-communism by forces who seek to hide behind nationality to fast forward their personal accumulation of wealth?

In our case the moderates are just very comfortable with their strong national aspirations well-hidden and waiting for the right moment to turn against the left when conditions will suit them. These were the conditions that necessitated V.I Lenin to pronounce that it's only a socialist revolution that could resolve the pressing problems of the Russian society and bring about social progress in society and he openly advocated for a fresh alignment between the working class and the peasantry to overthrow the power of the bourgeoisie through such a revolutionary alliance.

The period in between these two revolutions from March 2, 1917 when the victors established the Provisional Government headed by Prince Lvov and Kerensky to the 24th October draws a lot of lessons organisationally, ideologically and otherwise for all of us to learn, but most of all the corrections that were made in October for the workers and peasants to ultimately to triumph in the second revolution with Lenin taking direct control the second one hence its success. The essence of the lesson is that the revolution was corrected and ours as the NDR can and should be always checked against reformisms and revisionisms in the current period of struggle.

It is for that reason that the Party in our second phase of radical socio-economic transformation should HALT

capital flight in view of its harmful tendencies to our economy. It should be of concern that many companies have started to disinvest in our country not because of unfavourable economic conditions but because of nothing else than tax evasion, and to what extend do we curb this highly sophisticated imperialist capitalist gamble?

This is capital that is direly needed at home for productive investment and we must insist in stronger motivations for offshore investments of profits derived from domestic investments. Offshore investments is the greatest theft of investors from inside the country whilst they make use of every resource inside the country and the principle should be that every Rand that leaves our country is a Rand to develop another country and that is treasonous and we, the Octobrists have to correct that situation to benefit of the current phase of struggle. This is how business undermine the capacity of the state to pursue its developmental agenda and weaken its redistributive strategy. A much stronger approach must be taken in these listings of our domestic businesses and major South African companies on overseas stock exchanges.

“Offshore investments is the greatest theft of investors from inside the country whilst they make use of every resource inside the country”

Let's ensure greater October vigilance and make true October campaigns on the following imperialist consequences in our country.

- Reckless and insecure lending is parasitic and must be curbed
- Evictions of families from their homes is inhumane and without compassion as we seek to build a caring society.
- Irregular garnishee orders is an administrative injustice to the poor
- Exorbitant bank charges is a way to make money out of money and is parasitic and bloodsucking
- Mass conscious raising on consumer education programmes
- More investment in the Taxi industry and support.
- Gross abuses of the short term insurances industry to be brought to an end.

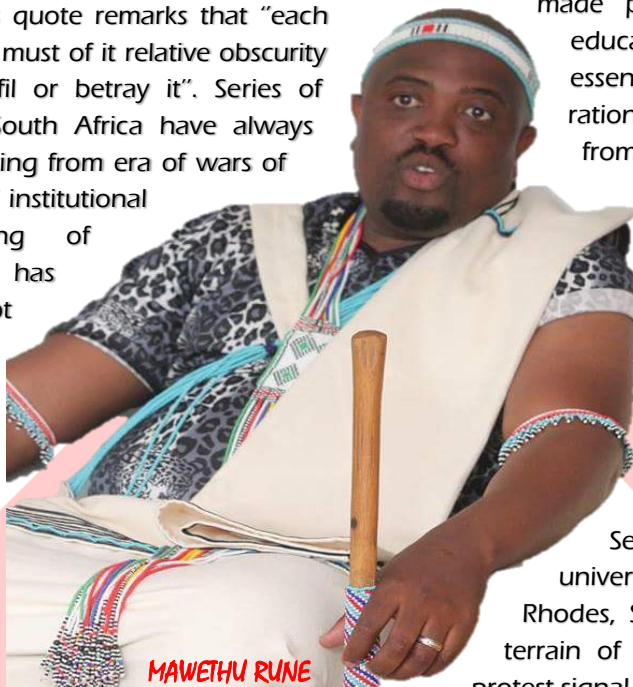
“The iron law of capital is where the poor is given the debts and the profits to the rich “ Karl Marx

Gregory “Vladimir “ Brown - ANC PEC Member and SACP activist writing in personal capacity



Generational Mission underway #FeesMustFall

Frantz Fanon famous quote remarks that “each generation of youth must of it relative obscurity find its mission, fulfil or betray it”. Series of generation of youth in South Africa have always identified their mission dating from era of wars of resistance to the falling of institutional apartheid and ushering of democracy. While there has been some degree of doubt about capacity and character of youth of today, but that is not something new, such doubt existed from predecessors in all generations before they earned their worth. Whatever is the mission of youth of 2015 but there is now a shared perspective that such mission passes and anchors on acquiring education, qualification and skills.



When the students generation of 1976 protested in the streets of Johannesburg and other parts of the country on June 16, 1976, while possibility of being hassled by police was forever lingering but one fancies that they could have not predicted that it was fateful day where many would be either killed or injured. They could have known that they were marching in books of history to permanently shake the discourse of this country.

Only time will tell of the impact of the current wave of students’ protests against unaffordable university fees but one thing is certain fees structure in this country will never be the same again. This thought was prompt as one witnessed on 21st October heavy, as apartheid style heavily armed police shot, assaulted and arrested unarmed students at NMMU and various parts of Cape Town with scenes outside parliament being the epicentre, all because non-affording students dared to demand accessing higher education.

The reprehensible scenes outside parliament were completely dreadful if not sickening wherein students who wanted to access people’s parliament and be heard by authorities in demanding that midterm adjustment budget prioritise

“The necessary dynamic brought about by recent protest is participation of students not only from poor families, but also students from middle earners families.”

higher education funding as education have long been made priority and attainment of higher education qualification has become that essential. This demand has outmost rationale in that education funding of 0.6% from the total GDP is not comparable with other developing countries and wholly insufficient to respond to number of students who require absolute or partial aid from the state. And 12% expenditure on higher education of the education whole budget is highly disproportional if the system is to be functional.

Seeing some of the most prestigious universities in the country including UCT, Rhodes, Stellenbosch, Wits etc erupting into terrain of revolutionary change with student protest signal exciting future for the republic.

This has correctly stimulated a sense of urgency among many South Africans as acquiring a post-school qualification in this country has increasingly become unaffordable.

The necessary dynamic brought about by recent protest is participation of students not only from poor families, but also students from middle earners families. Who are not only underlining the structural inadequacy of NSFAS but further that the sky rocketing fees increment on yearly basis it’s just not only unaffordable by working-class families but defeating the very same success of the country as middle earners who earn just more than low R 120 000 NSFAS bracket are hugely indebted and simply cannot afford higher education fees. As to be expected unstainable higher education fees cut across racial and political differences.

To this extent ANC 53rd Mangaung Conference did recognise that categorising students who are financial deserving to be only those whom their combined household income is below R 120 000 is grossly inadequate considering the restructuring of working class underway wherein workers are casualised, laid off, short term contract, retrenched etc all these without benefits.

With the situation compounded by escalating rental amounts (as working class earns too little to qualify for bond and earns too



much to qualify for RDP house), high – priced public transport system, ever-increasing food, exorbitant medical aids, high fuel and electricity prices. All these taken into consideration come to final conclusion that cost of living in this country keep even working people trapped in the cycle of survival mode if not utter poverty.

Therefore 53rd ANC Mangaung Conference resolved that:

- “A newly structured national student financial aid system must be introduced to enable fee-free education from 2014 onwards.
- A policy dialogue model must be utilised to develop a fully-fledged costing model.
- The current NSFAS must be used as a basis for introducing the newly structured scheme”

So student cannot be faulted when in 2015 demand that #FeesMustFall consistent with the resolves of the ANC.

Therefore government with overwhelming mandate from electorate must have enough confidence not to fall on the bandwagon of hiding behind institutional autonomy. Which more often is advanced as an excuse to counter the responsibility to transform higher learning institutions and to sustain exclusionary and elitist paradigm that is racist and patriarchal to the core. For the past 21 years, government funding has perpetuated the status core through disproportional and skewed university funding model.

Also in this regard realisation of ANC resolutions is correctly demanded as 52nd Conference resolved on to “Progressively introduce free education for the poor until undergraduate level” and 53rd Mangaung Conference took it further by noting that “A draft policy on free higher education has been completed and the broad consultative process, including the social, economic analysis and impact and consultation with Treasury will ensue” and resolved that “the policy for free higher education to all undergraduate level



students will be finalized for adoption before the end of 2013”. Now we are 2015 and still waiting.

Scenes we are witnessing, including deployment of coercive arm of state to suppress legitimate and rationale demands of students is not new in this country, as almost every year, its annual necessity in not so “former disadvantaged institutions” like WSU, Fort Hare, MUT, UNIZULU, DUT, UWC, TURFLOP, UNIVEN etc take to the streets if they have any prospects of accessing higher education. One refers to these institutions as not so former disadvantaged as they are not now in any advantageous position as structural features like inadequate students funding, debilitating infrastructure, unable to afford top academics, insufficient residence, no private or third stream income, institutions of last resort, attracting poor students who

unable to pay fees etc with superficial changes but remain intact. Many among us, including myself without these protest may have never seen the door of even former disadvantaged institution.

While NSFAS enormous strides must be commended but if fees from institutions of higher learning are permitted to sky rocket as before this wave of protest, then

NSAFS would be chasing a moving target that is a bottom less pit and will never be able to adequately fund the intended recipients. High institutional fees will only keep more needy students out of the system and diminish any prospects of accessing higher education. As is unemployment is estimated around 35% and more than half of South African workers earning less than R 5 000 a month a lot of pressure will be put on NSFAS allocation as sustainable escape of structural poverty is attainment of higher education qualification.

Considering high – priced public transport system, escalating food, fuel and electricity prices, these fees will keep more people trapped in the cycle of poverty. Those outside very low NSFAS bracket will increasingly not afford higher education unless trajectory changes.



All being said and done contribution of NSFAS cannot be underestimated, only in 2015/16 financial year NSFAS has allocated 9.5 billion to needy students which is dramatic increase from the previous ten years or so let alone the meagre contribution by 1994. It must be applauded that this fund has benefited this year alone 220 000 students in universities and on TVET Colleges all academic deserving students are funded with figures about 200 000 students, totalling about 420 000 deserving students.

Since inception NSFAS has funded whooping 1.5 million black students whom otherwise like myself would have not entered university. Most of these graduates are first graduates in their poor families and providing a real opportunity to escape generation transitional poverty by attaining tertiary qualification. And yet those assisted by fund although finding working opportunities some have not been forthcoming with repayments, with the fund reporting that it is owed about half a billion which could gone a long way to fund many needy students.

The private sector which benefit immensely by raking millions of profit from exploiting blood and sweat of graduates who come out of these institution, can no longer be only left to reap rewards of investments they are unwilling to make. Experience has proven that no amount of kneeling and begging will change their attitudes, the only practical steps is introduction of higher education tax. Which must complemented by proportional individual high education tax from both public and private on all those who earn more four hundred thousand rands per annum.

In responding to legitimate and necessary student protest, it is short-sighted to place increment of fees squarely on door step of Minister of higher education while is equally dereliction of duty to want solution to higher education real problem outside the minister responsible for higher education. The reality of the matter is that ANC government of the day inclusive of its minister of higher education must wake up and smell the coffee that no amount of revolutionary rhetoric will sweet talk the nation, higher education tuition costs have over time simply spiralled out of affordability and they must fall.

The outcry however cannot only be restricted to falling of fees as means to access without interrogating the exclusionary higher education paradigm as former white institutions continue to sustain their elitism by introduction of point system and competency test for admission. Which has led to exclusion of many deserving poor students who pass their matric from rural and township areas which are by far concentrated by black working class. These conditionality while on face value appear to want to justify recruitment but in essence they have maintained that former white institution are enclave of children from middle class and elite, as research have clearly shown that resources follow success while working class children are condemned to not so former Bantustan institutions. Therefore only increasing funding without resolving access dynamics will inevitably aid this injustice.

Freeing of education must equally free the content of education as to unlock the potential of the African child from neo liberal semi colonial content that owing to our historical background remain dominant within our higher education institutions.

“Freeing of education must equally free the content of education as to unlock the potential of the African child from neo liberal semi colonial content that owing to our historical background remain dominant within our higher education institutions”

In final analysis it is evident that higher education fees have become unaffordable and structural impediment to access higher education. If the country is serious as it should be about arming its future with skills and qualification then higher education must be of quality and free.

Funding of that free education will require mixture of options including government reprioritising budget items, funding to universities to increase be above 2 -3% of GDP with extra funding going to higher education, funding of operations of universities therefore to be approved and budgeted by government as against individual students, consolidating all public sector funding of education into one scheme, (this public funding comes from municipalities, provinces, NSFAS, SETA's, entities, departments etc), special tax for private business for funding higher education, individual tax for those earning above R 400 000, consider strategic nationalisation of certain commanding heights of economy to fund higher education and state mining company may be accelerated to house state interests and dividends may be set aside to fund higher education.

Mawethu Rune is the SACP PEC Member



Free Education and second phase of transition

“Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; Higher Education and technical Training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and Scholarship awarded on basis of merit”, says the Freedom Charter a strategic document of the ANC. This profound statement, despite being promise-packed and vividly picturing the then racial evils in academia, one still wonders if at all current developments in education have any resemblances to it. The biggest question revolves around whether the ANC-led government fruitfully translated this imagination into reality, 2 decades into democracy.

A Ministerial review Committee formally commissioned by Minister Blade Nzimande in 2009 and made a report in 2010. Its task amongst others was to review the strengths and short comings of NSFAS. Professor Balintulo made virtuous recommendations placing emphasis on the need for free education. “Progressively provide free higher education to undergraduate level students from poor and working class communities, and students from lower middle income families should be provided student loans on favourable terms.” This stands nowhere far from the vision enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

Studying the Freedom Charter and the Ministerial Review Committee recommendations, I am convinced without any grain of doubt of the possibility of a free education in South Africa. If the ANC could commission a research in education similar to the one on the ANCYL-championed debate on Nationalisation of Mineral Resources. I uphold a view that the same exercise could be done, with specific reference to countries that offer free education like Cuba, Venezuela and Russia.

Russians have always shown a great concern for education. The right to education is stated in the Constitution of the Russian Federation. It is ensured by compulsory secondary schools, vocational schools, higher education institutions. It is also ensured by various evening courses and the system of state scholarship and grants. It is against this background that I believe South Africa can pick a leaf and take a leap towards the implementation of the free education at a Higher Education level using such benchmarks.

University finance structure

According to Higher Education South Africa (HESA) in 2004, the average government subsidy for 16 higher education institutions amounted to 43%, while income from student fees average of 28%, investment in 7,7% and research 5,6%. The government is already funding almost 50% in a form of subsidies that are distributed in terms of the funding formula. HESA (2014), student enrolment has almost doubled since 1994 and the student body is more demographically representative. Although funding for Higher Education has increased from R11 Billion in 2006 to R26 Billion in 2013, this has declined in per capita terms. Most of the Universities are able to run their operation based on the funding that is coming from DHET, without that funding very few can survive, therefore my conviction is justifiable of free education.

National Budget and Free Education

Some scholars including Politian's believes there no free education, whether that is correct or not, but the reality would be government must find funding to pay on behalf of the identified group that statement must pay. When one discusses this concept of free education, consideration of the other needs must also be looked to, such as free housing, Free Health Care, Peace and Security and Land Redistribution.

According the Budget vote speech, since Tertiary Education of South Africa (TEFSA), NFSAS has awarded approximately R50 billion in loans and bursaries to about 1, 5 million students. This writer is also a beneficiary of the NFSAS, it was not there, I would not have studied, I therefore without any doubt remain grateful and proud as a South African citizen.

It is clear, National Treasury is fighting to reduce budget deficit but on the other hand, the incomes or coffers are continuously declining, hence most of the positions in the Public Service have been frozen, it's based on the management of the budget. Bringing Free Education will need to be put into context; certain issues need to be looked too such as recommend by Prof. Balintulo report, such as free education for poor and working class students.



Transformation and Quality Education

What is currently taking place at the Basic Education is directly affecting Higher Education, in terms of its consequences. Our education system both basic and Higher education is still divided along the racial lines, so as the resources. Higher Education is also divided along the racial lines. We must welcome the attempts made by DHET towards the transformation in our institutions but we must also reflect to the fact that, some institutions are hiding behind institutional autonomy and other technicalities to advance the evil struggle of racism.

As I get to classes and corridors of the University, I am always convinced that to change this sector, we will need more Black, Coloured and Indians students to enrol for Masters and Doctorate Degrees in order to achieve transformation. The word transformation is very broad, but at the core we also need to revise the curriculum, but that cannot happen through government legislation only, you need all the historically disadvantaged groups to be highly represented in curriculum University committees such as Senate, Faculty boards and Departmental meetings.

I want to encourage the youth of South Africa while we are preparing for free education, we must also advance our academic profiles by enrolling for higher degrees. According to the approved Staffing South Africa's University Framework, a comprehensive approach to building capacity for the academics, that seeks to increase the number of black and women academics at all levels, we must continuously make use of these.

NFSAS and Free Education

Corruption by General Public is very worrying, where a child of mine workers, Gardner, House Assistant cannot study because of the child of the affording citizens is defrauding the system. A strategy to administer the NFSAS more efficiently, such as taking it from the Universities must be welcomed with hope that corruption will be dealt with rather than centralising it.

Despite the huge investments that are made by the government such as R9,5 billion for NFSAS for the current financial year, shortages are still experienced by the Universities. According to Prof Balintulo's report in 2009, an estimated amount of R2 billion was a short fall

regarding applications, with shortfalls estimated at R45 million per institutions.

A task team appointed by the President that will be composed of the Vice Chancellors, SRC's and all University stakeholders must be welcomed but in terms of the long term goal, I believe a solution must be a free education for the poor and working class students.

Ministry of Higher Education

The statement by Cde Blade Nzimande regarding free education for poor students, must be applauded without doubt, one needs to analyse what has happened in his office since he has started to be a Minister.

The first Education Minister Prof Bengu, made lot of calls that were not supported within the movement, he mentioned on number of occasions about the redress funding, but unfortunately he never got support from the Comrades in the ANC by that time. The Honourable Cde Pando was more of maintaining the status quo, but under the current Minister we have seen lot of improvements. The TVET Colleges receiving NFSAS, Bursaries, SETAS, and introduction of Historical Disadvantage grant as started in the current accounting period.

"I want to encourage the youth of South Africa while we are preparing for free education, we must also advance our academic profiles by enrolling for higher degrees."

I believe the minister is succeeding as the Minister and number of things improved and introduced, just to mention few

- Historically Disadvantaged Institutions Grant of R 2 Billion over the next five years
- New Universities
- Strong focus on Sector Education and Training Authorities
- TVET College given a special focus with huge amounts for infrastructure
- Build number of Residences across the country especial on historical Black Institutions
- Transformation is in the cards
- Higher Education sector is receiving a serious attention that it has never seen before
- Access on higher education has been a great success

I can mention number of things, that make me believe than indeed the current Minister takes education very serious. Whereas I recognize the progress made by the Ministry of Higher Education, I do not agree with the use of white consultants in the Universities that are



experiencing financial challenges, for instance most of the Universities that went under administration, the Ministry has used almost the same consultants, therefore in my view that is wrong.

Some weaknesses

- The use of the same consultants across the sector and I believe that is wrong.
- Universities are the largest exploiters; there are contract workers with 10 years and many more.
- Merger of the conditions of service is still a dream for the merged institutions.

Despite these challenges, I believe the Minister is succeeding overall as the Minister of Higher Education. The current Minister is capable of implementing Free Education; let the ruling organization make a pronouncement.

Second Phase of Transition

The University Vice Chancellors are always preparing for strikes at the beginning of the year, students sleep in the streets, many of them they still go to classes without food. Where is the second phase of transition on education? The Historical Black Institutions such as University of Western Cape, Fort Hare, WSU, University of Zululand, University of Venda, University of Limpopo, Cape Peninsula University are still experiencing financial difficulties, even the students in those campuses are still experiencing poverty and inequality consistently. Second phase of transition in the education perspective would mean to me, a radical change on the policies of government, the ruling party using its majority in parliament. It would mean increasing Education budget by 50% and big portion goes to previously disadvantaged institutions.

This transition need to be radical in terms of the new funding formula. I appreciate a new grant that consider the past imbalances on higher education as introduced in 2015. However, there is nothing radical about it, because it's a drop in the ocean. Studies conducted indicated that one of these institutions needed about R3 Billion to be in the standard that is internationally accepted. On the contrary, the total allocation is not even a R1 Billion for all the Universities. So, where is this transition?

Recommendations

- The marches and grievances that are organized by political organizations must be taken to National Treasury not to the DHET.
- Education is a societal matter. Therefore, University students must group themselves as students not as different political organizations to put pressure to the government.
- The country must do a benchmarking exercise against countries like Russia, Cuba, Venezuela and other that offer free Education within a period of 24 months.
- The government as led by the ANC must develop an approach to regulate fees across the country, through legislation.
- The concept of Free Education, need to explained from the beginning as, free education for the poor and working class student, but not for the rich i.e. to close the inequality gap.
 - A sustainability plan must be developed by the government, a special taxation or clear plan in terms of source of funding.
 - Free education must be implemented as resolved in the 2007 Polokwane Conference.
 - Develop a new funding formula that will speak to the funding of the poor and working class students.
- National Treasury must align the budget to speak to second phase of transition.
- A careful consideration need to be done, to avoid a situation like in the basic education sector, where private education is perceived to be more efficient and effective.

Let the vision of our liberation heroes Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo, Govern Mbeki, Albert Luthuli inspire us all for Free Education.

Dumekhaya Mditshwa, is the member of NEHAWU, ANC Ward 05 KSD.

“This transition need to be radical in terms of the new funding formula”



South African Communist Party
Eastern Cape, 22 October 2015

Press Statement:

“SACP EC supports legitimate demands of the students and condemn the brutal force by the police.”

The South African Communist Party (SACP) in the Eastern Cape has noted the student protests against fee increases in the Rhodes University other institutions of higher learning. We support the legitimate demands by the students as the proposed exorbitant fee increases seeks to deny them their right to education.

We are of the firm view that the demands of the students are completely justifiable and deserve support of the people. These proposed fee increases are an extreme form of financial exclusion, if unabated they will perpetual deny the children of the working class their right to higher education and training. These proposed fee increases lack logic as students are struggling to service debt at this point, how are they expected to afford these huge increments.

The proposed fee increases by the Rhodes University and other institutions represent commodification of education to the detriment of the working class. It represent gross abuse of the institutional autonomy and bourgeoisie orientated institutions with no interests of serving the working class children but maximisation of profits for huge salaries of the management.

The right to education, transformation and national development to benefit the people as a whole, the majority of whom being the working class and the poor, are far more important than the elitist claims of universities and colleges which are seeking to remain enclaves of a privileged few and thus perpetuate class inequality and domination.

Brutal force by the police:

As the SACP, we wish to condemn the use of brutal force by the police to students who are protesting for an access to education. We are shocked that the police has resorted to arresting peaceful students in attempt to clampdown the protests.

We are of the firm view that the firm view that the use of brutal force against the students serve as the agitation of violence. It also kills the spirit of the negotiations to settle the matter.

In the same vein as the SACP, we refuse to be defocused by factionalists who seek to highjack a genuine cause

for their narrow interests. These divisive and factional posturing by some individual political wannabes has nothing to do with the access to education but represent a factional and corporate capture of the movement by a greedy cartel.

As the SACP, we note the unacceptable personalization of the situation as attacks are directed at Minister Blade Nzimande who is our General Secretary. These attacks are nothing else but part of the rising anti-communist sentiments both inside and outside our movement in order to isolate comrade Nzimande and the SACP.

We have always asserted that the current funding model of individual student is not sustainable and funding of institutions is of one of the issues that need to be considered as basis for the provisioning of free education.

We support the calls for 0 % increase in 2016 and use this period to find a medium to long term solution as suggested by the department of higher education.

Issued by the SACP Eastern Cape.

Contact:

Siyabonga Mdodi
SACP Provincial Spokesperson
Mobile: +2783 358 8070
Office: +2740 635 1046/42
Fax: +2786 286 1281
Website: www.sacp.org.za
Facebook: SACP Eastern Cape

OR

Xolile Nqatha
SAC Provincial Secretary
Mobile: +27823135005
Email: xolilenqatha@gmail.com



HOW TO CONTACT THE SACP

SACP PROVINCIAL OFFICE

Siwani Avenue
Bisho
Tel: 0406350463
Fax: 086 600 7658
Email: nnonthoko@gmail.com
xolilenqatha@gmail.com
Administrator: Cde Noncedo Nothoko

ALFRED NZO DISTRICT OFFICE

Office B7
Rolyats Centre
Kokstad
4700
Tel: 0397273595
Fax: 0397274294
Email: sadtukok@futurenet.co.za
Administrator: Cde Xatyiswa

SKENJANA ROJI DISTRICT OFFICE

3rd Floor, Oxford House
Oxford Street
East London
5201
Contact: 0437228845
Email: ivy.yamile@samwu.telkoms.net
boycemelitafa@gmail.com
Administrator: Simphiwe Mkile

O.R TAMBO DISTRICT OFFICE

43 Nelson Mandela Avenue
Mthatha
5099
Contact: 0735536906
Fax: 0866687355
Email: smvunelo@ihlm.gov.za
mvunelos@webmail.co.za

JOE QOABI DISTRICT OFFICE

P.O. Box 144
Mount Fletcher
4770
Tel: 0791631631
Fax: 0865198221
Email: sydney.belebesi@gmail.com
ammpumpu@yahoo.co.za

K.K CHULE PADIYANA DISTRICT OFFICE

02 Mendi Street
Nomathamsanqa Location
Addo
6105
Tel: 0833194206
Fax: 0865055036
Block A, Unit 1
Bhisho Business Village

Email: klaasthabiso@gmail.com
Secretary: Thabiso Klaas

CHRIS HANI DISTRICT OFFICE

NEHAWU Building
Mathew Goniwe Regional Office
20 Robinson Road
Queenstown
5320
Tel: 0458383479
Fax: 0458396715
Email: sandilenyalambisa@gmail.com

MBUYISELO NGWENDA DISTRICT OFFICE

03 Mgwenyevinja Street
Kwa Dwesi
Port Elizabeth
6205
Tel: 0815155003
Fax: 0864074745
Email: npzothani@gmail.com
ntiti@mandelametro.gov.za

NCUMISA KONDLO DISTRICT OFFICE

02 Avalon Court
Butterworth
4960
Tel: 0605201851/ 0820910782
Fax: 0866002576
Email: siguve.ix@gmail.com
ldwadwa@yahoo.com

SOCIAL NETWORKS



SACP Eastern Cape



@SACP 1921

