



SACP

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

EASTERN CAPE

PEC BULLETIN

TRIBUTE TO AN ORGANIC WORKING CLASS INTELLECTUAL

#RIP BRA-NOMWA
1949 - 2015



11th 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.

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Xolile Nqatha
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Siyabulela Mbedla
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Next Edition: The theme for the next edition will be the "The Joe Slovo Month & the working class and the NDR": Kindly forward your contributions to simdodi@gmail.com on Tuesday, 06 January 2015.

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If we have chosen the position in life which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are benefits for all; then shall we experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.” –

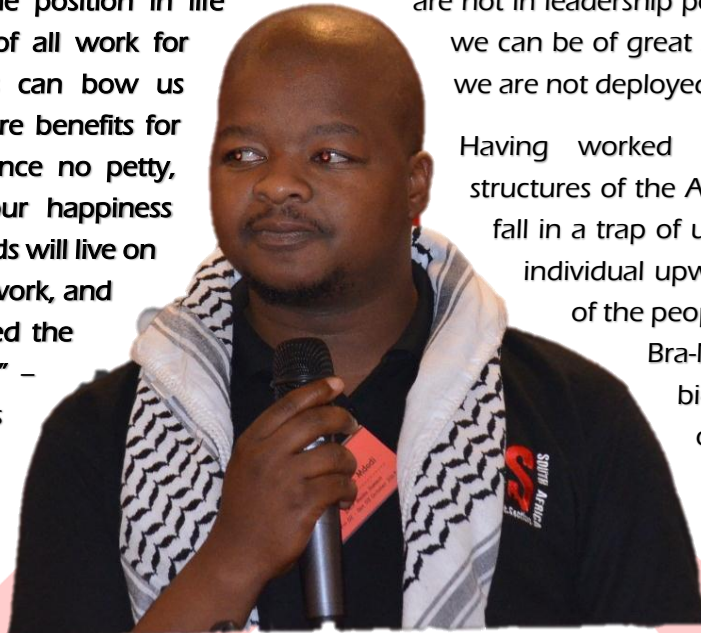
Karl Marx on the letter to his father, on November 10, 1837.

On the beautiful Monday of the 17 November 2015, we woke to the sad news of the passing of Cde Wonder Ndwebisa (Bra-Nomwa), SACP veteran, trade unionist, an organiser, an educator and the working class intellectual. Those news turned what was a beautiful morning to be the saddest morning and time in the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the entire congress movement.

It is for that reality that we have decided to release the 11th Edition of the SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin as a tribute to the late, Cde Wonder “Bra-Nomwa” Ndwebisa. We will publish tributes from the SACP, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), African National Congress (ANC), Veterans, etc.

We do this as the SACP EC PEC Bulletin to honour the life well lived. We are honouring a life that is lived with and for the workers and the poor. We do this because we are confident that noble people from within and outside the movement are shedding hot tears, as Karl Marx properly explains it.

Many of us have learned a lot from Bra-Nomwa, about life itself and politics, having spent much time with him in the party. He always told us to serve humanity without any intent of personal accumulation. He taught to never betray the will and the interest of humanity in our activism. We have drawn many important lessons from this great thinker of our times, including that we can make a valuable and meaningful contribution in the life of the organisation and that of the people even if we



are not in leadership positions. We have learnt that we can be of great service to the people even if we are not deployed to governance.

Having worked with Bra-Nomwa in the structures of the ANC, we have learned not to fall in a trap of using the ANC in a quest for individual upward mobility in the expense of the people. We have been taught by Bra-Nomwa that the ANC is bigger and important than all of us, and thus we should always respect it and work to strengthen it without fail. He always taught us to put the people at the centre of our planning, and the heart of our activism.

Bra-Nomwa as an organic working class intellectual, organiser and an educator has worked tirelessly in political education in the district. He travelled all corners of the district, every branch of the SACP, every branch to perform his task of political and ideological training.

It is in this context that we have worked with him in establishing and sustaining the Govan Mbeki Communist University (GMCU). His strategic contribution to the GMCU shall never be forgotten. We shall in his memory sustain the life of the GMCU as a strategic political school of our party.

We say goodbye to an outstanding leader of the workers and the poor, an outstanding father to the young people in the movement. We pay tribute to the leader who lived his entire life as a true embodiment of the ANC led alliance, as he was well grounded amongst the people.

The lasting and befitting monument we should build in memory of Bra-Nomwa is to serve the people with passion. It is to combat corruption which we know he greatly despised. We should in Bra-Nomwa’s memory free the movement from brutal corporate capture and factionalism, and place it as the tool in the hands of the people. *Bra-Nomwa’s life will never fit in a coffin, May his soul rest in eternal peace!*

Siyabonga Mdodi, SACP Eastern Cape Provincial Spokesperson.

"A TRIBUTE TO A SIMPLE HUMAN BEING, BUT HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED "

The heart breaking news I received in the morning of November 17th of the passing away of my leader comrade Wonder Ndwebisa, affectionately known as "Bra-Nomwa", reminded me of the truth of being a communist (or aspiring communist).

For to be communist is to be a thorough going human being. To be human, is to feel the loss, the anger and pain of fellow human beings and be against injustice wherever it takes place. Above all, it is to act against injustice and work in solidarity with others facing difficulties.

I have known comrade Bra-Nomwa for the past twenty five (25) years having met and known him in the party (SACP) and last saw him in the party (SACP). If there is an example of a principled and consistent human being, with unmatched and unconditional love for our people, our SACP and the ANC led broad movement, it is comrade Ndwebisa. We drew very close with comrade Wonder having worked with him in the old East London Branch of the Party, the old Amathole District in which I joined him already serving as a District Executive Committee member.

I also had the privilege to serve with him after being elected as District Secretary in the same district of which he was very instrumental in our decision to rename the district as Skenjana Roji District. He spoke very fondly of the late comrade Skenjana Isaac Roji and he had great respect for "Ike's" incisive ideas as he used to call him.

Comrade Wonder's instructive example of a true communist, reminds me of what an SACP veteran Oscar Mbetha once said, *"Marxism is like a true witchcraft, once it is engrained in you, it dies with you or you betray it"*.

Comrade Ndwebisa has died as a true communist and for more than forty (40) years of his life he remained true and a loyal member of our party at all

times. For him to be a member of the party was not a fashion but a lifelong commitment. He was not a Juke Box, which you put money and determine a song you want to play, he was not a member of a member and his soul was not for sale.

Many have worked with him but decided to betray the party only use it for self-serving reasons. They have secured positions in the ANC, and in the deployment for being the sharpest instruments of party enemies and detractors, vulgarising our Marxism to

attack our party and its leaders. Some are currently working to destroy the progressive trade unions comrade Wonder worked to build throughout his life.

He worked to build progressive trade unions in our country like all great communists before him. A very committed and industrious cadre, whose work in servicing workers and SACP branches remains unparalleled throughout the province. He did not own a car nor access to a trade union or SACP car, yet he has been in many parts of the province in particular the then Boarder, Amathole and the current Buffalo City Region.

He was an organic scholar of Marxist-Leninist theory and a dedicated reader who always tested his understanding through engaging all comrades in gatherings or when you meet him in the street. He also mastered the art of asking questions for others and also made very critical additions in political reports during discussions. Indeed an organic intellectual is no more! We are poorer with his departure.

A very simple human being always concerned about others and always expressed discomfort when you paid attention to his personal circumstances. For all these years we had to plan him and I have been among those who would be asked by comrades to approach him. I must confess, this was never an easy task for the man was very stubborn and very private.

"We cannot be sure of having something to live for, unless we are willing to die for it."



On behalf of the SACP and myself, we are greatly privileged to have had comrade Wonder as our member. We will forever be indebted to him and his family of which he left them nothing in material terms, and it can be fairly argued that they have benefited less compare to the rest of humanity.

Put differently, we can benefit as individuals only if the rest of humanity is truly free. Indeed, this is a man over his passing are shared the hot tears of a noble people for he choose serving people as his profession. I salute comrade Wonder for he lived his life with clear willingness to die for the workers and the poor as comrade Che Guevara once said, "We cannot be sure of having something to leave for unless we are willing to die for it."

Hamba kahle qhawe lamaqhawe!

Socialism or death!

Xolile Nqatha, SACP Eastern Cape Provincial Secretary.

TRIBUTE FROM COSATU

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in the Eastern Cape deeply saddened that we learned of the passing away of Comrade Wonder Ndwebisa affectionately known as "Ta Nomwa" on 17 November 2015

Comrade Wonder "Bra-Nomwa" Ndwebisa became a member of South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) that was led by the late Comrade Thozamile Gqwetha, Comrade Sisa Njikelana, Comrade Bangumzi Sifingo and others in its formative years until it was banned.

When South African Railway & Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) was formed, Comrade Wonder became its organizer until 1995. In 1996 he was elected as SARHWU Regional Secretary in Border Region. It was during his term of office that merger was facilitated between Port Elizabeth Region and Border Region which resulted in Eastern Cape Region. He played a leading role during the merger process.

In 1998 he declined nomination and refused to serve as the Regional Secretary for the second term. He then became an organizer again. His passion has always been being close to the workers

In 2000 SARHWU merged with T&GWU (Transport & General Workers Union) in line with a COSATU Resolution on mergers of unions organised in the same scope. He carried on as a SATAWU Organizer until his retirement in 2013. He worked across the sectors of SATAWU, many of them vulnerable. These sectors include; Cleaning, Security, Rail, Passenger, Aviation, Road Freight, Support Services, Taxi and Maritime.

As a senior Comrade in the movement, many of us young and old alike, we have learnt a lot from him. His seniority, not only in terms of age, but deeper political clarity has been a source of inspiration.

Comrade "Nomwa" touched our lives in a myriad of ways. His smile opened the hearts of those he interacted with. His sense of humour unlocked tense situations. The warmth of his heart made everyone feel the spirit of comradeship in the air. His fountain of wisdom gratified some and astonished the rest.

Comrade "Nomwa" was the true embodiment of the Alliance. His astuteness in understanding the Alliance was envied by many.

"Bra-Nomwa" was a Colossus, not in physical structure but a political giant who dedicated his entire life to the cause of liberating the working class.

Vladimir Lenin once said "Man's consciousness not only reflects the objective world, but creates it" Comrade "Nomwa" put a living meaning to these words. Comrade "Nomwa" passed away during a time the SACP is leading a Financial Sector Campaign. It is a campaign that was very close to his heart. He was very passionate about it.

Che Guevara, in remarking about death had this to say "Whenever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear and another hand reaches out to take up our arms".

We salute his heroism, May his dear soul rest in peace

By Xolani Malamlela - COSATU Provincial Secretary



TRIBUTE FROM SANCO

To the Ndwebisa family; members of the South African Communist Party (SACP), Comrades present here. It is a singular honour to be with you today, to celebrate a life of comrade who walked amongst us whilst been an unrecognised Giant of Liberator of the poor. As the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), we want to thank you for sharing Comrade Wonder with us. His struggle was your struggle. His triumph was your triumph. Thank you Ndwebisa Family and the SACP for ideologically nurturing the leader of Bra-Nomwa's calibre. It is difficult to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person more so a person who made meaningful contributions in our lives.

The South African National Civic Organisation [SANCO] joins the people of Buffalo City and the Eastern Cape in expressing its most sincere condolences to the entire family of Comrade Nomwa on the loss of what and should be correctly described as one of the greatest sons the Duncan Village ever had.

We also wish to use this opportunity to express our solidarity with the South African Communist Party (SACP), an organisation that produced him and that he also served with distinction, as well as all his colleagues and comrades in our broader liberation movement.

The passing of comrade Wonder marks an end to the life of one of the greatest revolutionaries. As part of the masses that made history, Cde Wonder's contribution in the struggle for freedom was located and steered in the collective membership and leadership of our revolutionary national liberation movement as led by the ANC. In Cde Wonder's we had a brave and courageous soldier, patriot and a simply a true comrade, this comrade was a true revolutionary guided by great feelings of love for his people.

Cde Wonder touched the very heart of the Poor, because he knew our pain, and eased it by giving us Hope, giving us courage, giving us a way forward.

The one major lesson we need to learn from Cde Wonder and his generation of leaders was their commitment to principled unity within each of our

Alliance formations as well as the unity of our Alliance as a whole and that of the entire mass democratic movement.

Their generation struggled to build and cement the unity of our Alliance, and we therefore owe it to the memories of these comrades to preserve the unity of our Alliance. Let those who do not understand the extent to which blood was spilt in pursuance of Alliance unity be reminded not to throw mud at the legacy and memory of the likes of Cde Wonder by being reckless and gambling with the unity of our Alliance.

I quote a Former Giant Cde Nelson Mandela: "It is not the kings and generals that make history but the masses of the people, the workers, the peasants..." He, Comrade Nomwa made history.

We will never see the likes of Cde Wonder again. But let me say to the young people of Duncan Village, BCM and the province. You can make his life's work your own. Wake up to the responsibilities you have towards others and yourself. Set the selfish and Materialistic needs aside and build a Better tomorrow.

In honour of this gallant fighter SANCO will intensify the struggle against all forms of inequality, including intensifying the struggle for socialism, as the only political and economic solution to the problems facing humanity. Cde Wonder passes on when the ANC is under attack. I want to on behalf SANCO as an organisation pledge our undivided support to change such fortunes and ensure an ANC resounding victory come 2016.

Comrade Wonder joins Madiba the unifier and will report to the fallen stalwarts, we will secure an ANC victory come 2016! Through the work we do now even during this difficult time. As SANCO we call upon all comrades to emulate the example of Comrade Wonder's selflessness, sacrifice, commitment and service to his people. Let's roll up our sleeves and without compromise be true to the calling of being selfless for the people. SANCO says Hamba kahle!

By Dan Bolman, SANCO Provincial Deputy Secretary.



TRIBUTE FROM THE MKMVA.

Today we gathered here to pay our last respect to this gallant revolutionary and the accolade of a revolutionary, because he believed that change must come to South Africa at all cost including the possibility of an armed struggle.

He believed that the struggle cannot be won by only one segment of our society but an all-inclusive effort that epitomizes the slogan of “organize or starve” and that “an injury to one is an injury to all”, the essence that was embodied in our slogan “Amandla Ngawethu”

Cde Nomwa as affectionately known was a communist of note whom I used to refer to as a Bolshevik. When we returned from exile, I was amongst those who were deployed by South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP) to strengthen the trade union, South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (SARHWU), as well as the SACTU itself. My first deployment with SARHWU was to work as its Regional secretary here in the Eastern Cape.

This is when I met Nomwa and the late Cde Nomalanga who both made me feel welcomed and introduced me across the organized and unorganized railway workers. Cde Nomwa had all the makings of a revolutionary, a well-grounded communist. He lived his life as trues communist till his last breath, he was a disciplined, industrious and a modest cadre.

These three characteristics are ordinarily found in true revolutionaries and good communists. Cde Nomwa was not like a bottle of peanut butter with a black cat picture but something else inside. He was what you see in him, a true revolutionary. He believed in change at all costs by all means at our disposals, for workers when all was done the only weapon in their hands was the strike. When the industrial actions were not permitted by law in South

Africa, Nomwa believed that other means were imperative to be explored to bring back responsiveness senses to the employer.

He was always guided by Marxism-Leninism in each political epoch. He would always apply dialectics in his approach. He used to say to us that in the African National Congress (ANC), the application of “Unity and the struggle of opposites” was the only way to bring all forces of change to pursue the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

He believed that the qualitative changes in the ANC for an effective liberation movement could be enhanced by swelling of the ranks by the working class. The proletariat remains the bedrock of the ANC and the alliance. I repeat, Nomwa displayed the key profiles of a true revolutionary, which amongst others are:

Disciplined, ensuring that he is leading by a force of unblemished example, never late at work, inculcated intolerance of shopsteward to ill-discipline and that they, the shopstewards were a conduit between workers and the management. There was an incident when all of us refused to represent workers who claimed to have been beaten up by the white manage but the opposite was the truth. Nomwa represented those workers and the white manager was dismissed.

Industrious, Cde Nomwa left nothing to chance, he prepared himself for the worst outcome as to ensure that the workers were victorious.

Modest, Cde Nomwa viewed his revolutionary gains not to claim but found impetus from his gut conviction and never claimed these victories as a personal achievement. His spirit was more of being a giving hand rather than mindfulness of always receiving.

This is Diwaks, Nomwa that I have known. To him sithi lala ngoxolo Nkokheli, Uqgatso ulufezile.

By: Sikhunbuzo Majeke – MKMVA and former leader of SACTU.

**TRIBUTE FROM THE GOVAN MBEKI COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY
(GMCU)**

On receiving most regrettable news on morning of 17 November 2015 that death has cropped by night and robbed us a martyr, an internationalist, an organic working class intellectual, a renowned educator and complete organiser, Cde Wonder Ndwebisa affectionally known as "Bra-Nomwa", the best among us. Gaping hole is still bleeding furiously on all hearts of progressive and left forces. We have been dealt a heavy blow!! Exclaimed left forces.

Death like a thief and coward that it is, was never ready to confront us head on during the day but crawls and steal by night. All revolutionaries must at least find sollicit in old Chinese proverb that:

"A life is never ended until all the lives it has touched have ended too." So, we know that death will not end the life of Bra-Nomwa but as long as all people's organisation, who have been moulded by finer touching's of Bra-Nomwa. Therefore his teachings, wisdom, aspirations, deeds will not die but Bra-Nomwa will only multiply.

A cadre born out of working class family and his conviction heightened by harsh conditions of illegitimate apartheid. His outmost clarity was born out harsh conditions of the time. He had to find work and provide, soonest for his family. Conditions not of his choosing, born out him not a communist of convenience but principled communist of conviction, determined to defeat and end the system that oppressed and exploit his people.

Bra-Nomwa was indeed nursing a passionate hatred of capitalism and we dare not fail in taking the baton and striking a decisive blow on the cruel and inhuman system of capitalism, which breeds poverty, inequality and unemployment.

At a day we were bidding farewell to Bra Nomwa, the revolutionary life describing words of James Baldwin were so sincere as if it was Bra-Nomwa saying them to us that: "I am what time,

circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also, much more than that. So are we all". True to Bra-Nomwa's life and character. He never wanted us to be contend with what was obtaining or be delusional by contemporary difficulties. He insisted that as much as we what circumstances and history have made of us, but we are all much more and we should strive to collectively make our country and the world a better place to live in and we can.

At a moment wherein darkness and fatigue was tempting to overwhelm us, in that week in and week out we were burying veterans of our movement and beginning to ask ourselves whether they depart contend of what we are doing with their organisation. Bra-Nomwa was quick to remind us of wise words of the Archbishop of Marxism and Leninism, Karl Marx that

"Darkness does not exist but what we call darkness is actually the absence of light. You cannot create darkness all you do is simply remove light and boom you have darkness but you can create light".

This then instruct all of us to remain aware that insurance of the people is their organisation and therefore we must for the moment we are privileged to be part of these organisation treat them with care and dedication.

As long as masses and truth are our side, we are reminded to never be irritated to act with bitterness or be provoked to react emotionally for we know that difficult and dark moments are not permanent and with masses and truth on our side we shall triumph.

In memory of Bra-Nomwa we must double our efforts in building people's organisations, be loyal to the people and service our communities. In his memory capital and his class collaborators pretending to be with us must be very worried, we must never conveniently hide the truth for unprincipled unity, we must speak against corruption even to our personal isolation and we must isolate those who do not have people interest.

As the Govan Mbeki Communist University (GMCU), we say Hamba Kahle qabane, you are among us.

By: Mawethu Rune – GMCU lecturer.



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