



# SACP

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

## EASTERN CAPE

# PEC BULLETIN

#JUNE'76

YOUTH MONTH



## 17th 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Mosh

**Next Edition:** Kindly forward your contributions to [simdodi@gmail.com](mailto:simdodi@gmail.com) before Friday, 19 August 2016.

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# EDITORIAL NOTES

This month of June, we are celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the June 16, 1976 uprising that took place in Soweto. The day when the young people of South Africa took to the street to challenge the might of the then illegitimate apartheid government.



The young people of our land made it unequivocal clear that they are rejecting the imperialist indoctrination through the culture imposed through education. It is the heroic struggles waged for more than 300 years of colonial and apartheid oppression that we still have our languages as African Majority, as in many societies, oppressors managed to destroy even cultures and heritages of the aborigines. The late Julius Nyerere of Tanzania once commented on the importance of education and said *"Education is not neutral it is either designed to oppress people or to liberate them"*.

We dedicate this 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of our monthly bulletin to honour the South African youth of 1976 and other generations who fought fearlessly for the freedom we now enjoy. It is their fearless efforts that contributed immensely in bringing the new order in this country. For that we shall forever be grateful to them, in our efforts to build a democratic, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, they should remain in our minds. In the face of young people being involved in destroying property in various protests even where there are genuine demands, it is important that we keep the words of Moses Kotane when he said *"To the youth of our country, the future of South Africa is in your hands and it will be what you make it to be"*

As we work to consolidate, deepen and advance the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) as the ANC led movement, those who sacrificed for this country should always be on our minds. As we make the South African Economy benefit the South African working class through re-industrialization, massive infrastructure roll out, alternative energy, rural and agrarian reform and many other programmes.

As we consolidated ground in preparations of the 2016 Local Government Elections, we should work tirelessly for the overwhelming victory of the African National Congress (ANC), in doing so we should hide nothing from the masses and tell no lies. We must go to the

most difficult areas and tell the people what the ANC government has been able to deliver in the local government, and what has internal and external weaknesses been in doing this work.

We must tell the people that the ANC is the only political organisations capable of delivering to the needs and aspirations of the people. It has a clear track record of good delivery since 1994.

- The ANC led government has built approximately 4 million houses, benefiting more than 16 million South Africans.
- Electrified over 7 million houses on a non-racial basis.
- This is 2 million more than the mere 5 million houses electrified by successive colonial and apartheid regimes on racist basis in the 100 years to 1994, since the first household electricity connection is Cape Town in 1894.
- In the period between 2001 and 2014 alone, more than 2 million households benefited from indigent support services.
- The ANC led government has increased access to clean water services from 61.3 % in 2001 to 90% of households in 2014, including rural areas that were systemically under-developed by successive colonial and apartheid regimes.
- Increased free basic water services dramatically from over 7 million households in 2007 to over 11 million in households in 2013.
- Expanded access to basic sanitation services from 62.3% in 2002 to 79.5% of households in 2014.
- Build decent, ventilated and healthy toilets in many rural areas across the country.

The SACP says let's strengthen the participatory democracy and the people's power through local government. Together we fought and defeated the apartheid, together we can build better communities.

The SACP Eastern Cape Red Brigade, known as the Ncumisa Kondlo Detachment is on the ground working to secure the victory of the people's camp.

May you have a revolutionary read!

*Siyabonga Mdodi – SACP Provincial Spokesperson,  
Editor of the SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin.*



# "WHAT WE DO WITH YOUTH AND STUDENTS OF TODAY IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR THE NATION"

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the nation attention was once more glued on commemorating the 1976 June 16<sup>th</sup> youth, with events across the country. It will be reductionist to commemorate youth day as if history happen in straight line as if was a spontaneous event of 16<sup>th</sup> June 1976 and not as a culmination of context and struggle outside and within the country, as if it was not a series of events pre and post the day, with inserted sense of urgency in the struggle for freedom and planting of a seed which gave birth to generation of young lions. Furthermore it cannot just be isolated to Soweto tragic events and not connect with youth uprising across the country. It is important to appreciate that 16 June 1976 did not start on 16 June 1976 and surely did not end on 16 June 1976. Series of youth generations have distinguished themselves as motives of change.

As we salute the 1976 generation, we must bear in mind that while in content their struggle was dominantly about rejection of Afrikaans as medium of instruction and therefore bolstering the language of the oppressor. But fundamentally its content was in appreciation that language is a carrier of culture, heritage, civilisation, development etc. Therefore, their struggle informs today in context in that their struggle of total liberation of the people from absolute social, cultural and economic domination by the oppressor must intensify. If their struggle is not won by youth of today, then exist a possibility that majority of African youth would never realise their being and potential and only live a life that was human engineered for them to be sub beings in frame of the oppressor of yesterday and never imagine tomorrow.

Youth of 76 understood as was for all generations of youth words of Frederick Douglass in that "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will" and further that words in

*"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."*

This rallying theme of youth being crafters of their own future earned youth of yesteryears their rightful reference as 'Young lions', 'uFasimba', 'young intelligentsia' etc. These generations made meaning of vigour, energy, impatience for change, convictions, this coupled with its bravery, dynamism, foresight, stamina, courage which are the hallmarks of youth strata in transition of defining the future and role in society they are to inherit.

This bravery of youth can be traced in every epoch of human evolution of recorded history, right from period

*"Language is a carrier of culture, heritage, civilisation, development, etc"*

of youthful revelations by Jesus Christ at about 30 years or class perspective formulations of Karl Marx in about similar 30-year-old youthful age, to closer home King Shaka lived for only 37 years yet his spear to date is a signal of defending his people sovereignty.

Wisdom of John Dube and W.B Rubusana youthful years in establishment of ANC in the 1912 is source of inspiration as long as ANC lives.

At the core of the insight thinking on establishment of Communist Party in 1921 and entrenching of trade unionism in South Africa were young people. It can be successful argued that for South African liberation owes a great deal to cohort youth league of 1944 visionary generation of Anton Lembede, Ashby Mda, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo. When Apartheid government intensified its repressive screws it was young people who dared the system and went into exile in formation of Umkhonto Wesizwe in 1960's, internal and external resistance till 1994, student uprising in 1970's, intensification of boycotts, pickets etc during UDF periods in the 1980's, defeating apartheid and ushering freedom in 1994.



On demise of apartheid and ushering of democracy youth of the time under leadership of Peter Mokaba heeded to words of Che Guevara in that *"The revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall"*, hence project to reconstruct of country still required vigilant youth and that saw youth being active agents in building democracy in 1990's and recently protest against fees on 2015 brought about the necessary dynamic and participation of students not only from poor families, but also students from middle earners families. Protesting about the structural inadequacy of higher education funding and access barriers but further the sky rocketing fees increment on yearly basis being just not unaffordable for working families but also middle earners who earn just more than low R 120 000 NSAFS bracket whom are hugely indebted and simply cannot afford higher education fees. Who can forget on how works of Mr Nkosi an HIV / AIDS activist child whom became a powerful speaker on changing the HIV fight paradigm in South Africa.

As we salute these generations, their efforts bear testimony and sum up that youth have a special space in history and determinants of what their future hold.

It can therefore be successfully argued that all movements across the world places a strategic importance to youth because young people could be considered as "a white sheet of paper" on which anything could be printed. This anything means youth could be catalyst of great revolutions and as yet could be catalyst of most reactionary and destructive tendencies, it all depends on what gets "printed on the white sheet", which is their minds. Philosophy and ideologies in this context.

It is without doubt that what we do with our youth and its organs today will define whether program of creating united, non-racial, non-sexiest, democratic and prosperous society is to be realized.

If this country is to grow or stagnate largely depends on the young people of today. The path this country it is to take in its construction depends largely on the force of youth. The matter of youth therefore becomes a matter of life and death for the nation. It is also one of the decisive factors for the success or failure of the future of South Africa.

Chinese outstanding leader Chair Mao says on responding to question of How should we judge if a youth is revolutionary? ... *He says there can be only one criterion, namely, whether or not he is willing to integrate himself with the broad masses of workers and peasants and does so in practice ...*" (On the Orientation of the Youth Movement, May 1939)

While formal apartheid and institutionalised segregation, disfranchisement, oppression, exclusion and domination of African majority formally ended in 1994 but its socio economic exclusionary policies and choices had far reaching ramifications which are felt by youth of today in South Africa. To make it worse the enemy becomes blurred as compared to clear cut target as was during apartheid dark days.

The scientific profile of youth was laid bare by Statistician-General Pali Lehohla on report entitled 'The Social Profile of Youth, 2009 – 2014', it is interesting to note among other things that the percentage of black African professional, managerial and technical workers aged 25 to 34 has dropped by 2% over the past 20 years, leaving this generation less skilled than previous ones – and less skilled than every other race and age group.

Statistician General did mention that "When parents are better equipped than the children, it's a sign of regression,"

More striking was a reflection of failing policy interventions, particularly in education and youth employment. Further was that, it remains twice as difficult for a black African and colored graduate to secure a job than their colleagues graduating from the same university.

Research outcomes also confirm that jobs are linked to education levels. Those with not even a matric are most likely to remain unemployed – consistently at 57%, while in between 2009 – 2015 those with matric recorded unchanged unemployment levels of 38%, those with other tertiary education other than university degrees dropped to 4% in 2014.

Young people aged 15 to 34 continue to make up the bulk of the unemployed: two thirds, or 5-million, on the strict definition of being able, willing and actively seeking work, but not having a job. This rises to 75% on the expanded definition, which includes those too



discouraged to try to find work alongside those studying or doing unpaid work in the home like caring for the elderly or children.

This profile report confirms that majority of young people still remain unemployed, living in poverty and either not skilled or nor at school. Vulnerable youth which is super exploited and/or either not at work or school is found largely among not with qualifications. Furthermore, it reveals that wheels of change are not changing fast enough and policy interventions are not getting desired outcomes.

If that is, then a question arises as who constitute youth not just an as an academic or rhetorical question but a scientific basis as to quantify necessary intervention and needs of youth. If these interventions are to succeed, they must forever be rooted on understanding the dynamics and mobility of the young people.

Phuong and Nguyen in Youth and the State in Contemporary Socialist Vietnam provides useful theory as who is youth and how to locate and understand the whole notion of youth, to begin with 'youth' is frequently used and perceived as a categorisation of people based on their age, although there is no clear theoretical basis for such a categorisation and it is difficult to define it precisely. Age and the concept of youth, as a matter of fact, refer to different phenomena, with the former referring to a biological category and the latter – as a subject of social studies – referring to a social and cultural category or construct.

Whilst biological processes seem to be acknowledged as similar everywhere, social and cultural experiences of youth vary greatly. As such, it is argued that the categorical approach is overly simplistic and of an "ahistorical and static nature", assuming similarities among those within the age category whilst overlooking the differences and disregarding continuities linking past, present and future.

Youth, therefore, needs to be considered in relation to specific social, cultural, political, and economic conditions. An argument can be sustained that youth is a stage and a transition in the life course which is socially, culturally and institutionally constructed.

If youth of today has to succeed, it's of necessity that its organisations be it choirs, cultural groups, stokvels,

poetry groups and more important youth political organisation must be become more agile, flexible, adaptable and connected with aspirations of youth than what is currently obtaining which fashion youth organisation on shadow of their glorious past, preoccupied with social upward mobility and careerism.

It is further important to note that youth are their own liberators and no cohort or generation will make any favours for them.

Karl Marx makes an interesting observation in this regard in that *"Everything which exist, exist of necessity. But equally everything which exists is doomed to perish, to be transformed into something else. Thus what is "necessary" in one time or place becomes "unnecessary" in another. Everything begets its opposite which is destined to overcome and negate it."*

Meaning that whilst this concept remains true and scientifically correct for all living beings, it applies much more to youth organizations. An organisation is formed out of a need or a necessity by a group of individuals with a common aspiration. Once that organization has served its purpose, by meeting the needs of its members, it has two choices to either transform itself or seize to exist.

It follows that organization of youth and students must constantly review and adapt themselves to realities of today, fully cognisant of the forever changing, imposed conditions and balance of forces at play.

We must continue to debate and find resolutions on how we can adapt to the environmental changes of our terrain without losing the founding principles. Generations before adapted to their imposed conditions and now regardless of reservations of old guard at times, youth must embrace change realisation that change is in an inevitable part of society. Progressive youth organization should position themselves in such way that they are organisations of today or risk losing any high moral ground and earning claim that they are leading young people in this country.

**Mawethu Rune – SACP PEC Member, ANCYL PEC Member, Former National Deputy Chairperson of YCLSA, Former President of SASCO.**



# "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF '76 UPRISING TO THE YCL"

In June 1976, thousands of youth from across South Africa marched for better education and for a better future. They clashed with the police and

In the ensuing violence about 700 young people were killed. Hector Pieterse was one of those brave, bold and courageous young persons killed by the merciless forces of the apartheid regime.

The burning image that Sam Nzima captured of Hector Pieterse's limp body being carried by Mbuyisa Makhubu while his sister Antoinette ran beside him remains a permanent reminder of the great sacrifices made for all that we have today. This globally celebrated picture later symbolised the role played by young South Africans of 1976 in defeating the brutal, oppressive and unjust system of apartheid.

We are who we are today, enjoying freedoms that were fought for and won through blood by many generations over many decades starting from the generation of 1652, which fought tirelessly to defend what belongs to them to the generation of 1976 through their commitment to fight against the rule of apartheid. They fought a system that believed in the oppression and exploitation of the majority of our people as its governing policy, an inhuman system which promoted the slavery of the people of this country.

This year we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1976 youth uprising and mark 40 years since the ruthless and brutal killing of the innocent and courageous youth of our soil by the illegitimate regime of white supremacy. The generation of 1976 redefined its purpose, its role and waged an open fight against the evil system of apartheid and its masters.

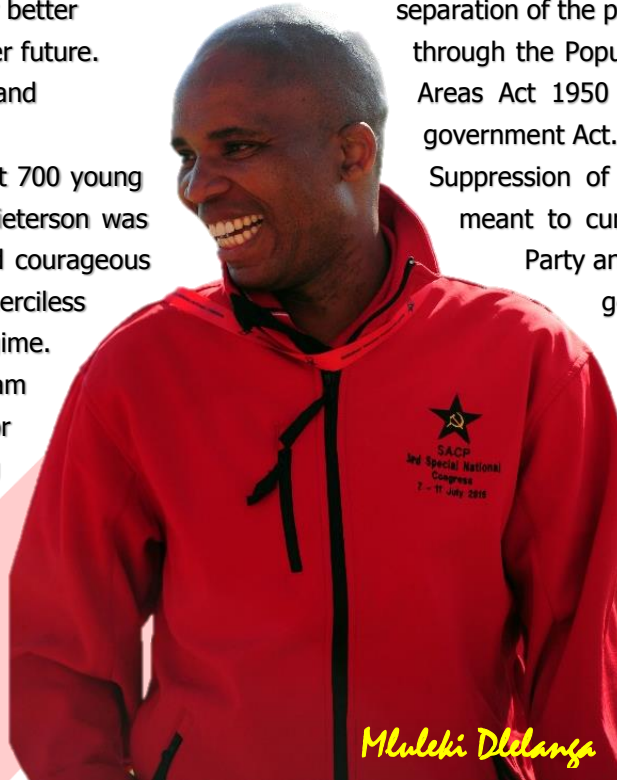
*The generation of 1976 redefined its purpose, its role and waged an open fight against the evil system of apartheid and its masters.*

At the core of this evil system of apartheid was the separation of the people based on their colour and race through the Population Registration Act 1950, Group Areas Act 1950 and the Promotion of Bantu Self-government Act. These were later followed by the Suppression of Communism Act 1950, which was meant to curb the influence of the Communist Party and other formations that opposed the government's apartheid policy, including the earlier Land Act of 1913, which deprived our people of their rights to land, farming and property ownership, and which prevented them from participating in the economic development of their own country.

Protests:

In response, our people reorganised themselves and mobilised every citizen against the evil practices of the apartheid regime. From the first slogan "zemnka inkomo magwala ndini" followed by "mzulu, mxhosa msuthu zanyani" and later "amandla ngawethu". These developments were followed by a series of organised protests, which expressed their total rejection of apartheid rule. These protests include the defiance campaign of 1952, the anti-Pass Law campaign of 1956, the formation of SACTU in 1955 which united all workers of our country, and the Congress of the People in Kliptown, Soweto, in 1955, which adopted a charter of a vision for a new South Africa.

The real Congress of the People completely rejected apartheid laws and defined their freedom, expressed in the Freedom Charter as a living document for the creation of a new South Africa. They envisaged an equal, united and better South Africa for all our people irrespective of class, race and gender. As stated at the beginning of the Freedom Charter, South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people. Our people had been



Mluleki Dledanga



robbed of their birth right, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and in-equality and the real Congress of the People adopted the Charter as a vision for a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.



The generation of 1976 continued with that journey, a journey along the path of struggle which evolved over many decades from different conditions led by many generations. The generation of 1976 dedicated its energies, time, and lives to the revolutionary cause of our people, sacrificing its blood to nourish the tree of our freedom. It was guided by high levels of revolutionary conduct, discipline with high moral values and above all a sense of love for its people and its country.

For those of the generation of 1976, the struggle was not only about education for themselves, but about complete freedom for all our people. To them the struggle was about fighting for land access for the landless. It was about fighting for health care for the elderly and the sick citizens who cannot afford it. It was about free and compulsory education. An education system that teaches our youth to love its people, culture and traditions. It was about creating work opportunities for all; and above all, it was about fair and equal redistribution of our country's economy.

### **On our shoulders**

To the YCLSA and the youth of our country, we owe much too many generations, in particular the generation of 1976, a committed, dedicated generation that fought with bare hands against a most ruthless and evil system, and we dare not fail their ideas, their blood

and their freedoms. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to fulfil or betray the mission of building an equal, just and better South Africa, a South Africa free of woman and child abuse, free of crime and corruption, a South Africa that fights against substance abuse and HIV-Aids.



It is upon the shoulders of the today's young people, working closely with the SACP and the people of our country, to build a free nation and a new South Africa free of exploitation of people by other people; a South Africa whose wealth is shared among its people. As our former General Secretary Cde Joe Slovo put it: "The winning of the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution will, in turn, lay the bases for a steady advance in the direction of deepening our national unity on all fronts – economic, political and cultural - and towards a socialist transformation for our working class. Nation building means, among other things, unifying themselves nationally as the leading class whose developing culture, aspirations and economic interest become increasingly those of the overwhelming people".

It is the task of both young and old revolutionaries to work in unity for the success of the national democratic revolution and ultimately for a socialist South Africa. Chairman Mao said in 1957, "We must help all our young people to understand, ours is still a very poor country, that we cannot change this situation radically in a short time, and that only through the united efforts of our younger generation and all our people, working with their own hands can China be made strong and prosperous within a period of several decades".

***Mluleki Dlelanga – YCLSA National Secretary***



# "SACP MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FINLAND"

Dear Comrades, My name is Xolile Edmund Nqatha, a Provincial Secretary in one of the provinces in the country and an ex-officio member of the Central Committee. I have observed comrades here battling to pronounce my name.

My easier name Edmund evokes mixed feelings for me. It makes me uncomfortable as many black South Africans had to have an English or Christian name so that those who made the majority visitors in their country of birth can find easy to call you as their "servants". But at the same time it helps as a reminder of where we come from as a people, in case we are blinded by the privileges of being in parliament.

Comrade Chairman, members of the Central Committee, congress delegates and international guests. On behalf of the Central Committee of our party, the South African Communist Party (SACP) please receive revolutionary greetings as you converge in this august gathering of the Communist Party of Finland, our fraternal ally. We are indeed honoured to be invited once again and deliver a message of comradeship and solidarity to this congress.

We in the SACP, speaking for all South African people, we remain indebted for the support you gave us during the difficult period of the struggle against apartheid which we defeated as a result of your contribution among many friends throughout the globe.

We also wish to take this opportunity to appreciate development partnership between our two governments taking place in two of our provinces, Northern Cape and Limpopo.

To us this represent one of the concrete expressions of solidarity which we should intensify and learn from.

As we meet here underway is an intensified offensive against the BRICS countries which we see as an important block with potential to provide a counter balance to imperialism and safeguard the sovereignty of



developing countries using the BRICS development bank as opposed to the IMF and World Bank.

We are not saying there are no weaknesses in these countries, but to defend this block represent an international imperative given the world balance of forces. As communists we must always keep in mind that we are waging a struggle under concrete conditions, we are not in museum.

In a real world you are not going to see an ally with no weaknesses, as they say in the communist

manifesto anybody who dreams to see a pure class struggle is paying a lip service to the revolution for class struggle is once open once hidden.

As South African communists, we are determined to contribute in building a better South Africa and better world and this is a commitment we make to this congress.

Let us continue to cement and consolidate relations between our two parties and our peoples, for the misery imposed by imperialism to the world today and the desperate measures to effect regime change in various regions require the unity of the working class and their parties. We have no doubt of the inevitable victory of the working class even in the face of today's difficulties.

As imperialism plunges humanity from one disaster to another, the case for a different world order looms large more than ever before and together with you and progressives throughout the world we will continue with the struggle until a more humane world order is achieved.

We wish you a successful congress and looking forward to its outcomes.

Socialism or Death!

**Xolile Nqatha – SACP Provincial Secretary**

[Message delivered on behalf of the SACP to the Communist Party of Finland in its National Congress. The congress of the Communist Party of Finland was also attended by the Communist Party of Russian Federation; Communist Party of Cuba; Communist Party of Germany; Left Party of Estonia]



**The Speech by H.E. Taïssir Al Adjouri,  
Ambassador of Palestine for the Congress of the  
Communist Party of Finland (SKP).**

Dear brothers and comrades,

Allow me to begin by extending my deepest gratitude to the leaders of the Finnish Communist Party for inviting me as a representative of Palestine and for giving me the opportunity to join you in the Congress. I wish you to succeed, in terms of your own interest as well as the interest of the Finnish people.

I came with a letter from wounded Palestine, delivering you the greetings from its people suffering these days from the most heinous occupation known in history, enshrined by a racist regime in Palestine, similar to the regime which ended in South Africa.

The practices and policies of systematic racism by the Government of Israel in the West Bank, such as the demolition of homes, the confiscation of lands, the building of settlements and willful massacres, are nothing but a crime against humanity.

The construction of the apartheid wall that separates Palestinians from their lands and the confiscation of their homes in East Jerusalem is part of a systematic policy to put an end to the Palestinian existence altogether with the city of Jerusalem, as well as in most Palestinian land.

Dear Comrades,

In today's world marked by wars, peace and the pursuit of it has become one of the most important necessities of life. Our people are in dire need of peace and security before anything—like any other people from all around the world. Our people are fighting for their right to live in peace and in dignity in their homeland and the land of their ancestors.

The Israeli military occupation of Palestine violates our people's human rights; it denies their right to self-determination. And that is something nobody has the right to deny.

Dear brothers and comrades,

It has become necessary to activate an international willingness to put an end to the Israeli occupation, which has been going on for far too long, as well as victimized the lives of an entire population, robbing its people from the basic conditions of a decent life equally deserved by all the peoples in the world.

It is a responsibility of the international community to defend human rights and respect international law, as well as international humanitarian law. When the international community supports a two-state solution according to which we would live side by side in peace, it is thus required that the world recognizes the State of Palestine as did the nations that believe in the Palestinian state and the rights of Palestinian people.

I am here in front of you and I am confident about your support to the following demand: I ask and I hope that Finland recognizes an independent Palestinian state, so that the peace dialogue can be between equals, between two states, in order to coexist peacefully.

Turning a deaf ear to Israeli practices and to its implementation of racist policies of killings, burnings and confiscation of land and houses, delivers a biased message to Israel. This neither supports peace, nor the two-state solution.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that the national rights of the Palestinian people are as sacred as the rights of all the other people around the world.

There cannot be stability in the region without the restoration of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land, which has been occupied since 1967, with the concerted efforts of its capital in East Jerusalem, for peace based on truth and justice. I hope we will, one day, live in a world in which there will be no war, no massacre and no destruction. Our people are peace-loving and their struggle has always been, and remains, for the sake of peace for all peoples of the region.

Thank you again for your kind attention.

**Taïssir Al Adjouri, Ambassador of Palestine**



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