



Voice of the Proletariat

District Publication

The 6th Kimberley District DEC of the South African Communist Party convened its 1st special meeting in Jan Kempdorp on Saturday, the 16th of January 2016.

The political inputs delivered by the DS focussed on the fall of the rand, the campaign against the President, the racist outbursts in the social media and in particular on the #FeesMustFall campaign.

The DEC reflected in length on the progressive strides that has been made by our government in order to provide and promote free higher education, especially to poor black students which represents the majority of the poor and the working class. The DEC supports the #FeesMustFall campaign that was driven by students from most universities at the end of last year. But, the important question to be asked is:

“For whom must the fees fall?”

The DEC notes that the #FeesMustFall for the poor and working class students and not for the ruling class who can easily afford the fees for higher education. Those who can afford fees must pay the fees, so that more students can be assisted who cannot afford to study at a higher education institution. Another important question to be asked is: “What role must the private sector play in order to ensure free education for the poor and the working class?” The private sector must contribute towards providing higher education to those who cannot afford it. The current Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Dr Blade Nzimande, has in fact accelerated access to higher education and he must be commended for the work he has done since taking office as the Minister of DHET.

The DEC has discussed with great concern the current processes and exclusion of SACP members from the ANC’s membership databases when it comes to the processes of public representations in the upcoming local government elections. The DEC will meet with the ANC REC of the Frances Baard Region in order to deal with the concerns raised by its members.

The special meeting was used to reflect on the organisational mid-term progress that has been made by the 6th Kimberley District DEC. The District Secretary reflected on all the programmes and activities embarked on by the current leadership collective of the Kimberley District since the 6th District Congress that took place on the 28th of February 2015 under the theme **“A Radical 2nd Phase of the NDR, its Context, Content and our Strategic Task.”**

In the past eleven months the DEC held several gala events in different sub-regions which were successfully used to recruit new members and to raise funds to do organisational work. Numerous memorial lectures were also held in all of the sub-districts throughout the past eleven months. The DEC drove several campaigns that aimed at assisting the poor and the working class which ranged from the high electricity tariffs, the increase in taxi fares to illegal evictions. The DEC has also been able to launch five (5) new branches. Some branches that have been launched have been launched in areas that never had a constitutional structure of the SACP.

Moving forward the DEC will hit the ground running with doing election work for the upcoming Local Government Elections. The District leadership will ensure an overwhelming victory for the ANC in all of the four municipalities within the District.

Cde OJ Fourie – SACP Deputy District Secretary