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Communism: answer to Racism by OJ Fourie

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Racism
Apartheid
Capitalism
Divisions
Evolution

SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE, BUILD IT NOW!

Communism: answer to Racism

by OJ Fourie



The Party was the first political organisation to introduce the principle and practice of non-racialism in South African politics, therefore race did not influence membership acceptance. The Party also played an important role in ensuring that the ANC did not become a race based organisation, and intervened at a time when the ANC considered withholding membership from non-Africans.

Human Rights Day this year has been declared National Day against racism. The month of March is also used to spread the message that we must unite against this evil in our country. Recent events of racism must remind us of collectively taking a firm stand against it.

The legacy of apartheid and class division is racism. Cde Joe Slovo clearly indicated that "it's not difficult in South Africa for the ordinary person to see the link between capitalism and racist exploitation, and when one sees the link one immediately thinks in terms of a socialist alternative." Capitalism thrives on race and class divisions within a society. Therefore a classless society will

eliminate the roots of racism very effectively.

The General Secretary of the Party, Cde Blade Nzimande, expressed the following at the 21st anniversary of the commemoration of the death of Cde Joe Slovo that was held on the 06th of January 2016: "In our country racism is deep-rooted in the economy. Wealth still reflects racial inequality to the historical disadvantage of the black majority... The cam-

A classless society will eliminate the roots of racism very effectively.

paign against racism must be taken up as a mass campaign, with the working class at its head, to be waged in all key sites of power - in workplaces, in our communities, in the media. Most importantly, we need to intensify the struggle for overall economic transformation as part of a broader struggle against capitalism - as capitalism and racism are always twins, and terrible twins at that."

The fact that we are a society made up of different races

should in fact remind us of working towards a classless society. Being different is not the problem or a weakness, in fact we must celebrate our diversity. The fact that we are struggling to deal with different races from ourselves indicates that we are by no means moving towards a classless society as we would want to be.

Once again the Party has a pivotal role to play in order to ensure that racism is dealt with effectively. Party members must be the first to condemn racism in any form, but more importantly Party members must also be first to set an example of non-racism. Racism will not be defeated by talking about it and defining it in policy documents. It can only be defeated if we live a non-racist lifestyle in a classless society. We must make use of every opportunity to defy any racist tendency. We must make deliberate effort to interact with our fellow South Africans who are of a different race. Make effort to learn about other cultures of our fellow citizens and even try to learn other languages. We all should be proud of our country and want to make South Africa as great as it can be. The longer we

work against one another, the longer it will take to create a better life for all. The longer we keep on looking at the differences of one another, the longer we will continue to limit each other and inevitably limit ourselves.

Our children are attending the same schools and we go to the same shops, but still we live separate lives. Surely we must show our children a different

life than living in racial silos. We must not be trapped by the boundaries of racism and its limitations. Let us, like true revolutionaries, be guided by true feelings of love. We must love our country and love all the people who lives in it! Cde Robert Sobukwe said very correctly that “there is only one race, the human race.”

Cde Joe Slovo said that “no matter what vision one has of

South Africa, the first thing that must be done is to destroy racism.” The Party has been fore-runners in the fight against racism. Much is required from us now to continue in this fight.

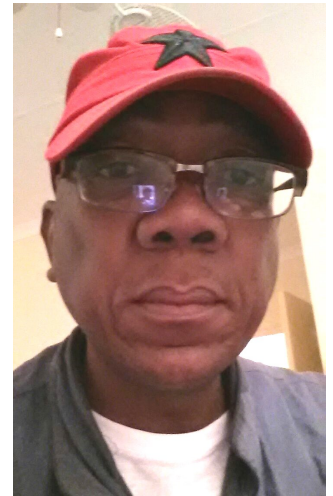
Forward to building a non-racist, classless society Forward!

OJ Fourie is the SACP Kimberley District Deputy District Secretary and a former YCLSA National Committee Member

Party

Members

by Lebogang Cindi



It is with concern that I am writing this article because of some of the questions and challenges that are coming from our own members. Some members feel excluded from other members because of a difference in economic standing which is determined by our activities in the labour market.

The question arise that, why embrace the communist's ideals while we still look down at our people and belittling them in public, wanting to be treated obsequiously as leaders, revered while we are supposed to be serving them and appreciating them and treating them as our equals and comrades as we claim. The public is looking at members of the Party to be the vanguard of the

working class and the poor and the mouthpiece of the down trodden. People have confidence in the Party as a strong defender of the plight of the poor.

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But some people think that the Party no more stands for them because the Party have been absorbed by the capitalists as seen by their behaviour. Are we aspirant socialists trapped in capitalists' behaviour and outlook? Let us reflect on this

comrades – are we just theoretical and not practical. We need to implement the theory and practice of the Party seriously. One needs to say that the Party does not just have to recruit members but must have real cadres of the struggle who have no personal interest above the interests of the working class and the poor. Employment should be one way to hegemonies all key sites of struggle and not see it as an end in itself, because when you are employed you will be entering another sphere of struggle thus we have our progressive unions to defend the plight of the working class under difficult circumstances and to improve working conditions.

I have recently been called a

“bourgeoisie” by a member of the Party and a leader for that matter. But on enquiry the member mentioned that it is because of my social standing in society and my assets based on my economic standing. One needs also to explain that as those who are working in the labour market are exploited and we are putting in effort into our daily work and at a particular day reap what we have sown.

So I need to explain that what I receive in this capitalist society leads me to live a certain lifestyle but it should not let me to live a life that makes me feel aloof from my comrades because we all labour in this capitalists system. There are members, who have been leaders in the Party and when they enter the labour market they wear another jacket and act as ruling class comrades and no more as activists. This has been the response that I got from some members from some of the branches that collapsed due to lack of confidence in our leaders. The party is being used as step ladder and they were never genuine activists of the left and aspirant communists like some union leaders who have paraded it clearly in recent times just but to mention some who put their interests above that of the workers and filling their pockets and aligning themselves with big business thus the arrogance against the progressives. We need to continuously reflect our membership status as Party members and the impact we need to make in the life of the poor. We need to remember what Chris Hani said about those who are using the poor to enrich themselves and

forgetting our own comrades who fought side by side with us during the struggle against the regime of terror in Pretoria. Though I am raising the above,

We need to continuously reflect our membership status as Party members and the impact we need to make in the life of the poor.

I am not suggesting that Communists are supposed to be poor because they are also selling their labour. We do not own the means of production but we are also selling our expertise and being paid back as we deliver though some of us are really exploited for the en-

The current economic crisis has long been predicted through our progressives like Karl Marx, who predicted that capitalism as one of the five epochs will not stay...

richment of the capitalist employers in the name of the big mining conglomerates who are even now retrenching us and some selling mines because they have exploited us. They

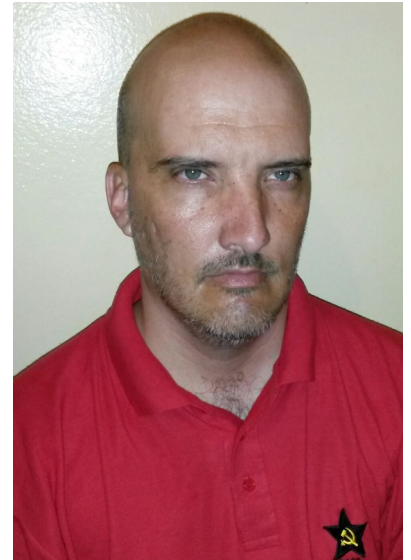
have done nothing to our communities compared to what they have taken from our beloved land. For example in Kimberley District they would claim they have built Ipopeng township, but what is currently happening with those who used to be employed by De Beers they are back to square one and who need now resort to the social assistance system; whereas that could have been shareholders in these companies and sharing in the wealth of the country amongst the workers. Phillip Barton has just told the miners in Venetia mines that they will be unable to pay the workers their shares while they are producing currently the most diamonds in the country and this is exploitation at its best. The end of the road will come for capitalism.

The current economic crisis has long been predicted through our progressives like Karl Marx, who predicted that capitalism as one of the five epochs will not stay forever that is why we are saying in confidence that socialism is the future we must build it now. The five epochs according to Marx are – the primitive communal, slave, feudal, capitalist and as a prediction of things to come the Socialist and Communist phases.

As Party members we need to be vigilant and active but also mindful of the plight of our comrades and the poor. This article does not intend to ridicule anyone but to work on the conscience in order to improve the lives of those we lead. May what we do be with and for the working class and the

Lebogang Cindi is a SACP Kimberley District DEC Member

Ward Work by Quentin von Berg



A pregnant woman has nine months to prepare for the birth of her child. In order to give birth to a healthy baby she has to take supplements, eat healthy and be in the right mind-set. Likewise, the local government elections are almost upon us and our primary objective is to ensure an overwhelming victory for the ANC. With this in mind we need to ask ourselves some critical questions as the vanguard of the proletariat. Two main issues that come to mind is the establishment of branches that have active cadres and secondly actively taking care of the working class and the poor in our communities.

In ensuring that we keep the wards we already control and also winning new wards that are controlled by opposition parties and to achieve the 70% target as set by the ANC; we have to have dedicated leadership at branch level and ensure that our branches are active.

In drawing up plans we need to have a holistic approach that addresses the needs and issues identified through campaigns such as the Know and

Act in Your Neighbourhood Campaign. These plans need to be geared at not just winning an election but at actually benefiting our members and the community at large.

- Cooperatives can play a huge role in curbing unemployment and raising the income levels of our poor and vulnerable community members. As branches we need to identify existing skills, or possible areas in which skills can be developed

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within our communities and assist these groups of community members (particularly branch members) to register as cooperatives. We should also play an active role in ensuring that these cooperatives grow and become sustainable.

- The types of economic activity in our communities need to be monitored

to ensure that those local businesses in our communities do not exploit community members and that they invest in our communities. Here we have to play an active role to ensure that business employs our community members, does not exploit workers and also fund community projects.

The lack of community members with tertiary qualifications and even matric add to the unemployment and social ills in our communities. In this regard we need to ensure that our schools have ABET programmes and ensure that we enrol as many people as possible in these classes. We also need to identify branch and community members that could qualify to be part of learnerships and internships programmes.

- While social assistance is critical in meeting the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable, it can also add to social challenges if it is abused. To this end we should actively assist social grant beneficiaries

to use their social grants in the most beneficial way possible while also ensuring that they do not get exploited by the local economic fraternity and loan sharks.

- Because of the current racial tensions facing South Africa it becomes critical to develop programmes that will ensure non-racialism and living together as one human race. There should not just be tolerance but complete understanding and acceptance of the differences amongst cultures, ethnicities, and races.
- Drug abuse is running rife especially amongst our youth and here we have to develop programmes that keep our youth busy and engaged in activities such as sports, dance, modelling, crafts, choirs, etc. that will occupy the time of the youth productively and in a fashion that will ensure that they do have time to loiter and become ensnared in social ills. We also have to take an active role in the establishment of Community Policing Forums that identify illegal activities that

destroy the moral fibre of our communities.

- The quality and safety of the dwellings that our community live in need to be uplifted and be of a nature that it restores the dignity of the poor. No longer can we allow situations where our people have to make use of the veld in ultra-unhygienic conditions and not even have access sheltered

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lavatories or at least a bucket system.

Targeted strategies such as these will uplift our communities with the aim to resolve or at the very least address the issues raised by our communities.

Making decisions will need leadership to prioritise certain programmes and activities and at times being unpopular to ensure that the community needs

are indeed put before self-interests. Giving orders and directives is critical to ensure that the branch members know what is expected of them, what they need to do, by when, and what the impact of these activities will be.

Leadership of branches needs to provide guidance. In many instances we recruit new members and give them no guidance as to what our political programmes entails. If these new members are not nurtured they become disillusioned and loose interest in the work of the Party and the alliance at large. Guiding new members and ensuring continual activity will stimulate the members, built their capacity and ensure their continual growth.

Political education is of paramount importance as it raises the level of newly recruited members. If this critical activity is neglected new members are left to fend for themselves, and tendencies foreign to our glorious movement can easily creep in and corrupt.

Socialism is the future, built it now!

Quentin von Berg is the SACP Che Guevara Branch Treasurer



Revolutionary Editorial Team

Cde Dave Rolse

Cde OJ Fourie

Cde Basil Sekao

District Secretary

Deputy District Secretary

District Organiser

17 Graham Street

Kimberley, 8301

053 831 4180

sacpkimberleydistrict@webmail.co.za