

SACP  
Kimberley District



# VOICE

September 2016  
# 18

## OF THE PROLETARIAT

**ELECTION'S  
EDITION**



*SACP committed towards ANC victory  
in the local government elections 2016!*

**SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE / BUILD IT NOW!**

# Bolivian Miner's Strike

By Chris Matlhako



*"Bolivian mining cooperatives account for about 35% of the country's mining output. They are tax-exempt organizations and pay royalties at lower rates than other mining companies."*

In a twist reminiscent of wildcat strikes' in apartheid South Africa; and in the shadow of rock-drillers' strike and events associated with it at Lonmin on the platinum belt, in particular - a Bolivian deputy interior minister was kidnapped and beaten to death by striking miners in Bolivia.

Deputy interior minister Rodolf Illanes, was sent to negotiate with the miners on strike, outside the country's capital, La Paz, but was seized. While being held, he spoke to a Bolivian radio station, telling them the miners were demanding the government negotiate new legislation with them to secure his release. However, Illanes's body was found early the next day, wrapped in a blanket by the side of a highway connecting La Paz to the city of Oruro. He had died of repeated blows to the head. Bolivian interior minister Carlos Romero said "all indications" were that he had died as the result of a "cowardly and brutal murder."

This kind of violence is all too familiar to us, in particular during the apartheid-era and has led to tensions between the authorities and strikers in ways, which bears all of the hallmarks of the

apartheid-era strike actions, where an 'all or nothing' principle underpins the actions. Though a raft of new progressive legislation and a labour relations regime have been inaugurated, violence - still mars much of the strike actions today. In fact, 19 miners' faced various charges in the North West High Court leading up to the Marikana massacre. The miners face charges of murder, robbery and malicious damage to property related to the crimes committed in the days leading up to August 16, 2012 when 34 miners were shot and killed.

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The tensions between the government of President Evo Morales and the country's miners spilled into violence last month (22-29 August 2016) when negotiations broke down following a week's-long strike. The National Federation of Mining Cooperatives of Bolivia had said it would begin an indefinite protest and this action will have far-reaching ramifications on Bolivia's economy. The country has an estimated 100,000 independent miners working in self-

managed cooperatives, but the demonstrators are demanding the right to work for private companies, broader union representations, a loosening of environmental restrictions and other concessions. It is reported that two protesters were reportedly shot dead by police recently. The miners had blockaded a highway in Panduro around 100 miles from La Paz, though the blockade was lifted on after Illanes's death. Long-

running tensions between miners and the government over strict regulations approved in 2014 grew increasingly violent over the past few weeks.

These events take place when Bolivia recently announced that it had begun exporting about 10 tons of lithium to China, as the start of what the country hopes will flourish into a multimillion-dollar partnership in the near future. The reason why this is such a big deal and is been talked about is because lithium is an integral component of most of our cell phones and electric car batteries, and estimates vary over the size of Bolivia's deposits. The fact that China – the factory of the world – is able to diversify its imports of this rare earth mineral strengthens Beijing's supply chain security with this strategic commodity, and it also pairs well with the billion-dollar coltan investment that it made in the Congo a few months back.

Taken together, it's suggested that, China is positioning itself for dominance in the cell-phone and electric car industries, which will make it a future leader in these industries. Andrew

Korybko suggests, "...what Bolivia is doing is very helpful for the emerging multipolar world order in general, and since we're on the topic of the country's contribution to geopolitics, it's worthwhile including a few of its other projects that are just as helpful. Russia is deepening its cooperation with the Andean state in the oil, gas, and nuclear energy industries, and Russian representatives have said that they're interested in military exports to the country and in boosting bilateral commercial trade. Furthermore, China and Bolivia have signed agreements on military cooperation too, particularly for Beijing to send it new armored personnel carriers which it just made good on a few weeks ago."

Mining is deeply embedded in Bolivia's national identity. During colonial times, so much silver was shipped from mines in the southern region of Potosi to Europe. But that boom came at an extremely high price tag — an estimated eight million slaves died in Potosi. By the time mining was nationalized after the 1952 national revolution, tin had long since ousted silver as the main

mineral product. In the 1980s a sharp fall in commodity prices led to a shutdown of the government mines, displacing 25,000 salaried miners. Bolivia's workers and miners' in particular, were radicalized by these and other inter-related events in the country's socio-political and economic development.

The industry was privatized again in 1990s under neoliberal structural adjustment policies that ended up destroying Bolivia's miners-led revolutionary trade union movement, once the most combative in Latin America. Korybko suggests that, it's in this context that the miners' strike and their demands should be understood - disruptive attempt by anti-government forces with US imperialism's "hybrid war" strategy at work to undermine the progressive policies of Evo Morales' government.

When Morales, South America's first indigenous President, took office in 2006, he immediately hiked mining taxes for foreigners and nationalized the country's key natural gas industry. He also expropriated the telecommunications and electricity sectors, and seized several assets, includ-

ing those of Vancouver-based South American Silver Corporation in 2012, and Glencore's, which recently announced it was taking Bolivia to an international court over the issue. Though rich in mineral and energy resources, data from Unicef shows that Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and has the weakest economy in all of South America.

The "hybrid war" threats against the plurinational state of Bolivia include the threat of foreign-provoked conflict between the 38 ethnic groups in the country, militarized labour unrest such as the mining strikes that are ongoing right now, transnational drug cartels that operate along the Brazilian and Paraguayan borders, a traditional 'colour revolution', and the possibility of a 'regime reboot' campaign to promote the divisive Bosnification of Bolivia into an 'identity federation' of quasi-independent statelets that the US could more easily divide and rule. Bolivia better take note, because the more that it bravely stands up to the US by embracing the multipolar leaders of Russia and China, the bigger the bull's

***...what Bolivia is doing is very helpful for the emerging multipolar world order in general...***

-eye on its back becomes.

The US strategy is to disrupt the growing relations between plurinational state of Bolivia and the emerging axis of multipolar world order of China-Russia. This include, but not limited to, stoking instability and tensions between the state and other sections of the society. The miners' who have benefited from the progressive policies undertaken by the state are challenging these policies in a narrow manner that will not benefit the majority of the population.

The US "hybrid war" strategy envisions these tensions to boil over and snowball into political demands that will lead towards regime change, for the benefit of transnational corporations such as Glencore to continue to exploit the resources of countries.

The reactionary whirlwind happening in Latin America is an acid test for unity of left forces worldwide.

*Cde Chris Matlhako is a Central Committee and Politburo Member of the SACP*



# Election Work

By Parks Moleko



*The SACP has been fully committed to ensure an ANC victory in the local government elections 2016.*

Settlement, Moleko's Farm, Breipal, Sidney's Hope and Bullhill. The ANC has always struggled to make inroads in this ward due to failure by the municipality to service these communities.

**T**he SACP together with the alliance partners were involved in a comprehensive election drive. In the Magareng Sub-district where there were serious governance and political challenges leading up to the elections.

Magareng is comprised of 5 wards, four of these wards are under the control of the ANC and one ward is led by the DA. The DA ward is mainly the town, Majeng Rural

***The SACP together with MDM structures were involved in massive election drives trying to mobilise people to vote for the ANC.***

The SACP together with MDM structures were involved in massive election drives trying to mobilise people to vote for the ANC. Some of the challenges that were raised by communities during the campaigns included:

- High unemployment rate especially amongst the youth and nepotism involved when employing people in projects.
- Learner transport denying local youth from attending institutions of

higher learning that are based in Kimberley.

- Failure by the municipality to provide communities with basic municipal services like water and refuse removal.
- Allegations of corruption and failure by the ruling party to effectively deal with corrupt elements.
- Complaints about housing and the allocation of building sites.
- Lack of political leadership.
- Poor communication from the councillors and the political leadership.

The SACP also noted with concern that during these elections the ANC lacked strategy and skill in running elections. Campaigning only started just a few weeks towards election day and these were not properly coordinated. It was also noted with concern that there were almost no volunteers and those that did volunteer did not know much of the ANC. The

SACP also noted with concern the foreign attitude of the ANC leadership which seemed to marginalise the SACP and other alliance partners like SANCO and Cosatu.

**...the SACP also assisted the local communities in registering cooperatives and also formally launched cooperatives.**

The SACP did mobilised spiritual leaders as it identified these leaders as one of the sectors that have influence in our communities. Leading up to the elections the SACP also assisted the local communities in registering cooperatives and also formally launched cooperatives. These cooperatives will contribute to fighting poverty in the communities. The SACP in the District will be assisting these communities in ensuring that these cooperatives become sustainable.

With the support and work done by the working class the ANC retained the four wards and the municipality is still

under the control of ANC.

*Cde Parks Moleko is the SACP Kimberley District, District Chairperson*



*Produce Cooperative*

*Clothing Cooperative*



# Press Statement

By SACP Kimberley District



*On behalf of the District Executive Committee, we would also want to congratulate all the Councillors that were elected by our communities.*

**T**he Kimberley District SACP wants to thank all whom have voted for the ANC and congratulate the alliance structures that has worked towards an

overwhelming victory for the ANC, within the Frances Baard District, during this month's local government elections.

On behalf of the District Executive Committee, we would also want to congratulate all the Councillors that were elected by our communities. It is a rare privilege that you have been given by our people.

As the SACP within the district we cannot celebrate our election's victory without taking stock of the election's outcomes in other parts of the country, especially the outcomes in some of

the metros. Metros like Nelson Mandela, Joburg and Tshwane is no more under the complete control of the ANC. The national outcomes of the elections have indicated a stronger support towards the opposition since the last local government elections that were held in 2011.

The electorate have effectively used the ballot box to voice their dissatisfaction or satisfaction with local government depending on the outcome. Unfortunately, the electorate have also

used the ballot box to voice their dissatisfaction with the ANC. Notwithstanding, the electorate whom have decided to stay away from the ballot box which should be interpreted as their dissatisfaction with the ruling party. The continuous internal struggles and factions that plagues the ANC have caused a weaker performance in the elections.

***As the SACP within the district we cannot celebrate our election's victory without taking stock of the election's outcomes in other parts of the country...***

The SACP within the District have noted with concern the recent processes of appointing Mayors. It is regrettable that the leadership of the ANC have decided to ignore the voices of the communities, the alliance and the ANC Branches during these processes. The ANC must adhere to the concerns raised by these Branches instead of taking decisions without proper consultation. The SACP has been approached by community members and structures that have complained about the attitude of senior leadership of the ANC in these processes.

We want to appeal to the congress movement to listen to these voices and avoid any further dissatisfaction by the electorate. The SACP is opposed to any form of factional approach in terms of the appointment of Mayors. We are further aware of threats of revolt by communities against any form of imposing Mayors, Speakers and Chief whips in places like Phokwane, Magareng and Sol Plaatjie. The SACP is going to

advise its Branches across the District to join ties whom have voted for the ANC. The public these communities in condemning any form of representatives must remain the choice of the corporate capture which seeks to undermine electorate.

them. The SACP is informed that in Phokwane The people of the Frances Baard have placed the preferred Mayoral candidate's name was re- their trust in the ANC. It is therefore of utmost importance, as it has been before, that those whom have been elected to local government, that they will serve our people unconditionally. Public representative leaders must at all cost ensure the effective and efficient rendering of services. Only together will we make local government work

***The public representatives must remain the choice of the electorate.***

of changes and no consultation the community for the people. is threatening to render Magareng ungovernable until they are listened to. This behaviour of the ANC leadership is undermining the communi-

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# Ideological Development

By SASCO



*The 18<sup>th</sup> national congress held in Venda, Limpopo 2013, and further confirmed by the NGC in 2014, resolved to declare SASCO a Marxist-Leninist organisation that recruits every student but all with an intention of schooling them into the Marxist-Leninist theoretical tradition.*

**T**his was an epoch making decision taken by the organisation after SASCO grappled with it for a very long time. SASCO has for a long time always proclaimed that we use Marxism-Leninism as a tool of analysis and a guide to action, however we

have never really fully appreciated the historic tasks that Marxism-Leninism imposes on us as an organization both in theory and in practice.

Two of the most fundamental questions that arises out of this resolution is whether or not the new resolution on Marxism-Leninism takes away from SASCO its mass character or the broad church character after the fashion of the African National Congress and whether this resolution will inevitably lead to the death of SASCO because students can neither be socialists nor communists as they are a stratum in transit. It should be noted that while it may be true that

students do not on their own form this or that class, it must be readily acceptable to all that students are not above or without society. They are essentially part and products of a society whose primary contradiction is the class contradiction. Flowing from this argument, it follows by simple deduction that these students must necessarily have a natural class inclination; a class into which they are born not as a matter of choice but as a result of the participation of their species in a historic process. It has been laid bare in practice that the majority of students sprout from working class backgrounds and that their social milieu even as students still considerably bears the birthmarks of their background. In fact, their situation is almost worsened by social phenomenon's such as that they experience an unprecedented awareness growth of their poverty in light of the many new nice-to-haves turned necessities (e.g. weaves, Airmax) that they suddenly get exposed to upon their arrival at institutions of higher learning which constitute the core of the South African capitalist economy.

This illustrates that it well possible to organize and mobilize students behind a socialist vision. Organizationally, our resolution to be a Marxist- Leninist student organization in pursuit of socialism opens for us the space to turn our organization into a truly revolutionary mass organization whose actions are guided by and inseparable from the daily struggles of students. It is inconceivable that students would reject an organization which struggles side by side with them, explains carefully to them where their problems emanate from and make practical proposals to resolve these merely on the basis of the word socialism. By now it should be clear that we need to re-organize SASCO to make it a truly revolutionary mass organization. What is to be done to achieve this? Our actions need to be decided by the masses for whom we exist and whose participation or lack thereof in our programmes ensures the success or failure of whatever action we embark on.

The other challenge that lies at the heart of this resolution is the transformation of quantity into

quality, we ought to continue organizing all students who sprout from all classes and therefore from different ideological persuasions, consciously or unconsciously. But this cannot be the end of it all if we are to honour our resolution. Politically, the new resolution implies that the struggle to build a new cadre in defence of the revolution continues. A cadre who understands and is able to articulate clearly the aspirations of the toiling masses. A cadre who has grasped or seeks diligently to grasp the economic basis of our demand for free education. In short, this cadre cannot be anything else but a Marxist- Leninist par excellence, a consistent materialist and an antagonistic, antithesis which finds its origin in idealism.

We must build a culture of reading and debating particularly ideological questions. Ignorance of the importance of theory should thus be seen as serving nothing but reaction and as a betrayal of our resolution and of Marxism-Leninism as a whole. However, it is important that we all acknowledge and appreciate the dialectical link between theoretical clarity and actual victories for our cause, the role that this theory of the revolution has played in many movements of the world and the role it can still play in our own movement. As Lenin warned that "without revolutionary theory, there is no revolutionary movement."

This means therefore that every leadership structure of our organization must pay considerable attention to political education programmes and also that all meetings and gatherings of SASCO must be credited in practice with features of a political school. This new resolution requires of us to improve the awareness of our membership and the general masses of our strategic objectives particularly as it relates to the transformation of the South African society as a whole.

We must state that we view the capitalist system as our chief enemy and that we will struggle for its destruction and for its replacement with a socialist order and ultimately a communist society. But however much it is scientifically true that the division of society into classes forms the ba-

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sis of all other social contradictions, the struggle against these contradictions cannot be deferred in order to focus only on the class struggle. Branches of SASCO must be vigilant and ever ready to fight and defeat racism, sexism, tribalism, etc. wherever they rear their ugly heads.

As has already been established, the economic structure of any society has a bearing on all other social structures and education is no exception to this rule. There is nothing which can survive which runs counter to the economic structure of society. The current education system like other social structures such as the state itself has not always existed but was developed at a certain stage of economic development so as

to suit and sustain this. It should stand to reason therefore that our education system suffers from the ideological stranglehold of the ruling class, the capitalist class. It is known by all that the economics taught in our schools and even at tertiary level emphasizes that the primary objective of business is the maximization of profit. The economics they teach also amongst its many other evil functions, seeks and manages to legitimize the commodification of education. Because of its emphasis on the invisible hand and the unchallengeable power of the market forces, this economics suggests that all things necessary for the sustenance of life including education must have a price and this must be determined only

and exclusively by the forces of demand and supply. A Marxist-Leninist SASCO cannot be content with such a curriculum because it understands that the primary objective of producing and exchanging goods is the satisfaction of needs necessary for the sustenance of life. What this implies in practice is that we must struggle for the transformation of the curriculum so as to free it from the ideological stranglehold of the ruling class.

## ***SASCO will give new meaning to the struggle for social transformation...***

When talking about the oppressed people of the world, Paulo Freire said that “their liberation will not be given to them as a gift but they shall obtain it through the praxis of their quest for it.” This paper attempted to deal with what the resolution on

Marxism-Leninism means practically in acknowledgement of the fact that advances in the revolution are not made merely through congress resolutions but through struggle. This begins at the level of diligently seeking to understand our theory of revolution and accepting its guidance in practice. Only then shall we say that SASCO subscribes to Marxism-Leninism both politically and organizationally. In time and in realization of our resolution, SASCO will give new meaning to the struggle for social transformation in South Africa and will provide the cadreship necessary to participate both in the conceptualization and implementation of transformation. Issued by SASCO



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