

SACP
Kimberley District



VOICE

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OF THE PROLETARIAT

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*The SACP
State Power
& The Battle of Ideas!*

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SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE / BUILD IT NOW!

State Power and the Alliance

By OJ Fourie



“South Africa’s victory over apartheid is captured within the history of the Alliance, and the victory over poverty, unemployment and inequality is captured within the future of the Alliance.”

With the next National Congress of the SACP a mere nine months away. The debate on whether the Party must independently contest for state power or to continue contest for state power through the ANC-led alliance will be gaining momentum in the months ahead. As things are right now, the position of the Party is that, the Party is not a narrow electoralist party, the SACP is not fighting for power for the SACP itself, but for the working class. In order to ensure that government remains implementing a pro-poor and pro-working class agenda. In order to achieve this the Alliance remains an important vehicle.

Oliver Tambo stated very clearly that, *“Ours is not a paper alliance, created at conference tables and formalised through the signing of documents and representing only an agreement of leaders. Our alliance is a living organism that has grown out of the struggle. We have built it out of our separate and common experiences...it has been fertilised by the blood of countless heroes; many of them unnamed and unsung. It has been reinforced by a common determination to destroy the enemy and by our shared belief in the certainty of Victory and this is not a congress alliance.”*

...the Party is not a narrow electoralist party, the SACP is not fighting for power for the SACP itself, but for the working class.

South Africa needs to remain firm in the hands of the ANC-led Alliance if we want to secure a good future for all South Africans, and in particular for the poor and the working class.

The ANC as a united movement can do and has done incredible things for example: adopt one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, divert civil war, united a once divided nation, and create a government that serves all its people.

The ANC torn apart by factions will only lead to the demise of the oldest liberation movement in Africa. The continued in fighting of the ruling party is also harmful to the image of South Africa. More importantly, it puts the existence of the Alliance at risk.

South Africa, a once beacon of hope to Africa and the rest of the world, is now just becoming a fading memory of hope.

It remains critical that the Alliance ensures that the right comrades get elected as public representatives. We need leaders that will serve the people and not serve their own interests. Leaders that are constantly con-

scious of the plight of the working class. Leaders that will reaffirm the value of the Alliance as Oliver Tambo did. The ANC, as the leader of the Alliance, must ensure the continued unity within the Alliance and should be leading the process of advancing unity at all cost.

The ANC must know that its membership and the electorate’s forgiveness is not limitless. Already ANC members have without a doubt made

their frustrations known during the recent local government elections. As it was evident in the fact that the ANC further lost three key Metros. South Africa's victory over apartheid is captured within the history of the Alliance, and the victory over poverty, unemployment and inequality is captured within the future of the Alliance.

If the Alliance ceases to exist it will drastically further weakens the ANC, as the ruling party, and limit the voice of the working class. There-

fore it continues to remain the revolutionary duty of the SACP to defend and build the Alliance. Only a united Alliance can take South Africa forward!

In the months ahead the debate will continue until Congress decides next year.

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



Forward to the Voice of the Proletariat

By Sivuyile Ntamehlo



“There is now an urgent need for developing a more wide-ranging perspectives on the media and a consistent strategy and tactics that will serve as our weapon to counter the hostile media in our country.”

The hostility of the media against the revolutionary movement in and outside our province once more confirmed what Lenin once said, that the “Freedom of the press” in bourgeois society means freedom for the rich systematically, unremittingly, daily, in millions of copies, to deceive, corrupt and fool the exploited and oppressed masses of the people, the poor. This is further confirmed by our own Party’s discussion on the battle of ideas where the media sector is identi-

fied as a key role player in the battle of ideas, it goes on to say that, media monopoly is a major threat to media freedom, to an informed society, and to a meaningful democracy.

Current patterns of concentrated ownership and control of the media promote commercial interest and the logic of a private capitalist market. This situation privileges and entrenches the freedom of expression of elite at the expense of the interests, needs and experiences of the majority of our people.

The ANC in its National General Council in 2015 noted the ranging battle of ideas and the need for serious engagement in ideological work and also noted the use of market forces to try and dislodge the democratic forces in our country. We are caught up in a class struggle where the

rich will use their resources to spread their views to the electorate and present them as the sole truth. The Party in this front also presented us with options to counter the nefarious role of these oligopolies, e.g. a campaign for government to regulate and limit the buying of community media by these oligopolies, the training of progressive journalists and a constructive critic of the public broadcaster.

However it might take us a long time if we will concentrate on or rely on the intervention of the government to transform the bourgeoisie media (not suggesting that we should not campaign for that transformation) but lessons learnt over the years reveals to us as communists that there is now an urgent need for developing a more wide-ranging perspectives on the media and a consistent strategy and tactics that will serve as our weapon to counter the hostile media in our country.

We need to go back to basics, where our own comrades are trained organisationally and encouraged to write articles for our independent party publications. Our comrades amongst others must be able to respond effectively to the growing onslaught against the communist party and the entire revolutionary movement. Publications by our own structures like the Red Voice and the Voice of the Proletariat in our own province are just but one example of how an under resourced organisation like ours can reach its own constituency and ultimately through online

and hard copy distribution reach many sections of our people.

With this publication, the Voice of the Proletariat, we are building on long Party traditions in South Africa, the tradition of independent party publications. Our comrades in branches and workplaces must be encouraged to contribute on their own experiences and we believe that such contributions will assist us in our collective understanding of challenges faced by the workers and the poor especially at branch level.

We need to increase our campaign for increased resources for both print and community broadcasting. Community radio stations and community newspapers must be supported and this will need more than talk shops but concentrated efforts to realise our programme of action. Communists must be in the fore front of engaging in such crucial campaigns. By engaging in the

battle of ideas, working together with trade unions and through our own publications informing the working class and the poor we will be doing what Lenin said on the freedom of press that our own pamphlets and publications “will aid to the people’s enlightenment and not to their stultification deception, it would be a break with that accursed slavish past which compels us to suffer the usurpation by the rich of the great cause of informing and teaching our own people.”

Sivuyile Ntamehlo is the SACP Joe Slovo District Convener

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