SPECIAL ISSUE: ELECTIONS 2019

April 2019 Voice of the South African Communist Party

Umsebenzi

Defend our National Democratic Revolution!

VOTE ANC!

ELECTIONS 2019

Let us turn South Africa around!

Defeat state capture! Defend our country and our gains! Advance towards a people's economy, with decent work and comprehensive social security!

On 8 May 2019 Vote ANC!

8 MAY 2019 is not an ordinary election. It is a key moment in the ongoing struggle to rescue our country from chaos and ruin.

The ANC, for all of its challenges, remains the only political formation on the ballot capable of leading this struggle – in alliance with the SACP, Cosatu and Sanco. Formations of the mass democratic movement still have a crucial role to play in propelling this struggle to complete the National Democratic Revolution and secure full social emancipation. The ANC and its Alliance is also the space inside which this struggle must be intensified against the wrongdoers, the splitters and sectarians within.

Over the past several years our country was driven to the brink.

Corrupt elements in government, in our movement, and in the private sector pushed South Africa to the very edge, eroding our hard fought-for democratic gains and plundering Eskom, Transnet and Prasa .

But we have finally begun to turn the corner. In 2018, we started to put a halt to this betrayal of our country, forcing Zuma to step down, the Guptas to flee the country, and exposing many others.

Under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, we have begun cleaning up the mess. Ministers have been sacked. But more needs to be done. New boards of parastatals have been put in place. Steps are under way for a massive clean-up of the criminal justice system and of the South African Revenue Service. The Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, first demanded by the SACP, is shining a bright light on the festering rot that had set in.

But all this is only a beginning.

The clean-up momentum that has started must now be consolidated and accelerated.

In voting ANC that is the message we must send.

The crooks and traitors must go to jail. The billions of rands that have been stolen, the billions that have been illegally exported to Dubai and elsewhere must be returned!

A significant election victory for the ANC and its Alliance partners under the leadership of President Ramaphosa guided by a reconfigured Alliance is a critical condition to take forward these struggles.

No other political formation in our country is capable of rescuing our country, our democracy, our gains. No other political formation is capable of uniting the broadest front of progressive classes and forces.

Not the unpatriotic DA, with its hatred of trade unions and of social ownership of key public utilities.

Not the infantile and thuggish EFF with its dodgy links to the criminal underworld and its pseudo-leftism.

Not the multiplicity of tiny parties and sects.

This is why the SACP calls on all South Africans who wish to see our country reunited on a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist path: vote ANC!

But no blank cheques!

A vote for the ANC, a vote for Ramaphosa, must never be a blank cheque.

Through our vote, through our ongoing organisation and mobilisation, through continuing vigilance let us clearly say: an election victory for the ANC on 8 May 2019 must be the basis on which the fight against corruption and state capture is intensified inside of the ANC and government itself, and in society at large. Complacency, false unity and unprincipled deal-making will be a betrayal of the hopes that millions of voters will, once more, place in the ANC.

On 8 May 2019 let us vote ANC in with an overwhelming majority, rejecting parties that sow anarchy, and mobilise on the basis of racism, narrow right-wing nationalism and ethnicity.

We call on workers in shops, factories, warehouses, mines and on farms. In our overwhelming majority, let us vote ANC!

Let us reject anti-worker, anti-union parties. Let us reject those who work to undermine and divide our unions. Working class solidarity is the bedrock on which we must build the future.

The fight against corruption and state capture is not enough. We need to ensure that an ANC election victory lays the basis for a clear advance towards a people's economy with decent work and comprehensive social security. Let us ensure the full implementation of the ANC's general election manifesto, crucially:

- More jobs, decent work, and skills training;
- A people-centred and people-driven economy with active leadership of the state;
- Education – truly opening the doors of learning to all;
- Universal quality healthcare through National Health Insurance for all;
- Comprehensive social security, well located housing for the poor and safe & affordable public transport;
- Public safety and security; and
- Building a united South African nation!

On 8 May 2019 in our overwhelming numbers let us: vote ANC!

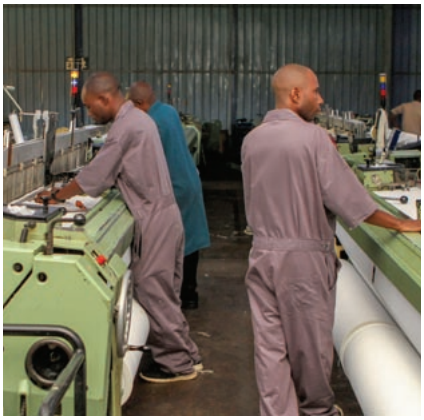
Beyond 8 May 2019 let us remain organised, mobilised and vigilant. An ANC victory must be turned into a people's victory for an advance towards a people's economy with decent work and comprehensive social security. ●

More jobs, decent work and skills training

An ANC-led government will lead the national effort to create new jobs, drive the decent work agenda and expand access to apprenticeships and other experiential training. The SACP supports the ANC manifesto commitments to:

- Create an additional 275 000 jobs each year by boosting local demand, investing more in mining, manufacturing and agriculture, and expanding export markets;
- Massively expand apprenticeships, learnerships and other structured training programmes for graduates and work seekers;
- Mobilise investment, ensuring that more and more investment is directed to the productive sector of the economy to radically reduce unemployment by increasingly creating new and more jobs based on decent work;
- Establish an infrastructure fund to build roads, railway lines, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure vital for a growing economy; and
- Enforce implementation of the national minimum wage to improve the lives of 6-million workers currently paid below even that level.

The SACP stands for strategic state capacity, expansion of the state productive sector and for ownership to empower the majority, not just the few. We will lead a working class campaign for a state infrastructure company and adequate support for worker and community-controlled co-operatives. And we will focus particular attention on the youth, women and other South Africans from historically disadvantaged sectors. Together, we must defend the infrastructure fund from corporate capture and the destructive regime of tenderisation.

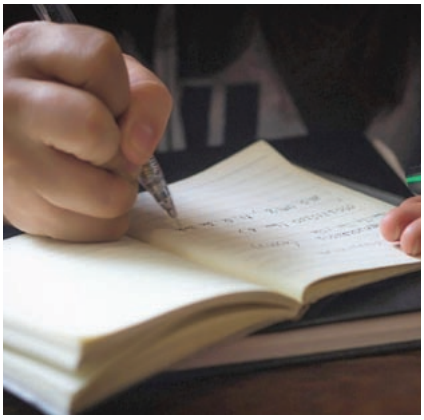


A people-centred economy led by the state

Together, let us take forward the commitments contained in the ANC manifesto to:

- Enable workers to own stakes in the companies they work for and share in the profits and to continue to benefit even after retirement;
- Allocate at least 30% of government's procurement spend to co-operatives and small businesses;
- Reduce the cost of data and extend free wi-fi to many more sites across the country;
- Transform the financial sector to increase industrial and financing for co-operatives and small businesses;
- Accelerate land reform for sustainable livelihoods and provide greater support for emerging farmers; and
- Empower and expand enabling conditions in all areas of human development so our people with disabilities enter the economy as a level playing field.

Let us drive broad-based ownership of the economy as one of the building blocks needed for transformation. In particular the SACP stands for promoting worker ownership to distribute production income and wealth to those who produce it from their labour – that is the working class, the broad masses. Let us advance social ownership, through among others worker controlled and community co-operatives. Let us revitalise, expand, and diversify the productive sector of the state.



Education – truly opening the doors of learning to all

The SACP stands for the achievement of the aim of the Freedom Charter for the doors of learning to be opened. Progress has been made since 1994. However there is still more work to be done. Let us support the commitments for the ANC-led government to:

- Make preparations for two years of early childhood development compulsory for all children;
- Move early childhood development from the department responsible for social development to the department responsible for education;
- Appoint qualified teachers, ensure teacher professional development and enforce accountability;
- Replace unsafe and inadequate school buildings with safe and adequate school buildings and sanitation facilities;
- Extend free education in public universities and colleges for students from poor, working class and "missing middle" households; and
- Provide the necessary assistive devices to learners and students with disabilities to enhance their opportunities to acquire education and skills.

ELECTIONS 2019

Universal quality healthcare through NHI

South Africa's healthcare sector is fragmented between public healthcare, which serves the overwhelming majority, and the private healthcare sector, which serves a few. The private healthcare sector charges exorbitant fees and claims the greater proportion of our country's total health spending. Elimination of the disparities in healthcare will contribute meaningfully towards improving the state of public hospitals and clinics. The SACP called for and supports the introduction of the National Health Insurance to eliminate the inequalities and ensure quality healthcare for all. The SACP supports the commitment in the ANC election manifesto to achieve this goal by 2025. The manifesto correctly commits the ANC-led government to:

- Implement a National Health Insurance to provide quality health care free;
- Fill critical vacant posts in public clinics and hospitals;
- Significantly expand training of doctors and nurses;
- Absorb over 50 000 community healthcare workers into the public health system and double this number over the next five years; and
- Screen an additional 2-million people for TB and ensure that at least 90% of HIV positive people are on treatment by 2020.

Social security, housing and transport

The SACP campaigned for, and supports, efforts to bring about a comprehensive social security system, to build houses close to where people work, provide affordable basic services and to develop a safe, reliable and integrated public transport system. Furthermore, the SACP supports the following commitments for the ANC-led government:

- Expansion of access to social security benefits and an increase in UIF coverage;
- Release of land to the people to build their own homes;
- Development of several major projects that bring together economic nodal areas, housing, smart technologies and public transportation;
- Investment in safe, reliable and integrated public transport systems that is also user friendly to people with disabilities; and
- Prioritisation of the provision of clean water and decent, safe sanitation.

The SACP wants uneven development eliminated – between rural and urban areas, and in urban areas, between suburbs and townships. The Party will continue social mobilisation of the working class to abolish this social injustice. This includes strengthening the campaign for the formalisation and development of informal settlements as well as continuing the just fight against unscrupulous housing evictions and fundamentally transforming the apartheid spatial economy.

Policing and combatting gender-based violence

The SACP supports the imperative for the ANC-led government to strengthen policing to rid our communities of all forms of crime, drugs, gangsterism and gender-based violence as well as violence in general. Let us support the ANC-led government to solve the crisis of social reproduction, by which we mean the crisis-level problems created by the sustaining of class, race and gender inequalities, impacting households and communities. This includes the following measures.

- Ensuring that the police are better trained to investigate and conclude cases and serve the people selflessly;
- Increasing the numbers and visibility of police officers in communities;
- Implementing a national plan of action that addresses the causes of gender-based violence, and violence in general;
- Equipping police and courts to support survivors of gender-based violence;
- Targeting drug syndicates through the new anti-gang units; and
- Take decisive action against those involved in any abuse, or violence against people with albinism or any disability.

The SACP Red October Campaign 2018–2019 places mobilisation to overcome the challenges of local government and combat the scourge of violence in general and gender-based violence in particular. Together we need to strengthen and intensify this campaign to support the success of the above-mentioned objectives.

Fighting corruption and building state capacity

The SACP is the first political organisation in our country to expose the corruption of corporate state capture. Working together with other social formations, we ensured establishment of the Zondo Commission (the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture). In addition the ANC-led government, with ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa as the President of our country, established more commissions and instituted other investigations, and reviews of the work of state organs. There is visible progress under way. As South Africans, we need to remain vigilant and work together to dismantle state capture networks and other forms of corruption not only in our state but also in our economy as a whole and society at large. The SACP supports the following national imperatives for the ANC-led government to:

- Take further decisive action against state capture and corruption in public institutions and state owned enterprises, as well as in our economy and society at large;
- Undertake lifestyle audits of public officials and prevention of public servants from doing business with the state;
- Strengthening law enforcement agencies like the Hawks (the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation). the Special Investigating Unit and the National Prosecuting Authority;
- Strengthening the oversight role of Parliament and provincial legislatures; and
- Support local councils to improve financial management, service provision and infrastructure building and maintenance.

Building a united South African nation!

As a people, we still have much to do to eliminate the legacy of racial and gender discrimination and economic inequalities. As the working class we need to strengthen our struggle against class exploitation, because as long as there is class exploitation there will be class inequalities and societal division. Nevertheless the SACP supports the following progressive measures as immediate imperatives for the ANC-led government:

- Implementation of indigenous language programmes in the education system and other places of public importance;
- Introduction of laws to combat hate crimes against people based on their race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, albinism and other ground of arbitrary discrimination;
- Promotion of media freedom and diversity;
- Inclusion of the needs of people with disabilities in all state programmes; and
- Promotion of an enabling environment for all people to celebrate their cultures.

In addition, we all need to encourage the development of a progressive South African culture from our diversity. The working class has a crucial role to play in forging this progressive cultural commonality.

The CC on the 6th general election

At its February Central Committee Meeting, the SACP said: The Central Committee endorsed the broad progressive thrust of the proposals in the ANC election manifesto for the forthcoming general election.

The SACP has started work to campaign for a decisive victory of the ANC for our people, the majority of whom is the working class.

This election work is taking place within the framework of a reconfigured Alliance process, which Alliance components agreed is necessary and are committed to working together to realise. Already four discussion papers have been produced and discussed.

Position paper

The Alliance tasked its Secretariat to produce a common Alliance position paper based on the outcomes of the discussions held. The work is presently underway. In addition, there was an Alliance consultative process in the manifesto drafting and electoral list consolidation processes.

While expressing support for the investment drive led by President Cyril Ramaphosa within the framework of government and ANC election manifesto commitments, the Central Committee attached great importance to ensuring that more investment is directed into the productive sector of the economy to create jobs and decent work.

Related to this, the SACP further supports the ANC election manifesto commitments on an industrial plan to support localisation, innovation, and broadening ownership of the economy.

The importance particularly of developing social ownership, including community and worker co-operatives, cannot be overemphasised. ●

ELECTIONS 2019

SACP on the campaign trail!

SACP national elections team chair **Madala Masuku** outlines the background to the Party's own campaign and its involvement with the broader Alliance drive to win a decisive 2019 victory

The SACP elections campaign is in full swing as South Africa's 8th national election, on 8 May 2019, draws near. This undoubtedly will be the most contested election ever. The number of participating parties has jumped from 29 in 2014 to 48. They are far more diverse than before – from the Right to the Left, including the Socialist Workers' Revolutionary Party and parties representing traditional leaders and conservative churches, some bordering on having a racial or ethnic base. Some of these parties are hoping to thrive on the divisions within the ANC and the Alliance and wittingly or unwittingly serve the interests of the "fightback" campaign within the ANC. The SACP will continue with its attempts to ensure a reconfigured Alliance and will report back to our Special National Congress in December.

Given the current economic and political terrain, the balance of forces within the Alliance and the country, and organisational challenges within the SACP and the Alliance, the SACP Central Committee has decided to fully support the ANC in the election campaign, and will attend to outstanding Alliance issues after that. Since 1994 the SACP has always participated as part of the ANC elections campaign but we have also had our complementary campaign that addresses the specific concerns, needs and interests of the working class and other classes and strata committed to the socialist struggle. We will do the same this time. Our approach is to use the campaign to strengthen our structures and build our strength.

A national elections team is coordinating the SACP elections campaign and has a teleconference every Monday morning to review the progress of the campaign of the previous week and to confirm the programme for the week ahead and beyond, and to deal with implementation issues.

General Secretary Blade Nzimande (centre) and Gauteng Provincial Chairperson Joe Mpisi campaigning among commuters at Johannesburg's Park Station

Khosi Mabaso, SACP Gauteng provincial election convener (left), and CC members Lechesa Tsenoli and Reneva Fourie at the SACP-hosted lecture on Cuba and Latin America at Unisa in Tshwane

While the SACP campaign is specific and independent, it remains part of the Alliance's overall campaign, headed by the ANC. The SACP participates in all ANC electoral structures, at national, provincial, local, ward and voter district (VD) levels. We also participate in joint war-rooms with Cosatu, established at national and provincial levels and in operation centres at district level to co-ordinate mobilisation for May Day and the elections. Chris Hani Red Brigades have been established across the country, at

Continued on Page 8

Politburo member and Umsebenzi deputy editor Jenny Schreiner briefs SACP activists ahead of the Hani Day elections blitz in in Germiston, Ekurhuleni

1st Deputy GS Solly Mapaila thanks Venezuelan and Cuban dignitaries at the Cuba and Latin America public lecture

SACP finance manager Zodwa Modiga distributes pamphlets at Klipooortjie, Germiston, during the Party's Hani Day elections blitz

ELECTIONS 2019

PLANNING FOR THE BLITZ: Party activists led by National Chair Senzeni Zokwana (far left), Mhlekwa Nxumalo (black jacket), and Gauteng Provincial DS Mpapa Kanyane (speaking) at Kilppoortjie, Germiston

From Page 6

tracting hundreds of SACP volunteers to campaign for the ANC at a VD level.

Given that our electoral approach is anchored in the main tasks of renewal identified at the 14th Congress, our members are expected to build strong relationships with communities, as we mobilise them for elections. This includes taking up community challenges, not for elections purposes only, but for developing programmes and campaigns that will serve as follow-ups after the elections, including integration into our Red October Campaign through raising service delivery challenges.

Central Committee Members, with our officials playing the lead, have been rotating between provinces to complement the work of our Red Brigades to ensure that the SACP is highly visible and everywhere: at workplaces, taxi ranks, train stations, in farms, in rural and urban areas, in townships and suburbs. SACP members are leading in door to door work. Since the launch of the SACP Campaign, we have seen significant improvements in the number of voters contacted in many areas.

A key part of the campaign is engaging in the battle of ideas, not just through the usual print and broadcast media but, very importantly, through social media. The SACP has established a strong communications network all levels to ensure regular monitoring to detect pertinent issues and ensure timeous responses thereto. The elections campaign framework has ignited a lot of excitement and renewed energy among members. Inactive structures have been revived, new units are being formed in VDs where there were no structures, and relationships within the Alliance are strengthening. In other areas we are seeing the revival of Cosatu locals, as a result of the call for the local structures to complement those at national and provincial levels inspired by joint activities such as Shop Steward Council meetings and the Qina Umsebenzi campaign.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: The audience cheers during the lecture on Cuba and Latin America

Opposition parties are leaving no stone unturned to remove our progressive movement from government. A multiplicity of political parties has been

General Secretary Blade Nzimande and Gauteng Provincial Secretary Jacob Mamabolo campaigning among commuters at Johannesburg's Park Station

SACP first DSG Solly Mapaila (centre) with Red Brigades activists Khumbudzo Muravha, Mashudu Mabala, Mabila, Muleya and Rantete on a farm visit in Vhembe district, Limpopo

SACP Treasurer Joyce Moloi-Moropa (right), members of the district leadership and German volunteers planning their door-to-door campaign in Leroro Village, Mpumalanga

established specifically to split the ANC's traditional voter base. Our past errors are forming the basis of their efforts to unseat us. The SACP is committed to consolidating, defending and advancing the gains of the National Democratic Revolution. It is our responsibility to ensure that efforts to undermine this process do not succeed.

We have to convince every current member and supporter and every past member and supporter to go to the polls and vote ANC. We have to persuade new voters that the ANC presents a vision and policies that remain unmatched. These remaining few weeks require that we work day and night, to do everything to secure a massive ANC electoral victory.

Core programmes continue

The 2019 national elections campaign is contributing to the strength of the SACP. But fundamental campaigns of the SACP have however not been neglected. Many Red Brigade launches have been infused with Cde Chris Hani commemorations. Significant in this regard was the participation of SACP members at the official Chris Hani commemoration at the Thomas Nkobi Cemetery in Gauteng on 10 April. We have also continued to champion awareness around international matters through our participation in the SADC Solidarity Conference with the people of the Saharawi Republic; the hosting of the Foreign Affairs Minister and Deputy Minister of Venezuela as well as the Vice President of Cuba; and participating in the Israeli Apartheid Week. ●

Cde Masuku is a SACP Central Committee and Politburo member, Chairperson of the SACP's National Elections Team and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development

ELECTIONS 2019

The duplicity of the DA

Jeremy Cronin finds in the DA manifesto a limp effort to make its aggressive, racialised neoliberal capitalism look people-friendly

The DA used to be successful at hiding its internal contradictions. It is finding it harder these days. On the one hand, its old white rump constituency members are inclined towards a "colour-blind", race denialism. On the other, its newer black recruits, some of whom have been thrust into party leadership positions, understand that race denialism will keep the DA electorally stationary and their own wider political ambitions frustrated.

But for much of the DA's white membership personal political ambitions are less of a priority. They are well-resourced professionals. Ideologically they see government at best as a necessary evil, while the market (on which, of course, they enjoy many advantages) is, in their view, the real provider of all things bright and beautiful. Politics for them is not so much about the effective use of state power to transform society – but rather a game of checks and balances, directed against the executive and the "tyranny of the majority" (i.e. democracy) to ensure that their narrow personal, class interests on the market are not impeded.

If you bother to read the DA election manifesto you will see these contradictions playing themselves out clearly.

Treading awkwardly into the space of "race", for instance, the DA manifesto says: "The reason that the DA supports a programme of race-based redress is, simply put, because it is an important part of our country's reconciliation project and vital for justice."

The first part of that sentence clearly shows that the DA feels it has to **justify** to its white members and supporters this awkward reality that it supports (what it calls) "race-based redress".

But then it quickly reassures its "colour-blind" liberals that: "Redress by definition is a project aimed at redressing a past wrong, and once that wrong has been remedied, the need for said redress will by definition fall away. This means that a programme of redress does need a sunset clause."

Municipal 'red ants' carry out one of dozens of evictions from Steenvilla, Cape Town's largest social housing project Pic: Ashraf Hendricks (Groundup)

Having been forced to acknowledge race as a political issue, the DA now seeks to present it as a legacy from the past ("a past wrong" – not a continued structural problem) that a single (?) programme will redress perhaps in a matter of five or 10 years. Then it can fall away.

In fact, the DA's understanding of the "race question" (what might, more accurately, be called "racial oppression") is very thin in time – going forward with a soon to be sun-setting "redress", but also going back in time.

This is how the DA manifesto speaks of the past: "Our society is unique in many ways. One of our most defining features is the legacy of race-based deprivation. Apartheid used laws to push black South Africans to the periphery of our economy and society."

Notice what is absent in this shallow history of South Africa.

First, **colonialism**. Airbrushed out are more than 300 years of colonial genocide and dispossession, plus Cape slavery, plus Natal colonial indentured Indian labourers. This dismal history that, long before apartheid "used laws" (only laws?) to marginalise the black majority, is left unspoken.

We shouldn't be surprised that the DA chooses to forget colonialism, after all Helen Zille still thinks colonialism gave us an independent judiciary and "civilisation", provoking controversy within DA and rendering this C-word a hot potato to be avoided.

Also absent is, secondly, a particularly brutal brand of **monopoly capitalism** associated with the mining industrial

Supporters of Reclaim the City and Ndifuna Ukwazi protest a planned eviction in Woodstock, Cape Town - part of the DA-facilitated gentrification.
Pic: Ashraf Hendricks (Groundup)

revolution from the late-19th century. It was the mining houses that consolidated labour reserves, migrant labour, pass laws and the compound system… again long before apartheid "used laws" to marginalise the black majority. In fact, mining monopoly capital didn't only just push black South Africans to the periphery of our economy and society. Through land expropriation and the imposition of poll taxes, Africans were forced ***into*** a capitalist cash economy and literally into the belly of the beast, down dangerous mine shafts in their hundreds of thousands. Marginalisation, yes…but also hyper-exploitative inclusion.

Moreover, "race-based redress", this hurried concession the DA is making to its new black membership, is not just limited in time in the party's manifesto. It is also very thin in content. The DA manifesto tells us: "What is crucial to understand is that redress must not be conflated with social support."

Redress…but no social support? What on earth does ***that*** mean? The manifesto is telling black South Africans that the DA is committed to "race-based redress" – but don't expect any social support!

The manifesto continues: "Every state has a duty to protect its vulnerable citizens and this protection must never be provided on the basis of race or any other marker of religion, gender etc."

If the manifesto had said that social support, or better, active transformation, should take into account the intersection of several structural realities (racialised, gendered and class oppressions) then that would make some sense. But to rule out race and gender (never mind class) as key indicators of structurally reproduced inequality is duplicitous.

Substantive transformation is a bridge too far for the DA in its election manifesto

At the heart of all of this is the DA's refusal to acknowledge the structural features of our society. The DA can only acknowledge individual (colourless, genderless, class-less) citizens – some of whom happen to be "vulnerable". But what lies behind that vulnerability? To be clear, as the SACP we are not arguing that black millionaires are deserving of special consideration, while white working class women are not. It is the structural features of our society that continue to reproduce massive inequalities of all kinds that require active transformation, including redress.

Because the DA's view of South Africa's history is so thin, our current structural realities are reduced in its manifesto to simply to past "exclusionary policies", and apartheid "laws". It is not a question of ensuring much greater substantive equality in our society. For the DA, the key slogan is a mythical, individualised,

"equal opportunity" for all. Remove discriminatory laws and policies and let's all have an "equal opportunity" to compete in the market place, whether we are commuting two hours from Orange Farm or Khayelitsha, or driving in from Sandton or Constantia.

Of course, policies and laws need to be changed. But substantive transformation is required. This is a bridge too far for the DA manifesto. Which is why, having dipped its toe into "race-based redress", it quickly goes on to argue: "What is also important to note is that economic redress does not have to mean taking from one group or individual to give to another. It is about expanding access to opportunity to all South Africans." In other words, for the DA, economic redress is not about redistribution of existing resources.

Yes, we cannot transform South Africa into a non-racial democracy free of patriarchy and class exploitation simply on the basis of redistribution. The SACP has repeatedly argued this, pointing out the need for radical structural transformation of our political economy.

But to rule out redistributive measures as a necessary part of "economic redress" is either stupidity, or extreme deviousness.

A progressive tax system, for instance, takes from one "group" and, in principle at least, redistributes to others through budgetary spend on public housing, health-care, and education. Even de-colonised liberals (if there is such a thing) understand this.

Let's take another example – transforming apartheid-colonial spatial patterns in our towns and countryside. This will necessarily involve redistributive elements (taking away from some and providing for others). This taking away may not be expropriation of an asset (with or without compensation), but it will certainly involve impacting on the value of an asset. In a deeply divided class society, it is an illusion to imagine that transformation will always be a win-win solution for all.

Constructing medium-density settlements, including low-cost housing and affordable rental stock for working class families close to work and amenities, in existing well-heeled suburbs, will impact on the property values of JSE-listed speculators and wealthy households. It will (and is) meeting hostile NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard) resistance. Structural transformation, in this case the transformation of racialised and class apartheid-space, will inevitably diminish the value of assets for some in order to provide for others.

Ruling out re-distributive measures as a necessary part of transformation is either stupid or devious

Conversely, and in practice, in the cities the DA actually controls they are permitting massive gentrification in historical working class areas. This is structural transformation in the reverse direction, unleashing market forces to evict the poor, in effect continuing the same work that Group Areas forced removals once performed.

This is South Africa. The evicted poor, in this case, are mainly black. And the market forces the DA unleashes are not some "past wrong". They are entrenching and deepening past wrongs. At the end of the day, the DA's "equal opportunity", market society, with its timid embrace of "race-based redress", is a con-trick. Read their manifesto. You will find, not an effective way forward for our country, but a poorly disguised attempt at papering over deep internal DA divisions. ●

Cronin is an SACP Central Committee and Politburo member and Deputy Minister of Public Works

Vibrant SACP rally in Umzimkhulu

About 500 people turned up at a remarkably well-organised, enthusiastic elections rally in the Thembisile Hani SACP District in Umzimkhulu in KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, 30 March.

All Alliance partners spoke at the meeting with the same message: leave our differences aside and let's all work together to ensure a massive victory for the ANC at the elections on 8 May.

In a stirring speech that roused the audience, the Thembisile Hani SACP District Secretary, Cde Nhlanhla Zungu, referred to the recent community protests on water and housing, and the tensions between taxi drivers and protestors. He said that the SAPS failed to perform its duties and that contributed to the violence. But he stressed that everybody has a duty to vote for the ANC on 8 May – and he had the whole audience chanting in support.

Stealing the show: a toddler joins the Sarafina dancers

In a speech on the theme "One ANC, One Alliance", SACP Central Committee and Politburo member Cde Yunus Carrim said rallies were not enough. He urged people to go door to door to mobilise voters for the ANC.

He referred to the huge achievements of the ANC government in the delivery of water, electricity, social grants and other services, but stressed that far more had to be done.

He said the SACP was working on changing the nature of the ANC-led Alliance as part of its "reconfiguration" approach as decided at its July 2017 Congress. The Party will report back on this at the SACP's Special National Congress to be held in December this year.

There were various cultural items at the rally, including excerpts from the musical *Sarafina* performed by primary school children. The show was stolen by a very determined, very confident toddler dancing among the *Sarafina* performers. She certainly lifted the mood of the meeting. There's no doubt who she'd vote for! ●

Pictures in this issue: Lucky Masuku, Thabo Kadikadi, Nhlakanipho Mfeka, Skinjar Ramogumu, Alex Mashilo, Reneva Fourie and Mpho Rantho