

UMSEBENZI ONLINE

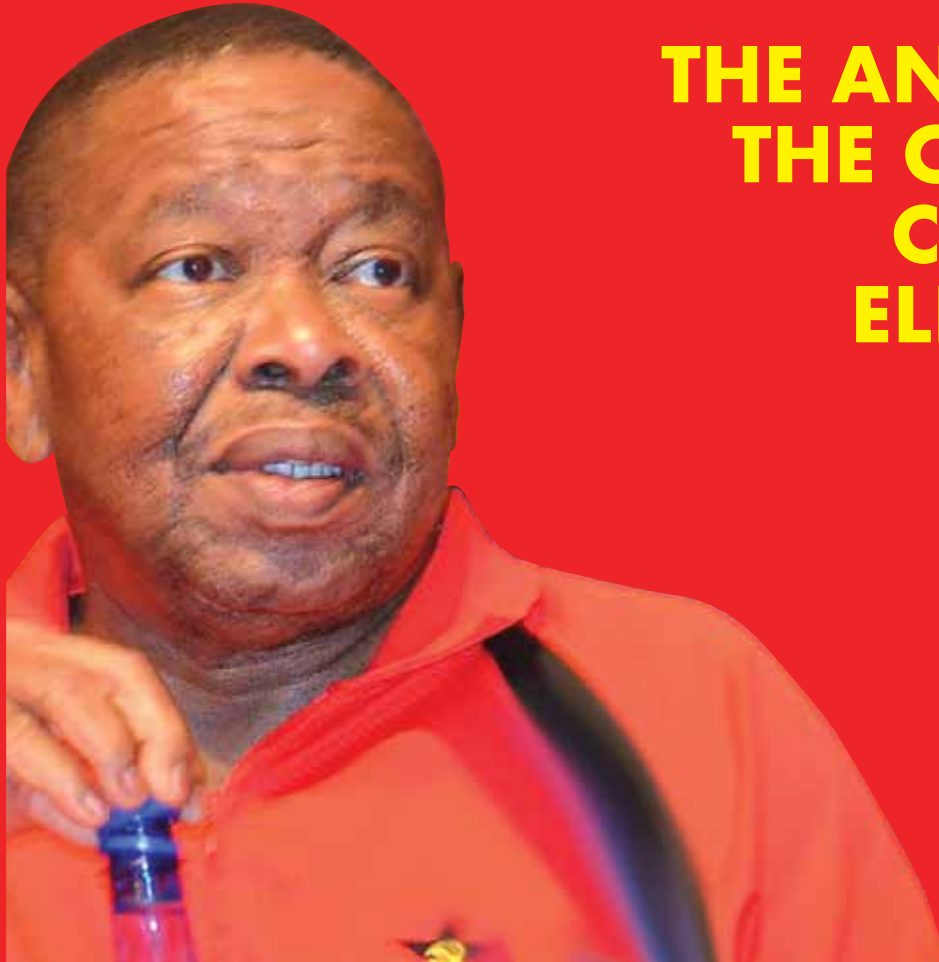
Online Voice of the South African Working Class

VOLUME 20, NO. 07, 28 OCTOBER 2021

RED ALERT



THE ANC REMAINS THE ONLY PARTY CONTESTING ELECTIONS TO VOTE FOR



The SACP calls upon the workers and poor of our country, as well as sections of the middle strata, small businesses, and co-operatives to come out in their numbers to vote overwhelmingly for the ANC on Monday, 1st November 2021.

Dr Blade Nzimande, the SACP General Secretary



SACP
1921- 2021

100 YEARS

OF UNBROKEN STRUGGLE

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT
SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE-BUILD IT NOW!

VOTE ANC



X

BUILDING
BETTER
COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER

IN THIS ISSUE : THE ANC REMAINS THE ONLY PARTY CONTESTING ELECTIONS TO VOTE FOR.

Yes, we admit, the ANC has been beset by numerous problems and challenges in recent years. Some of these have threatened the unity and cohesion of the movement. These have been the problems of factionalism, careerism, and even a counter-revolutionary element. This was manifested by, amongst others, the July attempted insurrection. There have also been attempts by sections of those involved at hijacking construction and other civil construction projects in communities and blockading highways. These actions are not isolated from a counter-revolutionary element within our movement.

On the positive side, the ANC is gradually coming out boldly to tackle some of these problems. There are many positive developments that we must all welcome, and build upon, as part of strengthening the renewal and unity of the ANC and our entire movement. The ANC has come out openly and frankly. Its efforts to tackle the situation needs the support of all of us. The implementation of the step aside rule, as well as its enforcement on its senior leaders, is an example of determination to uproot all that is wrong inside our movement.

In contradiction, some of the political parties deeply implicated in corruption, among others the looting of the VBS Mutual Bank, have taken none such bold actions. Needless to say, they have not even admitted the existence of this problem within their ranks.

In yet another different approach, the ANC has further shown revolutionary courage and boldness in taking its local government ward candidate councillors to communities for scrutiny, acceptance or rejection and replacement. None of the political parties that contest the local government elections have had the courage to undertake such bold action. The ANC shows its confidence in the wisdom of communities. All the other electoral parties have presented us with candidates who they have narrowly endorsed within their internal structures and meetings.

Besides, parties like the DA have come up with racially divisive and, in fact, racist messaging seeking to pit the African and Indian communities in areas like Phoenix in Durban. They have no regard for building social cohesion amongst our communities. As the first political organisation in South Africa to put forward the principle of non-racialism, the SACP is deeply concerned about, and strongly condemns, the racial shenanigans of the DA.

The SACP is celebrating its 100 years since its founding in 1921. We have spent over 90 years of our centenary in the trenches together with the ANC and the progressive trade union movement as allies. Over this period, the ANC has distinguished itself in the struggle by achieving one of the most critical tasks in the liberation struggle. In our land, it was the ANC that united the African people regardless of language, culture and geographical location. This historic achievement placed the unity of the African people in the forefront of driving our National Democratic Revolution as a single, principal motive force. Former President Thabo Mbeki is absolutely correct to argue that this country needs the ANC and its historical mission to continue as this uniting force in society.

Historically, the unity of the African people formed our foundation for, and is not in contradiction to, as some racists and tribal chauvinists would argue, building a non-racial society. Without the unity of the African majority, the foundation for transforming the South African society into a fully-fledged non-racial society would have long been weakened and undermined. While as the SACP we were the first political formation in our country to advance the organising and unifying principle of non-racialism, we worked together with ANC for many years to pioneer this imperative, long before many of the existing opposition or democratic era electoral parties were formed. Many of those who are firmly behind organisations such as the DA were during that period in the racist national party and other right-wing forces.

It was the ANC through mutually reinforcing influence with the SACP that properly grasped and articulated nation building correctly. The ANC emphasised the importance of the liberation and

emancipation of the oppressed Africans in particular and black people in general to realise the aims of building a non-racial and non-sexist society. This concretised the Freedom Charter's injunction, that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white! South Africa still requires such a broad movement, as is the imperative to deepen and defend the National Democratic Revolution to dismantle the legacy of colonial and apartheid oppression, domination, discrimination, and forms of exploitation.

What do other parties offer?

As we have highlighted, the DA offers its dangerously racist offensive to divide and cause harm and hatred between Indians and Africans in Durban, amongst other things. It has arrogantly and recklessly ignored the terrible living conditions of the Africans in particular and black people in general in the Western Cape Province. It is telling us that which it has been doing in the Western Cape is the best model and solution for the entire country. On November 1st, let us go out in our numbers to refuse to go back to the past. Let us go out to cast our resounding vote for the anc that is committed to rectify its internal weaknesses and serve the people wholeheartedly.

Others contesting the local government elections continue to push their reckless and irresponsible anti-white and anti-indian racial chauvinism. This can only drive our country into racially based confrontation. We do not need that at all.

Rather, we need redress, affirmative action, and the transformation of race, gender and class social relations in our country, towards a just and equal society. But this can only be achieved if we deepen our principled struggle to advance the interests of the workers and poor, towards fully realising the vision of a non-racial and democratic South Africa characterised by shared prosperity, as the Freedom Charter states. In fact, the struggle for economic emancipation is simultaneously a struggle for de-racialising and eliminating patriarchy in our economy, systematically rolling back class exploitation and inequalities, to build a more socially cohesive society.

The DA and its right-wing ilk, some of which it worked together with in coalition dealings, are joined in by the backward and very dangerous endorsement by the Freedom Front plus of the secession of the Western Cape from South Africa. This is so short-sighted. It underrates the extent to which such divisive, secessionist agendas may lead to the unrelenting struggles we waged against apartheid and its division of our country into bantustans and so on. Our country is indivisible!

In yet another desperation, the IFP has used a photo of the Zulu king on its e-Posters. This was not a mistake. It was a 'freudian slip'. This shows the extent to which the IFP has historically used the Zulu throne and Zulu 'nationalism' as a tool to legitimise itself politically.

Besides, the IFP has essentially remained a regionalist party. Its influence is located largely in some parts of the northern part of KZN and linked to that in certain hostels in gauteng.

The desperate racial, black chauvinist, and ethnic manoeuvres expose the extent to which the opposition parties that engage in such divisive shenanigans are politically bankrupt. We cannot overemphasise the importance of renewing and strengthening the anc and its unity to continue its role and task in leading the building of a new, united, and cohesive South African society.

The SACP does not call for a vote for the ANC only because of its past heroic role, important as this is, but also based on its record since 1994 in government. A lot of progress has been made, including at local government level. The massive rollout of electricity and water provision by the anc-led government has benefitted millions of our people.

During the first 20 years of our democratic transition, the anc-led government rolled out twice more electricity household connections than the whole of a century of colonialism and apartheid between 1894 and 1994!

There has also been extensive rollout of water infrastructure and provision, despite the many challenges that we still have today.

Nationally, the ANC has rapidly expanded the provision of free education at both basic and higher education levels, with 10 million learners in a no-fee-paying schools and feeding schemes, providing at least one meal per day. Today, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme has supported more than a million students mainly in universities and colleges. Most of the students who received the NSFAS support were the first ever graduates in the history of their families.

The massive progress that millions of people have realised in the highlighted and other areas needs strong endorsement, through a democratic vote for the ANC on 1st November.

It is equally important to recognise that a lot of work still needs to be done, to build on the massive progress achieved, towards completing the National Democratic Revolution, securing full emancipation based on establishing a society with shared prosperity.

As part of the work that needs to be done, we must address the shortcomings and rectify the weaknesses that seek to overwhelm the positives with the negatives. This task still requires an anc in alliance with working-class formations, the SACP and COSATU, and working much more closely with other progressive sections of the people at large.

The economy in general, including local economic development, has remained elusive for a long period since our transition to our democratic dispensation. A more determined implementation of the District Development Model, coupled with systemic and other decisive interventions in the economy, has the potential to drive structural transformation, diversify and develop our economy to take care of the material and cultural needs of the people.

The ANC has made some very important commitments in its manifesto that we, as the SACP, agree with, which is why we endorsed them in making our contribution to the drafting of the manifesto. If the progressive thrust of the manifesto can stridently be implemented, it can go a long way in changing our local economies and the national economy at large. The commitments we want to see implemented include, to mention but a few:

- A review of outsourced functions with the aim of in-sourcing them, to improve the quality of government services without interference by state capture and corrupt elements who thrive through the tenderisation of the state and the hollowing out of its capacity.
- Scaling up of public employment programmes to drive skills development and tackle unemployment.
- Roll-out of township and village infrastructure to roll back uneven development. This will also contribute to employment through construction, care, and maintenance.
- If there is one lesson that we can learn from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, that is the absolute necessity to ensure and secure food security and sovereignty. Land redistribution, agricultural expansion, agrarian transformation, and agro-processing are essential in building food security and sovereignty. This will also contribute to poverty eradication and employment creation.
- Therefore, the government must press ahead to use its constitutionally vested powers, to adopt legislative and other measures to ensure land redistribution for productive use, as well as for advancing integrated human settlements. The measures must include expropriation to

ensure equitable access to land, water, and other natural resources, to banish the scourge of land hunger and famine affecting working-class and poor families.

- In line with the Freedom Charter, it is imperative to offer material support, make funding available and accessible, and build the technical capacity of the people, including through skills development, to use land productively, not least for food production and participation in the entire sphere of the political economy of land. This includes mineral and petroleum development, integrated human settlements development as an economic sector on its own, and other economic uses of land.
- It is important to work with the ANC and the government collaboratively in fighting the scourge against gender-based violence and in fostering gender equality. No country can foster both economic and broader social transformation and development and reconstruct itself if it continues to allow such and other forms of violence to prevail.

Our mobilisation for a vote for the ANC, as is our own vote for the ANC, is neither a blank cheque nor does it amount to outsourcing our own sense of agency, our own initiative as the pioneers of transformation and development ourselves. We must deepen the imperative to reconfigure the alliance, so that it can function optimally and continuously better at every new moment than the previous one. Besides supporting the ANC in alliance with the SACP and COSATU to win the elections, we have the equally important duty to ensure that the government serves the needs of the people as a whole. We have the duty to build our own capacity and actively play a leading role as the most advanced and resolute, to emphasise, more than any other organisation or the opposition, in holding the government to account.

Let us go all out in our numbers on 1st November to cast a resounding vote for the ANC. We must consider our vote for the ANC as an important step in reclaiming the leading component of our movement back to the people. Let us strengthen our organisational capacity and political activism, including mass mobilisation, to play a leading role in holding the government to account, always, after voting for the ANC.



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ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY | SACP; EST. 1921 AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA | CPSA

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