



Bottomline

The Voice of South African Youth

Socialism In Our Lifetime

Issue#001

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JUNE 2020 | YCLSA YOUTH MONTH EDITION

Covid-19
Statistics
Inside

POLITICAL ECONOMY

During Covid-19

TINYIKO NTINI

A message from the desk
of the National Secretary

Youth Month Edition

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Bottomline is a monthly publication of the Young Communist League of South Africa [UFASIMBA] – it is a unique publication. Given the context of many publications in South Africa that are privately owned and/or part of the media monopoly, the Bottomline is aimed at educating, liberating and agitating the South African working-class youth. It is a revolutionary publication reserved for progressive ideas of young people in the main and advancing the struggles of the working class generally. This publication is produced by the oldest youth movement and the first non-racial youth organization in the African continent – The Young Communist League of South Africa. It contains articles, speeches, book reviews, music reviews, letters to the editor, and seeks to advance ideological perspectives on the class struggle, gender struggles, the national question, history, youth activism and organizational activities.

Guidelines for Submissions of Articles

1) Style and length

The length of feature articles should be between the range of 1200-1800 words (excluding the title of the article). Opinion pieces should not exceed 900 words. The Length of letters to the editor and writings on organizational activities should not be more than 500 words. Reviews on books are considered to be the length of opinion pieces. Music and technological reviews should be in the same range of words as letters to the editor.

2) Submission dates

The Bottomline is a monthly publication and due dates for the publication will be released in the submission schedule. All articles sent 10 days before release will not be considered.

3) Plagiarism and writing

All articles submitted should follow the principle of originality – meaning that the writings must be the ideas of the author. All cited sources should be referenced. We are less likely to publish articles that were published elsewhere unless the editorial board takes a contrary decision. Should you feel that your article will reach a wider audience or readership through Bottomline than where it was published, you can send the article to the editor.

4) Themes

Different issues of the Bottomline have different themes (Youth Month, State Power, Gender struggles, etc) and some articles might be reserved for a specific theme.

5) Articles review process

The Bottomline is publication aimed at advancing the ideas of the working class, especially young people. Therefore, articles written by young people and members of the YCLSA will be given special preference. All articles will go through a review process and the author will be informed of the review process before publication.

For more information on articles and contributions to the Bottomline.

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PUBLICATION

Editor In Chief - Tinyiko Ntini
Editor - Dloze Matooane
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From the desk of the National Secretary

- Tinyiko Ntini – Editor in Chief

Our first copy of the Bottomline migrated to a full edited publication comes during a time when the world is battling with the novel corona virus. The global pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) has changed the way we do things and the Young Communist League of South Africa also had to adapt to this new normal.

We commemorated both Freedom Day and May Day under strict lockdown conditions – level 5. On both occasions, through virtual messages – we continued to emphasize the need for the unity of workers, and our call to elevate the youth economic agenda based on socialist principles.

On the 10th of April 2020, we commemorated 27 years since the passing of the late General Secretary of our party, Chris Hani. We also took the opportunity to commemorate the centenary of Comrade Brian Bunting, a key figure in the struggle for socialism in our country and globally. We could not miss the opportunity to pass

respect to these two giants of our revolution. The level of inspiration that the current generation of young communists in our country draws from these leaders signifies their great contributions to the struggle for social justice.

Brian Bunting joined the Communist Party of South Africa in 1940, exactly 80 years ago, meaning that he participated in the CPSA (now SACP) 10 years before the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950. He participated in the 1946 Mine Workers strike which inspired the founding slogan of the ANC Youth League, Freedom in our Lifetime.

In 1998, he rightfully became the first recipient of the Moses Kotane Award at the 10th Congress of the SACP together with Billy Nair and left the world of the living a decade later.

Both Chris Hani and Brian Bunting were seasoned communists who understood the pain of being defined as foreign and illegal in the land of their birth and lived in exile, to fight for freedom against the barbaric apartheid capitalist exploitation.

As we commemorated our late General Secretary, the YCLSA has joined the call by the SACP for private health facilities to provide free health-care services, testing and support to the poor and the working class during these difficult times.

It was Chris Hani's ambition, much as it was a resolution of the SACP, that free medical care and support should be made free and compulsory. Under the current economic conditions, this resolution remains urgent for the poor and the marginalized workers.

The YCLSA is part of the agreement by Communist Youth Movements across the world that agreed on the need for young people to practice

all recommended safety precautions to protect others and be protected against the virus, and we shall never lower the voice of our demands! We demand:

- The Public Health System in all countries to be reinforced with state funding, so that the efforts of the medical and nursing staff get strengthened now.
- The necessary protection means to be provided for free to everyone (such as masks, gloves and alcohol-based hand rubs).
- The working rights of the workers to be protected. No to dismissals and salary reductions. No to the curtailment of democratic rights on the pretext of COVID-19.
- End all sanctions and measures of economic exclusion, which in this situation are even more unjust and criminal and make the life of the peoples in the countries they turn against to even more difficult.
- To take all necessary measures to protect the health and life of the peoples.
- We say no to imperialist interventions and military exercises, such as those of NATO, and demand that public resources be redirected to support the needs of the peoples, such as the financing of public health and social security systems.

“Branches of the Young Communist League should at all material times be rooted in community struggles.”

We equally held our youth day rally virtually given the conditions of the current nationwide lockdown in our country. In our message we strongly condemned the killing and abuse of women and children in our country.

Every YCL cadre an activist against Gender Based Violence

Sadly, as we are fighting the novel virus and the strains of the capitalist economy on the working class during this period of the novel corona virus, we equally witnessed the rise in Gender Based Violence cases in our country.

Communities have a duty to protect those who are vulnerable to violence such as women, children and the LGBTQI+. Branches of the Young Communist League should mobilize communities against this scourge and establish community units to fight this brutality. We should equally strive to educate our communities, especially young men, that women do not owe them anything.

University based branches should ensure that the safety of all students is a priority. Campuses should have a response plan in dealing with Gender Based Violence much as they have a response plan to deal with protests and whatever they view as violence and unwarranted behaviour.

Build a campaigning YCL to advance community struggles and socialism

Branches of the Young Communist League should at all material times be rooted in community struggles. Every YCL cadre should be a community activist. Even as we are fighting the Novel Covid-19 pandemic, we should equally ensure that organizational work continues. The voice of young people should be heard.

Enjoy this first publication of Bottomline in a new format. Forward to socialism in our lifetime!

Tinyiko Ntini is the National Secretary of the Young Communist League of South Africa.



Word from the editor - Dloze Matoane

As the world is battling with the novel corona virus, it is equally sacrosanct that young communists participate in the scramble for ideas to ensure that we do not go back to the crisis before the crisis. Every young communist should be a frontline cadre in the battle of ideas to advance socialist ideas and promote social justice.

The first paragraph in chapter 9 of the South Africa Road to Socialism, the policy programme of the South African Communist Party, asserts that the battle of ideas is an integral part of the class struggle. It is both a struggle over ideas themselves and a struggle to transform the ideological capacity of institutions in our society that are responsible for the production and dissemination of ideas – including the media, the educational and training system, the policy apparatus within the state, and a wide range of cultural and faith based instructions and practices. The

Bottomline, a publication of the Young Communist League of South Africa serves the latter purpose.

In this publication, Roman Kononenko, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Leninist Komsomol of the Russian Federation, writes on the need to build socialism now and post the covid-19 global crisis. This article reflects on the lessons and events that occurred during the era of USSR and assess Russia post the collapse of the Soviet Union. The article paints a picture of how the oligarchy in Russia has captured the state for the ruling elite and how poverty escalated post the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The National Secretary of the Young Communist League of South Africa, Tinyiko Ntini, writes on the connection between global capitalism and the South African domestic liberal fraternity and how the covid-19 pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of capitalism. He asserts that capitalism prioritizes the economy over lives as if the economy does not rely on people.

Mzwandile Thakhudi and Xolani Tseletsele writes on the need to build the agricultural productive capacity of our society to ensure food security and alleviate hunger. The article reflects on the events that occurred during the nationwide lock in the Free State province regarding food parcels. Poverty is a direct product of capitalist greed and the inequalities that exists in our society.

Given that covid-19 has exposed the weakness of the state machinery in providing tools and PPE to nurses and other professions in the health sector, Nathaniel Mabelebele writes on the funding model for nursing edu-

cation system. He argues that the current policies on nursing education ignores institutional infrastructure, the livelihoods of nursing students and a range of other issues.

National Committee members of the Young Communist League of South Africa, Avuma Mdini and Khalipha Melani responds to the President of the ANC Women's League, Bathabile Dlamini, on the allegations she made regarding the national congress of the YCLSA in one of the virtual lectures she delivered on Facebook.

It is important that we adopt the culture of reading and writing as young communists. We wish you a good time as you read the Bottomline of the Young Communist League of South Africa.

Everything for the revolution and nothing against it!

Dloze Matoane is the National Spokesperson of the YCLSA

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Message on the occasion of the Young Communist League of South Africa's Virtual Youth Month Rally.

- Blade Nzimande on 20 June 2020



The immediate challenge facing the youth is the same as that facing the working-class. That is the challenge of overcoming the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, ensuring an economic turnaround through structural economic transformation, and advancing broader social transformation to rid our society of the crisis of social reproduction. This must be co-ordinated towards complete social emancipation, ensuring that we do not return back to the crisis before the Covid-19 crisis.

Against gender-based violence

Before I proceed on that score, I want to use this opportunity on behalf of the SACP to strongly condemn acts of gender-based violence in our society. I convey the SACP's solidarity and sincere condolences to all the families that lost their loved ones as a result of the scourge of femicide.

The police, the prosecution and the courts should leave no stone unturned. The perpetrators must be held to account, with maximum sentences. There must be justices for the victims of gender-based violence and the families that lost their loved ones as a result of the scourge of femicide. One of the most important guides for any society in any part of the history of the evolution of the struggles for justice and equality, especially in relation to young people, can be captured thus: The youth of yesterday must always strive to build and guide the youth of today, and the youth today has a duty and obligation to learn from the experiences of its preceding generations. One lesson that the youth of today needs to learn is how street committees played a crucial role in confronting the scourge of gender-based violence, amongst others. In every street, and part of a village, communities know the women abusers.

The youth should mobilise to end the scourge of gender-based violence in our society. In particular, I want to reiterate the SACP's call for equality in the socialisation and treatment of children. The boy-child and the girl-child are equally important. There must be non-sexist attention to both in their upbringing. The way both the girl-child and boy-child are socialised should inculcate the values against unequal treatment and gender-based discrimination. This should form part of our national effort to eliminate gender-based violence at home, in the community, in institutions of culture and learning, at work and in the economy broadly, and in every societal activity, including in traditional and religious institutions.

The material conditions of the youth and the need for a revolutionary response.

According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Statistics South Africa in February 2020:

- In terms of the official or narrow definition excluding discouraged work-seekers, in the last

quarter of 2019:

- the unemployment rate for the youth aged 15 to 24 years was 58.1 per cent;
- the rates for young people aged 15 to 24 who were not in employment, education and training were 33.7 per cent for females and 30.7 per cent for males, amounting to an average of 32 per cent;
- the unemployment rate for the youth aged 24 to 34 years was 35.6 per cent;
- the rates for the larger youth category from 15 to 34 years who were not in employment, education and training were 43.9 per cent for females and 36.4 per for males, amounting to an average of 40.1 per cent.
- As the figures indicate, the rates of unemployment and young people not in employment, education and training were higher for females than males.
- In terms of the expanded definition which includes discouraged work-seekers, in the fourth quarter of 2019,
- the unemployment rate for the youth aged 15 to 24 years was 69.5 per cent;
- the unemployment rate for the youth aged 24 to 34 years was 45.2 per cent.

Capital's response to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis is worsening youth unemployment through retrenchments. Firstly, the retrenchments affect both the workers as parents and their dependents – who are mainly young people, inclusive of children. Secondly, retrenchments directly affect employed young people. We specifically mention capital as the motive force retrenching workers in its response to the impact of Covid-19 because in class terms it is a monopoly that controls our economy.

The SACP pledges its solidarity with the affected workers, without exception in terms sector. We call upon trade unions to set aside their differences, and to unite in pursuit of the common interests of the workers, and against economic exploitation and retrenchments. I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the SACP, to reiter-

ate our call on the trade union movement to convene a joint conference on the common interests of the workers and joint programme of action.

Capital is not holding back. Through its campaign for the state to cut support for state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and to either fully or partly privatise SOEs, capital is pushing retrenchments also in the state sector as well. Monopoly-finance capital has increasingly gained power through financialisation processes, capital and financial markets and dealings. This is occurring in a global atmosphere dominated by imperialism, which exerts pressure on nation states to adopt policies against the will of the people, especially the working-class and poor, in favour of profit maximising and capital accumulation forces.

At present, neoliberal structural reforms are at the centre of the policies pushed by imperialist forces and imperialist-dominated institutions and organisations, including the Washington-based IMF and World Bank, and the Paris-based Club and OECD. This agenda also affects South Africa. The repeated calls for structural reforms which are neoliberal in content are a domestic manifestation of that agenda. This is being driven by means including direct copy and paste. The neoliberal reforms include measures coalescing on weakening state participation in the economy and rolling back workers gains and deepening their exploitation in favour of profit maximising, capital accumulation interests. This will undoubtedly maintain and widen inequality, and goes against the Freedom Charter.

The youth needs to develop an understanding of the structural processes and forces underpinning its material conditions – such as inequality, unemployment, poverty, and exposure to alcohol, substance and drug abuse, criminality, gender-based violence and racism. Many of these and other consequences of the capitalist system are entirely blamed on government often devoid of a deeper class analysis based on the materialist conception of history and dialectics. While

undeniably the state has a role to play, it is itself anchored in class divisions and class balance of forces, and so is its role, including policy considerations and choices. The youth should appreciate that it is an integral part of the class-divided society. Rather than fashion its struggles in isolation of class struggle, the working-class youth, in particular, should anchor its struggles in the working-class struggle for complete liberation and social emancipation.

The Young Communist League has a crucial role to play in developing a youth elaboration of the working-class struggle and mobilising the youth in support of the working-class. After all, the effects and problems of the exploitative system of capitalism affect the working-class youth and impact its future as adults.

Our liberation is far from complete. We are still a long way towards complete social emancipation. However, since 1994 our movement has made important advances and opened many opportunities for the youth, including in the sphere of education and skills development. The youth has also done its best to seize those opportunities. However, it has room for improvement and can do much better. The Young Communist League and the Progressive Youth Alliance are well-positioned to mobilise the youth against wasting time and the opportunities that the youth of 1976 did not have.

One of the struggles that the youth should take seriously is the working-class struggle to open the workplace as a training space. The youth should also take seriously the working-class struggle to develop national production through industrialisation by means of manufacturing expansion and diversification. The development of national production is very important for tackling unemployment and pioneering the universal right to work. Industrialisation should include linking agricultural production with food security and building sustainable livelihood, and with agro-processing and manufacturing.

In the same manner, industrialisation and raising the levels of national production to take care of the material needs of the people, especially the working-class and its youth, should include the transformation of the mining sector to support manufacturing localisation and domestic beneficiation of our mineral resources. This should be one of the key pillars to rid our economy of the colonial features such as reliance on exports of raw materials and dependency on imports of finished products.

We emphasise structural economic transformation in this message because Covid-19 is a health, economic and social crisis, and cannot be overcome without simultaneously advancing structural economic transformation and the struggle against the interrelated crisis of social reproduction.

In one line, the youth should see the struggles to achieve the advances sought by the working-class, including the all-important financial sector transformation, as its struggles.

Retrenchments at SABC

The SACP is deeply concerned that the SABC has served workers with notices of an intention to embark on retrenchments, and expresses working-class solidarity with the affected workers.

The SACP has worked with organised workers, especially the Cosatu affiliate the Communication Workers Union (CWU) in the media and communications sector in numerous situations in support of workers' struggles. The SACP will strengthen its ties with the CWU and deepen its work with the union at the SABC in defence of workers. It is concerning that the SABC has been recruiting, on the one hand, and is now pushing retrenchments, on the other. This does not make sense. The SABC must also come out publicly and confirm whether its recent recruits indeed

comprise individuals who were given hefty packages. These practices are indications that there is still a governance and management problem at the SABC. It is therefore important to revitalise the Save our Public Broadcaster Campaign. The Young Communist League and the youth, in general, should join in the campaign, which should include tackling unfair labour practices.

The Young Communist League should develop a leading role among the youth in supporting trade union and worker struggles against retrenchments at the SABC and in other sectors of the economy.

Amandla!

Blade Nzimande is the South African Communist Party General Secretary.

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YCLSA Virtual Youth Month Message.

- **Tinyiko Ntini.**

“Rebuilding the youth movement towards a youth-centred and socialist-orientated economy”

We send our greetings from the oldest youth movement and first non-racial youth organization on the African continent – The Young Communist League of South Africa.

Today, we deliver our first virtual youth month message under the theme “Rebuilding the youth movement towards a youth centred socialist orientated economy”. Indeed, gone are the days where young people will merely be spectators in the battle of ideas, especially in discussions relating to the political economy.

The Soweto student uprising in 1976, the formation of the Young Communist League of South Africa in 1922, the formation of the ANCYL in 1944, the formation of the student movement in 1924, moreover the establishment of SASO and other youth formations during the apartheid struggle reflects a reality that young people never tolerated being mere spectators in the struggle against any form of oppression or injustice. Whilst they are a strata but they can agitate for any revolutionary cause.

We denounce the global scourge of racism and gender-based violence that is on the rise, especially in South Africa since the nationwide lockdown. No human being is important or superior to the other. We are all equal and we should all strive to fight for a society where humanity is equal in the political system, in the economy and socially, including before the law. Men must be the front-line soldiers to confront these barbaric and shameful acts of gender-based violence. What have we become as men?

All perpetrators of violence against women and children should be arrested and convicted.

Today we convene a virtual rally, a new phenomenon to the culture of the YCLSA merely because we are dealing with a global crisis – the Covid-19 pandemic that has resulted in the loss of lives across the world. We are now getting used to the new way of living the current normal that has existed for quite some time. This we must reject – the current normal is abnormal, and we have to fight for a new normal, a new political reality, a new economic system, a new society.

The old normal – in a simpler sense, ‘the crisis before the crises’ is full of social and economic inequalities. Under this system – our education system is commodified both in terms of value and the curriculum content. It is a system that prefers young people from working class communities to live their academic-lives on the picket lines against the capitalist injustices and its education system, while children of the rich, because of their material advantage, are afforded sufficient time for their studies.

It is the crisis before the covid-19 crisis that thrives on retrenchments and unemployment to create a reserve army of labour, or surplus labour, to suppress the working class from understanding the realities that they do not earn according to what they produce, instead they are isolated from their communities, from their productive value and power by the capitalist system.

Despite this, we find the confidence and courage to commemorate the youth of 1976, those who lost their lives in the Boipatong June massacre of 1992, and also to reflect on the youth of today from the speech delivered by El Comandante Fidel Castro on the fourth anniversary of the Young Communist League in April 1992 when he said:

“Even in the Special Period, under the blockade and under the hostility and threats of the most powerful empire the world has ever known, our people are designing and building the most just humane society ever seen!”

We equally say that even under the cohesion of the two most brutal pandemics that our generation has ever experienced – which is Covid-19 and capitalism, we will continue to fight for the most just human society that humanity has ever seen.

Our youth month rally takes place just days before we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. The real Congress of the People that gathered in Kliptown, on the 25th of June 1955, paved a way for a basic programme of the type of society that we want to build.

As the Freedom Charter declared that “The People Shall Govern!” Not that ‘the markets shall govern’; not even a pool of a few black elites should be created under the guise of Radical Economic Transformation to accumulate wealth on behalf of the people. The Freedom charter believed in a people-centered inclusive economy, hence the people shall share in the wealth of our country.

The Freedom charter is against unemployment, it advocates for work for all. It says that:

- All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;
- The state shall recognize the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;
- Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work:
- There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

- Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;
- Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

These are the ideals that we should promote as we work towards building a new socialist orientated economy.

Comrade Chair,

Today, we want to send a strong warning to Tito Mboweni and his liberal folks not to undermine the youth and the working class in our country. Bretton Wood Institutions were established to build the hegemony of the imperialist countries post the Second World War. They can never be the first and ultimate solutions to rebuilding our economy post covid-19. Therefore, we need to build a new economy that is not dependent on the hegemony of these institutions, especially in our Macro Economic policy framework.

We equally want to caution factions within the body politic of the liberation movement that the rebuilding of the ANC Youth League has nothing to do with the appetite of individuals or factions for looting and corrupt activities. The rebuilding of the ANCYL should be about young people – their ambitions and aspirations – and building a better South Africa.

Comrades!

Our message for this Youth Month is centred on the theme “**Rebuilding the youth movement towards a youth centered socialist orientated economy**”. We have outlined immediate tasks for young communists in realizing the goal echoed by today’s theme.

Our Youth Month Message

Socialism In Our Lifetime

Our immediate tasks as young communists are on:

1. Building the Progressive Youth Movement;
2. Mobilizing and rallying young people behind the SACP as the party of power;
3. Participating in the battle of ideas to advance our ideals, especially that of our National Democratic Revolution;
4. Building Working Class Hegemony in all sites of struggle;
5. Agitating for a new youth centered economy;
6. Deepening and advancing working class internationalism.

Building The Progressive Youth Movement

We have a duty as aspirant communists to build the progressive youth movement ideologically through political education. Our immediate task in the progressive youth movement should be to conscientize young people of their struggles against the silent hijack of our structures for wrong reasons.

Our strategic left-ally, the South African Students Congress, is fighting a battle against narrow pseudo-left nationalists in institutions of higher learning. Every young communist should work towards the total hegemony of SASCO in SRC elections and no structure of the YCLSA should recognize itself as the enemy of the student movement.

Our relationship with SASCO is historical and ideological, and therefore cannot be compromised.

As young communists, we should always work towards the unity of young people, especially the working-class youth. We cannot celebrate divisions, especially in the progressive youth movement. The unity of COSAS as the first line of

defense for our National Democratic Revolution is inviolable. The recent Progressive Youth Alliance secretariat meeting pledged to work relentlessly to ensure the unity of the learner movement.

We are pleased to note the renewed efforts by the ANC National Youth Task Team (ANC NYTT) in rebuilding the African National Congress Youth League. It is important to make a thorough analysis of the situation and be willing to rebuild from the foundation phase than an abrupt process just to satisfy individuals' quench. Indeed, the PYA needs the ANC YL more than ever before in this task of rebuilding our economy. However, we will not stand back and watch while the rebuilding of the ANCYL is merged with factional interests of power mongers in the movement.

Even on this we say, we should not go back to crisis before the crises of the renewal process of the Young lions.

Deepen Youth Mobilization Behind The SACP As The Party Of Power

We remain the youth-wing of the SACP and we have a duty of mobilizing young people behind the banner of the SACP. Moreover, every young communist should be part of the programmes of our Party and advance its ideals.

We have a duty to tow the line as disciplined Party cadres and always align ourselves to the principles, discipline and policies of the SACP.

As front-line soldiers in the struggle for socialism, we should work to entrench our Party in our communities and whilst rebuilding the movement, build an independent profile of the SACP as the vehicle to drive working class struggles.

The SACP is a Party of power – a Party for state power on behalf of the working class in South Africa. The Party must work on modalities in line with the Special National Congress resolution on the SACP and State Power.

Towards Local Government Elections, the Party cannot be found supporting factional-parachuted candidates or defending wrong-doings in the name of rebuilding the movement especially in municipalities like Maluti a Phofung and Dr JS Moroka where the working class is under siege from rampant corruption to name a few.

Indeed, our understanding of a reconfigured alliance is not limited to electoral relations and state power is not limited to electoral contest; however, this remain one practical way of achieving both.

Participating In The Battle Of Ideas To Advance Our Ideals, Especially That Of Our National Democratic Revolution

Once again, the economic debate in our country has reached the peak – the ideological level. Liberals in our country asserts that once the economy is opened our problems will be solved. The Democratic Alliance has been screaming “open up the economy” since the first week of lockdown. Their liberal ideologues believe that people are dependent on the economy while the reality is that the economy is dependent on people.

In recent months, the right-wing has claimed that we cannot put the country under lockdown because people are going to die anyway. It is evident enough that capital does not care about fatalities in the mining sector instead mining bosses are focused on profit-maximization.

Well, the bottom line is that we care! And we refuse to go back to the crisis before the covid-19 crisis where capital simply does not care.

Ours is a class struggle, the struggles against racism is our struggle; the struggle against sexism, gender-based violence and patriarchy is our struggle; the struggle against the economic and social injustices produced by the racist capitalist economy, is our struggle.

We are the children of working class, and much as the liberal right-wing forces regards the 2008 global recession as a tiny mistake, for us as the working class and the poor, that is our daily reality. We experience recession every day; we are retrenched every day; we experience poverty every day, whether the capitalist economy is closed or opened.

Young communists have a duty to defend the working class against the false liberal pedagogy.

Building Working Class Hegemony In All Sites Of Struggle And Agitating For A New Youth Centered Economy

What do we mean by a new youth centered economy?

The SACP strategic perspectives as amended and adopted by the 9th National Congress in 1995 defined the new capitalist outlook and asserted that:

“The new crisis has compelled a profound restructuring of production.

Through the 1980s this restructuring of production has been taking place. Among its most notable features are:

- The introduction of new technologies, with “knowledge intensive” industries setting the pace (for example, the “computer revolution”);
- The substitution of many traditional raw materials by synthetics. This has caused a reduction in demand for these traditional raw materials;
- “Globalisation” capital increasingly operating on a transnational scale, focusing on production for global (that is, export) rather than domestic markets; making investment decisions across national borders; and seeking access to materials and cheap labour across the globe.”

We are still dealing with this crisis even today. We are not only dealing with the creation of surplus labour in the context of surplus production and the capitalist greed being the reason for the retrenchment of workers, but also an attempt to create surplus production through the replacement of human being as the primary source of production with new technologies.

Equally, we are also dealing with the nature of social reproduction in the context the apartheid spatial landscape where the economy is concentrated in urban centers and rural areas remain isolated, hence we also need to locate the context of social reproduction in rural areas. The Marxist critique of the political economy has focused largely on the problematic path of accumulation and its politics, and we need to further entrench our knowledge and understanding of Marxism in this context.

Since the 2008 global economic recession, capitalists globally have been struggling to rehabilitate their economies, and South Africa is not immune from such a challenge.

Yes, we have made great strides in advancing the ideals of our National Democratic Revolution. We managed to advocate for a basic income grant (Unemployment grant) and our focus should now be on how to sustain this grant beyond the covid-19 era or even the suggested 6 months. Further consider the basic living conditions for an individual. However, youth unemployment remains high above 50% – meaning that for every 2 young people in the country- one is unemployed. This is our reality, a crisis that existed before the crisis of covid-19.

According to StatsSA, we are less educated than our parents; we are also unskilled and live in underdeveloped societies.

Now more than ever, we should advocate for a

National Youth Service. A compulsory, comprehensive, inclusive and skills – driven national Youth Service Programme will have many advantages for the youth, especially youth development, social development and national development.

It will provide young people with valuable experience, knowledge and skills that will facilitate the transition into paid employment. It will bridge the transition between work and school. Young people should be empowered to be agents of change within the communities of which they live.

We need to confront the social-ills of crime, Alcohol and Substance Abuse in our communities.

We thank you!

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On the urgent need to build socialism during and post the Covid-19 pandemic

- Roman Kononenko



The destruction of the socialist system as a result of the counter-revolution in Russia caused tremendous damage to the country's economy and social sphere. Its result was that in the 1990s, national income declined by an average of 5.7% annually – more significantly than at the beginning of World War II. In the first two decades of the 21st century, our economy either continued to fall or showed “growth” that did not go beyond the statistical error. That means stagnation.

The liquidation of the USSR was followed by the destruction of industry and the almost complete retreat of the state from social obligations to citizens. Today millions of people are becoming rapidly impoverished and plunged into a debt hole. At the same time, two dozen major Russian billionaires are increasing their total fortune by 1.5 trillion roubles every six months, which amounts to almost 17.5 billion pounds. This data is published by Bloomberg.

The collapse of neoliberal politics

In 2020, a new round of crisis, for which Russia was not able to adequately prepare, led to the fact that the rapid economic decline resumed. The impoverishment of people has accelerated. Another blow was inflicted in the productive sphere, on

small and medium enterprises, on millions of families. But only the oligarchy, which seized the people's wealth, and the officials serving it are interested in maintaining the destructive system.

The development of the situation in the world and inside our country proves that the neoliberal policy pursued in Russia has completely exhausted itself and is close to collapse.

The boundary of two millennia was marked by the country's endless concessions to Western imperialism. Russia was forced to reckon with external pressure. To touch its forelock in front of WTO. To accept the dominance of US dollar. To run rampant privatization. In fact, to abandon state regulation in economic and social spheres. To obey the dictate of the International Monetary Fund.

Even now, in the midst of an acute crisis, our financial authorities continue to refer to IMF recipes, which do not allow us to direct at least part of Russia's gigantic reserves to support working people and those who are losing their jobs. To direct them to investments in the national economy, science, education and medicine. Although the situation with the dangerous virus that has hit the country has unconditionally proved that their funding must be doubled.

Unarmed in the face of the epidemic

The viciousness of market fundamentalism imposed on Russia is evident. Despite this, the dismantling of applied science, which is the basis of the economy, and the best Soviet education system continues. The authorities do not want to abandon further “optimization” of the medical sphere.

Only from 2017 to 2020 42% of medical staff were laid off in the country. The authorities do not want to admit how hard the total reduction in the number of hospitals and clinics has come back to us when we faced the coronavirus epidemic. They are silent about the dangerous consequences of the

total dependence of domestic pharmaceuticals on imports. The fact that against the backdrop of the raging infection, the pogrom of the Russian light industry had the most negative effect on the medical sphere. There was an acute shortage of protective masks that had to be imported from abroad: there was no one to sew them in Russia. Operational testing of patients was difficult due to the lack of an elementary thing – rubber nozzles for pipettes: domestic manufacturers cannot cover the need of medical institutions even for such elementary products!

Such are the frankly shameful and, without exaggeration, monstrous realities generated by the system of wild capitalism, which reduces our economy to the level of a primitive raw materials appendage of imperialism.

Against the backdrop of the growing crisis, sharp criticism of the socioeconomic course being pursued in Russia is increasingly being heard from various sides. More and more there are those who recognize: embarking on the neoliberal path, acting under the diktat of the IMF and transnational capital, the authorities made choices that are destructive for the country and society.

But only a few dare to tell the full truth: this is not just because of a dead end socio-economic model, but a vicious capitalist path of development. Today, the authorities have a dual task: to nullify their obligations to citizens and at the same time relieve themselves of any legal responsibility for this. This principle applies to all socio-economic policies.

A direct reflection of this principle is the anti-people's pension "reform" deployed in the country. It represents an outright robbery of those who honestly worked for many years for the good of the country and society. And are now deprived of the right to go on a well-deserved rest by receiving a legally earned pension.

In recent years, our oncological morbidity has increased by 20%. According to the World Health Organisation, Russia came out on top in Europe in terms of the spread of HIV. By the number of tuberculosis patients per 100 thousand people, we are now in the same group with the African states of Mali and Rwanda, 4 times surpassed by Japan, 8 times by Germany and almost 20 times by the United States. But the Soviet Union was the first country in the world to stop the mass spread of this disease!

Disadvantageous comparison

The Academy of People's Economy and Public Administration states that in Russia almost every fourth person is forced to choose: to buy the cheapest products or the cheapest medicines. They don't have enough money for both.

There is no need to talk about serious dental treatment or complex high-tech operations: they are completely inaccessible to the vast majority of our citizens because of the prohibitively high cost.

Let us recall which clear and firm guarantees of the protection of life and health the Soviet Constitution gave to each citizen. Here is what was said in article 42 of the Constitution of the USSR, adopted in 1977:

"Citizens of the USSR have the right to protection of health. This right is ensured by free qualified medical care provided by state healthcare institutions; expanding the network of institutions for treating and promoting the health of citizens; development and improvement of safety measures and industrial sanitation; carrying out broad preventive measures; environmental health measures; special care for the health of the younger generation, including the prohibition of child labour unrelated to training and labour education; the development of scientific research aimed at preventing and reducing the incidence of disease, to ensure long-term active life of citizens".

These are much stricter and broader guarantees than those promised by the current Constitution. They, unlike today, were carried out while Soviet power existed. And they were provided exclusively at the expense of the treasury, and not some abstract insurance and contributions.

To use the peculiarity of the situation.

Against the background of such a socio-economic collapse in the country, the government launched a constitutional reform. Despite the depressing indicator of the incidence of COVID-19 infection, the authorities appointed a popular vote on constitutional amendments on 1 July 2020. By announcing this reform, the ruling classes are certainly resolving their utilitarian tasks. Those are the questions of the so-called “transition of power” and the need to regain the political initiative lost after the launch of the pension reform.

But what, then, is the meaning of the activities of communists and communist youth in this situation? Such are the frankly shameful and, without exaggeration, monstrous realities generated by the system of wild capitalism, which reduces our economy to the level of a primitive raw materials appendage of imperialism. The task of organizing the proletariat and all working people is certainly not to powerlessly grumble over the upcoming fraud of the government. What is there, in fact, to be surprised? What should we complain about here? In politics, everyone goes towards their goals. The goal of the Communists is known – the socialist reorganization of society. Everything else are our intermediate tasks.

One of the most important tasks is to strengthen the party and Komsomol and to build up their influence. In order to solve this problem, you need to be able to use all peculiarities of the current situation.

What are the features of the political moment

today?

Firstly, in the process of discussing changes to the current constitution, we obtained visible evidence of its inferiority in comparison to the Soviet constitution. The authorities, of course, are not talking about this. But they recognised this fact by starting the reform. This is already a circumstance of significant revelatory power. Secondly, depending on the real extent of constitutional changes, we have to build a new stage in our ideological, political, agitation and propaganda work.

Today on the left flank there is a quite logical discussion about the attitude to amendments to the Constitution. And there is enough of talking about the scam of the authorities. There are a lot of those who declare: since the slyness of the initiators is evident – down with the very idea of constitutional changes.

But let's reason sensibly. It would be strange for people of progressive views to oppose the abolition of serf slavery in 1861 on the sole ground that the liberation of the peasants was carried out under difficult conditions. By the way, Karl Marx met peasant reform in Russia exclusively positively.

Exposing the hypocrisy of the government is one thing. Not using the fact of debate about the Constitution is quite another. It must be understood that to communists this reform has opened up new propaganda opportunities.

The inevitable happened: changes to the Constitution sharpened the question of how its own provision on the social character of the Russian state is being implemented. Naturally, comparisons arose with the Soviet Constitution. And in

this comparison, the Yeltsin's bourgeois constitution is clearly losing.

The position of the communists here is simple and understandable. We insist on a decisive expansion of social guarantees and the democratisation of the political system. All these measures, of course, are not purely socialist. Strictly speaking, they are bourgeois-democratic. But they serve the cause of the realisation by the working people of their economic, political and social rights.

Work for the society and the youth

If we distract a little from the general situation in the socio-economic sphere of the country, we can talk about the current campaigns of the Leninist Komsomol with general touches. First we need to make a reservation: under the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government banned all public events in the country. Therefore, the arsenal of protest activity of the Komsomol organisation is very limited.

Therefore, in March 2020, the Central Committee of the Komsomol launched the campaign "We don't leave our people alone!", which is designed to provide support to elderly people in the conditions of self-isolation – veterans of war and labour, of the Armed Forces and the Communist Party. These people built a great country, successfully fought with outbreaks of cholera, plague, smallpox. Even now, despite their advanced years, they remain real fighters, mentors and assistants for young people.

The coronavirus pandemic dramatically changed the life of the older generation. Due to the fact that older people are most vulnerable to COVID-19, it is especially important for them to observe the regime of self-isolation, avoid visiting crowded places and limit social contact. In these conditions, they, as never before, need support and care.

Activists of the Leninist Komsomol have shown that they are ready to help: deliver groceries, fresh newspapers and necessary medicines, support the elderly with a kind word – this is the least that Komsomol members can do for older comrades.

The action takes place throughout the country: from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok. Every day, dozens of activists of the Komsomol of the Russian Federation visit the elderly, deliver them the necessary products and basic necessities. Headquarters have been set up in most regions to monitor the situation and provide prompt assistance to the population. Komsomol members of many regions have opened special hotlines through which those in need can seek help, including legal assistance. Komsomol activists in many regions provide support not only to elderly people, but also to poor, large and single-parent families, as well as families with children with special needs – in the face of rising unemployment and rising food prices, this category of population has actually been on the verge of survival. The coronavirus pandemic showed that the capitalist Russian state is not able to provide the population with basic personal protective equipment. In this regard, Komsomol members also conduct free distribution of medical masks to the population.

Despite all the difficulties, Komsomol members are sure that together we are stronger than the virus. In the conditions when bourgeois authorities have actually left citizens to their fate, only comradely mutual assistance can help. This campaign of the Central Committee of the Komsomol will continue further.

Ready to give the shirt off your back for education?

It is obvious that today the state is obliged to provide support to socially vulnerable groups of

the population. This category also includes students. However, instead, big business receives government support.

Considering the appeals of students of various educational institutions of secondary and higher education in our country – from Kaliningrad to Sakhalin, the Leninist Komsomol began collecting signatures and sent a letter to the Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation demanding support measures for students in the context of the spread of coronavirus infection. In addition, a petition to the President of the Russian Federation with similar requirements was drawn up in conjunction with the independent student union “Discourse”. In today’s environment, it will be difficult for many parents to return to normal life and pay for the education of their children. Many will have to give up training. We propose to provide support measures for such categories of students as those who are studying on a paid basis. Almost the entire second semester, students studied in distance tuition, and not in full-time, which they paid initially. I think there is no need to explain how much the size of the fee for full-time tuition differs from distance tuition. One of our requirements: recalculate tuition fees at universities and colleges.

In any case, the Communists insist in their program: in order to save our education and medicine, we need to return to Soviet constitutional norms. A state should be built that once again guarantees their implementation. And this can only be a state of socialism, capable of putting an end to the system of annihilation, whose main target are the working people and youth as its integral part.

Roman Kononenko is the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Leninist Komsomol of the Russian Federation.

The South African Funding Model For Nursing Education: A Nursing Student Perspective - Mawai Nathaniel Mabelebele



Introduction

The national policy on nursing education and training defined a student nurse /midwife as any person who is enrolled in a nursing education institution and is registered with the South African nursing council in terms of section 32 of the nursing act. The document itself recognised that the South African health system is predominantly nurses based and that due to the demand imposed by reorganisation of health services towards universal health coverage, nursing education needs to produce safe and competent professional nurses who will be able to contribute or respond to the quadruple burden of disease. It further noted that the nurse’s education system developed over the years from being fragmented hospital based to a quasi-centralised system with broad inclusion of higher education institutions including private institutions. However, the objectives of this policy were focussed on the standardisation of the system of nursing education and training.

The objectives of the policy are supported and are necessary; however, the policy did not address the nursing education issue completely. The focus on the curriculum and the nursing categories was much of an obsession that it forgot to address other underlying issues like the funding model and the wellbeing of these safe and competent nursing professionals as it aims to advocate. The infrastructure in higher learning institutions, the transportation, safety and socio-economic benefits of the student society who are holding a student status by name but are workforce in the nature with which they are treated in the clinical facilities were not part of the discussion. This is not only a failure to recognise the issues existing in our higher education institutions more especially on students in work integrated learning programs such as nurses, doctors and other allied health professionals; it is an indication of what I would suspect to be a bias view of the whole picture if not ignorance. However it is acknowledged that other documents came through before the policy, documents such as the Strategic Plan for Nurse Education, Training and Practice 2012/13 – 2016/17 that did try to cover up the whole picture but when it came to the student nurse it sold out the plight.

Critique Of The Strategy

It has been years since the question of the funding model for nursing education existed; however, some went to an extent of manipulating the confusion that rises within the debate to benefit their functions. For some it remains a lost victory stolen away from them, for students it is unfairness as they are left with nothing, by that I mean nothing at all because all the replacements that were put in place are taken away from them. Students who receive a salary are regarded as 'employees' protected by labour law. This leads to several challenges: difficulty to terminate their training when they do not meet the academic standards; over reliance of the employing institutions on their services; potential abuse of privileges by the incumbent and failure of the employer to create learning opportunities and meet students' learning needs. On the other hand,

students with supernumerary status enter the workplace to 'observe' nursing care in the clinical situation which also does not provide sufficient preparation for students to take up their role as qualified professional nurses on completion of training. (Strategic Plan for Nurse Education, Training and Practice 2012/13 – 2016/17, pg 22)

What is quoted above does not begin to give a perspective of the student. The first point itself speaks about the difficulty to terminate training when the student fails to meet requirements, this is as if they've never successfully terminated training of any student during the previous funding model. no need to mention the student leaders targeted and perished in such processes.

Instead of taking out the whole model and limiting the reason surely someone could've mentioned that student academic rules and regulations can inform the contracts for the persal system on when a student can face termination. The second point boldly admits to the over reliance of the employing institutions on students services as if that is not the case currently with a full student status. to be honest students go to the clinical practice area to work, clinical accompaniment is still limited and what happens during the rest of the 12 hour shift is just duties of a nurse. The strategy speaks on a potential abuse of privileges by the incumbent as if the privileges are not well deserved because of the service provided in the absence of clinical accompaniment. Maybe I must ask the question why that gathering was so jealous of the individual benefits of the student from the little compensation they got.

The failure of the employer to create learning opportunities and meet student needs was surely not compromised by the previous funding model because if that was the case the situation would be different by now. Instead we are seeing funding being withdrawn just as seen in Gauteng where for three consecutive years students have not received any bursaries from the department of health. If I am asked to provide evidence, I will refer you to the nursing students sleeping in libraries with only one meal per day (excluding breakfast before work) trying to save the little

R500 from home to use for transport to “work” and rising trends of absenteeism. Student needs include transport, food and accommodation to an extent of safety, not forgetting the provision of uniform, practice equipment, study material and even the social psychological wellbeing. You will be amazed how some students are calling home asking for money to buy uniform and equipment. Well it is entirely not true that students enter the wards to observe nursing care, instead we are part of those routines done in the clinical area. When planning is done students are included in the plan, hence our appearance in the delegation of duties.

The strategy came out with the following recommendations with regards to the status of the student and the funding model. We will look at the realities of these recommendations on the next title once we’ve gone through them:

The National policy for student status and funding support:

- Award full student status to students in nursing programmes.
- Develop a national funding model for nursing students which includes student accommodation and uniforms.
- The Department of Health should develop a national funding model for nursing students which include uniforms and student accommodation in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Foreign students from countries must be funded by their respective countries. Funding should be available for the minimum prescribed period for the programme that students are enrolled for plus, one additional year which allow for one-year extension of the study programme. Allocate continued funding based on academic as well as clinical performance and completion of clinical requirements.
- Compel students with a contract to work for the state for same period as they were funded for, inclusive of the community service year, to retain the skills for the public health sector.
(Strategic Plan for Nurse Education, Training and

Practice 2012/13 – 2016/17, pg 37)

The Practical View Of The Two Funding Models

The Bursary System

In a quest to understand the perspectives of other students on the first year of implementation of the bursary system I organised a mass meeting with students from the university of Johannesburg looking at the issues they were reporting to me as a leader of the Bcur committee at the time. The meeting was held on the 03/05/2017. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the problems encountered by the students regarding the recently implemented bursary system. We will look at the bursary contract itself and the promises made and then compare with the students complains as outcomes from the meeting held.

This is the report of what unfolded:

“Noted below is an extract from the Gauteng department of health policy on the bursary system:

Establishment of a national nursing education and training policy (nursing education partnership initiative – NEPI) with the principles:

- to be awarded full student status
- students not to be included in the staff establishment
- students to be granted a bursary which includes the following:

- Tuition fee
- University/nursing college registration fee
- Transport fee
- Accommodation
- Uniform
- Books
- Meals

This extract is from page 04 of the nursing education and training directorate document on the implementation of a bursary system for student

nurses.it also reflects in detail on page 06 of the documents which states what the system will include. On this page (06) it further includes medical equipment, meals system and prescribed textbooks.

Now that we have looked at the bursary policy or rather the contract itself let us list the problems that the students have raised since they are the ones affected by the implementation of this policy. The noted complains are as follows:

- Uniform is not provided as per agreement
- Transport is also not provided; we cannot rely on the university busses since they do not drop us in the clinical areas or facilities, and they do not operate on holidays and weekends
- Medical equipment not provided as per implementation policy
- We are against the intelli-card system which does not allow us to buy at the hospital canteen, also R1200 does not cover all the monthly needs
- The allocated money does not cover all the yearly costs when calculated in reference to accommodation, uniform, transport and fees prices. The allocated money does not cover December costs when it comes to accommodation
- Medical screening is also not done

Outcomes

At the end of this meeting, we agree as first year students(as attached signatures on the attendance register) that we are all not happy with the outcomes of this newly implemented bursary system.in reference to the persal/stipend we believe that the stipend is the best option to be reviewed and brought back. The bursary system is not fair to students as we are not allocated the same benefits. University students get nothing in their pockets, yet they are expected to fulfil all the required duties same as a college student whereas college students get R4000 per month into their pockets. The question is how do we reach the goal of creating high quality nurses whereas the safety of the nursing students is not taken

seriously, what about fairness in a democratic country where one is granted human rights? To us this feels like exploitation.”

It is the year 2020, there are rising levels of absenteeism, bursaries are no longer provided, and the challenges are still the same except this time there is even a decline in the number of intakes of nursing students. I hope there is a catch.

The Persal System

The policy guidelines regarding the implementation and management of the conditions of employment of nursing students during their training period will be our reference source for this part it entailed exactly how the system will be controlled and was specific on the responsibilities of the nursing education institution (NEI) concerned.it further outlined the regulation of the different kinds of leave and the working time in relation to the required SANC hours. Below are the entitlements of the student based on the document:

- Salary
- Uniform allowance
- Housing allowance
- Medical aid subsidy
- Remuneration for working on public holidays, Sundays and night duty
- Incentive bonus
- Pay progression
- Pension subsidy
- Service bonus

It is expected that one would view this system as costly but my response would be a question on whether there is a significant cost difference between the two models.it may appear that the nursing students are spoilt or given a huge responsibility at a young age, however when one says that they must not overlook the opportunity of securing future financial savings through pension funds and current benefits in terms of medical aid subsidy due to the dangerous nature of the exposure in the work place. The benefit really

doesn't go to the student because it clearly goes towards tuition fees and all student needs. This doesn't only teach the young nurse responsibility but also a lesson of financial education and management. It addresses the high number of unemployment in the country and at least when managed properly relieves certain families from the burden of poverty. Why was there an impression that the young people of South Africa do not deserve such opportunities? If ever there is a view that some of the students came into the profession because of the money what is the difference because even today they come into the profession because there are bursaries? Let the education, practice and the profession itself judge who came for the right reasons, at least there we won't have speculations.

Conclusion

As a leader of a student formation in touch with the struggles of students I remain with the same voice that says why was there a need to remove a system that was not faulty with a system that even after many years of trial is not working? The closest thinking one had was the opportunity of tenders that came with this bursary system. Tenders like the provision of uniform, transport and study material. Just to mention few incidents, in Gauteng at Chris Hani Baragwanath nursing college students paid their money to a service provider for a device that was claimed to contain all the material prescribed by the college. This provider was introduced to them by the Gauteng department of health after they had marched to demand their allowances, from 2018 till today none of the devices were received and the introduced service provider cannot be found when efforts are made.

The only simple conclusion of this writing is to encourage the student movements around the country to revisit this injustice and correct it. The persal system must come back. What was done by the nursing strategy on this matter was an injustice and an exposure that students were not audible enough or I suspect they were sup-

pressed if included. The students have no indemnity covers and are not protected in the case of danger in the workplace. They can be victimised for anything without representation because they are not even allowed to join unions of their choice. They are told that the student representative council will represent them, but truth be told that goes to a certain extent and the SRC can be victimised in the process. I am even beginning to wonder if the unions or other stakeholders were consulted or this was just a political order given.

There was a recommendation from the North West department of health that student nurses must come back to assist with service during the current COVID-19 outbreak because they are running short of staff. That in itself exposes the hidden terms in this whole status of students. If during the time of disaster we will be required to function to back up the work force we might as well be remunerated as such because the shortage is not only there when there is an outbreak, the health system itself is in need of staff and already the student labour is being exploited to provide service in the process of learning and absence of adequate clinical accompaniment.

Give the student nurse the opportunity to make the decision for themselves and learn responsibility. Bring back the persal system!!!

Mawai Nathaniel Mabelebele is the National Chairperson of DENOSA Student Movement.

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Pondering plausible Community based feeding initiative models to combat starvation and hunger amidst Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

- Mzwandile Thakhudi & Xolani Tseletsele



Millions of the inhabitants of our mother land do not consume required or sufficient energy/calories a day to sustain their livelihoods and basic healthcare. Such people whose daily income is less than \$1.9 are referred to as living below the poverty line in terms of the World Bank (2015) and their standard of living is low. Majority of whom are black, female, aged, handicapped, young, children and so on. Millions are exposed to hunger and starvation culminating into malnutrition and with dire implications of deteriorating health which is the greater chunk of the population since the afore mentioned sections constitute the majority. The ever-diverging inequality in South Africa is persistent, when measured by Gini-coefficient at 0.64, reflecting a situation of minority claiming a lion's share of the country's economic resources.

Over a third (if discouraged work-seekers are added) of the South African working age population is unemployed and possibly unemployable due to skills mismatches or lack thereof.

This is of course the legacy bequeathed by the apartheid capitalism and colonialism, further postulated by Karl Marx on the 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte that;

"Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please, they do not make it under self-selected circumstances but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past."

The novel coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic imposed nationwide lockdown exacerbates the triple challenges of the South African society and economy as diagnosed by the national planning commission of abject poverty, mass unemployment and underemployment as well as the ever-diverging inequality.

People cannot fend for themselves, as a result millions are at the verge of falling back to below the poverty line and starve to death, but in essence does not suggest things were better before the pandemic. One of the main unintended side effects of the prolonged lockdown is worsening hunger. Granted, there has been significant contribution by the public sector in this regard by adopting a YCLSA proposition of the Basic Income Grant though for six months, augmentation to grants of other beneficiaries like the aged and the children etc. The private sector has had its contribution in a variety of ways, while whether or not its share is a "fair share" or not remains an issue for debate.

Community based feeding initiative amidst Covi-19 Socialism In Our Lifetime

The food packages and vouchers donated by both the private and public sectors goes a long way. To our disappointment, some in our ranks and in higher echelons of the youth movement use them for petty squabbles and cheap political point scoring. More disgusting when their sheer opportunism and factionalism is exposed by their inconsistency when they defend one Executive Mayor and attack another over a similar issue of businesspeople who donated packages that were deemed less dignified. We must not be deterred by populist demagogue masquerading as youth leaders who will stop at nothing to vilify our leaders for opportunist ends. We must instead remain steadfast and resolute in our programme of poverty alleviation, appreciate, augment and corroborate all efforts aimed at combating hunger and starvation. This is one area that the ANC headed alliance in government must focus on and should have committed cadres that understands organisational mandate in advancing the interests of the poor and serving selflessly.

While this is the case, the food parcels programme has also been exposed to and is vulnerable to a variety of challenges and risks ranging from duplication- where you find one family benefiting twice though from different donors, lack of coordination, inefficient functionaries, ineffective systems and absence of political will from some councillors or ward committees, entitlement- where families or community members feel that they are bound to receive the parcels/package even when they do not meet the requirements set out in the criteria like living below the poverty line and not receiving any income grant and so on. This must be anchored in a discussion of proper Food Bank and security creation, where one department, like Department of

Social Development through SASSA, should be at the centre of all food distribution to society.

While we process this and other challenges brought about by this period of lockdown where public and private intervention in the interest of saving lives and food security, we ought to also ponder on some plausible models for community-based feeding initiatives. One such modality is the soup kitchen programme. The YCLSA had its inaugural soup kitchen in Dr Maile Clinic in Kgotso-Bothaville within the demarcation of Tisha Vanga district in the year 2016. Culminating from the lockdown, the youth activists in this area resuscitated the kitchen. Soup kitchen is ongoing in Nyakallong-Allanridge, Kutloanong-Odendaal, Thabong and other areas in the province at least.

While it may appear ceremonial or sentimental, it makes a meaningful contribution to the lives of many who go to bed without having had a meal for this or that reason. It adds value to those who would ordinarily consume medication without a meal or even be discouraged to take medication. It is obviously not immune to a variety of challenges like perpetual succession and lack thereof, sustainability, stability, funding, corruption etc. However, checks and balances are ought to be put in place for operations, governance and finances.

A quick benchmark on the above cited areas where the soup kitchen takes place shows that they take place under the auspices of the community-based organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations, Non-Profit-Organizations (NPOs) etc.

Community based feeding initiative amidst Covi-19 Socialism In Our Lifetime

There is an urgent need for our people to be in the forefront of the war against poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let's sleeve up and rigorously engage in community-based vegetable gardens in our clinics, schools, old age and orphanage centres, etc., for perpetual supplies of vegetables to sustain the soup kitchens in our communities over and above offering to the impoverished households.

Let's glove up and vigorously engage in advocacy for community-based food banks to supply our kitchens and households that are underprivileged. We encourage the public and private sector to continue supporting these initiatives for their sustainability. There is a need to formulate a social compact of stakeholders like government, business and CBOs in this regard.

There is a well recorded precedence of public, private partnerships and cooperation's, inter-departmental and governmental relations and collaborations.

Government should consider erecting, constructing and allocating facilities for community-based kitchen space for soup kitchens at each and every clinic and hospital. This will be to ensure that no patient takes medication without having a meal. The community members will be at liberty to go to the clinic for brunch and late lunch. A meal ticket system may be adopted to manage identification and duplication among other issues.

A national schools' nutrition programme model where services of an entity be it private, NPO, cooperatives etc. may be procured quarterly or yearly to feed the pupils on a rotational basis, may be explored. The insourcing model could be even economical,

in that the Department of Health will employ the clinic kitchen personnel as part of the auxiliary staff compliment and the Department of Social Development will provide groceries from their normal food parcels distribution supplies, business will be encouraged to donate to clinic kitchens, community food banks and vegetable gardens for sustainability of our fight against hunger and starvation.

We call upon the community in general and the youth in particular to initiate, support and maintain these initiatives inspired by Che Enersto Guevara when he addressed the second anniversary of the unification of the revolutionary youth organizations, in Havana, 20 October 1962 when he advanced:

"The youth must be ready to make sacrifices demanded by the revolution, whatever the nature of those sacrifices may be.... the first in study, the first in work and the first in defence of the country"

We have studied both the pandemic and the poverty issue. We ought to engage in work in defence of our nation and country. Lastly, on the same input, Che cautioned that **"without an organization, ideas after some initial momentum start losing their effect. They become routine, degenerate into conformity and simply end up a memory."**

Will this catalyst intervention be one such an idea to end up simply a memory? Let's engage!

Mzwandile Thakhudi is a National Committee Member of YCLSA: Head of Secretariat and Political Education and Xolani Tseletsele is the Free State Deputy Provincial Secretary of the YCLSA.



In response to Bathabile's female preference on the leadership of the YCL – We are not a female structure and do not subscribe to sexism.

- Avuma Mdini and Khalipha Melani

In one of the virtual lectures that were held during the Nationwide lockdown, the President of the ANC Women's League (ANCWL), Bathabile Dlamini, attached certain accusation to the leadership of the SACP and further asserted false remarks about the National Congress of the Young Communist League of South Africa held in the Eastern Cape in December 2018.

Bathabile's utterances are unfounded and misplaced. Firstly, the former Minister should rather use facts to argue her points rather than parade false propaganda in the name of the Young Communist League of South Africa. It is unfortunate that the giant organization of Mama Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu is led by people who are reckless in speech and never make constructive arguments, let alone abide by the truth. There was never a member of the YCL that was removed by anyone for joining any other organization. Members of the Young Communist League of South Africa affiliate to other organizations of the Progressive Youth Alliance and the Mass Democratic Movement. One of the national leaders of the ANCWL's Young Women's Desk

(ANCWL YWD) and the ANC National Youth Task Team is a National Committee member of the Young Communist League.

However, the YCL does not have an obligation to consult Amayanga-yanga (ANCWL YWD) on who is competent to lead the YCLSA. This solemnly rest upon the wisdom of the structures of our organization and it is only delegates to the National Congress that participate on the leadership question during congress. The YCLSA congresses should be respected as they have a constitutional obligation and mandate to elect leadership for the purpose of advancing our struggle for socialism and not to appease those that we know are not a factor as far as this mandate is concerned and have zero contribution to the growth and existence of our organization.

It is a known fact that Bathabile had her own personal interest on who is to lead the YCL and that is an opportunist behaviour. This character that Bathabile prefers, is paraded and imposed in every structure to consolidate factional mandates against the interests of our own revolution.

Moreover, it is worrisome that comrades in our movement are talking of patriarchy and the struggles of women for their own selfish interests. If the unity of women is to be consolidated, then Bathabile Dlamini and her associates, a handful of social media revolutionaries, should never impose a logic that seeks to promote a particular female figure by undermining other women simply because they want to advance their own factional agendas. We in the Young Communist League, we are not a "Friends Like These" scheme associated to certain factions in the movement, and do not lead on proximity bases. Unlike a pseudo feminist organization established by Bathabile and her clique to isolate young women from elderly women, literally isolate women from women, the Young Communist League is not a project but an organisation, and therefore its autonomy is important.

At this point, the unity of YCL is sacrosanct and cannot be divided by Bathabile's view. Her focus should be more of the rebuilding of the Amayanga to contribute constructively in the fight against sexism, structural violence and advance the struggle for a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous, united and democratic South Africa, and even assist in the rebuilding processes of the ANCYL.

Avuma Mdini and Khalipha Melani are both National Committee members of the YCLSA.



Against all manifestation of imperialism, a response to Benjamin Fogel

- **Dloze Matoane**

The United States, centre of imperialism, neoliberalism and horrific terrorism against anyone who fails to bow down to its economic and military aggression, is also home to a whole army of “independent ‘Leftists’” who will generally criticise anyone other than the country which gives them comfortable academic and other opportunities. US imperialism is so strong that it has the capacity to capture some of those involved in these opportunities and make its agenda behaviour felt in their consciousness and articulations. Some, taking their cue from its conduct, seek to extend their influence, fostered in that imperialist epicentre, to others far away overseas. Instead of sharing with us what they are doing in their countries, the right-wing, neo-fascist-led Brazil being one of those at the moment, all they want is to tell others what to do in their respective countries.

Such a person is the PhD Brazilian student Benjamin Fogel of New York University whose article “South Africa could use a communist party” in The Mail & Guardian (27 January 2020) was no more than a collection of half-truths and outright lies against the South African Communist Party (SACP) in general and its General Secretary, Blade Nzimande in particular. Fogel’s very nasty personal attack on Nzimande is in reality an attack on a Party which has relentlessly striven to tell the truth about what is happening in South Africa since its formation.

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Fogel's assertions are based on a mishmash of prejudices derived from anti-Communist 'lefties' and devoid of factual evidence or in-depth analysis. The rapid growth of the South African Communist Party in recent years gives the lie to his assertion that it is "increasingly irrelevant".

Let us now look at more facts.

When government launched the neoliberal "Growth, Employment and Redistribution" (GEAR) economic policy in 1996, it was the SACP which was to characterise it as the "1996 class Project" that will advantage the elite, rather than build a national democratic economy to empower the people as a whole, the majority being the working class. And it was Nzimande who Fogel so despises, who popularised a new word to the English language 'tendpreneurs', those who in the name of "Black Economic Empowerment" would secure lucrative contracts at the expense of the people.

It was the SACP which among others played a major role in the Polokwane Conference of the ANC, asserting a national democratic programme. The SACP took responsibility and tackled wrongdoing when it later turned out that not everyone who emerged in Polokwane had good intentions.

Fogel claims "The party supported Zuma when the Guptas landed at Waterkloof," when in fact Nzimande, immediately after this event, is on record as saying; "South Africa could not allow private activities on any of its military places," and that "Our sovereignty and dignity as a country is at stake and must be protected." Again, it was the SACP which, in 2014, was first to characterise "corporate-capture of the state", later shortened to "State Capture". But unlike others whose comments were loudly proclaimed by the press, SACP members were murdered for exposing corruption.

Far from "hitching their political future to Cyril

Ramaphosa," as Fogel claims in his article, the SACP remains steadfast against a reassertion of neoliberalism, as it made it clear in its response to a document released by the National Treasury in August 2019. In defence of our national democratic gains, and in pursuit of a democratic developmental path, the SACP made it clear at its Special National Congress in December 2019 that it is strongly opposed to neoliberalism as it is equally opposed to parasitic state capture networks.

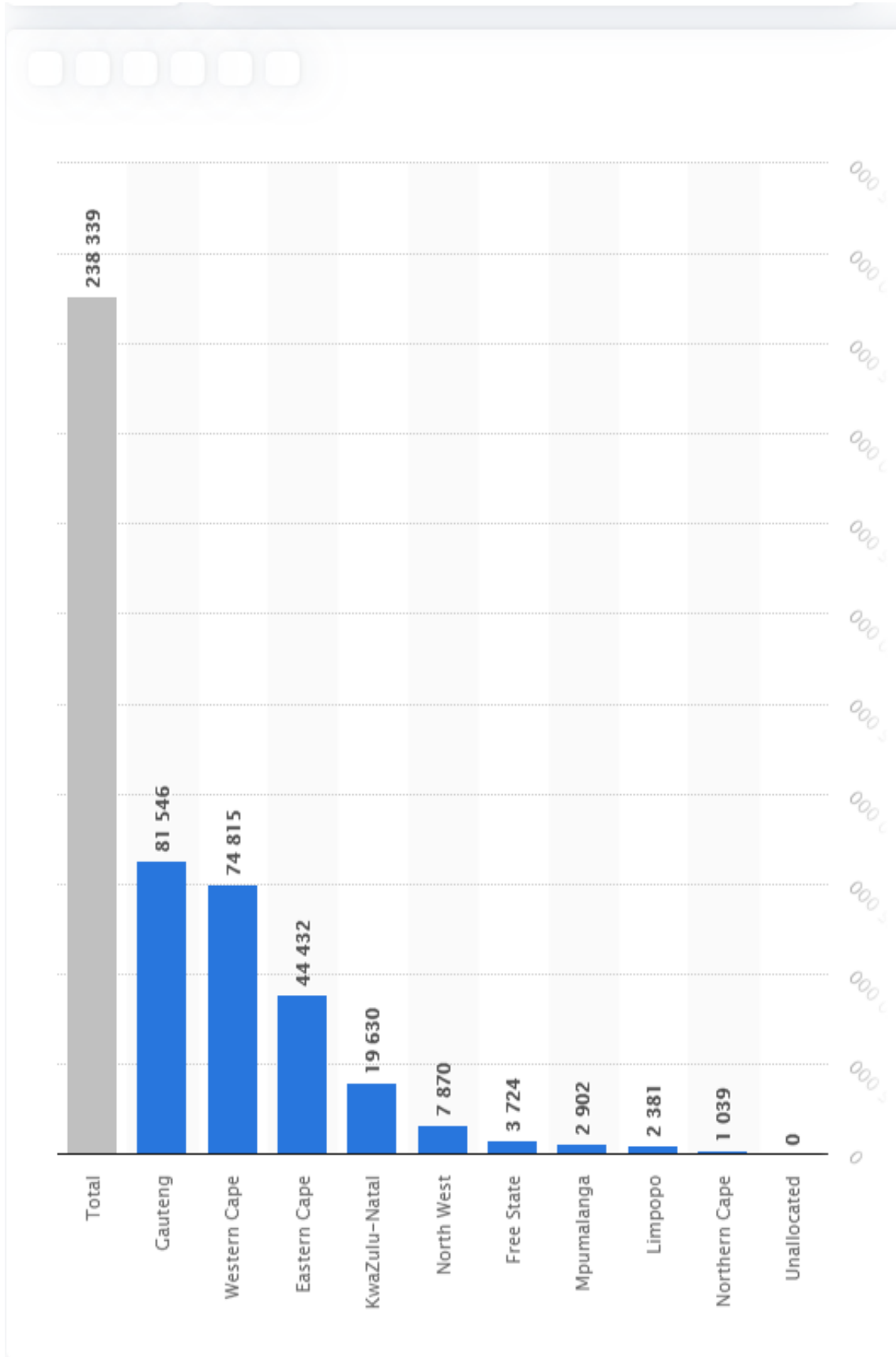
The end results of the neoliberal, privatisation agenda and the like, is the same as that of the parasitic networks of state capture – except that the former uses policy under foreign influence (neoliberalism is a foreign, imperialist agenda) and the latter follows brazen-smash-and-grab tactics, said the SACP in its declaration for a democratic developmental path.

On higher education funding, Fogel writes as if Nzimande is responsible for funding higher education from his pocket, or as if the department was allocated sufficient money. That is obviously nonsensical, which is why VAT was increased by 1%, from 14% to 15% after Nzimande was factionally removed as higher education minister. Nevertheless, he had done his best, including by financing the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) from Sector Education and Training Authorities and the National Skills Fund to support education for poor and working class students.

Space will not allow a full correction of all the inaccuracies in Fogel's article. He should check his sources and use facts when writing. This will help him in his New York PhD.

Dloze Matoane is a social sciences student at the University of Johannesburg and National Spokesperson of the Young Communist League of South Africa. This article first appeared on Umsebenzi online.

**CONFIRMED CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CASES
IN SOUTH AFRICA AS OF JULY 9, 2020**



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