



Bottomline

BECAUSE THE YCLSA SAYS SO

Socialism In Our Lifetime

SINCE 1922

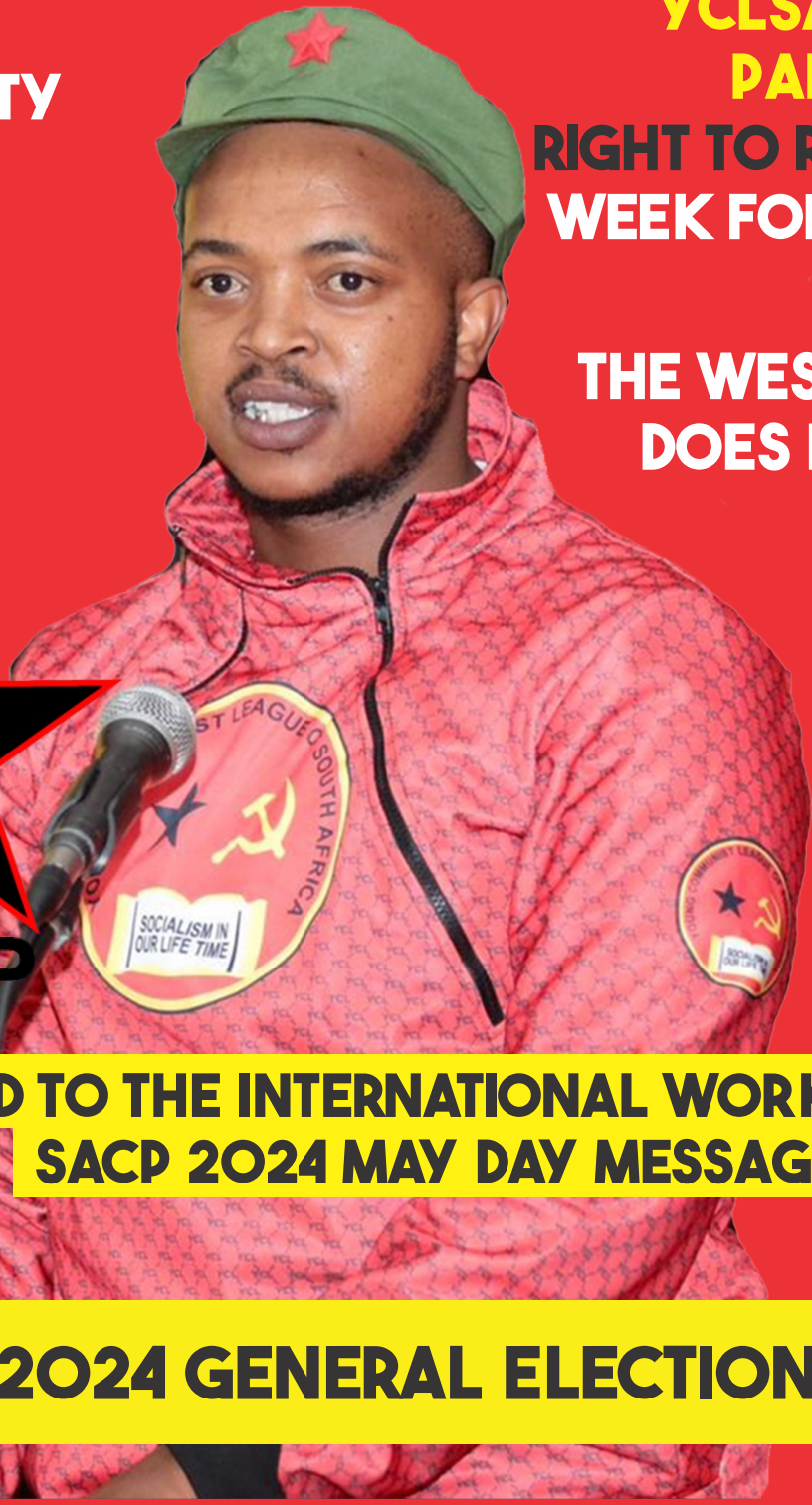
MAY 2024

ISSUE #0001

**OPINION:
MULTI PARTY
CHARTER**

**YCLSA SUPPORTS
PALESTINIANS'
RIGHT TO RESIST & THE
WEEK FOR PALESTINE**

**THE WESTERN CAPE
DOES NOT WORK**



**FORWARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY:
SACP 2024 MAY DAY MESSAGE**

MAY 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS EDITION

ISSUED BY THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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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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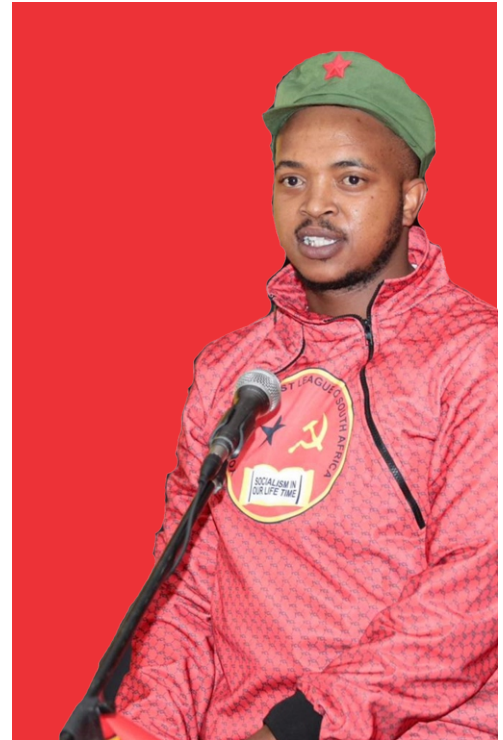
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THE WESTERN CAPE DOES NOT WORK: peddling a fallacious story of where we govern, we govern well is short legged!

By Mzwandile Thakhudi, YCLSA National Secretary
Sunday, 05 May 2024

We have always heard the DA boldly and boastfully asserting that the Western Cape works! The Democratic Alliance has portrayed a picture that 'where they govern, they govern well', there is clean governance and effective delivery of public goods and services. This narrative has been driven by the DA and its aligned think tanks, whereas they are well conversant that this is fallacious. The DA serves white and affluent communities in the Sea Point, Mitchells Plain and other areas where the rich who are mostly white males whereas the majority of Africans who are also youth in Phillipi-Samora Machel, Langa, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Kraaifontein etc. live in squalor with sewage spillages, without sanitation system and safe, sufficient water supply. Nonetheless, The DA is shamelessly going around deceiving the entire nation and the globe about The Western Cape that works. For who?

**"IT IS NOW COMMON CAUSE,
BASED ON THE STATISTICS,
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The DA seeks to protect the legacy of the apartheid capitalism in South Africa, to preserve white privilege and supremacy to the detriment of the agenda for nation building and social cohesion. This racial superiority is observed through the racialized and gendered poverty and unemployment that is so prevalent among the African people and the youth in the Western Cape. It is now common cause, based on the statistics, that unemployment is higher under the DA misrule of the Western Cape compared to when the ANC provided leadership in the province, appreciating its peculiar dynamics of diversity. It is factual that some of the consequences of this abject poverty in which our people are living under such as, high levels of criminality, extortions, gangsterism, substance abuse etc. will follow. If the DA has dimly failed to rescue the Western Cape out of this and other social ills which are bred by their inability to effectively govern the Western Cape, how could they possibly 'rescue South Africa'?



Majority of Africans live in squalor with sewage spillages, without sanitation system and safe, sufficient water supply.



We now know through records of the Auditor General South Africa and other competent institutions including Corruption Watch which recently revealed that over seventy per cent [70%] of the corruption reported in local government were mainly from the DA controlled metro municipalities in Cape Town, Tshwane and Johannesburg. At this rate, it is vividly clear that the DA does not possess the requisite capacity to 'rescue South Africa'. Instead, South Africa should rescue the DA from racial superiority infused notions. Travelling in Cape Town during the SACP campaign led by the General Secretary, one could note features and elements of the separate development policy of Apartheid of the National Party which evolved into the DA.

The skewed development trajectory in the Western Cape resembles the spirit of this pieces of legislation that H.F Verwoerd even postulated that the Natives will be taught from childhood to realize that equality with Whites is not for them. There is no place for the Bantu child above the level of certain forms of labour. Sauer Report, 1948 recommendations culminated into legislations like Suppression of Communism Act, No 44 of 1950, Bantu Education Act, No 47 of 1953, Reservations Separate Amenities Act, No 49 of 1953, Groups Areas Act, No 41 of 1950, Prevention of illegal squatting Act, No 47 of 1953 among others being enacted by the Apartheid government. It goes without saying that undertones of apartheid in development patterns are damaging on our young constitutional democracy.

It is therefore imminent that now more than ever, come the 29 May 2024, the working class should be determined, united in their resolute to defend the gains of our democracy, isolate, combat, defeat the inherent, domestic and international, old and new class adversaries of the peoples' national democratic revolution and RESCUE the Western Cape from the Apartheid proponents, beneficiaries and apologists in the form of the DA by voting the African National Congress (ANC). This is to ensure that Together, We do more towards addressing the imbalances of the past to usher social transformation and justice. Liberators do not exist; the people liberate themselves, as Che Guevara once postulated. The people of the Western Cape have a rare opportunity, as a result of the liberation struggle that comes once in 5 years to liberate themselves!

Mzwandile Thakhudi

South African Communist Party Statement on International Workers' Day

Wednesday, 1 May 2024

Today, on International Workers' Day, the South African Communist Party (SACP) proudly stands in solidarity with workers across South Africa and the world. We commemorate the 138th anniversary of the workers' struggle in Chicago, United States. On this day, in 1886, workers fought for an eight-hour working day. They faced a brutal response from the US state. Their courage and sacrifices inspired working people worldwide. Their struggle became a lasting tradition celebrated as International Workers' Day, also known as May Day.

**"THE TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT HAS
EMPOWERED WORKERS
BY PROVIDING THEM WITH
A COLLECTIVE VOICE AND
PLATFORM TO EXPRESS
THEIR CONCERNS AND
FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS."**



Defending and advancing workers' achievements

Before 1994, organised workers through non-racial trade unions played a crucial role in fighting for workers' rights, such as the right to organise and participate in collective bargaining. This progressive movement fought against the racist and sexist job reservation system to achieve equal treatment in the workplace. The workers continued the struggle after April 1994, achieving significant milestones. These have a positive impact on workers' rights and wellbeing.

The trade union movement has empowered workers by providing them with a collective voice and platform to express their concerns and fight for their rights. Workers have been able to challenge exploitative working conditions, push for better treatment, resist labour exploitation and refuse dangerous work.

The trade union movement played a crucial role in advocating for legislation that protects workers' rights, such as the right to organise, strike and bargain collectively. Empowering workers and protecting democratic and trade union rights has provided a platform for workers to engage in class struggle against capitalist exploitation, racial and gender oppression.

By building the trade union movement, workers have been able to challenge the dominant capitalist ideology. They have established an alternative narrative that prioritises their wellbeing and rights. By prioritising political education, workers have strengthened the working class in the struggle against capitalism. Thanks to the trade union movement, workers have fostered working-class solidarity and weakened the divisive tactics of capitalism that seek to pit workers against each other.

It is important to continue to protect these achievements to empower workers to negotiate for better wages, benefits and improved working conditions, challenging the unequal distribution of wealth and power in society.

The trade union movement has fought against discrimination based on gender, race, age, and other arbitrary grounds. Together, we have campaigned for equal pay for work of equal value, non-discriminatory employment policies and legislation, and affirmative action to ensure equal representation. Protecting and expanding these achievements is important to eliminate unfair discrimination and create a more democratic, non-racial and non-sexist work environment.

Through collective bargaining, trade unions have secured better wages, negotiated working hours and improved benefits for workers. These gains have been important in raising the living standards of workers and their families and reducing poverty and inequality. It is important to protect these achievements towards addressing the wealth gap in society.

The trade union movement has been instrumental in advancing a comprehensive social security programme for workers, including medical aid cover, retirement funds, unemployment insurance, and disability benefits, as well as maternity and paternity leaves. Workers have achieved the national minimum wage and advanced the National Health Insurance and Universal Basic Income Grant struggles in the spirit of working-class solidarity. Protecting these achievements is crucial to ensure the overall wellbeing of workers and tackle the dominance of the capitalist market in major aspects of their lives, like healthcare.

It is important to protect the trade union achievements because they have significantly improved the lives and rights of workers. The achievements have contributed to the struggle to reduce inequality, address discrimination and empower workers to have a say in their working conditions. By safeguarding these achievements, we can ensure that workers' rights and wellbeing are protected and they and their communities continue to benefit.

The achievements of the trade union movement and workers since 1994 must not be taken for granted. There are attempts to weaken trade union rights and reverse these gains. The SACP will continue working closely with Cosatu and other unions to expose and tackle the bosses' agenda, ensuring more workers join trade unions and actively participate in their activities.

The struggle to eliminate discrimination is ongoing. The trade union movement should continue to play a vital role in protecting workers' rights and advocating for equality in the workplace.

The trade union movement has advanced the struggle for workers' income and financial security.

South African Communist Party Statement on International Workers' Day

Wednesday, 1 May 2024

However, workers' achievements are under attack. Collective solidarity is crucial in defending the hard-won achievements and tackling the inequality inherent in the capitalist system altogether with the system itself.

The most sustainable path forward is to unite and intensify the struggle to build socialism.

Capitalist system crises

As we reflect on the significance of International Workers' Day, it is crucial to acknowledge the profound impact of ongoing capitalist crises on workers and the poor in general. The capitalist crises are deepening, worsening working conditions, unemployment, income and wealth inequality, as well as poverty.

The capitalist class, supported by their political representatives, consistently seeks to transfer the aftermath of their system crises to the workers and the poor. They also enforce austerity measures, involving budget cuts. This affects workers, including women, and the poor in general. The bosses also cut the wage bill to protect and increase profits, forcing workers to bear the brunt of capitalist crises.

Building workers' power

The trade union movement and the SACP have been at the forefront of the struggles for workers' interests in both the public and private sectors. Together we have been campaigning for policies that advance the rights of the young people and women who are unemployed and are mostly the first victims of capitalist crises.

Together we remain opposed to budget cuts in development and social spending. Together we are opposed to attempts to privatise public assets, as in the case of South African Airways. We raised our voices and demonstrated against anti-trade union rights that undermine collective bargaining. Together, we campaigned against the rising cost of living, which affects workers' incomes.

Let us unite and intensify the working-class struggle on all fronts. The SACP will strengthen its alliance and joint efforts with Cosatu to organise the unorganised, deepen worker education and build the progressive trade union movement to be more united and stronger.

Vote ANC to defend and advance workers' achievements and struggle

The SACP calls on our people to vote for the ANC in the upcoming elections, on 29 May 2024. We say this for the following reasons, amongst others:

1) The ANC, along with the SACP and the Cosatu-led trade union movement, has actively worked hard to achieve, establish, protect, and promote democracy in South Africa. We have made significant improvements in the lives of South Africans, particularly the workers and poor, by providing essential goods and services such as housing, electricity, clean water, education, healthcare, and social grants. We have also championed a progressive constitution, which is against discrimination and upholds workers' rights.

2)The ANC is committed to addressing the problem of unemployment, especially among young people. The ANC has adopted a plan to create and sustain 2.5 million work opportunities through public employment programmes over the next five years. The ANC aims to prioritise local manufacturing, raise investment levels in various industries, support small businesses and cooperatives, and focus on intensifying skills development to build a people's economy, reduce inequality and tackle poverty.

3)The ANC has implemented policies to uplift the poor and marginalised communities. These policies include social grants, free basic services, affordable and free housing programmes, the national minimum wage and Unemployment Insurance Fund benefits. By voting for the ANC, workers will ensure the continuation and expansion of the pro-poor policies.

“The ANC's plans include implementing the National Health Insurance as law to ensure quality healthcare for all, regardless of their income status.”

The ANC plans to introduce a basic income grant, which is an important step towards a universal basic income grant that the working class has been fighting for. This grant will provide income support to the unemployed and vulnerable workers.

4)The ANC has prioritised the expansion of education and skills development. It has expanded access to basic and higher education and aims to achieve universal early childhood education. Already we have reached near-universal education attendance by children aged five and six. The ANC has also planned to open new universities and colleges in the next five years and invest in education and training to equip the working class with the necessary skills for sustainable employment and collective worker ownership in the form of cooperatives.

5)The ANC has been at the forefront of the struggle for accessible healthcare for all. It has made significant progress in providing free healthcare to pregnant women, and children under five years, combatting HIV/AIDS and COVID-19, improving healthcare facilities in rural areas and townships, and increasing life expectancy. The ANC's plans include implementing the National Health Insurance as law to ensure quality healthcare for all, regardless of their income status.

6)The ANC has shown leadership in global peace efforts. We reiterate our steadfast internationalist solidarity with the people of Palestine, who know that they are not alone in their suffering, resistance and struggle. In the east, west, north, and south of this globe, peace-loving people are more united than ever in solidarity with the Palestinians. We all demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing crimes and genocide against the Palestinian people.

We reiterate our call for an end to the criminal blockade against Cuba. We express our support for the people of Swaziland struggling for democracy and the people of Western Sahara struggling for self-determination and against occupation by Morocco.

South African Communist Party Statement on International Workers' Day

Wednesday, 1 May 2024

Let us be clear. The ANC has not determined these commitments alone, just as it was not the sole force behind our victory in the decades-long battle against the apartheid regime and the progress realised by millions since April 1994. Extensive consultation within the Alliance, including with the SACP and Cosatu, considered the interests of the working class and its essential revolutionary role.

On this International Workers' Day, we urge all workers to stand strong and united. Let us defend and advance the gains of the workers' movement.

Let us go all out and vote for the ANC and continue the struggle for a socialist future!



YCLSA supports the Palestinians Rights to Resist and endorses the Week for Palestine.

Thursday, 2 May 2024

The Young Communist League of South Africa unequivocally stands in principled solidarity with the people of Palestine, and this is shown through our endorsement of the #Week4Palestine campaign. The #W4P campaign is running from the 1st to the 7th of May, rolling out solidarity campaigns throughout South Africa under the theme "Solidarity Through Elections."

We welcome this campaign as it seeks to draw clear lines in the sand in terms of our posture towards the Zionist establishment which has its tentacles deeply entrenched in the South African economy, and by extension play a role in the strife of the South African working class. Capitalist exploitation and Zionism will forever be enemies of the working class, and as the Young Communist League of South Africa we will sharpen our voice in fighting against this arrangement.

We are firm in our stance to condemn the genocidal campaign mounted by Israel even post the ICJ ruling and its continued occupation of the Palestinian territory. We have observed with disdain the purposeful targeting and murder of intellectuals and scholars by the Israel occupation forces. In this regard, we call for the isolation of Israel and impose academic boycott, Disinvestment, and sanctions against the racist regime. We note with disappointment the complicity and culpability of the Group of Seven advanced capitalist economies(G7) and its armed wing: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and its various military Industrial complexes in the violence and crimes against humanity being perpetuated by the Israel occupation Forces.



YCLSA supports the Palestinians Rights to Resist and endorses the Week for Palestine.

Thursday, 2 May 2024

We also say that the annual Aliyah Expo is something that must never again happen in South Africa. Two events were hosted here, one in Cape Town on the 4th of April and the other in Johannesburg (7-8 April). The IDF colonel, Golan Vach, was hosted at the Cape Town venue, and we know there has been longstanding recruitment of young South African males to join the IDF. We call for the end of these recruitments and swift repercussions for those involved. South Africa is no home for racists and Zionists.

“We call on all young people to cast your votes, and as you cast it, think of the people of Gaza and know that the ANC-led Alliance is fighting to make sure that justice is delivered for the people of Palestine.”

The Young Communist League of South Africa reaffirms its commitment towards the Alliance, in its tireless campaigning towards an outright victory for the African National Congress on the 29th of May. We call on all young people to cast your votes, and as you cast it, think of the people of Gaza and know that the ANC-led Alliance is fighting to make sure that justice is delivered for the people of Palestine.

We will continue to fight toward a free and sovereign Palestine. From the River to the Sea!

Ends!

Issued on behalf of the YCLSA 6th National Committee



A Response to Phindile Kunene's Opinion Piece: “Gutting of democracy goes beyond corrupt political interests”

By Ramatolo Tlotleng, YCLSA National Spokesperson
Sunday, 05 May 2024

Published by the Sunday Times on Sunday, 21 April, refers. The article correctly highlights the dichotomy of colliding interests between dominant market forces (“the market”) on the one hand and the people on the other. However, Kunene propagates half-truths about the SACP. Her entry point is the “multi-party charter” electioneering slogans, which the educator at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) claims “remind us that corruption has destroyed our freedom and that we need not suffer from ANC-inflicted harm any longer”. It is said elsewhere that a half truth is more dangerous than a lie. While a lie is easy to detect, a half-truth can mislead unsuspecting people for a long time.

Indeed, the SACP supported Zuma's candidature, culminating in his democratic election as the president of the republic in 2009. However, when Zuma betrayed the national-revolutionary democratic cause for which the SACP, the progressive trade union movement and other South Africans supported his candidature for in good faith, the party adopted a leading role in taking his tangential tendency head on.

While highlighting the SACP's initial support for Zuma, the educator concealed the party's widely recognised activism against the tangent he took. There can be no other reasonable conclusion than that her aim was to write off the SACP. She joins the bandwagon propagating the idea that the party's “credibility suffered a beating, while turning a blind eye to the sterling leadership role in tackling Zuma's tangent – whose details are documented in the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture report.

The SACP became the first organisation that exposed what it expressly characterised as corporate state capture in South Africa. In contradiction, Zuma and his lieutenants insisted that there was no such a thing. The conflict led to the SACP becoming the first organisation to call for the establishment of the commission. Parliamentary parties, including two of the right-wing opposition parties whose slogans Kunene praises, rejected the call pioneered by the SACP.

In prescribing that the commission be established, the Public Protector Thuli Madonsela in October 2016 arrived at the same conclusion as the SACP but introduced the provision that the chief justice must solely identify the judge for the president to appoint to lead commission. Only then, after this long time, did those who were opposed to the call express their support one after another.

Also, it is false that there is only one voice against neo-liberalism in South Africa. Needless to question the bona fides of that alleged voice, the fact is that the SACP's voice and campaigns against neo-liberalism are well known.

Similarly, it is misleading to turn a blind eye to the commendable advances implemented by the ANC-led government since 1994. Inevitably, the educator and programme manager at FES misconstrued the ANC's election slogan, “Let's do more, together”, in juxtaposing it with those of the opposition parties. The fact is that millions of our people, the majority of whom is from working-class families, are benefitting from the progress introduced by the ANC-led government. Among others, over five million students benefitted from NSFAS funding.

It is unscrupulous to ignore the corruption scandals that hit Tshwane under the DA-led right-wing coalition, including the R26 billion unsolicited bid exposed through leaked recordings in 2021 and the R1 billion understated fruitless and wasteful expenditure exposed by the Auditor-General last year.

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