

THE S.A.C.P. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

The main thrust of this paper is to pull together our experiences and to ensure that our discussions around organisational structures are located within the demands and struggles of our times.

With the date of our REGIONAL CONGRESS drawing closer it is imperative that we develop a common perspective around the ROLE, PLACE, COMPOSITION and TASKS of the District Committees.

Our RILG has launched two Districts namely Klerksdorp and Welkom, Soweto District will be launched on the 17 August, while Pretoria will hold its first Interim District Committee meeting on the 27 July.

THUS THE EXISTANCE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES IS NO LONGER A PURELY THEORETICAL QUESTION.

1. CHALLENGES FACING OUR PARTY

- 1.1. We must build a mass vanguard Party of the working-class capable of making political and organisational interventions at all levels of our communities.
- 1.2. We must build a Party of activists that will uphold and safe guard the interests of the working class.
- 1.3. We must transform the support of our Party in particular and support for socialism in general into effective organisation.
- 1.4. We are building our Party at a time when anti-communist propaganda has reached hysterical levels.

2. DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

- 2.1. The principle of democratic centralism still remains an effective organisational tool.
- 2.2. We must strike a good balance between democracy and centralism that will ensure effective accountability and democratic practise within our structures.
- 2.3. We must ensure full participation of branches in the decision (policy) making processes.
- 2.4. We must ensure that leaders of our Party from branch exec. upwards are accountable to the membership.
- 2.5. Decisions taken (after consultation) by senior leadership organs of the Party are equally binding to all lower levels of leadership and members.

3. ORGANISATIONAL FORMS

- 3.1. The only way of rising to the occassion is through effective organisational forms.
- 3.2. These organisational forms must ensure that our Party is capable of acting as one be it at local level, district, regional and national level.
- 3.3. Our experience over the past decade has exposed uneven

development of areas (Soweto, Kagiso, Alexander, Sebokeng, etc.) within the same region (P.W.V.) . This unevenness is reflected in both the organisational and political sphere.

- 3.4. In the same period of time our people have engaged the regime in different areas using different methods of struggle e.g. Krugersdorp consumer boycott, rent boycott in Vaal and Pretoria.
- 3.5. In some areas e.g. Soweto there is a decline in co-ordinated mass mobilisation around burning issues of the day e.g. counter-revolutionary violence.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A GENERALISED REGIONAL APPROACH IN POLITICAL MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION IS INSUFFICIENT AND IN SOME INSTANCES MISLEADING.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES MUST BE SET UP TO FULFILL THE ROLE OF POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS. THEY MUST PAY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO THEIR AREAS.

4. TASKS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

4.1. POLITICAL ROLE/LEADERSHIP

- 4.1.1. The District Committees must have direct representation in the Regional Committee e.g. their chairperson and secretary must be members of the Regional Committee.
- 4.1.2. To implement all the decisions taken at Regional and district congresses.
- 4.1.3. To develop working class leadership on the ground.
- 4.1.4. To provide leadership from day to day in a way which re-inforces the common campaigns but which also gives them a special communist stamp.
- 4.1.5. To conduct an ongoing socio-political and economic analysis of their areas and draw conclusions that will guide the Party in fulfilling both the political and organisational tasks.
- 4.1.6. To spearhead and support programmes for socialist education.
- 4.1.7. To build and strengthen the alliance on the ground.
- 4.1.8. To uphold working class interests in the on going struggles for democracy.

4.2. ORGANISATIONAL ROLE

- 4.2.1. Building branches and setting up strategic and tactical goals in organising e.g. recruitment and role of women in the Party, building Party structures in hostels, etc.
- 4.2.2. To ensure full participation of all Party branches in the activities of the Party and the struggle for national liberation.
- 4.2.3. To initiate, co-ordinate and support campaigns at local level.
- 4.2.4. To acquire and run its own office.
- 4.2.5. To employ a fulltime organiser who is accountable to the district committee.

- 4.2.6. To collect subs from branches and utilise a percentage of that for political and organisational needs of the district.

5. APPROACH IN SETTING UP DISTRICT COMMITTEES

- 5.1. Our demarcation for District Committees is mainly based on geographic considerations.
- 5.2. Another factor which influenced demarcation is the number of branches in a given area.
- 5.3. An Interim District Committee is elected after consultative meetings of branch delegates.
- 5.4. Programme of action towards a District Congress and launch is drawn.
- 5.5. District congress is held, POA is adopted and the district committee office bearers are elected.

6. COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

- 6.1. The District Congress the highest political organ at district level elects office bearers.
- 6.2. The District Committee consists of:
 - 6.2.1. Elected office bearers
 - 6.2.2. Two representatives from each and every branch preferably branch exec. members.